**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

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**FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**March 19, 2023**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (from Psalm 8)

O God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**You have set your glory above the heavens.**

The heavens, the moon, the stars—you have established

all of it.

**The animals of the field, the birds of the air, and the**

**fish of the sea—you are mindful even of these**.

Glory and honor to you, Lord God!

**O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

 \*Hymn #49 “The God of Abraham Praise”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 Colossians 1:13-20

Choral Music - Psalm 46 by Hugh Sung

Second Scripture Reading Psalm 46

Sermon "Volcanoes and Rocks"

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #613 “O Lord, Our Lord”

Invitation to the Offering

\*Offertory

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

\*Affirmation of Faith Lenten Creed

(from Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba)

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises 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**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Each petition ends, “Lord in your mercy…**hear our prayer**.”

Hymn #471 “The Lord Is My Song”

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:***

***All my hope comes from God.***

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:***

***God, the wellspring of life.***

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

\*Hymn #630 “Fairest Lord 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 –-March 20-26**

**Monday**

 Membership Committee Meeting, 1pm

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Senior Program, 11:15am

 Card Games, 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 Strengthening Families Workshop, 5:30-7:30pm

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Soup Supper and Lenten Study, 6pm

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Pantry meeting, 2pm

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

 Leaders Retreat, 8:30-1pm in Fellowship Hall

**Easter Flowers**

Orders are now being taken for Easter flowers. Lilies and Daffodils $11.00, Tulip are $8.00. Additional forms available in the back of the church. Orders due by March 26th.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing - Every year, the Presbyterian Church USA assists people throughout the world who are suffering because of natural disaster, hunger, oppression, or injustice. One Great Hour of Sharing is the offering collected each year during Lent to

support assistance programs of the Presbyterian Church. If you wish to donate, you may use a One Great Hour of Sharing envelope from the pew rack or you may mail your donation to the church. If paying by check, please make your check payable to Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. We will be collecting donations from now through Easter.

**Leadership Retreat**

You’re invited! Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. Half-Day Retreat

Who: Elders, Deacons, Members and Friends

What: A time to connect and dream with one another

When: Saturday, March 25, 2023, 8:30 – 1:00.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Schedule for the Day

8:30 – 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00: Presbyterian Polity 101 (for Elder, Deacons & Members)

10:00 – 12:30: Highlands Presbytery Quick Start Challenge for a New Season

CHALLENGE ONE: REBUILD ENERGY – “WHAT IS ONE THING NEW WE CAN DO NOW?”

Description from Highlands Presbytery:

We have finally reached the threshold of the post pandemic season. Congregational leaders surveying the environment view pews not filled, low leadership energy, and anxiety about next steps. As with any new season, the first steps need to be taken. The Quick Start Challenge encourages congregational leaders to be bold in taking the first steps. There are no certainties or historical data to guide us on what will happen next. Faith and Hope light the path into this new season…

In preparation for the Retreat, please fill out the worksheet and bring it with you: Vocation of the Church Worksheet (in back of church) or call church office to have it emailed to you.

RSVP by March 22 by emailing office@frenchtownpres.org or pastormerideth@gmail.com