**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**

**November 12, 2023**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (from Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16)

Leader: We come to worship and praise our God,

and to learn more about the wonders of our God.

**People: How great and wonderful is our Compassionate God.**

Leader: We come, with ears and hearts open to God,

ready to discover more of God’s mysteries and miracles.

**People:** **How generous and caring is our Unchanging God.**

Leader: We gather to share together in our common history,

and to experience the enrichment which that brings us.

**People: All praise and honor to God for past and present**

 **blessings, and for God’s merciful love and grace. Amen.**

\*Hymn #75 “We Give Thanks Unto You”

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

 **Holy God, your way for us is clear: We are to live so that the manner of our lives speaks of your goodness, your generosity, your infinite mercy. Too often, we forget the purposes for which you made us. Too often, when we could respond to inhumanity with goodness, we turn aside. We return unkindness for unkindness. We cling to what might be shared.**

 **We avoid those who are not like us. We fail to give grace in the measure we have received it. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that your goodness is enduring, and your mercy is everlasting. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (from the Second Helvetic Confession)

\*Passing of the Peace

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

Minute for Mission – Roy Bjellquist

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

Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 9:5-12

*Hymn #399 Refrain: God welcomes all,*

 *strangers and friends;*

 *God's love is strong*

 *and it never ends.*

Second Reading Matthew 25:14-29

Sermon “Risky Business”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #643 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Invitation to the Offering

Please consider donating online using our QR code (aim your phone’s camera here, then click on the link that appears):

Offertory – Choral Anthem “We Are the Church”

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

Prayer of Dedication

 Affirmation of Faith (unison) (from a brief statement of Faith)

 **We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good**

**and makes everyone equally in God’s image**

**of all genders, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God’s condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel**

**from the house of bondage. Loving us still,**

**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.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #364 “Lift Up the Gates Eternal”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction

Benediction Response #750 “Goodness is Stronger than Evil”

Postlude

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**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** –**Nov. 13-19**

**Today**

 New Member Class after worship

**Monday**

 Book Club

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Bible Study, 11am in Memorial Parlor

 Food Pantry Meeting, 2pm

 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

**Next Sunday**

 New Members Class

 Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 4-6pm

**THE HARVEST CONCERT**

Singers from the Boyer College of Music and the Temple

University Opera Theater join the talented members of The Opera

Project to present its annual Harvest Concert of arias, duets, and art

songs on Sunday, November 26 th at 3 PM at the Frenchtown

Presbyterian Church. This concert is a benefit concert with all proceeds going to the Church to support their ongoing community programs. Tickets are $20 and are available at the door. For more

information, contact Walt MacNicoll at 908-268-1264 or visit the

website at www.theoperaproject.us.

**Covid Vaccine incentives**

If you have received the new Covid vaccine October 1st or after, or plan on getting it, there are now incentives available. Contact Penni or Amanda at Harvest Family Success Center at 908-237-0465 to find out more information.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 19, 4-6pm.  There is a signup genius for donations, or contact Tonya Reese for more information. Thank you in advance for your help.

**Thanksgiving Dinner donations for the Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is accepting donations for Thanksgiving dinner boxes to hand out.  Items needed are stuffing mix, instant potato, canned corn, green beans, sweet potato, cranberry sauce, applesauce, fruit cocktail or other fruit, gravy (jars, cans or packets) corn muffin mix, biscuit mix, cream of chicken, or mushroom soup, pumpkin pie mix, pie crust, evaporated milk, cooking oil, cake or brownie mix, crispy onions and holiday napkins.

Also, please keep us in mind for your free holiday item if you qualify from Shop Rite. Thank you for your help!

**Snow Blower for Sale**

28" Toro, 10 HP Tecumseh motor with electric start in excellent shape, for $700.00. If interested contact Ken Gerhart at 908-310-1884 or Paul Pfisterer at 267-884-6198.