

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Aug. 16, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: "Song to the Moon" by Antonin Dvorak (BT 5:15)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Elizabeth Topolski

**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: No. 464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* vv. 1-2

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *Adapted from Psalm 24: 1-5, (New English RB)*

People of God, take heart and listen: To the Lord belong
the earth and everything in it, the world and all its inhabitants.

**It was God who founded it on the seas and
planted it firm on the waters beneath.**

Who may ascend to the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in God's holy presence?

**One with clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not set their mind on what is false.**

Such is a one who will receive blessing from the Lord,
and be vindicated by God, our Savior.

**With joyful praise and grateful hearts,
let us sing our praise to God.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 288 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

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

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence, we confess our sin and
the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are divided people. We pursue profits and pleasures that
waste the land and pollute the seas. Our fears and jealousies that
we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against
nation. We abuse your good gifts.**

**Lord, God, forgive our sin. Free us from a past that we cannot
change; open us to a future in which we can be changed, that by
your grace the love, the kindness, and the compassion of Jesus
may grow within us and be seen working through us; in Jesus'
name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May God who forgives our sins, strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

By Jesus' saving work on the cross, our sins are forgiven.

Let us forgive one another.

- * SONG 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*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In unison)*

Mysterious Spirit, Source of all creation, silence within us any voice but your own and stir within us a readiness to hear your Word—that your Spirit may deepen and strengthen our faith, hope, and love in Christ's will and way. Let the words spoken and the meditations of our lives find acceptance with you, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: Genesis 1: 24–2: 3 God creates all things living.

HEBREW LESSON: Genesis 2: 4–9, 15–25 God creates humankind.

SOLO: *"Though I May Speak" English Folk Melody* Maggie Morokutti

SERMON SERIES: *Reviving the Golden Rule:* Pastor David Harvey
4. Creation: God's Majestic Blessing
Welcome Boy Scout Troop 140

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- * AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Prayer of Faithful Living, St. Francis of Assisi*
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.
- * HYMN: *No. 267* *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 554* *Let All Things Now Living*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: *No. 264* *vv. 1 & 4*
When in Our Music God is Glorified

POSTLUDE: *"Oboe Concerto in d minor" by Alessandro Marcello*

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: Robert Benz, 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: Deb Albrecht

Usher(s): Bill Olivier

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Topolski

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Sound System: Theo Padavano

Soloist/Pianist: Maggie Morokutti

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Aug. 16

10:00 AM Family Worship

Mon., Aug. 17

Office Closed

Tue., Aug. 18

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

1:30 PM S&F/OC

Thu., Aug. 20

7:00 PM Session/OC

Sun., Aug. 23

10:00 AM Family Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Nursery room in Fellowship Hall is available for you and your children to use during the service. We ask that you stay with your child—the room is not staffed. The service can be heard through a speaker in the room. We hope that this will be a comfortable space available to you and your child(ren) on Sundays.

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 Elizabeth Topolski.

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/>

Sunday School Teachers Wanted for the 2026–27 School Year:

If you enjoy spending time with children and want to take part in their faith development, please consider becoming involved in our Sunday School classes. We are looking for adults to teach in Children & Worship (Pre-K through 1st grade), Faith Works (Grades 2–8) and Nursery. Teen helpers are welcome! Weekly lessons are provided. If interested, please contact Deb Albrecht at (908) 447-2112 or email debalbrecht20@gmail.com.

The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 6:00 PM on Wed., Sep. 23 at the Outreach Center. We will be discussing the book "Unveiled" by Yasmine Mohammed. New members are always welcome, please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. Questions? Please speak with Teri Harvey.

Sep. 25 Lumos Concert: Fleetwood Mac
Candlelight String Trio performance — in our Sanctuary! Visit our website for a link to order tickets.
1st Seating: 6:30-7:30 PM | doors open at 5:45 PM
2nd Seating: 8:30-9:30 PM | doors open at 8:00 PM



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

<https://linktr.ee/fpcbblairstown>

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

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