



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Established 1817

January 28, 2024 – The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship

Building Community ~ Transforming Lives ~ Engaging the World

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership, regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.

WELCOME! Members and visitors are invited to sign the Worship Register during the service.

NAME TAGS are available in the narthex and vestibule. Everyone is invited to wear a name tag so we can greet one another by name! Want a permanent name tag or need a replacement?
Contact
church@firstpresnb.org

RESTROOMS
(including a family restroom) are available in the Ministry Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the narthex. Ushers are available to help if needed.

CHILDREN are welcome here! The nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am to 12:15 pm.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND WONDER follows the Children's Moment during the 11:00 am service; 2nd grade or younger may follow Ms. Kerri to the Ministry Center, across the hall from the Nursery. For all children in worship, there are Worship Bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

Prayer of Preparation

*Almighty God, Light from Light,
who commands the universe and all that is made,
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,
the force of good,
and the food of peace.
Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue.
Heal us now so that in all that we say and do,
the freedom we have in you may be for others, too;
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Prelude and Fugue in C Major (BWV 545)* Johann Sebastian Bach
Introit *O Savior, in This Quiet Place* Green/Jones

***Call to Worship** from Psalm 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.
Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.
**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 450** *Be Thou My Vision* Byrne/Irish ballad

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in Jesus, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow

Mark 1:21-28

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

What does it mean when we are called to **give God's Tithes and our Offerings?**

Tithes are the gifts God invites us to give. Biblically, this is understood as 10% of all that we receive and is the goal we set for ourselves. Practically, it is the % you set aside first and give in recognition of the centrality of your relationship with God. But, we also know many of us can give more, and the world needs to know generosity and love that exceeds expectation. Offerings are what we give on top of what we have set aside, sometimes as an act of thanksgiving and sometimes a recognition of need, knowing what God can do with what we give.

to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might move closer to the people you would have us be. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00 am)

Mimi Dixon, Elder

Stephen, Angel, and Jasper Siu, children of Phe Siu and Rung Y H'rin Y, Great Grandmother of Stephen, Angel, and Jasper Siu.

Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Cole-Turner

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.**

*Hymn 793

O Christ, the Healer

Green/1543

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

New Testament pg. 35

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What Do You Hear?

Anna Pinckney Straight

(after the sermon we pause for a time of silent reflection)

*Affirmation of Faith

from Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

OUR STAFF
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Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

*The Prayer of Preparation is from
Feasting on the Word Worship
Companion: Liturgies for Year B,
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John Knox Press*

*The Call to Worship, Prayer of
Confession, and Affirmation of
Faith are from liturgy prepare by
John Wurster for The Presbyterian
Outlook.*

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Lunatic Boy from the Methodist
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***Hymn 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Scott

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Lord of the Dance

Sidney Carter/Shaker hymn
arranged by John Ferguson

***Doxology**

Hymn 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God
and in honor of Louis Foye's birthday on February 1st.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**... Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Benediction

Congregational Response

Scott

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Postlude

Alla Marcia

John Ireland

Liturgist: Patrick Ryan

Musicians: Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

Ushers: Chris Kelso, Stas & Brenda Humienny, Mark Dail, Joyce Weaver (8:30)

Tim Elliott, Debbie Murray, Marc Dabagian (11:00)

Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch: February 11 in the Session House, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

We will be collecting a special offering after worship to benefit Religious Community Services and their work to eliminate hunger. Our SALT kids (grades 3-5) will be hosting a Soup Luncheon following the 11:00 am worship service. All are invited to come and sample the different soups!

Empty Bowls: February 16, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at Temple Baptist, benefiting both Religious Community Services and the Craven Arts Council and Gallery. Tickets are \$30 (for that you get a handcrafted bowl and two bowls of soup) and are available at emptybowlsnewbern.org or you can purchase in person (checks or the exact amount of cash are welcome) on February 11 at First Presbyterian Church during Fellowship Café time as well as at the Souper Bowl Lunch.

New Members Class – Starting **Today**, in the Session House, there will be a three-week class for those who would like to learn more about First Presbyterian Church, New Bern and are interested in exploring what it means to be a member of this church family. This class will **meet January 28, February 4, and February 11**. Participants who would like to become members will be given the opportunity to be welcomed at either the 11:00 am worship service on February 11 or the 8:30 am worship service on February 18. For more information, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight. **And... everyone is invited to the class on February 4, when Chip Chagnon will be sharing his ever-popular presentation on the history of First Presbyterian Church, New Bern!**

The **Presbyterian Women** would like to send a small gift to all college students. If you have a child currently attending college, please send his/her name and e-mail address to church@firstpresnb.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD					
Sunday, 1/28	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal	Thursday	2:30 pm	Pickleball
	5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)		5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Monday	2:00 pm	Knit 4 Others	Saturday	10:00 am	Pickleball
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal		8:30 am	Worship
	7:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study (Zoom)	Sunday, 2/4	9:30 am	Fellowship Café
Tuesday	10:00 am	Staff Meetings		9:40 am	Sunday School
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		11:00 am	Worship
Wednesday	11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal		12:00 pm	Cookie Fellowship!
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer		3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship		5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

SUNDAY SCHOOL			
For full class descriptions, locations, and more, visit the website ~ www.firstpresnb.org or pick up a brochure in the Sanctuary or church office.			
Present Word	Session House Parlor	Faith and Film	Owl Room
The Story	Conference Room	Grades K-5	Worship and Wonder Room
Let’s Talk	Session House	Youth (Grades 6-12)	Youth Rooms

SESSION		
Clerk: Karen Reed		
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
James Copland	Stephanie Brinson	Janet Benrey-Swain
Christin Grady	John Finlayson	Fossie Lathan
Kenneth Holton	Sarah Catherine Gibbs	Debbie Murray
Carole Koi	Rufus McAden	Pam Pope
Vaughn Purnell	Yvonne Olmstead	Darryl Warren
Helen Robinson	Linda Staunch	Gray Wheeler
Joyce Weaver	David Stevick	David White

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