**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 23, 2023**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship – Psalm 146 **(**Leader, **People,** *All*)

**Praise the Lord!**

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

*I will sing praises to my God all my life long.*

Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;**

**on that very day their plans perish.**

The Lord will reign forever,

**Our God, O Zion, for all generations.**

*Praise the Lord!*

\*Hymn #645 “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

Morning Prayer

**O God you have brought us safely to another worship celebration where we are privileged to worship you with our brothers and sisters in faith. For a few of us this has been an easy week and for others it has been a trial. Be with us as we worship that we may have unity of mind and heart as we open ourselves to the movement of your Holy Spirit. As your love grows within us, may we have rich fellowship with you and with one another. Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

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

Time with Children

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

First Scripture Reading Psalm 91

Second Scripture Reading Romans 8:35-39

Sermon “My Refuge and My Fortress”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #833 “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

\*Affirmation of Faith (From a Brief Statement of Faith) (unison)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into**

**temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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

\*Hymn #547 “Go My Children, With My Blessing”

Charge and Blessing (Leader, **People)**

Carry the flame of God’s love in Christ into a world shaken by fear of impending doom.

**We will not dwell in the shadows, for the glory of Christ is coming to us.**

Pass on to others the compassion you have received;

share with them your experience of God’s presence.

**We will give thanks for God’s faithfulness and live out our gratitude day by day.**

God blesses you with a covenant relationship that is never closed to you or anyone.

**We will abide by the word of truth**

**that survives though heaven and earth pass away.**

Amen.

**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 31-Aug.6**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm 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

**Vacation Bible School**

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.  Contact Kathy Skerbetz at 908-720-6533 for questions or if you would like to help.

All are welcome!

**Blood Drive**

Blood drive at FPC on August 10th from 1-6pm.  To make an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: FrenchtownPresby or contact Jennifer Campbell at 908-502-2575.

**Book Club**

The book club will not be meeting in August but will meet again on Monday September 11th, 1pm at Jimmy’s, weather permitting. The book they are reading and discussing is “*The Lost Wife*" by Alyson Richman. All are welcome!

**Card Games**

Come play some cards! All are welcome in Fellowship hall on Tuesday from 1pm-? Note new start time. If you don’t know how to play they will teach you.