

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 5, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Grovers Corners" by Aaron Copland* (3:09)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Erika Wulster

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.

* PRAISE SONG: *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)* (No. 701, GTG)

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *Adapted 145: 1-2, Matthew 11: 28-29*

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God is good to all, and God's compassion is over all creation.

Christ says: "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give rest."

Jesus says: "Keep company with me and we'll learn to live freely and lightly;"

Jesus says, "Come to him, and find rest for your souls."

With joyful and grateful hearts, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

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

Merciful Christ, we confess that we are captive to sin and are unable to free ourselves. Like the Apostle Paul, we do the very things we hate, failing to live out the good we desire. We carry heavy burdens of our own making—*anxiety, pride, and the exhausting pace of a world that demands we prove our worth.*

Forgive us, form us, and fashion us into your image, Lord Jesus. Meet us in our weariness. Help us to trade our heavy yokes that we may learn the humble rhythms of your generous and abundant grace. We pray this in your precious name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

In Christ, barriers are demolished, strangers become friends, the huddled masses yearning to be free experience liberty and a new community. In Christ a new life and a new way of living has begun.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 582 GTG*
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

* 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. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 4: 7–8, 16–21
God's love is seen through our indiscriminate and impartial love.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 13: 34–35 NRSVUE
Jesus commands us to love one another.

SOLO: "This is My Song" Maggie Morokutti, Piano/Vocals
Lyrics: Lloyd Stone; Music: "Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius

SERMON: *Love One Another* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Romans 8: 28, 31–35, 37–39*

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. If God is for us, who is against us? So who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *For Everyone Born* (No. 769, GTG)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Deacon Erika Wulster
Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light". Matthew 11: 28–30

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. John 6: 40

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come into them and eat with them, and they with me. Revelation 3: 20

Pastor David Harvey

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

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

Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know the impartial, the indiscriminate, and unconditional way of Christ's redemptive love. Recreate Christ's image within us and invigorate us in our daily walk with Jesus that we may present and represent Jesus to a broken and fearful world. This we pray in Jesus' precious name, saying: "Our Father, who art in heaven . . . forever. Amen."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

OFFERING OF THE ELEMENTS: *Approach the Table, receive the bread, take the cup, and return to your pew.*

SHARING THE BREAD & DRINKING THE CUP

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Deacon Erika Wulster

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, 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, Jim Walsh, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Annie, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., July 5

10:00 AM Family Worship w/Communion

Mon., July 6 *Office Closed*

Tue., July 7

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Sun., July 12

10:00 AM Family Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study: Join us Tuesdays at the Outreach Center beginning at 10 AM. Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study reminders or visit the church calendar at fpcb-nj.org

Gift Cards! Dunkin, ShopRite, ACME, Panera, Starbucks cards, and more are available. See Gail Weber to order or to learn more about Loaves & Fishes and RaiseRight!

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 or sign up in Fellowship Hall or speak with Deb Albrecht.

Tropical Trek VBS Supplies Requests: Our VBS Team is reaching out to request donations of supplies. We are very grateful for any items that our members and friends can provide. We ask that you bring items to church or the Outreach Center by July 14. The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are also welcome. *Thank You!*

Lumos Concert on Sep. 25: *A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience* — a String Trio performance — in the Sanctuary. 1st Seating: 6:30-7:30 PM | 2nd Seating: 8:30-9:30 PM. Entry: 1st Sitting Doors open at 5:45 PM | 2nd Seating: Doors open at 8 PM – visit our website to order tickets.

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 of July is **Lillian Smith**. 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:

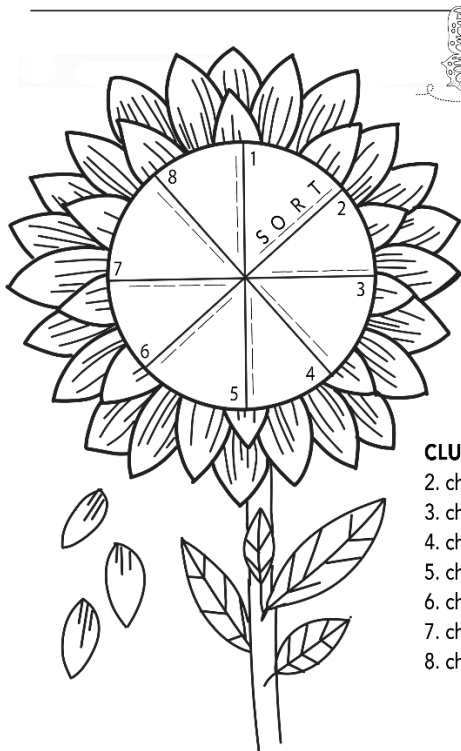
Hontz Family Band Concert: Free outdoor concert (with free Windy Brow ice cream) at Yellow Frame Presbyterian on Sat., July 18 at 7 PM.



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first _____
_____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

- 2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
- 3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
- 4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
- 5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
- 6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
- 7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
- 8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).