# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 23, 2025

\* Please stand if you are able

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE:

"Adagio" by Arcangelo Corelli

(2-02)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Elizabeth Topolski

As disciples of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we experience God's unconditional love, and we witness to others by discovering and sharing our gifts.

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP:

- L: Sing to the Lord and make a joyful noise unto God, our Creator.
- P: We come into God's presence with singing.
- L: We come into the presence of God with praise and thanksgiving.
- P: Your steadfast love, O God, is better than life.
- L: Our lips shall praise you as we sing with joy.
- P: We shall bless you as long as we shall live. We will call on your name our whole life long
- L: With great gratitude and gladness, let us worship God.

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (In silence then unison)

Everlasting and faithful God, fountain of all life, our hearts remain restless until they rest in you. Yet, we confess our hearts are more enslaved than liberated, more grumbly than grateful, more self absorbed than filled with adoration.

Forgive us of our sins. Refocus us on Jesus' passion and grant us grace to be forgiving. Lift the burdens of our souls, and heal our broken wounds by Jesus' boundless mercy. This we pray in your Son's name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

- L: Friends —accept that Christ Jesus has forgiven you and invites us all to live into his joy.
- **P:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us forgive one another.
- \* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Glory to God* (*No. 582 GTG*) *Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,*

#### whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

\* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: The peace of Christ be with you. P: And also with you. Welcome one another with Christ's peace.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

\* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 428 v. 1 We Give Thee but Thine Own We give Thee but Thine own; what-e' er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord from Thee* 

### DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55: 1–9 Isaiah's people hear God's claim on their lives.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13: 1–9 Jesus teaches God loves giving second chances

ANTHEM: "Abide With Me" Arr. Victor C. Johnson Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Repentance with Results* Pastor David Harvey

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A Brief Statement of Faith, 1990

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live in one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. . .We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a Covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Loving us still God makes us heirs of the Covenant. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

\* HYMN: No. 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: No. 412 Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds

#### \* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

#### \* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Hornpipe" by G.F. Handel

(3-30)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and have trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen. Submitted by Jan Swift

### ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier Worship Leader: Elizabeth Topolski Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti Pastor: Rev. David Harvey Ministers: The Congregation Ushers: Lillian Smith & Chester Topolski Sound System: Theo Padavano MIDI: Frank Wilson Coffee Hour: Judy Trigg

**Children & Worship:** Stephanie Burke; *Jesus and The Children* **Faith Works:** Deb Albrecht; *Mary Honors Jesus* (John 12: 1–8)

> The Altar Flowers this morning have been placed by Erika Wulster in "Celebration of Life."



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

**The Human Family:** Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine and the Middle East; families and communities impacted by gun violence; by severe weather; and those affected by airline disaster

Men & Women Serving in the Armed Forces & America's Veterans

**Those in elected office:** The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

### Healing for Friends & Families:

**Cancer:** Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow & her family, Henry Parsons, Peter Porzio, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

**Illness & Injuries:** Emily Arena, Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Jan Smith, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, David, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

**Prayers of Condolences** for the family of Margaret Stephens, mother of church administrator, Jen Plut; grandma of Erika, Carissa, & Angelina Plut

# THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

#### Sunday, Mar. 23

- 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM Children's Choir
- 11:30 AM AED-CPR Class/OC
- 4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
- 5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC The Chosen / Seasons 3 & 4

## Monday, Mar. 24 Office Closed

- 7:00 PM Water Gap Singers
- 6:30 PM BEC/OC

Tuesday, Mar. 25

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC Fri, Mar. 28

- 6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC
- Sunday, Mar. 30
  - 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM Children's Choir
  - 4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
  - 5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC The Chosen / Seasons 3 & 4

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825 Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825 Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060 e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Christian Education DVD Series "The Chosen": Join us on Sunday's from about 5:45–7:00 PM (following Confirmation class) at the Outreach Center for our Lenten Study using *The Chosen* (Season 3 & 4).
Church Banner Creation: A group is being formed to make a Communion banner for our church. The hope is to have it ready to be hung for Easter - if not before! No special skills are needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mandy Burke (862) 812-6273 or mandyburke19@yahoo.com.



- **AED/CPR Certification Class TODAY!** AED/CPR training with Chris Trigg following worship today at approximately 11:30 AM at the Outreach Center. The American Red Cross CPR/AED course trains participants to give CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) until EMS arrives. The cost is \$25, and participants will receive certification.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Apr. 5. The deacons are asking for donations of fruit, iced tea, water, sandwiches, chips, and some baked goods to be dropped off at the Outreach Center no later than 10 AM on Apr. 5. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Cameron at (908) 459-9068. The lunch is greatly appreciated by the Habitat volunteers so any assistance would be greatly welcomed.

**In Concert – Bret Vernon & Sam:** Join us on Friday, Apr. 4 at 6:30 in our Sanctuary for a mix of energetic, hope-filled songs and stories including an appearance by ventriloquist figure Sam--a hit with kids of all ages! A special event for the whole family!



- **Worship Helpers Needed:** You are invited to sign up online through Sign-Up Genius pick a date that works for you! Visit fpcb-nj.org for the sign-up link on the home page.
- **Altar Flowers:** Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? Flowers can be cut or potted; from your garden, a store, or even delivered from a local florist! Please let Jennifer in the church office know if you'd like to provide flowers! You may sign up in Fellowship Hall or even sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/.



# Used Bicycle & Sewing Machine Drive Sponsored by Blair Academy

RAIN OR SHINE

Sunday, April óth llam–2pm Blair Academy 2 Park St. Blairstown. NJ 07825

- **Pedals for Progress/Sewing Peace,** in its continuing effort to recycle unwanted items properly, is having a used bike and sewing machine collection sponsored by Blair Academy. Anyone with an adult or child's bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate their bike to this worthy cause. They do not accept "bikes for parts" or disassembled bikes. They also accept working portable sewing machines and sewing notions (no fabric, please). Bikes and sewing machines can be dropped off rain or shine: Sunday, Apr. 6 at Blair Academy, 2 Park Street between 11 AM and 2 PM. Questions? Speak with Kaye Evans.
- **Johnsonburg Summer Camperships:** The Presbyterian Women support children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending should write a letter to Presbyterian Women indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be in the church office by the end of April. More information may be found at fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships.

**Gift Cards!** Dunkin, ShopRite, ACME, Panera, and Starbucks cards are available. See Gail Weber to order or to learn more about Loaves & Fishes!

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):** Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. We will receive the OGHS Special Offering through Easter, Apr. 20. You may contribute to OGHS electronically on the church website: fpcb-nj.org or by sending your offering to the church. Envelopes are in the narthex and by the elevator entrance.