FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

22nd Sunday after Pentecost & Reformation Sunday

10:00 AM **ORDER OF WORSHIP** Oct. 25, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"String Quartet No. 19 " by WA Mozart*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &
AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Bill Olivier

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 FOR STEWARDSHIP: *Psalm 18:46* Bill Olivier

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Psalm 90: 1–2, 12, 16–17, NJB)***

Lord, you have been our refuge from age to age.
Before the mountains were born, and the earth and the world came to birth;
From eternity to eternity, thou art God. Teach us to count up the days that are ours,
And we shall come to the heart of wisdom.
Show your servants the deeds you do, let your children enjoy your splendor!
May the sweetness of the Lord be upon us to confirm the work we have done!
With joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 210 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past vv. 1–3, 5*

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

Holy and merciful God, whose Son Jesus is the light and Savior of the world, we thank you for Jesus' abiding presence that has led us one hundred and eighty-six years. We confess we have not always lived alive to Christ nor loved you or our neighbor with the breadth and depth that we could and should.

Forgive us of our sins, especially when we wander off. Inspire us to live faithful, impactful, and joyful lives on our journey of faith that we may glorify you in all things; in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Forgiveness refreshes us and opens us to life with a new and different future. Our brokenness is mended, our friendships become tended; and grace and hospitality are demonstrated. All in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Give Thanks* *No. 647 GTG*

* 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)*

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word, may your Holy Spirit rest upon us. Help us to listen attentively and live faithfully to the good news of Jesus' gospel, that in our hearing, believing, and behaving, the world may see and know we are Christians by Christ's love. Amen.

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: Leviticus 19: 1–2, 15–19a, 32–34
A few important commandments of Moses.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 22: 34–46
Jesus delivers the Greatest Commandment.

ANTHEM: *"Come, Bless the Lord" by Robert Lau* Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Living the Questions* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A Brief Statement of Faith, 1990*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds

us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

* HYMN: *A Lawyer Came Near* *tune 554, vv. 1 & 3*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *We Are One in the Spirit* *No. 300 GTG*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Adagio in E Major" by WA Mozart*

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 Swift, Jim Walsh, Ben Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Annie, Carter, Dave, David, Evelyn, Mia, Tracy, Valerie

ASSISTING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter: Stephanie Burke
Ushers: Mandy Burke, Robin Kasprenski
Worship Leader: Bill Olivier
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson
DLP: Jen Plut

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey | *Exodus*
Faith Works: Deb Albrecht |*Call to Freedom | Exodus 2:11-3:22; 5:2-13:9*

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Oct. 25
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM "The Chosen"/FH
Mon., Oct. 26 *Office Closed*
7:00 PM WGS Rehearsal
7:00 PM BEC/OC
Tue., Oct. 27
10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
Wed., Oct. 28
6:00 PM Cub Scouts/FH
Sun., Nov. 1
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship w/Communion
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Deacon Ministry/FH
11:15 AM M&C-CE/FH classroom

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

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 10 to 12 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Oct. 31. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate (suggested items are potato / pasta salad, sandwiches, baked goods, water, fruit, iced tea, etc.). Questions? Please contact Joan Cameron at (908) 459-9068. The lunch is greatly appreciated by the Habitat volunteers so any assistance would be greatly welcomed! Please drop off your lunch donations at the OC by 10 AM on Sat., Oct. 31.

The next **FPCB Book Club** discussion will be at 6 PM on Tue., Nov. 3 hosted by Elizabeth Topolski at the Outreach Center. We will discuss Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks and reads a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey.

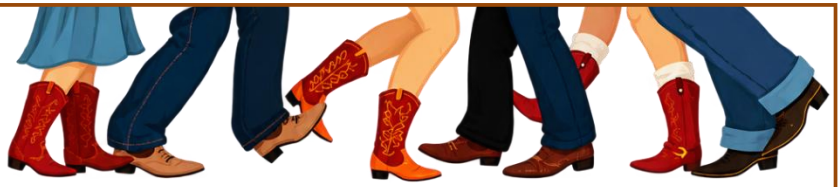
Nov. 7 Square Dance & Covered Dish Supper: Ed LaPlante will return and do the calling and teach us how to do-si-do and promenade. We will start the evening off with a delicious, covered dish supper at 5 PM. The best part is that all ages can participate. Enjoy the evening from the sidelines or dance the night away! Invite your friends! Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office, [(908) 362-5254 or fpcb@ptd.net] to let us know you'd like to attend. We look forward to welcoming you, partner!

~ Community News ~

Medicare Basics: Free educational event at First United Methodist Church today at 3 PM where you can learn about Medicare and find answers to your questions. RSVP to Amy Nichols, Financial Consultant/Thrivent Financial by Oct. 21 to (610) 871-3456 or email amy.nichols@thrivent.com.

Blair Woman's Club Silent Auction: Fri., Nov. 13 at Brook Hollow Winery beginning at 6PM. A $10 pre-registration is required by Nov. 6 ($15 at the door). More info at https://sites.google.com/view/blairwomansclubnj; send registration fee to Blair Woman's Club, PO Box 341, Blairstown, NJ 07825 (or give to Jen Plut in the church office). Wine tasting will be available. Proceeds benefit education, service projects, and charitable donations.

H.O.P.E. 1st Annual Memorial Tree Event: Sponsor a cardinal or string of lights in your loved one's name to be placed on the H.O.P.E. (Help Our Preservation Effort) memorial tree(s). Proceeds support the restoration of the historic Crusen and Cooper Moravian houses on Union Street (Rt. 519) in Hope, NJ. More information and sponsorship forms are available at www.hopepreservation.org or speak with church member, Pete Peterson.



Save the Date

POT-LUCK SUPPER & SQUARE DANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Supper at 5 PM • Dancing begins at 6 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Save the date for this good time family event!
We will have a professional square dance caller and lots of good food in our Fellowship Hall.

This event will be fun for all ages!
All are welcome!

908-362-5254 • fpcb@ptd.net
fpcb-nj.org/membership-fellowship/