



*For He Had Great Possessions*  
George Frederic Watts ~ 1894

10 October 2021  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
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 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.*



**We are sure we follow them, but instead, we cannot let go of the things we think we need or what we think is important.**

**We do not follow you or love you, O God, with all our hearts, our minds, our strength. We refrain from giving our whole selves to you. Forgive our disobedience, our lack of commitment, and our desire to focus on material things instead of on your will for us.**

**In the name of our Teacher, Jesus Christ, who gave his whole life for the sake of the gospel. 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

Hymn 175, verse 1

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.**

**Allelu, alleluia!**

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

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

Hymn 175, verse 2

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.**

**Allelu, alleluia!**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Lesson**

Mark 10:17-31

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

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from a Declaration of Faith, 1977

**Christ calls us to live in the presence of God. Jesus lived with a constant sense of his Father's presence. He put God's claim on his life above all else. He joined others in God's worship and praise. He drew strength from the Scriptures. He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.**

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race, or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness. We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.**

**We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.**

**\*Hymn 720**

*Jesus Calls Us*

Alexander/Jude

**Celebration of Louis Foye's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Denise Willey to the glory of God and in honor of Louis Foye's loving service to our congregation all these years.*

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Come, Thy Fount of Every Blessing*

Ashford

**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.**

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Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

**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. Beginning at 9:30 am the nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Celebrating  
Louis Foye's*

*40th Anniversary at First Presbyterian!*

*Sunday, October 10*

*A worshipful celebration at the 8:30 and 11:00 services*

*A reception on the lawn after the 11:00 service*

*As many of you know, Louis loves Christmas trees and Christmas lights.*

*He contributes the tree outside our Ministry Center,*

*and his house and yard at Christmas time are lit with joy!*

*As part of the celebration, we will be gifting Louis a Gratitude Tree*

*decorated with special thank you cards from all of us.*

*The cards will be available in the narthex on October 3rd,*

*in the church office all week,*

*and will be included as inserts in the bulletin on October 10th.*

*Please take a moment to express your gratitude.*

### **Church Nursery**

Our Nursery, located on the first floor of our Ministry Center has resumed regular hours (8:15 am-12:15 pm). We have a team of paid, trained, and background-checked nursery workers to care for infants and preschool-aged children during Sunday school and both worship services. Stop by and say hi to our new nursery workers Cindy and Kimberly and Carolyn, and our nursery coordinator Bailey.

## **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. SALT (Serving and Learning Together) for 3-5th graders will meet next Sunday, October 17!

Stay tuned for information to come about the Christmas Wreath Fundraiser!

## **Fellowship Café Open for Fall**

Join us from 9:30 until 10:45 am in the Fellowship Café (on the first floor of the Ministry Center) for a cup of coffee, a bite or two, and to renew your church friendships, or stop by and grab a coffee on your way to Sunday School!

## **Library Open House**

You are cordially invited to the Grand Opening of the recently relocated William Lee Hawkins Library and the adjacent Children's Library, both located on the second floor of the Ministry Center, on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, before and after Sunday School (following the first service and preceding the second service). Light refreshments will be served. Please come and find that book you've been wanting (or needing) to read. Our "twin" librarians will be available to answer questions or offer suggestions.

## **Foster Care Child Sponsorship for Christmas**

Craven County Department of Social Services is looking for people to provide Christmas presents for children in the foster care system in Craven County. The children complete "letters to Santa" and individuals/families/organizations are given a child to either purchase gifts for or to send in money so that DSS can purchase some of the things on the child's list. DSS asks sponsors to spend a minimum of \$125. If you are looking for a way to show support to children in our community who have faced tremendous difficulty and trauma this year, this is a wonderful way to do it. Contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org) for more information.

## **Pandemic Devotional Booklet**

From March 2020 to July 2021, devotions written by church members and staff were emailed to the congregation on weekdays. These devotions have been collected into a booklet that will be made available to the congregation. Please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org) if you would like to receive a copy.

## **Education**

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

### **Sunday School for Children**

Children and Teachers are asked to wear masks in the classroom.

**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**

**TheoEd Talks/Jim Copland and Beth Paul – Ministry Center Room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center)**

This new Sunday School offering is a place to land for parents of youngsters, young couples, and young adults. It will be a place to develop friendships, share about this unique stage of life we are in, and delve into some thought-provoking discussions about topics of faith. Each week we will view a TheoEd talk (think a TED talk on a topic of faith) with a discussion to follow. To learn more about TheoEd talks visit <https://theoed.com/watch>. For questions contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

**Getting Involved with God: Wrestling with the strange and sacred Scripture of the Old Testament/Maren Sonstegard-Spray – Session House Main Room**

If you have ever struggled with reading and understanding the Old Testament, or if you have ever wondered how the Old Testament relates to the New Testament, come join us. We will be guided by Ellen Davis's book "Getting Involved with God" and John Goldingay's book "Do We Need the New Testament," among others. No need to buy a book (unless you want to!). Bring your favorite translation of the Bible with you.

**The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor**

The class is studying the series "Celebrating God," looking at passages in both the Old and New Testaments. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

**Mid-Week Formation Opportunities**

**Monday Evening Women's Bible Study**

The group will meet on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm, starting with a hybrid arrangement – those comfortable meeting in person at the Ministry Center conference room, and those not yet comfortable attending online via Zoom at the same time. Join us as we accompany Amy-Jill Levine, one of our favorite authors and teachers, and author of "The Difficult Words of Jesus," as she guides us through that struggle to a place of greater understanding of what it is that our Lord is requesting of us. For more information, call Wendy Moeller 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl 252-637-5468 or Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975.

**Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 for more information.

### **Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living**

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format to begin the fall. 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 in the Chapel. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

### **Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study**

We begin our next book “No Cure for Being Human: and other truths I need to hear” by Kate Bowler on October 28. 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** led by Ken Wilkins at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4 pm on Sunday, October 17. This will be a casual men’s gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

### **Flower Calendar**

It’s never too early to plan! Do you have a birthday, anniversary, or memorial date next year that you would like to reserve for providing the flowers at church? The 2022 Flower Calendar sign-up sheet is in the pink folder in the Narthex. Some dates are already spoken for, so take a look when you get a chance!

## **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.

## **Welcoming Tip of the Month**

Will you help make space for a newcomer or latecomer this fall? As we get back into the full swing of services this fall, it can be tricky for a newcomer or latecomer to find an available seat. Please sit in the middle of the pew, if you are physically able - and maybe even move toward the front of the sanctuary. In all likelihood, folks feel more welcome when they can quickly spot a seat they can easily access, instead of having to tap on shoulders and do the pew-slide.

*First Presbyterian Church identifies itself as a welcoming community of faith and intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. The Welcoming Committee over the next year will be offering you monthly tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.*

## Notes: