

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Trinity Sunday

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 15 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Fanfare for the Common Man"* by Aaron Copland (BT 3-15)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tim Topolski

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.

MOMENT FOR RECOGNITION:

Deb Albrecht

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Tim Topolski

L: O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world,

P: Enable us to be still and know that You are God.

L: O Lord who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life,

P: Breathe in us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort, and guide us in the midst of any storm.

L: O still, small voice, speak to us this hour that we might become makers of Your peace; in our homes, in our communities, in our world.

P: We pray all this in the name of the One who calmed the raging sea. Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(In silence then unison) Adapted by John Birch*

Holy God, in whose love we live and move, we pray for a world crying out to feel loved, wanted, cherished and unique. We pray for a world torn apart by conflict and war. A world that lives uneasily in a climate of fear with no clear vision for future days.

We pray for a world that thinks less of others than of self. A world where division between nations, race, religion, neighbor, and family leads to distrust. We pray for a world that is short on happiness, too busy to enjoy this world you have created, too preoccupied with living to appreciate life. We pray for a world where spiritual longing is satisfied by fashionable notions and

temporary solutions, with no thought for tomorrow. We pray for ourselves, asking for forgiveness, for the ways we may have contributed to this world that was in any way less than faithful to you.

Gracious God, we pray this world comes to know your hope, your peace and your joy because this world needs to know it is special, unique and deeply loved by you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends of Christ, Cheer up! Jesus says to you: "*Your sins are forgiven.*" Permit God's mercy to transfigure your lives. Be no longer ruled by doubt and worry but by light and love. Walk as children of the light whose ultimate glory is assured.

P: Amen.

L: The light of Christ Jesus is with you always and in his name, you are forgiven!

P: In his name, you are forgiven!

* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 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. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6: 1–9 Pastor Carla Costantino
The Great Commandment

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 18: 18–30 Tim Topolski
The Rich Ruler

ANTHEM: "*In Your House, O Lord*" by Jay Turner Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Pack Light!* Pastor Carla Costantino

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

by Bruce Prewer

We believe in the love-kingdom of God, through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us. We believe the love-kingdom is like a mustard seed; sown in apparent insignificance, growing into magnificence for the greening of the world. We believe the love-

kingdom is like yeast; inserted in humble insignificance into the dough of life, expanding into enough bread for the world.

We believe the love-kingdom of God is like a treasure; lost and rendered insignificant under the ground, now found with joy and thanksgiving.

We believe the love-kingdom of God is like pearls; all others become in insignificant when the largest, most beautiful pearl of all is found.

We believe the love-kingdom of God is like a net full of fish; where even insignificant sardines are saved but worm-ridden barracouta are thrown away.

We believe in the love-kingdom of God, through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us; where the meek and the poor, the merciful and the hungry, rejoice with the angels of God.

Loving God, we believe; scatter our unbelief. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 333*

Seek Ye First

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 525*

Here I Am, Lord

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Theme from "The Big Country" by Jerome Moss* (BT 1-50)

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: Stephanie Burke

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Tim Topolski

Guest Pastor: Rev. Carla Costantino

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Mandy Burke

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Trinity Sunday, June 15

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, June 16 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, June 17

6:30 PM NW Garden Club/OC

Thursday, June 19

10:00 AM S&F/OC

11:00 AM VBS Team/OC

Recognition Sunday, June 22

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Brunch/FH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to the chancel choir for their dedication, commitment and gift of music to the worship life of our church family. After today's service of worship, the chancel choir will return in September.



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

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 (*please see sign-up sheet in FH*). We will also recognize and thank our Sunday School staff for their contributions to the life of our church this year. Questions? Email Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com or Amanda Macchia at amanda.gildersleeve.macchia@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.

Vacation Bible School August 11–15! Come and join us for some summer fun! We are holding VBS at our church this summer. Adult and teen helpers encouraged to volunteer mornings from 8:30–11:30 Monday to Friday - August 11–15. Even if you are only available for one day 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. Additionally, VBS registration is available at fpcb-nj.org/vbs!



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 app. 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/>. The PW flower lady of the month of June is Erika Wulster.



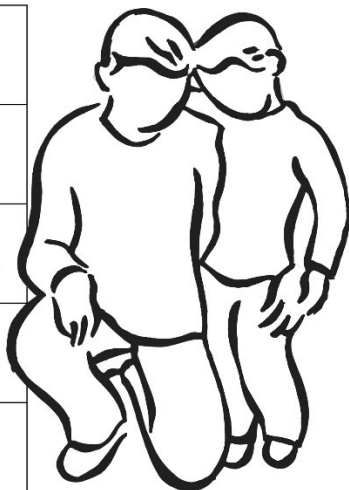
FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 parents	3 faithfulness	1 you	



_____, _____, _____, _____,
 _____; _____
 _____.

Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV