**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**

**September 10, 2023**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather hoping to see God… **People: Here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another**

Leader: We can see God…. **People: When we show one another honor.**Leader:  We can see God…

**People: When we pursue hospitality to strangers,**

Leader: We can see God…

**People: When we live in harmony with one another,**

Leader: We can see God…

**People: When we rejoice in hope.**

Leader: Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

\*Hymn #401 “Gather Us In”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

 **God of love, you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are, you tell us to bless one another, you encourage us to do good. But we have not listened to your words, instead of loving we have practiced hatred, instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing, instead of doing good, we have sought to get even.**

 **Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again, and encouragement to make your ways, our ways. We pray, we wait, and we hope. 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**

First Scripture Reading Psalm 93

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 Gift Of Love”

Scripture Lesson Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon “Impetuous Devotion”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #720 “Jesus Calls Us”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

\*Affirmation of Faith (from Belhar Confession) (unison)

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family, and that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.**

**We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; and that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another.**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (insert)

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

\*Hymn #833 “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

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** – **Sept. 4-10**

**Monday**

 Book Club, 1pm at Jimmy’s

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 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**

 Rally Day

**Do you like to sing? Come join the Choir**

Rehearsals have started for the new season and will be on Thursday’s at 7 pm.  Folks interested in joining can email Hugh at **hughsung@gmail.com** – and let him know what voice type they think they can sing (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass).

**Book Club**

The book club will be meeting tomorrow, September 11th at 1pm at Jimmy’s Ice cream.

**The NEW DIRECTORY!**
There have been members of the Membership Committee, in Fellowship Hall taking pictures on Sunday morning.  Come get your picture taken and check and update your contact information. With the updated pictures and information, we’ll compile a new directory, for anyone who wants to be part of our church community, that will be available online, through a secure portal on our website. It will be available to members and friends who have a passcode.

**NEW!  from the Mission and Outreach Committee:**

**Introducing the Creation Care Team**

This summer, we’ve been talking about the stories of God’s creation and our responsibility to be good stewards from the book of Genesis.  Is caring for God’s creation one of your passions? You are invited to be part of the new Creation Care Team! We’ll talk about what it might look like for Frenchtown Presbyterian Church to take better care of creation, and then we’ll put a plan in motion.

Please let Jenn Campbell, Sue Fitchett, or Pastor Merideth know if you’re interested.  You can also send an email to Lea office@frenchtownpres.org.  Once we know who’s interested, we’ll set a time to get together and talk. Let’s see what God might be up to in our midst!