**Frenchtown Presbyterian Church**

908-996-2227

Email: [office@frenchtownpres.org](about:blank)

Website: [www.frenchtownpres.org](about:blank)

**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  Fran Volski 908-625-0974 |
|  | Bill Penyak 908-625-6575  Jennifer Griffith 908-625-2943 |
| **Personnel** | **Clerk of Session** |
| Bill Penyak 908-625-6575 | Kathy Skerbetz 908-720-6533 |
| Bernard Volski 908-797-9807 |  |
|  |  |

**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 |
|  |  |
| **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](about:blank) finance@frenchtownpres.org

**Treasurer Music Director**

Nick Barrett 908-996-2227

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**FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**January 15, 2023**

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

Prelude – “Postlude choral” from “L’Orgue Mystique” by Charles Tournemire (1870–1939)

Welcome & Announcements

**God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: To all searching for grace and truth,

**People: Come and see!**

Leader: To all searching for meaning and purpose

**People: Come and see!**

Leader: To all searching for abundant life,

**People: Come and see!**

Leader: Let us worship God together.

\*Hymn #12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses of Jesus Christ. Forgive us for the times we have stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate; for the times our actions have not matched our beliefs; for the times we have hoarded our abundance; for the times we have turned away from your children in need. For the many ways we fail to follow Jesus, forgive us** (silent prayer…)

Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

Gloria Patri #585 Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me

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

Scripture Reading John 1:9-13

Psalter - Psalm 36:1-12

Leader: Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in their hearts; there is no fear of God before their eyes.

**People: For they flatter themselves in their own eyes that their iniquity cannot be found out and hated.**

Leader: The words of their mouths are mischief and deceit; they have ceased to act wisely and do good.

**People: They plot mischief while on their beds; they are set on a way that is not good; they do not reject evil.**

Leader: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

**People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.**

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**People: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**People: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

Leader: Do not let the foot of the arrogant tread on me, or the hand of the wicked drive me away.

**People: There the evildoers lie prostrate; they are thrust down, unable to rise.**

Scripture Matthew 2:13-18

Sermon "The Pitfalls of Ordinary Time"

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #144 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory - “Prélude sur l’Introït de l’Épiphanie” by Maurice Duruflé

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

**\***Affirmation of Faith (From A Brief Statement of Faith)

**In a broken and fearful world**

**the Spirit gives us courage**

**to pray without ceasing,**

**to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,**

**to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,**

**to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,**

**and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,**

**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks**

**to live holy and joyful lives,**

**even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,**

**praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**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.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #684 “Faith Begins By Letting Go”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction

Postlude - “Fantaisie” from “L’Orgue Mystique”

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**Offering Envelopes**

This year we will no longer be providing the numbered envelopes as we have in the past for offering.  There will be offering envelopes in the pews if you would like to use an envelope or you can put loose checks in the offering plate. Please call the church office at 908-996-2227 if you have any questions.

**Memorial Service**

Service for Chris Liberatore is scheduled for next Sunday January 22, at 12pm. at the church with a light reception to follow.

**Card Games**

Do you want to play cards? Join us in Fellowship Hall every Tuesday from 2-4pm, for card games. If you don’t know the games, we will teach you. No pressure just fun! All are Welcome!

Would you like to be a Sunday Liturgist?

The word liturgy in Greek combines two words: laos, meaning people, and ergon meaning work. The parts of worship led by the people and for the people are called the liturgy. Along with the pastor, liturgists lead worship. 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 Bill Penyak or Pastor Merideth if interested.

Midweek Bible Study Returns!

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Join Pastor Merideth in the Memorial Parlor on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. for a “midweek munch” on the Bible. Plan to spend an hour or so, immersing ourselves in the richness of the preaching text for the upcoming Sunday. We’ll taste and sip and chew and gulp all the goodness that awaits in a feast on God’s Word! All are welcome, and no prior bible study experience in necessary. Come, and let’s explore and enjoy God’s Word together. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

**Musical Notes:**

Today’s pericope, taken from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chronicles the martyrdom of the Holy Innocents following the visitation of the Magi. As such, the music for today deals with this troubling account wherein King Herod orders the murder of the male children of Bethlehem.

This morning’s prelude and postlude are excerpts from “L’Orgue Mystique” by the French composer Charles Tournemire (1870–1939). Written between 1927 and 1932, this fifteen-hour, two-hundred-fifty-three-movement work is based upon over three hundred Gregorian chants and was composed to celebrate fifty-one Offices of the liturgical year.

The prelude for today (the “Postlude choral”) comes from the Feast of Saint Joseph, which celebrates Joseph’s role as the “Guardian of Our Lord”. While musically based upon two Office Hymns for the day—“Te Joseph celebrent” and “Iste, quem læti”—the piece, in fact, is a tone poem based upon today’s Gospel account. The musical dramaturgy of this movement unfolds with Joseph being awakened from his dream, as depicted by a quiet but feverish and chromatically frenzied opening flourish. Interrupted by intimate scenes of Mary and the Christchild, the work climaxes as the impending slaughter of the newborn male children of Bethlehem approaches. In the dramatic final moments of the work, the organist executes a “running pattern” in the pedals conjuring the image of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Although ending in triumph, the piece concludes not with a major chord but with a tonally ambiguous seventh chord—for while the Holy Family is in safety, Bethlehem is transformed into bedlam as the Holy City endures the martyrdom of the Holy Innocents.

The offertory for today, “Prélude sur l’introït de l’Épiphanie”, is a short work by Tournemire’s student Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986) based upon the Introit for the Feast of the Epiphany (“Ecce advenit dominator Dominus”): “Behold, he appeareth, the Lord and Ruler: And in his hand the kingdom, and power, and dominion. Give the King thy judgements, O God: And thy righteousness unto the King’s Son. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.” (Malachi iij; Psalm lxxj/lxxij)

It was commissioned by the musicologist and organologist Norbert Dufourcq (1904–1990) and was first published in 1961 in “Orgue et liturgie” issued by Éditions musicales de la Schola cantorum et de la Procure générale de musique. Duruflé gave the first performance of this work on the fourth of May 1961 at the Église Saint-Merri in Paris on the same occasion that his Quatre Motets premiered (a collection of chant-based choral works that includes his famed “Ubi caritas”).

We conclude today’s observance with another work from “L’Orgue Mystique”—a “Fantaisie” celebrating the visitation of the Magi. Among the various chants employed in the work, the work cites the Epiphany Office Hymn “Crudelis Herodes”: “Why, impious Herod, should’st thou fear Because the Christ is come so near? He who doth heavenly kingdoms grant Thine earthly realm can never want. Lo, sages from the East are gone To where the star hath newly shone: Led on by light to Light they press, And by their gifts their God confess.”

**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 – January 16-22, 2023**

**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

AA Meeting 7:30pm

**Thursday**

AA Meeting 6:30am

Food Pantry meeting, 2pm at the church

Chancellor choir rehearsal 7:30-9pm.

**Friday**

Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

AA Meeting 7pm

**Next Sunday**

Chris Liberatore Memorial Service, 12p