**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**

**October 1, 2023 - World Communion Sunday**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship (from Psalm 67:1-7)

Leader: God, be gracious to us and bless us and make your face to shine upon us;

**People: That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. **People** **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.**

Leader:  For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**People: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.**

Leader: May God continue to bless us;

**People: Let the ends of the earth revere the LORD.**

\*Hymn #510 “We Gather Here in Jesus Name”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

 **God, forgive us. In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. We act as though we do not need each other. We do not always love one another. We do not know and bear one another’s burdens.**

 **We fail to build each other up. We do not always give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen us so that we may live in the unity that you intend for us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

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| --- | --- |
| Swahili:   Amani ya Krismasi |  Romanian: Pacea lui Hristos |
| French:    Paix du Christ |  Norwegian: Fred av Kristus |
| German: Frieden von Christ |  Japanese:  Kirisuto no Heian |
| Chinese:  Hépíng de jīdū |  Italian: Pace di Christ0 |
| Spanish:  Paz de Cristo |  Zulu: Ukuthula kukaKristu |

Gloria Patri#582 “Glory to God, Whose goodness shines on Me”

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

First Scripture Reading Psalm 78

Refrain Hymn #820*: Nothing can trouble;*

 *nothing can frighten.
 Those who seek God
 shall never go wanting.
 Nothing can trouble;
 nothing can frighten.
 God alone fills us.*

Choral Anthem – The Good Lord Made It All

Scripture Lesson Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon “Thanks, But I’m Not Interested”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #503 “Lord, We have Come at Your Own Invitation”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

\*Affirmation of Faith (Apostles Creed) (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;**

**the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Communion of the People

***This global celebration of the Lord's Supper reminds us that the unity of the Body of Christ extends across every boundary. We are joined in Christ as sisters and brothers with all of humanity. This morning, the table provides a variety of breads with different tastes, textures and colors — representative of the diversity of people who are the Church.***

 The Lord be with you! **And also with you**!

 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*We share a common loaf and a common cup. Come forward via the aisle on the right. The pastor will tear a piece of bread from the loaf. Dip it in the cup and partake of it as you return to your seat via the aisle on the left. Please inform an usher if you need assistance or would like to be served in your seat.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #517 vs 1-3 “Here, O Our Lord, We See You”

Charge and Blessing

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** – **October 2-8**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Bible Study, 11am in Memorial Parlor

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**Book Club**

The book club will be meeting Monday October 9th at 1pm downstairs in the church. The book they are discussing is “The Book of Lost Friends” by Lisa Wingate. All are Welcome!

**Save the Date**

The church will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday November 22 from 12-6pm. Stay tuned for more info.

**Bible Study**

“Love the Stranger” A Study of Radical, Biblical Hospitality
Join us on Wednesday mornings at 11am in the Memorial Parlor as we comb the scriptures to learn about God’s vision of hospitality. We’ll see how hospitality is one of the
defining marks of the Kingdom of God; we’ll discuss how hospitality is practiced (or not practiced) today and we’ll get to the heart of this ancient and sacred practice.
This study flows from Pastor Merideth’s work on her doctoral dissertation. Come join the conversation!