**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**

**January 14, 2024**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 139:7-10)

Leader: God knows each one of us personally and God loves each one of us.

**People: Thanks be to God for such wondrous love!**

Leader: Come this day into the presence of God.

**People: We come with overflowing hearts!**

Leader: Celebrate God’s mercy and compassion.

**People: Praise be to God who offers us hope. AMEN.**

\*Hymn #410 “God is Calling through the Whisper”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our sins even before we confess. Your knowledge is wonderful, but also challenging. We’d much rather avoid painful truths and deny our role in wrongdoing. Help us face our failings so we can move forward in truth. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Passing of the Peace

Gloria Patri#582

 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness shines On Me”

 *Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,*

 *and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,*

 *and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

 *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Time for Children

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

First Reading Psalm 139 with Refrain 639 “O Sing a New Song”

 Refrain*: O sing a new song to the Lord;*

 *sing to the Lord;*

 *sing all the earth.*

Second Reading Mark 1:14-20

Sermon “A Kingdom Life”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #720 “Jesus Calls Us”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

 Affirmation of Faith (unison) 20th Century South African Creed

 **Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.**

 **One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.**

 **True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.**

 **This is our faith.**

 **This is our hope.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #405 “Praise God for This Holy Ground”

Charge and Blessing

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** – **Jan. 15-21**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

 Senior Exercise Class 9:30am

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**Next Sunday**

 Creation Care Team meeting after worship

**Confirmation Class**

Confirmation Class is open to any ages 14-17yrs and will start today after worship. Confirmation is not meant to be a crash course in Christianity, but it is an opportunity to welcome young people into a time of discernment and conversations about faith.  The curriculum centers on questions of the heart:  What does it mean to Love God and love our neighbor as ourselves?  We’ll help our young people answer these heart questions. In addition to interested youth, we’re looking for dedicated adult mentors to walk alongside our Confirmands throughout their faith journey. If interested, please email Pastor Merideth, pastormerideth@gmail.com or call or email the church office (908) 996-2227, office@frenchtownpres.org

**Sunday Morning Bagels**

Every Sunday, the deacons order, and pay for the bagels that we all enjoy before and after worship. Most of the Deacons donate the milk and cream cheese, but it is not always easy for some to do every week. To help defray the costs, they will be placing a donation jar on the counter by the bagels, for anyone who would like to help keep this ministry going. A little goes a long way. Thank you in advance for your help.

**Sunday Liturgist Needed**

Would you like to be a Sunday Liturgist?

This might include announcements, calling the congregation to worship, reading a scripture passage, leading the Affirmation of Faith, introducing the offering, and leading prayers. A variety of voices leading our Sunday worship adds richness and texture! Please consider signing up for a Sunday, or two, or three! See Pastor Merideth if interested.