**Frenchtown Presbyterian Church**

PO Box 114, 22 Fourth St. Frenchtown, NJ 08825

 908-996-2227

 Website: www.frenchtownpres.org

Pastor Cell - 609-303-0500

**Worship 9:30AM**

**Clerk of Session**

Kathy Skerbetz – 908-720-6533

**Session (Elders)**

Maureen Breiner Bill Penyak

Shari Bethman Bjellquist Paul Pfisterer

Jennifer Campbell Tonya Reese

Gayla Gerhardt Carl Stokes

John Fiebig Kathy Skerbetz

**Board of Deacons**

Carole Barrett Barbara Kerekes

Sharon Beck Lorraine Sellitto

Debbie Godown Eileen Warkala

Ken Gerhardt Amy Verecha

**Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton

pastormerideth@gmail.com

**Church Secretary**

 Lea Raymond

 office@frenchtownpres.org

**Financial Manager**

 Mary Ann Hampton

 finance@frenchtownpres.org

**Music Director**

 Hugh Sung

hughsung@gmail.com

**FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**December 17, 2023**

**Welcome to all who worship with us this morning!**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: Wait upon the Lord; remain true and let your hearts be bold!

**People: We do wait upon the Lord, and we seek God's healing power today.**

Leader: Hold fast to your faith; be firm and let your hearts take courage!

**People:** **Our faith remains strong; yet we seek the Promised One to come**

Leader: Praise be to the Lord, for God has heard and honored our prayers!

 **People:** **Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

Advent Candle Lighting

\*Hymn #110 “Love Has Come”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

 **Lord, as we continue to move through Advent, we are aware there is much in the world to distract and harden our hearts to the message of love you gave us in the birth of Jesus Christ. Forgive us for those times when we have willingly chosen the distractions and turned away from you. Call us once more to the true joy in Christmas and help us walk in the Light. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Passing of the Peace

Gloria Patri#113 Refrain: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

 *Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Time for Children

**God Speaks to Us Through God’s Word**

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40

 *Hymn #90 Refrain: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

 *Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

Scripture Reading John 12:35-36

Sermon “Walking in the Light”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #105 “People Look East”

Invitation to the Offering

Please consider donating online using our QR code (aim your phone’s camera here, then click on the link that appears):

Offertory

\*Doxology #108 vs 6 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Prayer of Dedication

Cloth for the Cradle and Anointing with Oil

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

**God Sends Us Out to Reflect God’s Love**

\*Hymn #152 “What Star is This with Beams so Bright”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction

Benediction Response #92 “While We Are Waiting, Come”

 *With power and glory, come;*

 *With power and glory, come.*

 *Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel;*

 *With power and glory, come.*

Postlude

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a body of believers in Jesus Christ the Lord that strives to be a living reflection of God’s love. We come together to confirm our individual faith while spreading the message of hope and love by serving those in need through mission and outreach.

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

**EVENTS DURING THE WEEK** –**Dec. 18-24**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Senior Program, 11:15am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 Harvest Family Success Center Holiday Party 5:30-7pm

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday Morning December 24th – 9:30am regular worship service

Christmas Eve - 7pm Candlelight Service

**Angel Tree**

Angel Tree gifts must be dropped off at the church, in the rotunda, by WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20. Please wrap the gifts(s) and attached the Angel Tree tag. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Kacerek Cooley at 908.995.7770 or by email FPCPantryon4th@gmail.com.

**Harvest Family Success Center & FPC Christmas Party**

Christmas Family Party, December 19th from 5:30-7pm. Bring the whole family for pizza, crafts and Santa! Please text or call 908-237-0465 to register.

**5th Saturday Event at FPC**

FPC 5th Saturday event will be a Coffee House and Open Mic night on December 30th from 7p-9:30pm. There will be scheduled performers as well as Open Mic time. Local art will also be on display. Admission is free with Pantry Donations encouraged. Light snacks, refreshments & dessert will be served.

**End of the Year donations**

The end of the year is approaching quickly. Please make sure all donations intended for 2023 be received by December 31, 2022. All donations after that date will be credited to 2024 - No Exceptions. Please contact the church office at 908-996-2227 if you have any questions.

**Book Club**

There will be no book club in January. The next meeting will be on Monday February 12th at 1pm in the church. They will be discussing 2 books, “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison and “Mad Honey” by Jodi Picoult. All are welcome!