

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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:

"Homeward Bound"

(8:40)

Instrumental by Steven Sharp Nelson

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.**

MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP:

Gail Weber

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *attributed to Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)*

Great and good God, give us pure hearts that we may see you;

Give us humble hearts that we may hear you;

Give us hearts of love that we may serve you;

Give us hearts of faith that we may live in you;

Give us reverent hearts that we may worship you;

Give us joyful hearts that we may take refuge and trust in you.

With joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 144 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

vv. 1 & 4

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

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and seek your mercy. We have not
loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as
ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked
humbly with you, our God.**

**Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great
compassion, cleanse us from our sins. Create in us a clean heart
and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your
presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy
of your salvation and sustain us with a bountiful Spirit. This we
ask in the strong name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, was buried for us, and was raised from the dead for us. In our hour of need, Christ prays for us and forgives us of our sins.

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

* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 466*

v. 1

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 592 Praise God*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In unison) From the Book of Common Worship*

God, Source of life, the One in whom we live, move and have our very being, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth, equipped to do your work, and empowered to live your will, for the glory and the gospel of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 1: 1–14, 21–30

Paul commends the faith of the Philippians.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 20: 1–16

Jesus demonstrates the nature of God's justice.

ANTHEM: "A Jubilant Song" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Chancel Choir

SERMON SERIES: *Faith of the Philippians*

Pastor David Harvey

I. Servant-Bees for Jesus

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Romans 8: 1, 28, 38–39

We affirm there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

We are 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.

* HYMN: *No. 392 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord* tune 375, vv. 1, 2, 4

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 403 What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"The Rivers of Home " by Midori*

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, Bill Cadwalader, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Jay Ohland, Gary Sless, 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: Gary Albrecht, Joan Cameron

Worship Leader: Pete Peterson

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Altar Flowers: Jen Plut

DLP: Ryan Burke

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey, Lesson: *Creation*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht, Lesson: *Communities Accept* / *John 4: 1–42*

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Sep. 20

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Deacon Ministry Meeting

Mon., Sep. 21 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM WGS Rehearsal

Wed., Sep. 23

6:00 PM Cub Scouts/FH

6:00 PM Book Club/OC

Fri., Sep. 25

4:30 PM **(3 sittings)** Classical Fleetwood

6:30 PM Mac Tribute Candlelight Concert

8:30 PM by Lumos Experiences

Sun., Sep. 27

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

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.



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/fpcblairstown>

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Meeting: Today after worship in Fellowship Hall.

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

Oct. 2 Fish & Chips Take-Out Dinner:

Dinner Tickets are available from church Deacons, Elders, or at the Outreach Center — tickets may also be purchased at fpcb-nj.org/fish-chips.

Helpers Needed with this event; there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Attention Bakers! We are looking for volunteers to provide brownies for the Oct. 2 dinner! If you are interested in baking, please contact the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall. Desserts should remain nut-free and "intact" (i.e. uncut, in a carrier, etc.); they will be plated as individual servings. Desserts should be dropped off at the Outreach Center by 2 PM on Friday, Oct. 2!

Sponsor a Pie! (*Suggested amount: \$15–\$20*) In lieu of baking, monetary donations for baked goods gratefully accepted! (Please mark "pies" in check memo area, on envelope, or in notes area if donating online. *Thank you!*)

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/>

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.

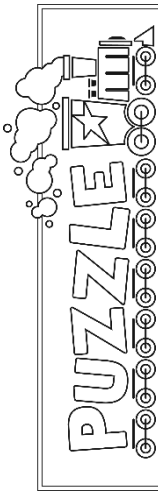
Nov. 7 Square Dance: It's not too soon to mark your calendar for our ever-popular, Fall Square Dance! Details to follow!

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.

~ 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.

Blairstown Rotary Blood Drive: Saturday, Oct. 10 between 9 AM and 3 PM at the Knowlton Lion’s Den, 505 Rt. 94. For more information and to register (recommended), please visit www.blairstownrotary.org.



A PATH TO PRAYER

God’s Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA



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1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philipians 1:3-4, NIV