

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Rally Day

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sep. 13, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE:

"Cavatina" by Stanley Myers

(3:37)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Teri Harvey

**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

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Almighty God, may your blessings permeate this space and place.

**Let the faithful be renewed in our salvation and the
careless awakened.**

Let the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.

Let the weary find rest, and the weak be renewed.

Let the aged find invigoration and the young experience invigoration.

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 255 Now Praise the Lord*

vv. 1-4

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

**Forgiving and merciful God, you who are steadfast in love, are
more ready to forgive than we want to be forgiven. We also
confess the grudges and resentments that we carry which
diminishes our humanity.**

**Forgive us, Lord Jesus of our attitudes and actions which
separate us from your love and prevent us from loving one
another. Mold us by your mercy. Grant us a hospitable and an
honorable spirit that we may live daily as a people who forgive
one another as you have first loved and forgiven us. In your
name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

As God's own children, be merciful in action, kind in heart, humble in mind.
Be ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And above
everything else, be loving and grateful, for what Christ has done for us, in
us, and among us.

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

* SONG OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Love Me! v. 1*

* 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*

COMMISSIONING OF 2026–2027 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & YOUTH WORKERS

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Jesus came to them and said: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

(Matthew 28: 18–20)

Hear also these words from St. Paul: *"Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."*

(2 Timothy 3: 14–17)

The opportunity to teach our children and youth the love and forgiveness, the peace and justice of Jesus is a privilege, a joy, and a responsibility. Sunday school teachers, youth workers, and choir directors for the 2026–2027 school year, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling, because it is God's grace. As God has called you to this particular teaching ministry of our church family, please respond by affirming the following questions:

AFFIRMATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & YOUTH WORKERS:

We are grateful for your willingness to teach the faith to our children and ask:

Do you accept the opportunity to serve Jesus in our Sunday school program this year, and will you be faithful in your instruction of the faith to our children?

I do and I will with Christ's help.

Will you serve Christ with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and trusting the power of the Holy Spirit in your teaching ministry?

I will with Christ's help.

AFFIRMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BLAIRSTOWN, NJ:

Do you, the members of this church family, promise to pray for and support our Sunday school teachers and youth workers as they labor in love, teaching the way of Christ to our young people?

We will with Christ's help.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER & BLESSING

* COMMISSIONING HYMN: *No. 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised*

~ *Children may go downstairs for Sunday School* ~

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:1–8, 50: 14–21

By offering his brothers forgiveness, Joseph demonstrates the steadfast love, the hospitality, and the mercy of God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18: 21–35

Jesus illustrates danger of forgiveness refusal.

SOLO: "You Raise Me Up" Maggie Morokutti

SERMON: *Forgiven Anyone Recently?* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *(responsive)* Psalm 103: 1–12, 21–22

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

God forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

God redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

God satisfies your desires with good, so that youth are renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

God made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul. Amen.

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: *No. 596 "May the Lord, Mighty God"*

POSTLUDE: *Violin Concerto in G Major*
by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de St. George

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Stephanie Burke
Ushers: Jennifer McElroy & Kelly McElroy
Worship Leader: Teri Harvey
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation

Soloist: Maggie Morokutti
Sound System: Theo Padavano
Altar Flowers & DLP: Jen Plut

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron, Lesson: *The Good Shepherd*
Faith Works: Deb Albrecht, Lesson: *We Are One* / *1 Corinthians 12:12-31*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

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<https://linktr.ee/fpcblairstown>

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

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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, Jay Ohland, Jan Smith, Jim Walsh, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Annie, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Sep. 13 Rally Day

10:00 AM Worship & Teacher Installation

10:15 AM Sunday School

Mon., Sep. 14 Office Closed

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers Rehearsal

Wed., Sep. 16

10:00 AM S&F/OC

Thu., Sep. 17

7:00 PM Session/OC

Sat., Sep. 19

9:30 AM Food Pantry/OC

Sun., Sep. 20

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Deacon Ministry Meeting

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.

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, sign up in Fellowship Hall, or speak with Joan Cameron. The **FPCB Book Club's** next meeting will be 6:00 PM on Wed., Sep. 23 at the Outreach Center hosted by Jen Plut. 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** at fpcb-nj.org (if you need assistance ordering, please contact the church office—tickets are not sold at the door).

1st Seating: 4:30–5:30 PM | doors open at 3:45 PM

2nd Seating: 6:30–7:30 PM | doors open at 5:45 PM

3rd Seating: 8:30–9:30 PM | doors open at 8:00 PM

Fish & Chips: Mark Your Calendars for our 11th Annual Tastefully British Fish/Chicken & Chips Take-Out Dinner which will take place on Friday, Oct. 2 at the Outreach Center! Online ordering and tickets are available now! A volunteer sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance to our deacons and elders and all who will assist and/or sell tickets to help make this a successful event!

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!

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 September is Jen Plut. 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/>

Support the World Communion Offering: The World Communion Offering cultivates forms of reconciliation with siblings around the world. Received on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, a day to celebrate worldwide unity and peace, gifts to this Offering support the causes/ministries of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. These ministries work to ensure all God's people have their place at the Table of Grace.

Nov. 7 Square Dance: It's not too soon to mark your calendar for our ever-popular, Fall Square Dance! Details to follow!

~ Community News ~

Sharing - Fall Fun Day at Johnsonburg Camp: Oct. 4 from 1:00–6:30 PM. Enjoy fun activities for all ages, like zip-lining, apple roasting, and pumpkin bowling. End the day with a delicious hot meal spent in community with friends and family. Visit the camp's website at www.campjburg.org/events/fall-fun-day/ for more information or to register.