

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 26, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Brandenburg Concerto" BWV 1050 by JS Bach* (05-23)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Pete Peterson

**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.**

* SONG OF PRAISE: *No. 333 Seek Ye First* v. 1

* CALL TO WORSHIP: (Psalm 146: 1-2, 9-10)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

God upholds the orphan and the widow;

**The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
for all generations. Praise the Lord.**

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

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

**O God of mercy, you do not treat us as our sins deserve but
instead you offer us forgiveness and new life. Forgive us when
we sin against you in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Help us to
see and act toward the world with Jesus' eyes, with his deeds,
and with his compassion. Amaze us with Jesus' grace that we
may also know his goodness and kindness; in Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

By Christ's love and grace, the impossibilities of the old life in Christ
become new opportunities for us to love our friends and our foes.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 298*

v. 1

There's a Wideness in God Mercy

* 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

HEBREW LESSON: 1 Samuel 24: 4–7; 13–19 *David spares Saul's life.*

HEBREW LESSON: Proverbs 24: 17–22, Proverbs 25: 21–22
Wisdom offers a different perspective about the enemy.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 5: 43–48 *Jesus issues difficult demands.*

SERMON SERIES: *Reviving the Golden Rule:* Pastor David Harvey
3. Three Difficult Words

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Romans 8: 28, 33–35, 37–39*

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. It is God who justifies. It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, 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.

* HYMN: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me!*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 302 I Danced in the Morning vv. 1, 3–5*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: "Upon This Rock" v. 1
by Charles F. Brown

Upon this rock we will be God's church, a church with joy and life to share; a church that grows in each man's heart, who seeks the way to love, to care.

POSTLUDE: 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her' (01-19)
(From Heaven above to earth I come) by Max Reger

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, Michelle Haiduc-Dale, Julie Harvey, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Ed Jones, 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, Jan Smith, Jim Walsh, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Annie, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Ushers: Betsy Peterson, Chester Topolski

Worship Leader: Pete Peterson

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP/MIDI: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Coffee Hour: Jennifer Plut

Altar Flowers: Lilian Smith

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., July 26

10:00 AM Family Worship

Mon., July 27 Office Closed

Sun., Aug. 2

10:00 AM Family Worship
w/Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Tropical Trek VBS was a great success! Many thanks to our volunteers who made our Tropical Trek VBS a wonderful faith building experience for kids in our church family and community! We can't thank you enough!!!

Adult Volunteers: Deb Albrecht, Stephanie Burke, Melissa D'Agostino, Teri Harvey, Pastor David Harvey, Joanna Leontaris, Kayla Lobycz, Bill Olivier, Elizabeth Topolski, and Elisabeth Wenner

Teen Volunteers: Levi and Paige Arena; Ella, Hannah, and Ryan Burke

Decorating Team: Angelina and Carissa Plut

Registration & Publicity (and whatever else was needed!): Jen Plut

Thank you also to all those who donated supplies.

They were greatly appreciated! Thank you to our congregation for supporting our efforts to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the children in our community!

Many hands needed to help take down VBS decorations following worship! All help is welcome!

Staff Vacation Days: Pastor David Harvey will be out of the office this upcoming week Jen Plut will be out of the office the week of Aug. 2.

The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 6:00 PM on Wed., July 29 at Erika Wulster's new home at 1569 Teels Road, Building 6C, in Pen Argyl, PA. We will be discussing the book, 'Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good' by Jan Karon. New members are always welcome, please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. If interested in carpooling/ride, contact Jen in the church office at 908.362.5254 or 973.296.2156 (mobile).

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!

Lumos Concert on Sep. 25: *A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience* — a String Trio performance — in our 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 August 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/>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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