**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 22, 2023**

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

Prelude: Praise Band - “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

 “Come As You Are”

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: In this sacred hour of worship when we name things for what they really are;

**People: We give to God what is God’s.**

Leader: Between the demands of this last week and the demands of the one ahead;

**People:** **We give to God what is God’s.**

Leader: With open hearts and hands and minds, mindful of every gift from our loving Creator;

**People: We give to God what is God’s.**

Leader: Come, Let Us Worship God!

\*Praise Band “10,000 Reasons”

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**How many times each day do you come to us, Jesus? How many quiet prophets, how many whispered invitations do you send to catch our attention? And how many times do we pass by unaware of your presence and your beckoning call? Forgive us, Lord, when through neglect, pre-occupation or wrongfulness, we turn our backs on you.**

 **Teach us to see, to listen and to walk with an open heart, so that we can welcome you, and answer you, when you call us to follow in grace and love. 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**

Scripture Reading - Galatians 5:22-25

**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.**

Second Reading Matthew 21:33-41

Sermon “Fresh Fruit Salad”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Praise Band “Goodness of God”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory – Holy Water (We the Kingdom)

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

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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

Praise Band “You Are My King”

Charge and Blessing

Postlude: Praise Band “Old Church Choir”

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**Beyond the Walls** is a contemporary Christian band with a simple mission: To minister through music to connect people to God, to heal, and to bring joy.

As long-time members of their church Worship team in Clinton NJ, this group of musicians and singers felt God’s call toward community ministry and formed Beyond the Walls in 2017.

The band is now bringing contemporary Christian music to other

local churches – beyond their walls.

Whether it be to a church

that is exploring starting their own worship team or a church that

hasn’t been exposed to contemporary Christian music before -

Beyond the Walls is excited to help create a positive, personal,

and uplifting spiritual experience for the congregations they visit.

Rooted in The Word and in the belief that we are sent for others,

Beyond the Walls will work with your church on music selection,

set up, and scheduling to ensure a seamless integration

with your service.

Special events, outside of a Sunday service can also be arranged.

Even with no church walls at all, any event that helps bring the

love of Christ into people's lives is a ministry

opportunity for the band.

In return, Beyond the Walls asks only for your support through prayer as they continue to spread the

good news of God’s grace, mercy, and peace.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Beyond the Walls ministry or to schedule a service in

the Hunterdon County area, please contact Lori Hannon at lorihannon@comcast.net.

**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 23-29**

**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**

 Mission and Outreach meeting 11:00am

 Reformation Sunday

**New Member Class**

If you are interested in becoming a member of FPC, there will be a new Members class on November 12 and 19th after worship. Contact Pastor Meredith for any questions or to sign up.

**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!

**QR Code! Donating made easy**

Invitation to the Offering

Please consider making your donation online using our QR code.

Aim your camera here and click on the link that appears. If you have any questions please call the church office at 908-996-2227.

**Book Club**

The next book club meeting will be on November 13th at 1pm at the church. The book they will be reading and discussing is “*The Wager*” by David Grann. All are welcome!

**Halloween Pit Stop**

Join us on Tuesday October 31 from 6-8pm for our annual Halloween Pit Stop! We are asking for candy donations. All donations can be left in the church kitchen. Thank you!