

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 30, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Brandenburg Concerto" BWV 1050 by J.S. Bach* (05-23)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Pete Peterson

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: *(adapted from Ps. 32, The Message)*

L: Count yourself lucky, how happy we must be.

P: God gives us a fresh start; our slate is wiped clean.

L: Don't be ornery like a horse or a mule, creatures which need a bit and bridle to stay on track. God-deniers are always in trouble.

P: God-deniers find themselves eating slop with the pigs.

L: God-affirmed experience God's love every time they turn around.

P: Celebrate God! Sing together—everyone! All you honest hearts, raise the roof!

L: With great gratitude and gladness, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 476 O Worship the King!* vv. 3 & 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(In silence then unison)*

God, our Redeemer and our Friend, you welcome us with unbounded love and mercy, with the unbounded love and mercy of a parent for a lost child. Help us when we turn from your safekeeping. Watch over us when we wander into the wilderness of the lost country. Awaken us when we lose our senses.

Forgive our sin that we may return heart, mind, body, and soul to you, encounter your mercy anew, and receive from you the joy of salvation upon our return to you. This we ask even as we turn our eyes towards the cross of Jesus who, lifted up from the earth for our sake, forgives the sins of the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends in Christ, happy are those who are forgiven, who stand among the righteous of God, and who are embraced by the steadfast love and mercy of the Lord. By the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are forgiven, accepted, reconciled with, and restored to God.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us forgive one another.

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 370* *v. 1*
Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

* 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; what-e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord from Thee

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5: 16–21
We are ambassadors of reconciliation.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 15: 1–3, 11b–32
A lost family experiences the salvation of God.

ANTHEM: "Come Bless the Lord" by Robert Lau Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Speaking of Sin* 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. Like a mother will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 355 Hear the Good News of Salvation*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 302 I Danced in the Morning* *vv. 1, 3-5*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Vocalise" by Sergei Rachmanninov* (6-13)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Worship Leader: Pete Peterson

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: -

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Coffee Hour: Bill Olivier

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey; *Jesus and Bartimaeus*

Faith Works: Zach Burke; *Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus* (Mark 10: 46-52)

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 McMorro & 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

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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

Monday, Mar. 31 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Apr. 1

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Friday, Apr. 4

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC
6:30 PM Brent Vernon & Sam

Saturday, Apr. 5

9:00 AM Breakfast with Brent/FH

Sunday, Apr. 6

10:00 AM Worship & Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Children's Choir (tbd)
4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC
The Chosen | Seasons 3 & 4



The Plut family has placed the altar flowers today in memory of Margaret Burrell Stephens.

*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

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

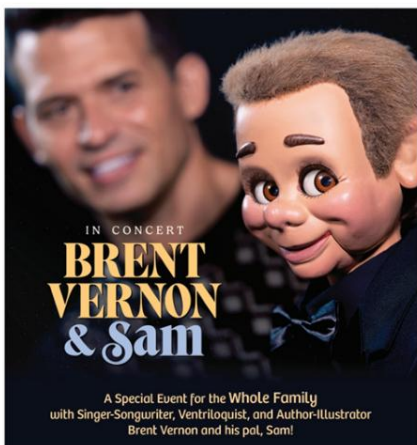
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GIVE NOW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Christian Education DVD Series "The Chosen": Join us today at 5:45–7:00 PM (following Confirmation class) at the Outreach Center for our Lenten Study using *The Chosen* (Seasons 3 & 4).



CONCERT:

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4
at 6:30 PM**

BREAKFAST:

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5
at 9:00 AM**

First Presbyterian Church
1 Main St., Blairstown, NJ

In Concert – Bret Vernon & Sam: Join us on Friday, Apr. 4 at 6:30 PM 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!

Breakfast with Brent (& Sam) Saturday at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall: Brent Vernon who is giving a concert at our church on Friday at 6:30 PM will be staying overnight with Gary and Deb Albrecht. We're going to host a breakfast for him at our church Saturday morning before he heads to Connecticut for his next event. Let's show Brent our hospitality and appreciation for him traveling to Blairstown and presenting a concert here. Please come to breakfast at 9:00 AM on Saturday, Apr. 5. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you care to bring a breakfast food, that would be most welcome. Questions? Contact Deb at (908) 447-2112 or debalbrecht20@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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 Campships: 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-campships.

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.



Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Service
(Church Sanctuary), 10 AM
*Easter Egg Hunt for
Sunday School Students*

Thursday, April 17

Combined Maundy Thursday &
Good Friday Service
(Church Sanctuary), 7 PM

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunrise Service
(Blair Lake, weather permitting), 7 AM
Easter Worship (Church Sanctuary), 10 AM