

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Third Sunday of Easter & Honoring Our First Responders*

10:00 AM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Apr. 19, 2026

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

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Concerto in E flat - III "Rondo"*  
*by Johann Nepomuk Hummel Performed by Tine Thing Helseth*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Frank Wilson

**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: *Based on Psalms 46 & 121*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

**Therefore, we will not fear; though the earth should change  
and the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.**

In our hour of need, we lift our eyes to the hills—from where our help  
will come.

**Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.**

We gather today to thank and praise God for those whom God calls to  
respond to human hurts with hands of help,

**and those first responders who offer voices of hope and gestures  
of compassion in time of need.**

With grateful hearts and with lips of praise, let us worship God.

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 210 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past vv. 1-3 & 5*

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

**Universal God, we confess that we often take for granted the  
peace and safety of our community, and we sometimes look away  
or turn away from the suffering of our neighbors, while there are  
others who courageously run toward it. Forgive us when we fail  
to support those who carry the heavy burden of our collective  
community crises. Forgive us of our apathy and develop within  
us greater empathy. Forgive us of our cowardice and increase  
within us the grace of courage for those who serve us. Grant us  
all the courage to be agents of your shalom. In the name of the  
risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

In Christ, barriers are broken down, borders collapse, new friendships are formed; a new community is fashioned. All life becomes brand spankin' new. Friends, rejoice and be glad!

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

\* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 582, GTG*

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardon me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. 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.*

A LITANY OF COMMENDATION & BLESSING: *Assisting is Bill Olivier*

Eternal God, you are the ultimate healer and protector. We come before you today with hearts full of gratitude for those who serve as first responders. For the Firefighters, who face the heat and danger of the flame to protect our homes and our lives.

**We thank you, O God, for their courage.**

For the Police Officers and Law Enforcement, who walk into uncertainty to preserve peace and seek justice in our streets:

**We thank you, O God, for their watchfulness.**

For the EMTs, Paramedics, and Flight Medics, whose skilled hands and steady spirits bring healing in the golden hour of need:

**We thank you, O God, for their compassion.**

For the Dispatchers, the calm voices in the dark who bridge the gap between crisis and help:

**We thank you, O God, for their guidance.**

For men and women who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces, who step up and march into foreign lands to protect the people of this great land.

**We thank you God, for bravery and their courage.**

We also remember their families—those who wait, who pray, and who support their loved ones in this difficult calling.

**Surround them with your peace which passes all understanding.**

Holy Spirit, sustain these servants. In the face of trauma, give them resilience. In the face of exhaustion, give them rest. In the face of cynicism, give them hope.

**May they know that their work is seen by you, and their lives are held by you. Amen.**

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

## GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

- \* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*  
***Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.  
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL EPISTLE: 1 Peter 1: 17–23 *Live each day with reverent awe.*

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24: 13–35 *Jesus is revealed through  
astonishing things and happenings.*

ANTHEM: "Sing a Song of Thanks and Joy" Chancel Choir  
*by Hal Hopson*

SERMON: *He Walks with Us!* Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Philippians 2: 3–11 NRSVACE*

**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

- \* HYMN: *Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day* Tune #335, vv. 1–2  
*Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

***Emmaus-bound on Easter Day, Two travelers walked along the  
way. They'd once had hope, but hope had died  
When you, O Lord, were crucified.***

***When you appeared beside the two, They could not see that it  
was you; But as they talked and shared their pain,  
You gave them hope and joy again.***

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

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 420 God of Grace and God of Glory* vv. 1, 3–5

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Trumpet Concerto in D Major I "Allegro" by Torelli*  
*Performed by Alison Balsom*

*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:** Angela Balogach, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Julie Harvey, Michelle Haiduc-Dale, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Brad Gross, Ed Jones, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro & her family, Henry Parsons, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Molly Young, Audrey, Eva, Liza, Joan

**Illness & Injuries:** George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Michael Kelly, Jan Smith, Jan Swift, Judy Trigg, Jim Walsh, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Annie, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

---

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825  
Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

e-Mail: [fpcb@ptd.net](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net) Website: [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org)

<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblairstown>

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

CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595



---

## ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

---

**Greeters:** Mandy Burke, Carissa Plut  
**Ushers:** Gail Grube, Joan Cameron  
**Worship Leader:** Frank Wilson  
**Litany Assistant:** Bill Olivier  
**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey  
**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti  
**Sound System:** Theo Padavano  
**MIDI:** Frank Wilson  
**DLP:** Jennifer Plut  
**Children & Worship:** -  
**Faith Works:** Lisa Besser; *Feed My Sheep; John 21: 1-19*

---

## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

---

### Sun., Apr. 19

*Special 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Service*

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

**Mon., Apr. 20** *Office Closed*

7:00 PM WGS/Sanctuary

### Tue., Apr. 21

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

### Sun., Apr. 26

*Special Blessing of Bikers Service*

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

**Special Service:** Sunday, Apr. 26: *Blessing of Bikers* with Christian Motorcyclists Assoc. Sign-ups for coffee hour are available in Fellowship Hall. For more information on this special service, visit <https://fpcb-nj.org/worship/specialworshipservices> — whether you ride or simply wish to support those who do, come share in prayer, community, and God's grace. All are welcome!

**Book Club:** Wed., Apr. 29 at 7 PM hosted by Teri Harvey to discuss *Grandma Gatewood's Walk — the inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail* by Ben Montgomery. 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.

**Johnsonburg Camperships:** PW supports children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending write a letter to PW indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be submitted to the church office by Apr. 30. More information about Johnsonburg summer camp may be found at <https://fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships/>.

**Tea Party:** Presbyterian Women will host a Tea Party on Sat., May 2 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet is available.

**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](https://fpcb-nj.org) for the sign-up link or sign up in Fellowship Hall or speak with Elizabeth Topolski.

### Community News:

**Pocono Concert Chorale:** Franz Joseph Haydn's *The Creation: Celebrating the creation of the world as told in the Book of Genesis* with orchestra and soloists will perform Sunday, Apr. 26 at First Presbyterian Church at 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission is \$20. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from Pocono Concert Chorale members (Frank Wilson).

---

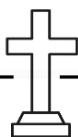
# PUZZLE



## FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection  
helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV


























- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus      | 5. cross    |
| 2. weary      | 6. endured  |
| 3. endured    | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame    |



- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus   | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose    | 6. him       |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith     |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand      |



- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes  | 5. right  |
| 2. us    | 6. grow   |
| 3. joy   | 7. God    |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  
 5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6  
 he  3 the  5,  7 its  
 8, and sat down at the  5  8  
 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6  
 such  4 from  4,  
 so that you will not  6 and  2  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answers: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."