

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Day of Pentecost | Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 24, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"The Oopik Waltz"* by Jay Ungar & Molly Mason

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Joan Cameron

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 MEMORIAL DAY:

Gail Weber

CHORAL INTROIT: *Spirit of the Living God*

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

(Joel 2:28–29, 3:17)

From the prophet, Joel, the Lord declares:

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;

Sons and daughters shall prophesy: your old shall dream dreams;

Your young shall see visions

You shall know the Lord, your God dwells in Zion, on God's holy hill.

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 210 O God, Our Help in Ages Past* vv. 1–4

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

Almighty God, as you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, dazzled listeners, and a new community, we confess we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of truth, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ.

Have mercy on us, Lord, Jesus. Transform our rigid minds and timid faith by the power of your Holy Spirit. Empower us to live as wisely and responsibly as stewards of your good news, that we may do your will, walk in your grace, and show your goodness to this broken and at times faithless world; in Jesus' name and for his sake we pray these things. 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.**

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Glory to God* No. 582 GTG

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. *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: Acts 2: 1–21 Jesus' church is born.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 14: 1–6 Jesus is the way, truth, and life.

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

SERMON SERIES: **"I AM" SAYINGS OF JESUS:** Pastor David Harvey
V. *"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*A Litany from The Book of Worship for United States Forces (1974)
Used with permission by the Armed Forces Chaplains' Board, Washington, D.C.*

* A LITANY FOR MEMORIAL DAY:

Let us give thanks to God for the beauty, the bounty, and the blessing of this land with all its chartered liberties and opportunities given to us; for the awesome wonder of America.

We offer our thanks and praise, O God.

For elected leaders who serve us at the federal, the state and the local levels, for their aspirations and inspiration of upholding the ideals that perpetuate our nation's story,

We offer our hearts in thankful praise, O God.

For men and women, young and old, who bravely and boldly enlist in our nation's armed services, placing their lives on the line in our country's finest hour, and especially those who gave even their lives in service, defending freedom and faith.

We declare our thankful praise, O God.

Almighty God and merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and compassion, their heroic strength and valor, we also hold before you those who mourn them.

Look upon your bereaved servants with divine and tender mercy. As we enjoy the freedoms that we do, may we remember with appreciation and gratitude the men and women who have fought and who have died, and who in their dying allow us to live freely and enjoy life abundantly. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., May 24

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Family Worship

Mon., May 25 *Office Closed*

Tue., May 26

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC


Sun., May 31

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Joint Deacon/Elder Meeting

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

A. 9 a.m.
B. Noon
C. 3:30 p.m.
D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

Today's altar flowers are placed in remembrance of those who've given their lives for our freedom.



Grateful for Those Who Gave All

We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Recognition Sunday, June 14: Please mark your calendar for a very special Sunday where we will recognize and celebrate our graduates during the 10 AM worship service. Whether it's graduation from elementary school, the completion of a graduate degree or anything in between, we want to honor those individuals and their accomplishments. You don't want to miss this celebration and wonderful gathering following worship, so mark your calendars! To ensure your graduate is included, please email the church office at fpcb@ptd.net with their name, school and graduation year by Sunday, June 7.

Help needed with our Tropical Trek Vacation Bible School!

Can you spare some time to help decorate? Would you like to lead an activity? Or guide a group of kids? Can you help with registration and greeting? Even if you can only help for a couple of days, we can use your help. We need people to help with decorating and set-up to get ready for VBS the week of July 20-24 and we need group guides and activity leaders. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. You can also contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com or (908 447-2112) to volunteer or for more information.

Church Treasurer: Enjoy working with numbers? Our church is seeking a volunteer Treasurer to help support this ministry of the church. If you are organized, detail-oriented, and willing to serve, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the church office for more information.

Thank you: Angelina Plut for recently updating one of the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards!

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/>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Arts at St. Luke's: Sam Edleston 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.

