

Serving Today

Ushers:

8:30 a.m. Jay Haggard (Head Usher), Mark Dail, Janelle Haggard, Gene Peele, Yvonne Olmstead, Susan Ryan, Rodger Wilcox

11:00 a.m. Hal Vandersea (Head Usher), Tom Brunk, Tracy Fritzsche, George Moore, Kathryn Nelson, Jane Stallings, Marilyn Vandersea, Wendy Yager

Greeters:

8:30 a.m. Anne Goldman
11:00 a.m. David and Carol Hale

Lectionary Reading for March 15, 2020

Exod. 17:1-7 John 4:5-42
Romans 5:1-11 Psalm 95

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW BERN

ORGANIZED 1817



Abram Journeying to the Land of Canaan, woodcut by Gustav Doré, 1832-1883

March 8, 2020
Second Sunday in Lent

—8:30am & 11:00am—

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

Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. If you should call me to go in some direction, give me courage to try this new thing. If you present me with a mysterious truth or grace, help me to understand, or to seek understanding, with a sense of wonder and faith. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In your Son's name, I pray. Amen.

Welcome

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

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude (8:30) *The Glory of These Forty Days* Piutti
(11:00) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. Sherman
Sanctuary Bells

Introit *Come into God's Presence* Anonymous

Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 121
I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

* **Hymn 49** *The God of Abraham Praise* Jewish melody

* Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. (Silent confession)

* **Kyrie Eleison** John Merbecke



* **Assurance of Pardon**

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

* **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 Maren Sonstegard-Spray

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory (8:30) *Now that the Daylight Fills the Sky* Wood
(11:00) *Do Unto Others* Wright
Covenant Choir; Kinderchoir; Paul S. Schernitzki, 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

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.

* **Hymn 817** *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* Alford/McFarland

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12 NT page 225
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Call to Remembrance* Farrant
(8:30) Daybreak Choir (11:00) Sanctuary Choir

Second Lesson Genesis 12:1-9 OT page 10
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

* **Affirmation of Faith** A Declaration of Faith PC(USA) (1991) 3(1)

God chose one people for the sake of all.

To the world in its rebellion and alienation God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants as bearers of that promise for all peoples. They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor, but God loved them and made them his own. We acknowledge God's freedom and grace. Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ. God has chosen us as his servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be his daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.

* **Hymn 684** *Faith Begins by Letting Go* Daw/Gounod

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Kathy Kinsey Wilcox by Rodger Wilcox and family.

Sympathy from the congregation is extended to Betty Burnett Bishop and John Bishop on the loss of Jackie Burnett Lieber, on February 25, 2020, in Las Vegas, NV. Jackie is the daughter of Betty and the stepdaughter of John.

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

* **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** *Andante from Mendelssohn* Broadhead