FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

24th Sunday after Pentecost & Veterans Sunday

10:00 AM **ORDER OF WORSHIP** Nov. 8, 2026

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

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Pietro Mascagni* *(3:52)*

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.

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *adapted Ps. 118: 24; Ps. 95: 1–2*

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Sing to the Lord a new song and shout with joy
to the Rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful song of praise.
With joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 142 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! 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 forgiveness. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we done justice, love 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 sin. 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 us to the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Friends in Christ, forgiven and freed, live your citizenship as people of God's kingdom.
As a people whom God has forgiven, let us forgive one another.

* CELEBRATION 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. 592 Praise God*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: *(In unison)*
Gracious God, as we turn to your Word, may your Spirit inspire us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our minds be acceptable to you, Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11. *A word for the faithful.*

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:1–13. *Jesus illustrates faithfulness to God.*

ANTHEM: *Come Sing Unto the Lord by Joseph Martin* Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Awake and Waiting* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Romans 8: 28, 31, 35–39

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. If God is for us, who is against us? So who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

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. 469* *Morning has broken*

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

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

OPENING REMARKS: Gail Weber

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, NJ
who served in the United States Armed Services

LITANY: Pastor David Harvey

adapted from 'The Book of Worship for United States Forces' 1974

(Use of this litany in congregational worship has been granted by
The Armed Forces Chaplains' Board, Washington, D.C.)

Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

We give you thanks, O God.

For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

We give you thanks, O God.

For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

We give you thanks, O God.

For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

We give you thanks, O God. As we remember these your servant veterans, remembering with gratitude their courage, with awe their valor, with admiration their strength, we lift before you those who have served this country through the armed forces. Grant them peace knowing that they bravely risked their lives for the preservation of freedom, the continuation of our Constitution, the advocation of families and kin. This we pray in Jesus' name, who in his living and in his dying showed us the true meaning of sacrificing one's life, so that we may live and truly be free. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *There is Now a New Creation* *vv. 1, 2, 4, 5 | No. 774 GTG*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *Waltz No. 2 from Jazz Suite No 2*
by Dmitri Shostakovich

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: Gary Albrecht
Ushers: Betsy Peterson, Chester Topolski
Worship Leader: Pete Peterson
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson
DLP: Ryan Burke
Coffee Hour: Joan Cameron

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey
Faith Works: Deb Albrecht | *Community in the Wilderness | Exodus 15:22–17:7*



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

CCLI Copyright License #: 2309277, Streaming License #: 20761595

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sun., Nov. 8
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM *"The Chosen"*/FH
Mon., Nov. 9 *Office Closed*
7:00 PM WGS Rehearsal
Tue., Nov. 10
10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
6:00 PM Garden Club/OC
Wed., Nov. 11
1:00 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC
6:00 PM Cub Scouts/FH
Sun., Nov. 15
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM M&F Meeting/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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choir Members Needed! If you love to sing, we would love to have you join the choir! No age requirement and you do not have to know how to read music. All are welcome! If you are interested, please contact the church office or speak with choir director, Maggie Morokutti.

Thanksgiving Boxes: We are planning for 25–30 boxes from each participating Church. The distribution will take place at our church on Saturday, Nov. 21. Current wish list: canned yams (30 oz), peaches (jars or cans), and applesauce (jars), and turkey stuffing mix. These items may be dropped off at the Outreach Center or brought to Fellowship Hall on Sundays. In addition to the wish list as mentioned above, if you have an extra turkey or turkey breast (especially), we will be happy to take it! Thank you! If you have any questions, please speak with Judy Trigg.

Thanksgiving Community Worship Service: Mark your calendars for Tue., Nov. 24 and join us for a special service of gratitude in our Sanctuary beginning at 7 PM. Through music, prayer and Scripture, we'll lift our voices in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in every season.

Blairstown Jingle, Nov. 28! See sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall both for volunteers and items needed. Questions? Please speak with Amanda Macchia or contact the church office.

Hanging of the Greens: Family Sunday & First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29.

~ Community News ~

Blair Woman's Club Silent Auction: Fri., Nov. 13 at Brook Hollow Winery beginning at 6PM. $10 pre-registration ($15 at the door). More info at https://sites.google.com/view/blairwomansclubnj; speak with Jen Plut in the church office if you're interested in registering. Wine tasting will be available. Proceeds benefit education, service projects, and charitable donations.

Snowflake Dedications

Honor someone special. Remember a loved one.

Consider purchasing a "snowflake" in honor or memory of someone dear to you. Names of those honored or memorialized will be included in the **November 29 Hanging of the Greens** bulletin.

$10 PER SNOWFLAKE
(CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN")

Snowflakes may also be ordered through our website. Simply click the ***Give Now*** button, select ***Presbyterian Women***, and include your dedication in the Notes section.

Please submit all dedications by Tuesday, November 24.

Please print clearly. Thank You!!

A. In Honor of **B.** In Memory of **C.** Other (specify)

A., B., or C. "Other"	Dedication Name

Name of Contributor: _____

For Office Use Only

Amount Paid: _____ ☐ By Cash ☐ By Check #: _____

Date: _____

Proceeds from the Snowflake Dedications will be sent to ***Project Horses for Forces***—a free, volunteer-run equine-assisted program in Pittstown, NJ, serving military veterans, active service members, and their families through horsemanship and farm activities.