

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

2 October 2022

World-Wide Communion Sunday

Prayer of Preparation

*God of all nations,
you have poured out your blessings
upon all the peoples of the earth.
Grant us eyes to see your gifts of faith and love.
Appoint us as heralds of your mercies
that are new every morning.
Empower us to write the vision of your peaceable kingdom,
where destruction and violence are no more,
where suffering and wars shall cease.
Through our worship empower us to be sent out with joy
as bearers of your hope in a hurting world;
through Christ. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Come, Let Us Eat
Erica Smith, soloist

Kwillia (Liberia)

Call to Worship

From north and south and east and west,
all Creation sings forth your praises!

The mountains and the hills burst into song;
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Your steadfast love never ceases.

With joy and peace, let us worship God together.

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom. 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.’”

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 17:1-10

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

Sermon

More Faith?

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him, all things were made. For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem

Bread of Life from Heaven

Briehl/Argentine melody

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

The prayer of preparation, Call to Worship, and Prayer of Confession were Prepared by the Rev. Katie Owen Aumann, senior pastor, Morningside Presbyterian Church, Atlanta for the PC USA's Peacemaking Offering. The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving was written by the Rev. Molly Spangler for the Presbyterian Outlook.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, October 2	4:00	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir) - canceled
	5:30-7:30	Youth Group (grades 6-12)
Monday	9:00	Preschool Chapel Time
	10:00	Presbyterian Women Circle 2
	12:00	Divine Sleep Yoga Class
	3:45-5:00	Covenant Choir (grades K-5)
	7:00	Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)
Tuesday	10:00	Presbyterian Women Circle 1
	10:00	Program Staff Meeting
	10:30	Full Staff Meeting
	1:30	Presbyterian Women Circle 4
Wednesday	11:45	Preschool Choir
	12:00	Life of Prayer
	5:00	Contemplative Worship
	5:30-7:00	Preschool Pasta Fundraiser Dinner
	6:30	New Elder Meeting
	7:00	Presbyterian Women Circle 5
Thursday	5:15	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary & Daybreak)
	6:00	Rothermel Board Meeting
Sunday, October 9	8:30	Worship
	9:15-10:15	Fellowship Café (Ministry Center)
	9:40-10:40	Sunday School
	9:40-10:40	Bernard George New Bern History Class
	11:00	Worship
	2:00-3:00	Church Building Tour
	4:00	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir) - canceled
5:30-7:30	Youth Group (grades 6-12)	

UPCOMING EVENTS

October Fellowship Meal – J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center – October 5, 5:30-7:00

This will be a fundraiser for our preschool scholarship program so we can continue to offer early childhood education for our friends in the community who need a little help! Dinner will include 2 different pasta choices, bread, salad, and dessert. There is no charge for the meal, and you can dine in or carry it out. Donations will be accepted. We can't wait to see our Church and preschool families for great food and fellowship! Please contact the church to sign-up at church@firstpresnb.org or 252-637-3270 by Monday, October 3rd at 5 pm.

Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer and Theology) – October 23 at 4:00 - Brewery 99

Led by Ken Wilkins, this is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

❖ 9:40am-10:40am: Sunday School: Follow Me: Make Peace

Children (Grades K-5) in Ministry Center Room 1.24

Youth (Grades 6-12) in Ministry Center Rooms 2.23-24

Confirmation Choir will meet Oct 2 from 9:40 am-10:15 am with Sunday School following.

If you are interested in a detailed calendar of upcoming Children, Youth, and Family Ministry opportunities, or volunteering, please reach out to Catherine Campbell, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry: catherine@firstpresnb.org

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Sunday Mornings, 8:40 am-9:40 am

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class will be studying “God’s Exceptional Choice” for the fall. Contact George Evans with questions.

“The Civil War and the Genesis of Black Church in New Bern”

October 9, Session House Main Room

We are pleased to welcome Bernard George to First Presbyterian Church for a second time to share more about New Bern history, generally, and New Bern African American history, specifically. He is a retired city planner, former member of the Board of Directors of the New Bern Historical Society, and current member of the Tryon Palace Commission. In 2018, Mr. George received the Education Award from the New Bern Historical Society and was instrumental in the creation of the New Bern African American Heritage Trail. His family has lived in Craven County for nine generations.

Due to a recent illness, the **Prayer Bead** class scheduled for October 9, 16, and 23 has been postponed until spring- if you are interested in this class let the church office know and we will make sure to include you when the new dates are announced!

Zeb Hough, Executive Director of RCS

October 23, Session House Main Room

Religious Community Services is one of First Presbyterian’s longstanding outreach partners (after all, we were there at its beginning!). Come hear (and talk with) Zeb Hough about where RCS is and where God is calling it to go. How are we a part of it, and what is God asking of us in this partnership? (Zeb is also our guest preacher on the 23rd—so of course, come hear him lead worship!)

Midweek Opportunities

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study

We meet **Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30** via Zoom and we are reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. For more information, contact Wendy Moeller at 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl at 252-617-8557. To be placed on the Zoom list, contact Cathy Wingfield at 828-767-0975.

Divine Sleep Yoga class

Taught by Diane Elliott and offered on **Mondays, 12:00-1:00 pm** in the Lighthouse (on the corner of New and Hancock streets). Participants may bring a prop, such as a yoga mat and blanket for comfort. Contact Diane Elliott with questions. The class is free, but donations are accepted.

Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group

The group meets on the **3rd Monday of the month** in the Chapel (our next meeting is **October 17**). This new group hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-cry-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support your getting through this confusing and often painful process and putting your life back together.

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel (our next meeting is **October 11**). This ongoing group provides its members with understanding and support after someone they love dies. Come and bring a friend.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living

Led by Lloyd Griffith on **Wednesdays, noon-1:00 pm**, and meets in the Ministry Center Owl Room and by Zoom. The group is studying *Intimacy with God*, by Thomas Keating.

Contemplative Worship

The group meets on **Wednesday evenings, 5:00-5:30**, in the Chapel. Led by Lloyd Griffith, this quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and shared reflection on Biblical text. The Lord's Supper is observed on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

SERVICE AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Donations for Outreach Project

For their October outreach project, Presbyterian Women will be collecting paper products for the Coastal Women's Shelter. Circle members are invited to bring paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, wipes, feminine products, or diapers to their next meeting. No travel-size products, please. If you can't make it to the October meeting, paper products may be dropped off at the church office. Thanks for your generosity!

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 to 1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office at 252-637-3270. We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers.

Greeters and Ushers Needed

We are looking for some friendly folks who can welcome parishioners on Sunday mornings for the 8:30 and 11:00 services. If you are interested, please call the church office at 252-637-3270 or send an email to church@firstpresnb.org.