**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 15, 2023**

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

Prelude: Dvorak Slavonic Dance in E minor, Op. 72 No. 2

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: We have come to seek encouragement in Christ

**People: We have come to seek consolation from love;**

Leader: Sharing in the Spirit, God receives us with compassion.

**People:** **Sharing in the Spirit, we receive each other with empathy.**

**All: May our joy be complete as we worship God together.**

\*Hymn #54 “Make a Joyful Noise to God”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**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.**

Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

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

Time for Children

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

Responsive Reading Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Second Reading Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon “Lip Service or Life Service”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #441 “Hear the Good News of Salvation”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

\*Affirmation of Faith (from Philippians 2:5-11) (unison)

 **Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn #442 “Just As I Am”

Charge and Blessing

Postlude: Gershwin Prelude No. 2:

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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** – **October 16-22**

**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

**Next Sunday**

 Special Music in Worship

**October 29 Reformation Sunday & Kirkin O’ the Tartans**

As Presbyterians with our roots in Scotland, we have a colorful cloud of witnesses hovering over us. Some of them are likely still arrayed in bright tartans of every color and plaid.

Tartans have a rich history that originate with the pagan clans of Scotland, dating back to the third century AD. In the sixth century, when St. Columba converted the Scottish tribes to Christianity, a new tradition around the ancient tartans emerged; at a special worship service every year, clansfolk dressed in their finest tartans and rededicated themselves to God and to each other. The service became known as the Kirkin' o' the Tartans.

In honor of our Scottish ancestors in the faith you are invited to wear plaid on October 29, 2023 Reformation Sunday. We will be drawing from the Celtic tradition in our liturgy and hymns. Please join us!

**Super Senior Program is back**

Super Senior Group will meet in Fellowship Hall every 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 11:15 to 1:15 starting on 10/17 lunch will be included.

Yoga will start at 11:15am, then lunch and either a program or activity. All seniors are welcome!

**Mission and Outreach Meeting**

There will be a brief Mission and Outreach Meeting on Sunday 10/29 after church.