**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 Matt Melbourne

Jennifer Campbell Tonya Reese

Gayla Gerhardt Carl Stokes

Ed Marston Kathy Skerbetz

Diane Reed

**Board of Deacons**

Carole Barrett Barbara Kerekes

Sharon Beck Lorraine Sellitto

Debbie Godown Amy Verecha

Ken Gerhardt

**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**

**February 18th, 2024 - First Sunday in Lent**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: We trust in you, O God, for you are faithful.

**People: Show us your ways and teach us your paths.**

Leader: We wait for you.

**People: Lead us in your paths of truth.**

Leader: Do not remember our failures.

**People: Out of your merciful grace, forgive us**

Leader: You are faithful, O God. Your love is steadfast.

**People: We lift up our souls to you, and praise you always.**

\*Hymn #450 “Be Thou My Vision”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

 **Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten journey, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Passing of the Peace

Agnus Dei #518 “Lamb of God” (refrain)

 *O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,*

 *I love the holy Lamb of God!*

 *O wash me in his precious blood,*

 *my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

Time for Children

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

First Reading Matthew 5:1-3

Scripture Lesson Luke 18:9-14

Sermon “Poor in Spirit”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #799 “I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory – Anthem “Down By the Riverside”

Doxology #606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Dedication

Affirmation of Faith – The Lenten Creed

 (from Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba)

 **We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

 **We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

 **We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

 **We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,**

 **and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

 **We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

 **This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #443 “There is a Redeemerave Cohave”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction

Benediction Response

 verse 1 of #213 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

 *In the cross of Christ I glory,*

 *towering o’er the wrecks of time;*

 *all the light of sacred story*

 *gathers round its head sublime.*

Postlude

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

**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** – **February 19-25**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 Senior Program, 11:15am

 Parenting Program in Fellowship Hall, 5:30-7:30pm

 Hygiene, Program 5-6pm run by Harvest Family Success Center

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Bible Study, 10am in Memorial Parlor

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

 Lenten Soup Supper and Study. 6pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**Ash Wednesday Service & Study**

Please join us on February 14th Ash Wednesday, as we begin the Season of Lent. Beginning at 6pm we will meet in fellowship hall for

a soup supper. At 7pm Pastor Merideth will hold an “Imposition of Ashes “service. All are welcome.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT**

Starting February 21 through March 27th. Join us as we gather at 6:00 p.m. for a simple supper of soup and bread in Fellowship Hall.

At 6:45, we’ll watch an episode of “The Chosen” together.

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus’ revolutionary life and teachings. The Chosen is based on the true stories of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialog have been added. But, all the bible and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. After each episode, we’ll take some time to discuss, review some of the key scripture passages. We’ll conclude each evening by 8 pm.

**Pantry Fundraiser**

Soup Sale to benefit the pantry. Homemade Turkey vegetable rice and turkey noodle soup.  Soup will be for sale on the Wednesday night Lenten soup and study nights for $10.00 a quart.  All monies will go to stock our pantry.

\*\*\* Also, in addition to food, the pantry is now accepting used clothing and shoes in good condition. People can call Kathy Kovacs 908 403-3255 for donation information.

**Order Flowers for Easter**

We are taking orders for Easter Flowers. Order forms are in the back of the church. Lilies, Daffodils and Tulips. Place in honor of, in Memory of someone you care about. Orders Due by Sunday March 10th. Contact the church office if you have any questions.