



*Lord, that I might see!*

Mátyás-templom – Budapest, Hungary

24 October 2021

22<sup>nd</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.*



*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.’”**

**(11am) Children’s Moment**

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

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 10:46-52

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

from a Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the**

**gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 450**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Irish/Evans

### **Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of what would have been Eldrid Neal and Dorothy June Fritzsche's 71<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary in November, as well as in remembrance of Dorothy's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 27<sup>th</sup>, by her daughters, Tracy and Leslie Fritzsche, and her granddaughter Amalia.*

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Kay Hawk on the death of her husband Roy on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.*

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

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*What a Glorious Day!*

Martha Mier

**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.**

Liturgist: Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Choir Director: Susan Mabile

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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**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

### **Pick Up Your Stewardship Packet Today!**

Stewardship packets are available to today for pick up in the Narthex of the Sanctuary or in the church office on Monday (9am-5pm). On Tuesday we will mail out the remaining packets!

### **Church Membership Class/Anna Straight – Ministry Center Conference Room (in the Staff Office Suite)**

Whether you have been worshipping with First Presbyterian for one Sunday or one hundred, we'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you about what it means to be a part of a church community-what it might mean for you to take the joyful, faithful step of becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church.

To help facilitate these conversations we have scheduled classes to be held on **November 7 and 14** during the Sunday School hour with the opportunity to join and be welcomed in worship on the 14<sup>th</sup> (at 11:00) or the 22<sup>st</sup> (at 8:30).

If these dates don't work for you, please get in touch with Anna so we can add you to the list for the next time we have these gatherings or so we can meet and find a pathway and timeline that works for you ([anna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:anna@firstpresnb.org) or 252-637-3270).

### **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.

### **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!

**Confirmation Choir** (grades 6 through 12) will rehearsal this afternoon at 5:00 pm. Members will remain masked while we practice. We are so glad to be back together after such a long time.

### **Youth Fellowship**

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

### **Family Fall Festival – RSVP and Donations Needed**

We will host a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 31 in the J Murphy Smith Center following the 11:00 service. We will provide a hotdog lunch, lots of treats (maybe a few tricks), and fun for the whole family! Plan to wear your costume and join us for an afternoon of Halloween fun! Please RSVP to Marianna at [marianna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:marianna@firstpresnb.org) by Oct. 27 if you are able to attend. We are also collecting the candy and non-candy (small toys, stickers, play jewelry, etc.) for our festival if you are willing and able to donate. You can drop them off at the church office!

### **Youth Christmas Wreath Fundraiser**

Lastly, we are partnering with Vermont Wreath Center, Inc. again this year to purchase live wreaths! We are using their online purchasing option again this year and therefore will not be having a bulk order shipped to the church. You can access the online ordering site through the church website or by going to [www.vermontcenterwreaths.com/?ref=first](http://www.vermontcenterwreaths.com/?ref=first) OR you can still order through one of our JOY youth group members! Ordering is open now until Dec. 1 and wreaths will be shipped directly to your home.

### **Fellowship Meal**

Mark your calendar for our November Fellowship Meal on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021**, in the Fellowship Center. A Thanksgiving-themed meal will be served including turkey, ham, dressing, green bean casserole and other traditional holiday favorites. The meal will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Takeout meals will be available beginning at 5:30 pm for immediate pickup.

Please email ([church@firstpresnb.org](mailto:church@firstpresnb.org)) or call the Church to indicate your intentions to attend no later than **5:00 pm, October 31, 2021**. If you know that you would like take-out meals, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you November 3, 2021.  
Your Fellowship Team

### **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](mailto:maren@firstpresnb.org)) for more information or if you would like to write a check directly to this effort, checks can be made out to "Friends of Foster Children Christmas Fund" and put in the offering or brought to the church office.

### **Donations of Teacups and Saucers Needed**

On March 8 for International Women's Day, Habitat for Humanity of Craven County is hosting a Women's Tea Fundraiser. Currently, they are looking for donations of teacups, saucers, teapots, and tiered trays. Before donating, please check your items for chips and cracks; cups and saucers do not have to be matching. Donations can be dropped off Wednesday-Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm at their ReStore located at 930 Pollock Street. For questions about donations, please reach out to Volunteer Coordinator, Catherine Campbell at [ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org](mailto:ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org) or (252) 633-9599, ext. 104. A small donation like this can help build homes, communities, and hope in big ways!

### **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](mailto: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, Sunday, November 21. This will be a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

### **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.*

## **Church Email List and Church Newsletter**

We communicate a lot of things happening in the life of the church, from fellowship meals, new classes starting, special worship services, funeral announcements, the monthly newsletter, and more, through emails through Constant Contact. If you would like to receive regular announcements or the newsletter, or both, please contact Cathy Wingfield ([cathy@firstpresnb.org](mailto:cathy@firstpresnb.org)) or sign up on the church website!

**Notes:**