

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

First Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Feb. 22, 2026

* Please stand if you are able; **bold text spoken** and *bold/italic sung* by all.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Montgomery Variations": III by Margaret Bonds* (3:15)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Elizabeth Topolski

**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:

God of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you,
in whom we live, move, and have our being.

**Be the goal of my earthly pilgrimage,
and my heartfelt rest along the way.**

May our souls take refuge from the crowding turmoil of
worldly thought beneath the shadow of your wings.

**May our hearts, this sea of restless waves,
find peace in you, O God.**

That with grateful hearts and with lips of praise, we may worship God.

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

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

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus, your Son, to seek and save the
lost. We confess that too frequently we stray from your will.
Misguided by our pride, we often view ourselves pure when we
are stained, great when we are small, loving when we fail to love
as you first loved us.**

**Forgive us when we have neglected to do what is right, to love
loyalty, and to walk humbly with you, our God. Grant us grace
and wisdom to walk your righteous path and to live restored unto
the joy of your salvation. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

By the saving work of Jesus' death on the cross and by
the power of his resurrection...

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

* GLORIA PATRI: *No. 579 Glory Be to the Father*
***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.***

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.
~ *Children may go downstairs for Sunday School* ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 592 Praise God*
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 The fall of humanity.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 4: 1–11 Jesus resists temptation.

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

SERMON: *Trials, Temptations, and Triumphs* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Contemporary Apostle's 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 and walk hopefully. Forever, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to Christ's resurrection joy. Amen.

* HYMN: *O Lord, You Were Sent* vv. 1, 2, 4, 5 Tune #361
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***Our Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast
To ponder your mission, to pray and to fast;
Then hungry and weary, you faced night and day
The subtle temptations to turn from God's way.
How could it be wrong to want bread on the shelf?
To seek, in one's serving, to first serve one's self?
But by God's own word you remained ever sure:
It's only in God that our lives are secure.
How could it be wrong to just once bow the knee,
To shake hands with sin to achieve victory?
Yet you made it clear that no matter the cost:
Your path was obedience, your way was the cross.
Our Lord, in your struggle you chose to obey;
God's word filled your heart and you trusted God's way.
Now risen, you save us from sins that destroy;
You give us your Spirit, your peace and your joy.***

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *One Person's Sin Changed Every Life* Tune: #370
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***One person's sin changed every life; When Adam strayed,
we too were lost. The world soon filled with death and strife
And every person bears the cost.
Not satisfied with what you gave, Your people sought to be like
you. Those early humans disobeyed—Their story is our story, too.
Then, God, in love you sent your Son, For as in Adam we did fall,
So through the faithfulness of One, Salvation was your gift to all.
O God, we've seen what death can do, And now with joy we
know rebirth. In Jesus Christ, you make us new
And give your life for all the earth.***

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Plantation Melodies, Old and New"*
Arr. for String Quartet by Harr Burleigh

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

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, Julie Harvey, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Brad Gross, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow & her family, Henry Parsons, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Ellen Walsh, Molly Young, Audrey, Eva, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Michael Kelly, Jan Smith, Jan Swift, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Finegan, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Mandy Burke

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Topolski

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Teri Harvey & Angelina Plut

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; *The Good Samaritan*

Faith Works: Lisa Besser; *The Forgiving Father (Luke 15: 11–32)*

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Feb. 22

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Deacon Meeting/FH

Mon., Feb. 23 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary

Tues., Feb. 24

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

6:00 PM Cub Scouts/FH

7:00 PM "The Chosen" OC

Sun., Mar. 1

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship w/Communion

10:15 AM Sunday School

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblairstown>

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Ministry Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 22 following worship.

VBS Team Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 22 at 7:00 PM at the Outreach Center to select curriculum and start planning for VBS 2026. Zoom link available—see church calendar: <https://fpcb-nj.org/calendar-of-events/>

The Chosen: Selected episodes from Seasons 1, 2, and 3 of *The Chosen* will be shown on the following dates: **Tue., Feb 24th** at 7 PM at the Outreach Center and all Sundays after church in the Fellowship Hall classroom in March, April 26, and May 24 and/or 31. We will view *The Chosen* as a Lenten Study.

Gift Cards: ShopRite (\$25/\$100), Acme (\$25/\$100), Subway (\$10), Dunkin' (\$10), IHOP (\$10), Starbucks (\$10), Panera (\$10), and Home Depot (\$10) Gift Cards are available at the church office or from Gail Weber.

Book Club: The next meeting of the FPCB Book Club will be held at 7 PM on Thu., Mar. 5 at the Outreach Center, hosted by Betsy Gervasi. We will discuss the book, The Door to Door Book Store by Carsten Henn. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey.

Special Offering—One Great Hour of Sharing: (Feb. 18–Apr. 5) Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)—disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees—serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. Every gift makes a difference.

Community News

Hymn Sing: If you enjoy singing and have some favorite hymns, please come to the Hymn Sing at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on **Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3 PM**. There is a sign-up sheet in FH. Please write down the hymn(s) you'd like to sing, so that the music can be prepared in advance. Questions? Contact Deb Albrecht at (908) 447-2112.

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef/Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser & Live Irish Music with Maggie Morokutti! Sat., Mar. 14 (time: 5:00–7:30 PM) at the Hope Community Center at 5 Walnut Street. \$30 per person, 50/50 cash raffle. Sponsored by H.O.P.E. (Help Our Preservation Efforts). Tickets available at Hope Junction Antiques or speak with church member, Pete Peterson, ph. (908) 798-7164.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS



Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly version of the Bible, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.

DAY 1
Genesis 3:15

DAY 2
Isaiah 7:14

DAY 3
Matthew 1:20-21

DAY 4
Luke 2:11

DAY 5
Luke 2:52

DAY 6
Mark 1:9-11

DAY 7
Matthew 4:10

DAY 8
Matthew 4:18-20

DAY 9
Luke 6:27-31

DAY 10
Matthew 11:28-30

DAY 11
Luke 4:40-41

DAY 12
Luke 8:24-25

DAY 13
Matthew 12:8

DAY 14
Mark 6:41-42

DAY 15
Luke 9:20-22

DAY 16
John 3:16-17

DAY 17
John 6:35

DAY 18
John 8:12

DAY 19
John 10:14-15

DAY 20
Mark 10:13-16

DAY 21
Mark 9:2-3

DAY 22
Matthew 20:17-19

DAY 23
Luke 19:9-10

DAY 24
Matthew 14:25-27

DAY 25
Luke 10:36-37

DAY 26
John 11:25-27, 43

DAY 27
John 12:3

DAY 28
Matthew 21:8-9

DAY 29
Mark 11:15-16

DAY 30
John 17:17-19

DAY 31
Luke 22:3-6

DAY 32
Mark 14:22-24

DAY 33
John 13:3-5

DAY 34
Matthew 26:39

DAY 35
Luke 22:63-65

DAY 36
Mark 15:22-26

DAY 37
Matthew 27:50-54

DAY 38
John 19:40-42

DAY 39
Luke 24:1-8

DAY 40
Matthew 28:19-20