**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**

**July 2, 2023 – Communion Sunday**

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

Prelude - “Valse Lente” by Mel. Bonis

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (Leader, **People)**

Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us.

**God awakens us and restores our souls.**

The Shepherd is calling us to new ventures.

**We do not fear to walk through shadowed valleys.**

Come to drink from springs of living waters.

Come to worship the living God.

\*Hymn #331 “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

Call to Confession

 Prayer of Confession (unison)

 **Nurturing God, you provide us with green pastures and still waters. You seek to restore us to wholeness. We confess our desire for fields that do not feed us and pools that cannot sustain us. In our failure to trust you, we succumb to fear. We depend on our own cleverness to safeguard our security, even at the cost of hurting our neighbors. We prefer the futility of our individual ways, which betray a lack of confidence in your promised future. Forgive us and draw us back to your eternal peace. Heal and anoint us with your joy that we may live forever in your presence.**

\*Assurance of Pardon (Leader, **People)**

Beloved the One whose light illumines our defects and flaws is the same One who died regardless of them.

**It is God’s light shining on our hearts that makes us**

**children of light.**

Friends, hear and believe God’s good news, In Jesus Christ we

are forgiven. Amen.

\*Passing of the Peace

Gloria Patri #582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

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

First Scripture Reading 2 Chronicles 7:12-16

Psalm Reading Psalm 33:1-22

Second Scripture Reading John 8:31

Sermon “Happy is the Nation Whose God is the Lord”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #515 “I Come with Joy”

Invitation to the Offering

\*Offertory

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles Creed) (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

 **Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;**

 **the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Lord's Supper**

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks and praise.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer continues

 Words of Institution

Communion of the People

 *We share a common loaf and a common cup. Come forward via the aisle on the right. The pastor will tear a piece of bread from the loaf. Dip it in the cup and partake of it as you return to your seat via the aisle on the left. Please inform an usher if you need assistance or would like to be served in your seat.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #338 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

Charge & Blessing (Leader, **People**, ***All***)

Let us go now as Spirited people,

**powerful as the wind in doing God’s will,**

energetic as fire in extending the love of Christ.

**Be builders of understanding and makers of peace.**

And may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of

God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with

you now and forever. ***Amen.***

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 –-July 2-9**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 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

**Quilters**

If you are a quilter, and are interested in some quilting materials, please see Rev. Bobbie after worship.

**Mission Trip Donations**

The Summer Mission Trip is scheduled for July 30th to Drexel Hill, PA. There is a signup genius for requested food donations that was sent in the weekly email. If you do not get the email but want to sign up to donate, please call the church office at 908-996-2227 for what is needed. All donations to be labeled and delivered to the church by July 30th, 12pm. Thank you for your help!

**Church office Summer Hours**

The church office hours for the summer will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 - 3:30. You can leave a message for non-urgent matters, and calls will be returned on the next church business day. For pastoral emergencies while Pastor Merideth is on vacation, please contact Kathy Skerbetz, who will contact the pastor on-call.

**Help with the Youth Group**

If you are in 6th grade through college age and would like to get involved with some fun events over the summer, please reach out to either the church or myself for more information and to add yourself to an email list. The Youth group is looking to do the following activities and would love for you to join in. A visit to Sight & Sound Theatre, Kayaking, Camp Johnsonburg just to name a few. It is a great way to connect with each other and for the older group to be awesome mentors to the younger ones.

Have a wonderful summer and please reach out.

**Vacation Bible School**

Save the date for FOOD TRUCK PARTY VBS!  August 14-18th, 9:00am-11:30am at the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. Ages preschool (must be toilet trained) through 5th grade invited. It will be combined with Milford Presbyterian and Alexandria Presbyterian Church. Registration forms are available at the church and online.  Contact Kathy Skerbetz at 908-720-6533 for questions or if you would like to help.  All are welcome!