



*Red Vineyards near Arles, Vincent Van Gogh, 1888, Pushkin Museum, Moscow, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

3 October 2021  
19<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 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.*



## Confession

**You gave us commandments, God of love, because you know the hardness of our hearts. You have created us to live in community, and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from each other and from you. Jesus loved the children, but there are still children in the world who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved. Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness. Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers, and nurture us with your love and forgiveness, that we might share what we have been given, and receive your kingdom with the wonder and gratitude of children. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.’”**

### (11am) Children’s Moment

Lloyd Griffith

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

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

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

**\*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 for 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.**

**\*Hymn 503** *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

Green/1681

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Amy Lynn to the glory of God and honor of my parents Dr. J W Lynn, Jr. and Audrey (Pat) Worthington Lynn.*

*Congratulations to Haih Siu and H'Plai Nay on the birth of their son Allan Nay Siu, born on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Pat Zeleniak who passed away on September 25<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.*

## The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and (8:30am) Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Exultation*

Vandall

**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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Liturgist: The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

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 9:30am 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 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

### **Rothermel Foundation Lecture Today**

The Rothermel lectures, following an 18-month hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, will resume its series today, Sunday, October 3, 2021. The lecture will be held in the Sanctuary at 2 pm. As per church Covid protocols, attendees are expected to wear facemasks regardless of vaccination status. The speaker is Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff of Washington, D.C. A Vietnam combat veteran and a career chaplain in the U.S. Navy, Rabbi Resnicoff was Command Chaplain for the U.S. European Command – “top chaplain” for U.S. military personnel of all faiths in all branches of the military in Europe and most of Africa. His lecture is entitled Keeping Faith: Religion in the Military in War and Peace. Attend the lecture to see faith enduring through the brutality of war, and how the chaplaincy can be used to help society as a whole.

### **Church Nursery**

Our Nursery, located on the first floor of our Ministry Center, will resume regular hours (8:15am-12:15pm) starting today, October 3. 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 our nursery coordinator Bailey.

### **October Fellowship Meal**

Mark your calendar for our October Fellowship meal on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, in the Fellowship Center. A Caribbean themed meal will be served including Caribbean Jerk Chicken, Jamaican Peas and Rice, Tropical Vegetables, Cornbread, and a Sweet Dessert. We are asking everybody to wear their favorite Caribbean attire. The meal will be served starting at 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Take-out meals will be available beginning at 6:00 p.m. for immediate pickup after the masses have been served. Anybody waiting in line starting at 5:30 p.m. can request a to-go plate as well. **Please respond via email ([church@firstpresnb.org](mailto:church@firstpresnb.org)) by the end of the day today, October 3**, if you plan to attend. If you know that you would like take-out meals, please let us know.



*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.*

### **Youth Fellowship**

No Youth Fellowship this evening because of the youth trip to Busch Gardens this weekend.

### **Parking and Traffic Notice for October 10**

Mumfest 2021 will be held in downtown New Bern on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Although there will be street closures, including parts of Pollock Street and Hancock Street, church services will not be affected. It would be a good idea to plan on getting to church a little early to ensure you get a good parking spot. See you next Sunday!

## **Fellowship Café Open for Fall**

Join us from 9:30 until 10:45am 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.

## **Education**

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

### **Sunday School for Children**

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

**Preschool** – Ministry Center Room 1.24 (God Loves Me – 52 story books)

**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](mailto: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 the 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](mailto: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 7:00-8:30pm, 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.

### **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 10-11am 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 4pm on Sunday, October 17. This will be a causal men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

### **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 around 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.

### **North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society Fall Meeting**

What happened when our Scottish and Scotch-Irish ancestors tried to establish missions among the American Indian tribes? Dr. Nancy Midgette will speak to the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society on the seldom-explored topic of "Culture and Conflict: Presbyterian Missionaries to Native Americans." The Fall Meeting will be on Saturday morning, Oct. 9, in person at White

Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, N.C., and by Zoom. There is no registration fee for this meeting, but you must register by October 6 with an email or phone number so we can send the Zoom link and let you know of any changes. Send registration information to floanddan74@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804.

### **Nametags**

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing your 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.*