

Jeremiah, Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1511, Sistine Chapel, Vatican City, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

23 January 2022
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

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.’”

(11 am) Children’s Moment

Tommy Hall

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

*2nd-grade children or younger may depart for Children’s
Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center*

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

*Affirmation of Faith

from The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without

the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Anthem *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* Desmond Tutu/John L. Bell

Welcome of New Members

(11 am) Celebration of Tommy Hall

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Marcy Latteman to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, USN Capt. Richard R. Long, also AIA, and Virginia "Ginny" Long.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* Piutti

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the wooden collection boxes nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

Prayers reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Betsy Conzelman, Beth Foley, Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat K. Rowlett

WELCOME VISITORS! 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.

CHILDREN are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. The nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am-12:15 pm. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center. For all children in worship, there are worship bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

RESTROOMS are available in the Ministry Center, (including a family restroom), the Session House, and the Fellowship Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with ear coverings are available. Please ask an usher if you have need.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided by ramps between the Ministry Center and the Sanctuary, in the back of the Ministry Center, along the side of the Session house, and at the front and side entrances of the J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center.

MASKS are required in the Sanctuary for the time being. At a meeting of the Worship Commission on December 22, it was decided to return to a mask requirement for worship and to put a pause on singing by the choir and the congregation. It is our hope that this will be a short-lived pause until we have a better grasp on the effects of the Omicron variant. As always, if you have had an exposure to someone with Covid-19 or have symptoms that indicate a possible Covid-19 infection, we hope you will either receive a negative test before coming to worship or choose to worship online via the video or podcast.

These changes to our Covid-19 response are communicated by email and will be shared on our website and Facebook page. If you'd like to be added to this email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Tommy Hall

TODAY, January 23, we will be celebrating Tommy Hall's retirement during the 11:00 worship service and afterward at a reception in the Session House. The time of fellowship in the Session House will be masked, but there will be some treats to-go. If you are unable to attend the reception but would like for us to share your words of congratulations and thanks with Tommy for you, just email anna@firstpresnb.org and your email will be printed out and shared with him.

Celebrating Amber Zapfell

Sunday, **January 30**, we will celebrate Amber Zapfell's ministry with us as she moves on to her career in real estate. We are also planning a reception in the Session House to be held after the 11:00 worship service. Again, if you cannot be there but have something you'd like to share with Amber to say thank you and wish her well, just email me at anna@firstpresnb.org and we will make sure she receives it!

Youth Fellowship

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, meets tonight 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house.

Adult Choir Rehearsals are currently on hold until further notice. Pat and Susan will communicate with each choir about rehearsals. Thank you for your patience.

Preschool Registration Opens February 1!

Registration for the 2022/23 School Year opens to current students and church members on February 1 and opens to the public on February 16. Classes range from infants (6 weeks and older) to Pre-K, and before and after-school programs are available. Please complete and return the registration form, media release form, and financial form with a check or money order for your registration fee to Preschool Director Kerri Wheeler (firstpreskerri@gmail.com). Scholarships are available! Forms are available on the preschool website (firstprespreschool.info) under "forms."

Time and Talents Survey – For Everyone!



How are you giving of your time and your talents? Where is God calling you to serve? The Time and Talents Survey was mailed to you last month and extra print copies are available in the Church Office and Narthex. If you would like to complete the survey online, you can find it at firstpresnb.org/time-and-talent-survey-2022.html or use the QR code to the left.

Help Out with Habitat – Meals Needed

Habitat for Humanity is excited to welcome the following schools this spring for Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break: Sacred Heart University (Connecticut), Franklin Pierce University (New Hampshire), Eastern Connecticut State University, Elmhurst University (Illinois), University of Delaware, and Hartwick College (New York). Help us demonstrate some southern hospitality through food and fellowship. Location will be updated closer to the date, but most likely all sites will be located in the Pembroke community. If you would like to provide lunch or dinner for these students, have a desire to host students at your home or a restaurant, or provide a gift card, you can reach out to Catherine Campbell directly (ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org OR 252-633-9599, ext. 104). If you are able, please plan to stick around for fellowship after dropping off a meal.

An Evening to Celebrate Women: Habitat for Humanity of Craven County

International Women's Day will be celebrated by Habitat for Humanity of Craven County with a "Perceiving Strength" Tea & Fundraiser event on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022**, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Harrison Center on Middle Street. In addition to tea served in beautiful china teacups, and a selection of delicious pastries and finger sandwiches, a silent auction will offer an opportunity to bid on a variety of great items. The theme for this special benefit comes from Australian writer G. D. Anderson who wrote, "Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." Guest speakers during the evening will include Bethany Richards, founder of The Bike Box Project, and Amelia Jenkins, a Habitat homeowner currently

working with Habitat on her own home. “My children need a base, a foundation to call home. A place to grow up, a room to call their own, their piece of peace. One of my biggest dreams was to be a homeowner and it has always been something very important to me,” said Ms. Jenkins. Tickets for the “Perceiving Strength” benefit event are \$25 per person, or \$200 for a table of 8 guests, and can be purchased by contacting Catherine Campbell at Habitat for Humanity at 252-633-9599, ext.104, or ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org. Additional donations, or Regrets with a donation, are always welcome.

Education

Sunday School classes meet Sundays 9:40-10:40 am

Sunday School for Children

Preschool – active play in the Nursery

Kindergarten-5th Grade – Ministry Center Room 1.27 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Middle & High School – Ministry Center Room 2.23-24 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Sunday School for Adults

Praying in Color/Sue Callahan – Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center)
Maybe you love color. Maybe you are a visual learner, a distractible or impatient soul, or a word-weary pray-er. Perhaps you struggle with a short attention span, a restless body, or a tendency to live in your head. The prayer practice “Praying in color,” by Sybil MacBeth, invites your hands as well as your mind into prayer and gives you a new way to be with God. Join us starting **TODAY** for a four-week class that explores various ways doodling can be used to pray for others and ourselves. No art experience is required, and supplies will be provided. For more information contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org)

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class is currently studying the series “Justice, Law, History” in Old Testament texts. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Getting Old – Growing Gracefully/Lloyd Griffith – Ministry Center Room 2.21 and Zoom

“The laws of nature that dictate sundown dictate our demise.” This final part of our journey raises inevitable questions: What is our relationship with the younger generation? What is truth? What is the connection between work and vocation? How can I stay engaged with the outer life? How can I stay engaged with the inner life? Where do I go when I die? How we respond to these built-in concerns is ours to choose. We can answer this inevitable aging process with denial or defiance and find ourselves on a passage of decline and inaction. OR...we can collaborate faithfully with this unique section on the arc of life and find ourselves on a different passage of engagement and discovery of a Holy energy holding and guiding us along the path. This Sunday School class meets at 9:40 am in room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center) and **on Zoom**. We will be guided through these challenges of the journey by Parker Palmer’s “On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity and Getting Older.” Please contact the church office or Lloyd Griffith to register for this class. Inquiries welcome!

Law and Religion/James R. Copland – Session House Main Room

America’s original constitution did not expressly cover the relationship between church and state. But the Bill of Rights—insisted upon by some states, including North Carolina, as a precondition for joining the union—led off with it: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” This course will cover the historical background framing the First Amendment’s religion clauses; the evolution of Supreme Court doctrine interpreting them, and modern cases and controversies. Copland is formerly a Coker Fellow in constitutional law at the Yale Law School, but the course is intended for a general, rather than a legal, audience. Where appropriate, Biblical interpretation and discussion will be incorporated to augment the discussion of law. This class meets at 9:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

Mid-Week Formation Opportunities

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we read *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado, a well-known pastor and prolific author, familiar to many in our congregation. Lucado explores how "me-centric" tendencies natural to all of us (ever watch toddlers navigate their little "it's all about me" worlds?!) get carried into adulthood where "my agenda", "my schedule", "my issues", the things that make "me" happy may present in more sophisticated forms, but only serve to alienate us in our constrained "me-centric" universes from others and, most importantly, keep us from flourishing and helping others to flourish in the "God-centric" realm in which all of us are called to live and to serve. For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl 637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller 876-7259 (c).

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with companionship, understanding, support, and guidance as we seek to go on living when someone we love dies. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend. Contact Lloyd Griffith for more information.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format. The group will be studying "Soul Force" by Lloyd Griffith and "Immortal Diamond" by Richard Rohr.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship

Led by Lloyd Griffith and meets in the Chapel in the Ministry Center. This contemplative, or reflective, approach to worship is offered each Wednesday from 5 to 5:30 pm. This quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on the Biblical text chosen for preaching the coming Sunday. The Lord's Supper is observed on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study – NEW BOOK

We are starting a new book on Thursday, **February 10**, and running for 3 weeks: "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis. Our Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly 10-11 am by Zoom. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (Kindle version also available). If you need help acquiring the book or want to be added to the email list for the class, please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Sunday Afternoon Men's Beer and Theology POSTPONED

We are postponing this afternoon's Men's Beer and Theology ("Calvin and Hops"). We will meet at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **February 20**, led by Ken Wilkins. This is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Don't let any bad weather stop you from coming – there is a nice indoor space for gathering!

Montreat Women's Conference 2022

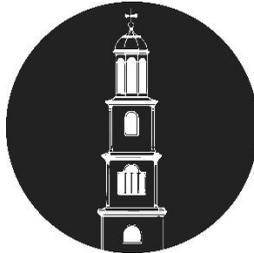
Join us at the Montreat Women's Connection Conference Friday-Sunday, August 12-14. The keynote speaker is author Sarah Bessey. More information at montreat.org/women. We will register as a group again this year which means instead of registering on the Montreat website, you register with Maren Sonstegard-Spray (maren@firstpresnb.org). Rooms in the Assembly Inn (with air conditioning and elevator) go very quickly so please contact Maren by **TODAY, Sunday, January 23**. The deposit to hold your spot is \$100. Registration cost includes program, room, and meals (single and double occupancy options) and the prices range from \$391 to \$511 per person. Transportation is on your own and many arranged carpools in previous years. We are offering a discount on the cost of the registration from the McClary Scholarship fund to make it easier to attend the conference! Please contact Maren to learn more about the discount.

Looking for Reception Volunteers

If you enjoy working with friendly people in a terrific environment and can volunteer your time on weekdays from either 9 am-1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office (252-637-3270). We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers!

Nametags

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing their nametags again! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

*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.*