**Frenchtown Presbyterian Church**

908-996-2227

Email: office@frenchtownpres.org

 Website: www.frenchtownpres.org

**Worship Service** 9:30AM

**Session (Elders)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Building and Grounds** | **Mission and Outreach** |
| Paul Pfisterer 267-884-6198 | Maureen Breiner 908-235-8431 |
| John Fiebig 908-996-6436 | Jennifer Campbell 908-502-2575 |
| Carl Stokes 215-429-1010 |  |
| **Christian Ed**Tonya Reese 908-310-9240  | **Worship & Music**Kathy Skerbetz 908-720-6533Fran Volski 908-625-0974 |
|  | Bill Penyak 908-625-6575Gayla Gerhardt 908-310-0702  |
| **Stewardship & Finance**Maureen Breiner 908-235-8431 |  |
| **Personnel** | **Clerk of Session** |
| Bill Penyak 908-625-6575 | Kathy Skerbetz 908-720-6533 |
| Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884 |  |
| Bernie Volski |  |

**Board of Deacons**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Benevolence** | **Shut-ins and Long-Term illness** |
| Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884 |  |
| **Short-Term illness** | **Bereavement** |
| Carole Barrett 908-419-7082 | Carole Barrett 908-419-7082 |
| Eileen Warkala 908-574-9366 |  |
| **Hospitality** |  |
| Sharon Beck 908-752-3822 |  |
|  |  |

**Church Staff**

**Pastor** pastormerideth@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton 1-609-303-0500

**Church Secretary Financial Manager**

Lea Raymond 908-996-2227 Mary Ann Hampton 908-996-2227 office@frenchtownpres.org finance@frenchtownpres.org

**Music Director**

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**FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**February 26, 2023**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (from Psalm 32)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,

**Whose sin is covered.**

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,

**And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Let the faithful offer prayer to God;

**At a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

The LORD is our hiding place;

**God preserves us from trouble and surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance**.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

**Be glad in the LORD and rejoice; shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

\*Hymn #365 “God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

 **Gracious God, as we wander through this wilderness with Jesus, examining all the worldly comforts we turn to during times of stress and struggle, we confess the neglect of our faith.**

 **We confess all that we place above you, making idols of money, earthly power, and even food. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our spiritual practices so we can leave this wilderness season more aware of your presence and the ways our faith can sustain us. Amen.**

Kyrie #437 – “You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

***You are the Lord, giver of mercy!***

***You are the Christ, giver of mercy!***

***You are the Lord, giver of mercy!***

Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Agnus Dei #518 – Refrain from Lamb of God (sing 2x)

***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.***

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

First Scripture Reading Hebrews 4:14-16

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon "Wilderness Wanderings"

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #213 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Invitation to the Offering

\*Offertory

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

Ordination and Installation of Officers

**\***Affirmation of Faith – (Lenten Creed from Patmos Abbey, 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

*The prayer begins with silence. After each petition, a note will sound, followed by silence where you may offer up your own prayers.*

*The silence will end with “In the silence, Lord...”*

 *The response:* “.....**Hear our prayer**.”

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

\*Hymn #465 “What a Friend We have In Jesus”

Charge and Blessing

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 – February 27-Mar. 5**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Senior Program, 11:15am

 Card Games, 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Bible Study, 11am Memorial Parlor

 Soup Supper and Lenten Study, 6pm

 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

**Lenten Soup Supper**

Join us starting March 1 for a Lenten journey that helps us relive the one day in history that changed everything.  In this book, “*24 Hours, That Changed the World*” pastor Adam Hamilton helps us experience and understand the significance of Jesus’ passion like never before. Come at 6 pm for a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by a video and discussion led by Pastor Merideth Mueller-Bolton.

The is a sign-up sheet on the “I Can Do That Board” in Fellowship Hall to bring soup.

**Bible Study**

Wednesday mornings at 11am in the Memorial Parlor. Led by Pastor Merideth. All are Welcome! and no prior bible study experience is necessary. Come, and let’s explore and enjoy God’s Word together.

**Book Club**

The book club will be meeting on March 6th at 1pm. The book they will be discussing is “*The Invention of Wings*” by Susan Monk Kidd

**Food Pantry Giving Tree**

There is a tree in Fellowship Hall with tags on it with items we regularly need for our patrons and special seasonal/holiday items! There are also envelopes for monetary Donations - this will help cover the cost of fresh items we provide.

Please choose a tag and purchase the item for the Pantry. Items can be placed in the donation box in the rotunda or in the Barrel outside of the Pantry Envelopes with monetary donations can be placed in the basket by the tree.