**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 25th, 2024 - Second Sunday in Lent**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (from Mark 8)

Leader: Let us turn our minds from human things.

**People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.**

Leader: Let us set our minds on divine things.

**People: Our faith in Jesus saves us**

Leader: We will deny ourselves and take up our cross.

**People: Our faith in Jesus saves us**

Leader: We will lose all; that we may gain all.

**People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.**

\*Hymn #614 “Great Are You Lord”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

 **Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reluctance and hesitance. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us to shine your light, that we might set the world aglow. 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**

Psalter with Sung Refrain Psalm 22:23-31

 #544 Bless the Lord My Soul (refrain)

 *Bless the Lord, my soul,*

 *and bless God’s holy name.*

 *Bless the Lord, my soul,*

 *who leads me into life.*

Scripture Lessons Romans 8:26-28 & Matthew 5:4

Sermon “Blessing of Consolation”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #418 “Softly and Tenderly”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory – Choral Anthem “Lord Jesus, We Are One with Thee”

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 #43 “You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord?ave Cohave”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction

Benediction Response

 refrain of #172 “Blest Are They”

 *Rejoice and be glad!*

 *Blessed are you; holy are you!*

 *Rejoice and be glad!*

 *Yours is the kingdom of God!*

Postlude

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

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 26-March 3**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

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

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Bible Study, 10am in Memorial Parlor

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

 Lenten Soup Supper and Study 5:45pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**Next Sunday**

 Food Pantry Sunday

**Wednesday Evenings in Lent – CHANGE OF TIME**

The time of the Soup supper will change to a 5:45 start time 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, Manhattan Clam Chowder, and Vegetable Beef.  Soup will be for sale on the Wednesday night Lenten soup and study nights and on Sunday morning for $10.00 a quart, $5.00 pint.  All monies will go to stock our pantry.

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 or to the Glory of God. Orders Due by Sunday March 10th. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

**Food Pantry Sunday**

Next Sunday is the first of the month and has been designated as Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring something in for the pantry.