

First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, NJ



Confirmation
Sunday

May 11, 2025

READER COPY

The Confirmation Class and Shepherds for the Class of 2025 include:

Levi Charles Arena

Owen Joseph Besser

Ryan Burke

Shepherd, Frank Wilson

Shepherd, Gail Weber

Shepherd, Gary Albrecht

(represented by Don Nicholls)

Pastor David G. Harvey

Assisting with the Confirmation Service: Elder, Bill Olivier

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Confirmation Sunday & Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 11, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Concerto for Trumpet in D Major, Opus 6 no. 7* (7-02)
by Tomaso Albinoni

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Erika Wulster

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:**

Psalm 23, KJV

L: The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.

**P: The Lord maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
the Lord leadeth me beside the still waters.**

L: The Lord restoreth my soul; the Lord leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

P: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

L: I will fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

**P: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil. My cup runneth over.**

L: Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

P: And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

L: With joyful hearts, grateful lives, praise and hope that fills the air, let us worship God.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE:** *No. 464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In silence then unison*

O God, our Shepherd, we confess that we can be like sheep. We get lost and sometimes even do things that are wrong. We forget that your love is for all people, especially when our love is selective, misinformed, and often misguided.

Forgive our sins. Fill our hearts with Christ's love and remind us once again that Jesus died for all. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Here are words we may trust, words that merit full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life, he says, "Your sins are forgiven." Christ also says, "Follow me." Now to the one who rules all worlds, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. Friends — believe the good news of the gospel and live into Christ's joy.

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

* **CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:** *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me v. 1*

* **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. 577 Glory Be to the Father

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

PSALTER READING: Psalm 78: 1-7

The psalmist says tell and teach God's story.

GOSPEL READING: John 10: 1-18, 25-30

Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

ANTHEM:

"The Flowers of My World" by Loonis McGlohon

Chancel Choir

MEDITATION:

Telling & Teaching Jesus' Story

Pastor David Harvey
& the Confirmands

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD
SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION COMMISSIONING

Levi Charles Arena

Owen Joseph Besser

Ryan Burke

Pastor Harvey will leave the pulpit and say:

“Assisting with the confirmation service is Elder Bill Olivier

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP:

Elder Bill Olivier

Hear these words of Jesus:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28: 18–20

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4: 4–6

As many of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3: 27–28

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFIRMANDS:

Elder Bill Olivier

Levi, Owen, and Ryan, having been received into membership by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Blairstown, NJ May 8, 2025 and presented for Confirmation May 11, 2025 now desire to profess their faith publicly and to accept greater responsibility in the life of the church and God’s mission in the world.

We rejoice that you now desire to declare your faith and to share with us in our common ministry. In Baptism you were joined to Christ and made members of his body. In the community of the people of God you have learned of God’s purposed for you and for all creation. You have been nurtured at the table of our Lord and called to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I ask that you come forward with your shepherds.

QUESTIONS OF INTENT TO THE CONFIRMANDS:

Pastor David Harvey

Q. To you, confirmands, I put forth this question. Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian life and to continue learning about the faith throughout your life's journey?

A. I do.

QUESTION OF INTENT TO THE PARENTS & SHEPHERDS:

Q. To the shepherds and parents, do you promise through prayer and example to support and encourage your son or daughter as they grow and mature in the Christian faith?

A. I do.

QUESTION OF INTENT TO THE CONGREGATION:

Elder Bill Olivier

Q. To the members of this church, do you promise to guide and nurture our young people by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know Christ, to follow Christ, and to grow in faith in Christ through the fellowship of this church family?

A. We do.

AFFIRMATION OF CHRIST'S LOVE & PROFESSION OF FAITH: Pastor David Harvey

Q. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you affirm God's love and claim on your life?

A. I do.

Q. Who is your Lord and Savior?

A. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Q. Will you be Christ's faithful disciples, obeying his Word and showing his love?

A. I will, with Christ's help.

Q. Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

A. I will, with Christ's help.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

Pastor David Harvey

L: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we affirm our faith reciting the Apostles' Creed.

P: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into Heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFIRMANDS BY THE SHEPHERDS:

Don Nicholls (for Gary Albrecht), Gail Weber, & Frank Wilson

"Who do you present for confirmation?"

READING OF THEIR STATEMENT OF FAITH:

The Confirmands

THE CONFIRMATION:

Pastor David Harvey

L: By professing your faith publicly, you have expressed your intention to grow in the covenant God made with you in your baptism. May the Spirit continue to strengthen and sustain you in the worship and mission of the church.

P: Amen. Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMANDS:

Faithful God, in baptism you claim us. By your Spirit your grace works in our lives, empowering us to lead a life worthy of our calling in Christ. We thank you for leading these young people who present themselves this morning, at this time and in this place, reaffirming the covenant you made with them in their baptism.

Establish within them your truth, guide them by your Spirit, reassure them of your presence, and enliven them by your grace, that, together with your people in every time and place they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, your son. With you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

CHARGE TO THE CONFIRMATION CLASS: *Ephesians 4: 1-3*

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

THE WELCOME:

Elder Bill Olivier

L: *Levi, Owen, and Ryan* in your baptism, you became a member of the household of God, grafted into the Body of Christ. Today, in your confirmation, you become an adult member of the First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, New Jersey to share in the fellowship of Christ. We affirm your desire to embrace the Christian life. Love one another as Jesus first loved you. Forgive one another as Jesus first forgave you. Be kind and compassionate, as Jesus in his life showed and shared God's love, God's forgiveness, God's kindness and God's compassion.

If you are able, please stand and affirm your commitment to these children of God.

* **P: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome and confirm Levi, Owen, and Ryan as ambassadors of the gospel at First Presbyterian Church, Blairstown, New Jersey. We promise to love, encourage, care and share the good news of the gospel with them that they may learn to live the truth of Christ's love. Amen.**

* **HYMN OF CONFIRMATION:** *For Everyone Born* *(No. 769, vv. 1, 3-5)*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* **HYMN:** *No. 375* *Lord, of All Good*

* **CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *"Preghiera" by Cesar Frack* *(01-57)*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

The hymns for this morning were chosen by the Confirmation Class.



*Happy Mother's Day to the Ladies of the church!
The Sunday School children have flowers to give to the ladies.
Please take one as you leave the Sanctuary today.*

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, 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, Dave, David, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Confirmation Sunday, May 11

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Family Worship

Monday, May 12 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, May 6

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

1:00 PM Piano Tuning

6:30 PM NW Garden Club/OC

Wednesday, May 14

1:15 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC

Thursday, May 15

7:00 PM Session/OC

Friday, May 16

Time Tbd Blair Day of Service/OC

Saturday, May 17

9:30 AM Worship

Sunday, May 18

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

4:00 PM Water Gap Singers Concert
