

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

10:00 AM



June 8, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

{ * Please stand if you are able }

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Oboe Concerto in B flat Major, "II Largo e Mesto" by A. Marcello* (BT 7-08)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Deb Albrecht
Today we welcome guest pastor, the Rev. Carla Costantino

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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: Deb Albrecht

P: O for a thousand tongues to sing sweet praise!

L: O rushing wild spirit of God pour out the fire of love upon us! Unfurl your language upon our lips, unlock our minds to embrace all possibility. Unleash our hearts so your justice flows freely.

P: O for a thousand tongues to sing sweet praise!

L: O rushing wild spirit of God, pour out the fire of love upon us! May your breeze bring health and wholeness; may your breath heat our resolve; may your Spirit storm the earth with mercy and grace.

P: O for a thousand tongues to sing sweet praise!

L: O rushing wild spirit of God, pour out the fire of love upon us! Set us free from self-doubt, make us listeners as we seek awareness, shake us awake when we forget our privilege.

P: O for a thousand tongues to sing sweet praise! O rushing wild spirit of God pour out the fire of love upon us! Amen. Amen. Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit* (Tune 355)
vv. 1 & 3 © 2008 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Faithful God, you sent your Spirit long ago at Pentecost.

You gave life and said to share it, all as one, beneath your cross.

May we see your wondrous blessing When your people everywhere work together, all confessing faith that binds us, faith to share. Cont'd.

***God of love, may we in worship welcome our diversity.
May we reach in trust and friendship to the poor and refugee.
May we see Christ in the stranger, breaking bonds of hate and
fear. By your Spirit, may we offer glimpses
of your kingdom here.***

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

Holy Spirit, you are full of energy and life. You are like fire. Come like fire as you once descended onto the gathered disciples at Pentecost and transformed them into bold witnesses of your good news. Invigorate us with your Spirit. Make us useful, fruitful, and faithful disciples for Jesus and forgive us when we become lackadaisical in our devotion to Jesus. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready and able to sing God's glory, ready and able to testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 466*

v. 1

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 592 Praise God*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 2: 1–21 Pastor Carla Costantino
The Spirit revives and renews the gathered.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 14: 8–17 (25–27) Deb Albrecht
The Promise of the Holy Spirit

ANTHEM: "Spirit Come Down" by Mark Hayes Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Can You Hear It?!* Pastor Carla Costantino

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Contemporary Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts. I believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river, so the Good Lord created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.

I believe in Jesus, who turned water into wine, partied with outcasts and sinners, and touched the broken so they could leap and dance. I believe Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to smile, who sends us invitations to come and dine, who nudges us to openness and tenderness. I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to break bread and stirs within us the desire to live joyfully, to walk hopefully, and to enact justice boldly.

Forever, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to Christ's resurrection joy. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 319*

Spirit

vv. 1 & 4

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN:

Go to the World!

No. 295, GTG

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"Songs of Sunset" by Frederick Delius

(03-52)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Bio of Guest Pastor, Carla Costantino

Pastor Carla Costantino is a retired United Methodist clergy, having served nineteen years at St. John's UMC in Hope as well as Johnsonburg and Walnut Valley UMC's. She graduated from Drew Theological School in 2009, having earned a Master of Divinity degree. She grew up in Knowlton and has been married to her husband, Larry, for forty years. They have two grown children.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: 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 McMorroo & her family, Henry Parsons, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: William Beegle, 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

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Theo Padavano

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Deb Albrecht

Guest Pastor: Rev. Carla Costantino

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Mandy Burke & Bill Olivier

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday, June 8

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, June 9 *Office Closed*

Wed., June 11

1:15 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC

Trinity Sunday, June 15

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chosen, Season 3 will resume at 7 PM on Sundays, June 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 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.




Pentecost Offering (through June 8, 2025): The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. Please mark "Pentecost" in the memo area of a check or the envelope. Pentecost envelopes are also located in the narthex by the bulletins.

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! Gift cards can also be ordered online and shipped directly to you! It's easy to sign up and order your own cards and ecards! Visit <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll/>; to join our program, enter enrollment code: 1A96B372376L7. RaiseRight phone apps available as well!

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? Altar flowers can be cut or potted; from your garden, a store, or even delivered from a local florist! There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. You may also sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>. Thank you, in advance, by providing altar flowers! The PW flower lady of the month of June is Erika Wulster.



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV

2. ABLE

3. AY OF PENTECOS

4. ONGUE

5. PIRI


6. OGETHE

7. ES

8. ONGUE

9. A

10. IND



“When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind