

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 17, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Overture" - Rinaldo HWV 7a by GF Handel* (5:27)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Robin Kasprenski

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: (Isaiah 40: 31)

Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

They shall mount upon wings as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary;

They shall walk and faint.

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 267 All Things Bright and Beautiful*

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

Merciful and loving God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and seek your mercy. We have neither loved you with a pure heart, nor loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have viewed our neighbor as the 'other', thus neglecting to do justice, failing to love kindness, and denying your call to walk humbly with you, our God.

Forgive our sin, O God. Create within us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us, only restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Friends — hear, believe, and accept the good news of the gospel of Christ's love. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us forgive one another.**

* SONG OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 466*

v. 1

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* 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. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15: 50–58

St. Paul commends the power of Christ's resurrection.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 11: 21–27

Jesus declares himself the resurrection and the life.

ANTHEM/DUET: Elizabeth Toploski, Alto & Maggie Morokutti, Soprano

"O Lovely Peace" by G.F. Handel from Judas Maccabeus

SERMON SERIES: **"I AM" SAYINGS OF JESUS:** Pastor David Harvey

IV. *"I am the Resurrection and the Life"*

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.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Being installed as deacons are Kelly McElroy & Judy Trigg

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE: *1 Corinthians 12: 4–7, 27* Elder Deb Albrecht

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Athalia - Part I, No. 1 - Sinfonia - Allegro by GF Handel*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: -

Ushers: Deb & Gary Albrecht

Worship Leader: Robin Kasprenski

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Elder Assisting

w/Installation: Deb Albrecht

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Altar Flowers: Erika Wulster

Children & Worship: -

Faith Works: Lisa Besser; *Prayerful Friends; Acts 9: 36–43*

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, Brad Gross, Michelle Haiduc-Dale, Julie Harvey, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Ed Jones, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow & 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, Joseph Mello, Karolina Plut, Jan Smith, Jan Swift, 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

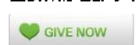
Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org

<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblairstown>

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

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., May 17

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Mon., May 18 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM BEC/OC

Tue., May 19

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

7:00 PM M&C-CE/OC

Wed., May 20

10:30 AM S&F/OC

Thu., May 21

7:00 PM Session/OC

Sun., May 24

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Family Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Morning of Learning” at Well Sweep Herb Farm in Port Murray on Sat., May 23. Fee is \$13.50. Bring a sandwich for a picnic lunch (lemonade provided). A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall with an option for carpooling. This outing is being organized by PW.

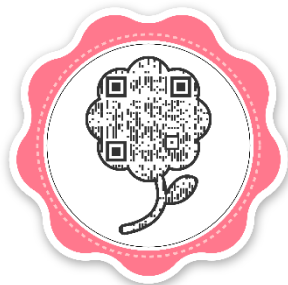
Worship Helpers Needed: You are invited to sign up online through Sign- Up Genius — pick a date that works for you! Visit fpcb-nj.org for the sign-up link or sign up in Fellowship Hall or speak with Joan Cameron.

Joint Elder/Deacon Meeting: Sunday, May 31 following worship.

The **FPCB Book Club’s** next meeting will be 6:30 PM on Wed., June 10 at Mandy Burke’s house (15 Liberty Lane, Mt. Bethel). We will be discussing the book “In the Country of the Young” by Lisa Carey. New members are always welcome, please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. Questions? Please speak with Teri Harvey.

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!

Altar Flowers: Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? Flowers can be cut or potted; from your garden, a store, or even delivered from a local florist! The PW flower coordinator of the month is Teri Harvey. You may sign up in Fellowship Hall or even sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/> (or scan the QR code to the left).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION	CLASS OF 2027 Lisa Besser Donald Nicholls Deb Albrecht	CLASS OF 2028 Amanda Macchia Bill Olivier Open	CLASS OF 2029 Chester Topolski Elizabeth Topolski Frank Wilson
BOARD OF DEACONS	CLASS OF 2027 Betsy Gervasi Teri Harvey Carissa Plut ¹ Erika Wulster	CLASS OF 2028 Mandy Burke Robin Kasprenski Angelina Plut ² Open	CLASS OF 2029 Joan Cameron Kelly McElroy ³ Judy Trigg ³ Open

¹ One-year, unexpired term; ² Two-year, unexpired term; ³ Second term

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Water Gap Singers, under the direction of Joseph Mello, will present a Brahms concert today at 4 PM in our Sanctuary. The concert will feature *Liebeslieder Walzer (Lovesong Waltzes)*. There is no admission charge to the concert. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted. A reception, prepared by members of the chorus, will follow the concert. New members are always welcomed. There are no auditions. For more information, visit watergapsingers.org.

Arts at St. Luke's: Sam Edelston brings the all-American mountain dulcimer into the 21st century with his vibrant blend of bluegrass, Bossa Nova and many shades of Rock! Saturday, May 30th at 7:00 PM at St. Luke's in Hope. Suggested donation of \$10 at the door.