

Serving Today

Ushers:

10:00 a.m. Chip Chagnon (Head Usher), Mary Chason, Mark Dail, Dan Frey, Tracy Fritzsche, Linda Palmer, Doug Phelps, Jamey Spruill

Greeters:

10:00 a.m. Mike and Nancy Newman

Lectionary Reading for March 8, 2020

Gen. 12:1-4a John 3:1-17
Romans 4:1-5

WELCOME guests! Please write your name on a visitor's badge for your blouse or lapel. Along with our members, please sign the Friendship Pad when passed to you during the service.

WORSHIP SYMBOLS * Please rise in body or spirit

CHILDREN are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. Our certified and caring nursery staff would be honored to care for your little ones. Infants - 4 are welcome during the 8:30 service beginning at 8:15. Infants - 3 are welcome during the 11:00 service beginning at 10:45. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery (room 1.23 in the Ministry Center). The nursery is available for nursing at any time. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder. For those 3rd grade and up, ask an usher for worship bags for your child(ren).

RESTROOMS are available in the Ministry Center (including a family restroom with changing table) and the Session House.

ACCESSIBILITY: Hearing assistance devices with ear coverings are available and large print hymnals are available in the last row of pews. Please ask an usher if you have need. Wheelchair accessibility is provided by ramps on either side of the Sanctuary and in back of the Ministry Center.

Session 2020

Eddie Bellis, Moderator, Maren Sonstegard-Spray, Karen Reed, Clerk

Administration

Betsy Conzelman '20
Jim Findley '21
Marc Finlayson '22
Trudy Martin '20

Care

Patti Fleming '22
Polly Frank '20
Margaret Cooper '22

Fellowship

Kevin Avolis '22
Beth Foley '21
Peter Moeller '20
Cathy Warren '20

Outreach

Peggy Clark '21
Bruce Pollock '21
Julia Speight '22

Education

Janet Bryan '20
Madison Crum '22
David Hale '20

Worship

Janelle Haggard '21
Gayle Hardy '21
George Moore '21
Hal Vandersea '22

Pastoral & Program Staff

- * The Rev. Edward Bellis, *Interim Pastor*
- * The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray, *Associate Pastor*
- * The Rev. Lloyd Griffith, *Parish Associate*
- * Daewon Goldenbaum-Yang, *Director of Education and Youth Ministry*

Music Program Staff

- * Pat K. Rowlett, *Director of Music*
- Vance Harper Jones, *Organist*
- Susan Mabie, *Director, Resurrection Singers*
- Cindy Sutton, *Assistant Organist and Pianist*
- Dru Wilkins, *Music Assistant*

Office and Support Staff

- * Tommy Hall, *Administrative Coordinator*
- * Priscilla Miller, *Office Administrator*
- * Cathy Wingfield, *Communications Coordinator*
- * Amber Zapffel, *Financial Secretary*
- * Kerri Wheeler, *Children's Worship*
- James Briley, Jr., *Treasurer*
- Louis Foye, *Sexton*
- Lisa Wood, *Nursery Coordinator*
- Cindi DeVoe, *Nursery Staff*
- Missy Dixon, *Nursery Staff*

Pre-school

- * Kerri Wheeler, *Director of Preschool*

You can contact persons designated * by replacing their first names as in the example for our pastor: maren@firstpresnb.org

Mission Partners

Backpack Blessings	Interserve (Thailand)
Camp Albemarle	Interfaith Refugee Ministry
Coastal Women's Shelter	Iraq Presbyterian Church
Craven Literacy Council	MERCI Clinic
CROP Hunger Walk/CWS	Presbyterian Mission Agency
ECU Campus Ministry	Religious Community Services
Faith Connection	Reviving Lives Ministry
Habitat for Humanity	Special Olympics

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW BERN

ORGANIZED 1817



Christ in the Wilderness, Ivan Nikolaevich Kramskoi, 1872,
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

March 1, 2020

—10:00am—

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. 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.

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church@firstpresnb.org www.firstpresnb.org

If you wish to share a joy or concern with the pastoral staff, please write it on the tan prayer card found in the pew rack. We will collect these cards in the offering. If you wish the prayer to remain confidential, place the card in a provided privacy envelope. *Please silence or turn off cell phones.*

Prayer of Preparation

This First Sunday in Lent we come to consider a sin we might claim as our own, the willful disobedience of God's goodwill for our lives. Even here there is hope. We gather in hope to praise the name of the Lord. Amen.

Welcome

Following the "Chiming of the Trinity" and during the "Prelude," please enter a period of silent meditation.

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Henry

Introit *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak* Jernigan

Announcements

Call to Worship adapted from Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord. Lord please hear my cry.

I wait for the Lord with all my soul, I hope for the fulfillment of God's word.

In the Lord is love unfailing and great is the Lord's power to set me free.

I wait for the Lord with all my soul, I hope for the fulfillment of God's word.

Together let us pray.

O God, you have the power to set all captives free. In sending us your only son, Jesus Christ, you sent your liberating word into the world, breaking fetters which enslaved your people. Make us attentive to the good news of redemption proclaimed in our midst, as here we worship and adore you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God.

* **Hymn 41** *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!* Grant/Kraus

* Prayer of Confession

When confronted with temptations, we are easily overcome. They allure us with promises we find hard to resist. We harbor fantasies of how our lives might have been. Our dreams become pervasive, hiding the truth of your love. Have mercy upon us, O God; enable us to discern deception when it appears. Enlighten us to your genuine renewal in Christ.

(Silent confession)

* **Kyrie Eleison** John Merbecke



* Assurance of Pardon

* **Response 437** *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* Wetzell

* Summary of the Law

“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.’”
Matthew 22:37-39

* Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(11:00) Children's Moment

Hymn 729, verse 1 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

**Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart. In my heart,
In my heart. Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

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.

Hymn 729, verse 2 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Lord, I want to be more loving...

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

1st Sunday offering for hunger - Religious Community Services (RCS)

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along your pew and place prayer request cards in the offering plate.

Offertory *We Will Sing for Joy* D. Scarlatti
Confirmation Choir; Cindy Sutton, piano

* 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.

* Prayer of Dedication

God of compassion, you minister to us in our wilderness. When barren wastes surround us, you hear our prayers of petition. In times of want, you ease our plight with mercy. In times of plenty, all that we have comes from your grace. In bringing our gifts to you, we return what is already yours. May these gifts be used to bring all your people to the promised land. Amen.

* **Hymn 724** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Bode/Mann

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson Genesis 2:4b-9; 3:1-7 OT pages 2, 3
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* Mueller
Daybreak/Sanctuary Choirs

Second Lesson Matthew 4:1-11 NT page 3
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Button Pushing* The Rev. Edward Bellis

* Affirmation of Faith

(Confession of Belhar: 10.1-10.3 a.b. South Africa 1986)

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.

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 the working of God's Spirit is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

* **Hymn 166** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* Hernaman

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Catherine Eure Willey in celebration on February 29th of her father, Joshua's 17th birthday.

Congratulations are extended from the congregation to Wendy and Rad Moeller on the birth of their granddaughter, Blakey "Blake" Elise Easterhoff born February 20, 2020 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Chandler and David Easterhoff.

Sympathy is extended to Polly Frank and her family on the passing of Jerry Frank on February 20, 2020. A Celebration of Life took place at their home on February 29th. A memorial service will take place in Summerhill, PA at a later date.

Prayers of the People and (8:30) Lord's Prayer

Congregational Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Corporation

* Benediction

* **Response Hymn 748** *Go with Us, Lord*
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

* **Postlude** *Lenten Postlude* Koch