

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 18, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE:

Phantasie über den Choral

10-48

"Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott" (Reger)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Bill Olivier

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.

* SONG OF PRAISE: *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)* No. 701 GTG

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise God from the skies!

L: Praise God, sun and moon! Praise God, all you twinkling stars!

P: Praise the Lord from the earth, Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

L: Praise God, skies above. Praise God, vapors high above the clouds!

P: Let every created thing give praise to the Lord.

L: With great joy and praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 455 All Creatures of our God and King* (vv. 1, 4-6)

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

God of sovereign love, in Jesus, your Son, you reveal to us the fullness of your gracious love. In Jesus, we witness and are witnesses of your immortal love. Yet, we can be blind to, even disenchanted with, Jesus' obedient love. Our wills get in the way of his will for us.

Forgive our sins and humble our hearts. Align our reality with his reality. Help us to love another as Jesus first loved and forgave us. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Infused with God's creative and redemptive spirit, forgiven by Jesus, called to a life of kindness and compassion, to a life lived with humility and civility, know this:

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

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

* 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. 592 Praise God*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 11: 1–18

Peter testifies to God's expanding inclusive love.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 13: 31–35

Jesus commands us to love one another.

SERMON: *CMA: Would Jesus Ride a Harley?* Elder Bill Olivier &
Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *1 Corinthians 13: 4–8a, 12–13*

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* (vv. 1, 2, 4)

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *We Are One in the Spirit* No. 300 GTG

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: *No. 596 May the Lord, Mighty God*
POSTLUDE: *Toccata, Opus 53 No. 6 by Louis Vierne* 03-45

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

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

Prayers of Condolences for the family of Peter Porzio

Prayers of Celebration for our graduates from Blair Academy: Billy Dekraker and Joe Alnwick; from Ithaca College: Andrea Morokutti; and from Plymouth State University: Carissa Plut

ASSISTING DURING TODAY’S WORSHIP

Greeter: Mandy Burke	Ushers: Deb Albrecht & Joan Cameron
Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti	Sound System: Theo Padavano
Worship Leader: Bill Olivier	DLP: Jennifer Plut
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey	MIDI: -
Ministers: The Congregation	Coffee Hour: -

Faith Works: Lisa Besser; *Paul Escapes* (Acts 9: 20–25)

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, May 18	Tuesday, May 20
10:00 AM Worship	10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
10:15 AM Sunday School	1:00 PM Library Book Group/OC
11:15 AM PW Exec. Board/FH	Sunday, May 25
4:00 PM Water Gap Singers Concert	10:00 AM Family Worship
Monday, May 19 <i>Office Closed</i>	
6:30 PM BEC/OC	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chosen, Season 3 will resume at 7 PM on Sundays, June 1, 22, and 29.

Save the Date!—Recognition Sunday, June 22: We will celebrate our graduates from elementary school, high school, and those receiving higher education degrees with a special worship service followed by a brunch in Fellowship Hall. We will also recognize and thank our Sunday School staff and Choir for their contributions to the life of our church this year. Please let us know if there is a graduate in your family so that we can recognize them and celebrate their accomplishments. Please include the school they are graduating from and for high school graduates and advanced degree recipients where they plan to go/do next. Questions? Contact Amanda Macchia at amanda.gildersleeve.macchia@gmail.com or Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com.

The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 7:00 PM on Thu., June 26 at Jan Swift's house. We will be discussing the factually based, Revolutionary War novel, Carrying Independence by Karen A. Chase. New members are always welcome, please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. Questions? Please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Volunteers still needed for Vacation Bible School August 11-15! *Come and join us for some summer fun!* We are hoping to hold a VBS at our church this summer. We are still in need of adults and teen helpers mornings from 8:30–11:30 Monday to Friday - August 11–15. If you are only available for 1 or a couple of days, we can still use your help! There is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall or contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com or (908) 447-2112.

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.

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

Additional News

Veteran's Haven North Laundry Supply Drive: Along with the Blair Woman's Club, Presbyterian Women will be collecting laundry detergent pods, fabric softener sheets, and laundry baskets/hampers with wheels! Monetary donations will also be accepted (donation jar is available in Fellowship Hall; cash/checks payable to *Blair Woman's Club* or via PayPal to 07825bwcob@gmail.com) that will go towards the purchase of the items needed. If you have any questions, please speak with Jen Plut or Gail Weber. Items may be left in the designated box in Fellowship Hall or at the Outreach Center now through Sunday, June 1. Thanks in advance for your support!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

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