**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 24, 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: Come near to the Lord. **People: Lord, be with us this day.**

Leader: Lift your sorrows and joys to our Creator. **People: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.**

Leader:  Come, rest in the love and mercy of the Lord.

**People: Bless us, Lord God, that we may be blessings for others.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

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

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don’t know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, Lord, help us to repent, and make us whole** (silent prayer…)

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 Ephesians 4:29-32

Scripture Lesson Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon “Cancelling Debt”

**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 Book of Common Worship) (unison)

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Joys and Concerns

 *As we enter a time of prayer, we will make use of a Tibetan “singing bowl.” Its lingering note has been likened to the rising of incense, carrying prayers to heaven. After each petition, a note will sound, followed by silence where you may offer up your own prayers.*

**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** – **Sept. 25-Oct 1**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 Directory Pictures, 4-6pm

 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

 Community Campfire, 6-8pm

**Next Sunday**

 Food Pantry Sunday

 World Communion Sunday

**The Creation Care Team**

The Creation Care Team will be meeting today after worship. See Pastor Merideth if you are interested in finding out more about it.

**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!

**Community Campfire**

Join us from 6-8pm, This Saturday, September 30th in the parking lot of the church for a Community Campfire. Come enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and s’mores. There will be pumpkin painting, and scarecrow making.

Bring a chair, and a friend or two.

**Food Pantry Sunday**

Next Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring something in for the pantry. Some items requested are hearty soups, shampoo, soap, canned vegetables and fruit, and laundry detergent.

**Directory Pictures**

For those who did not get their pictures taken for the directory, we will be taking pictures on Tuesday September 26th from 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall.

**Book Club**

The book club will be meeting on Monday October 9th at 1pm at the church. The book they are reading is “The Book of Lost Friends” by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome. Contact Connie Sworen at 908-752-0698 if you have any questions.