



Festival of Lights, John August Swanson

All Saints Sunday
31 October 2021
23rd 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.

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

*God of all glory, we gather here today
with the saints of every time and place
to honor and praise your holy name.
As you have revealed your mercy and might
to your faithful people in every age,
so let us glimpse—even through our tears—
the mystery of your life-giving grace
and the love that even death cannot destroy,
through Jesus Christ, Alpha and Omega. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* Schack

Introit *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show* Lyte/Williams

*Call to Worship

Hebrews 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
Let us Worship God!

Anthem

In Perfect Peace

K. Lee Scott

*Commissioned in 2020 by First Presbyterian Church,
New Bern, NC, on the occasion of Pat Kerr Rowlett's
40th anniversary as Director of Music.*

*Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs
Sue Jones, soloist*

Text: Isaiah 26:3-4, 8-9a

You will keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you.

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD Eternal is our Rock.

Walking in your ways, we wait for you.

*The desire of our hearts is for your name,
and the remembrance of you.*

*In the night my soul longs for you,
and in the morning I still seek you.*

You will keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you.

Confession

Holy God, you call us to love you with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. Forgive us when selfishness takes up too much of our heart, when worry seems to crowd wonder out of our soul, when fear causes us to close our minds to anything new. Holy God, you call us to bear with one another in love. Forgive us when we cannot love our neighbors. Forgive us when we cannot love ourselves. 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

Marianna Dunn

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 12:28-34

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

Sermon

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 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 1** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* Heber/Dykes

Minute for Stewardship *Treats, not Tricks*

Cille Griffith

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Pete and Nancy Deichmann to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents and Betsy Deichmann Monroe.

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.

Almighty God, with Isaiah the prophet, we give you thanks—for the promise of your heavenly banquet, a feast of rich food and well-aged wine; for the strength of your steadfast love, destroying the shroud of sin and shame; for the gift of your saving grace, our long-awaited day of deliverance. Therefore, we rejoice in you, singing with the saints of every age:

**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 Mary and Martha, we remember Jesus— his liberating word and healing touch, his saving death and life-giving resurrection, his promised return and glorious realm. With thanksgiving, we remember the meal he celebrated with his disciples, inviting us to remember, with our minds, hearts, and lives. As often as we share this bread and cup, we proclaim the saving death of the living Lord, until he comes in glory to reign. Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, as we share this feast of bread and wine. Make us one in the body of Christ our Lord and one in the company of your saints, that we may be one in ministry to this broken and hurting world. Show us the paths to peace and wholeness, that we may bind up the wounds of our

world, help calm fears and allay anxieties, and be agents of justice and reconciliation. Help us to pray for those who are our enemies, for those who flee the storms that rage around them, those who flee the fear that inhabits their lives. Then teach us with the wisdom of the saints, and help us to live as they did, full of confidence and hope. Hear us now, as we name before you those of our number whose absence, we feel so keenly here this day:

Mary Monte, Dec. 4, 2020

Carl McMath, Dec. 6, 2020

Christopher Chason, Dec. 14, 2020

James Kunz, Jan. 4, 2021

Don Silver, Jan. 28, 2021

Harry Studstill, April 20, 2021

Edna Harkins, April 24, 2021

George Runser, April 26, 2021

Mae Young, April 22, 2021

Frank Yeager, May 15, 2021

Merle Stone, May 24, 2021

Daphne Pope, June 26, 2021

Donald Kennedy, July 3, 2021

Sherry Springer, Sept. 15, 2021

Pat Zeleniak, Sept. 24, 2021

Roy Hawk, Oct. 18, 2021

And hear us as we name aloud before you now, those loved ones we have entrusted into your eternal care . . .

And now, with John of Patmos, we look with hope—for the coming of your new creation, a new heaven and a new earth; for an end to suffering and mourning when every tear will be wiped away; for the fulfillment of your ancient promise on the day when you make all things new. Through Christ, the Alpha and Omega, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, O God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

James Pethel

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: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

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. The nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15am-12:15pm. 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

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 14th (at 11:00) or the 22st (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 or 252-637-3270).

Youth Fellowship

No meeting of JOY (Just Older Youth) tonight. See you at the Fall Festival!

Family Fall Festival

We will host a Fall Festival TODAY 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!

Youth Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

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 OR you can still order through one of our JOY youth group members! **Ordering is open now until Dec. 1st**, and wreaths will be shipped directly to your home.

Fellowship Meal

The November Fellowship Meal is on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 5:30-7pm** in the Fellowship Center. A Thanksgiving-themed meal will be served including turkey, ham, dressing, green bean casserole and other traditional holiday favorites. Takeout meals will be available beginning at 5:30 pm for immediate pickup. Please email (church@firstpresnb.org) or call the Church to indicate your intentions to attend no later than **TODAY at 5:00 pm**. Please let us know if you would like take-out meals.

Children's Choirs will begin meeting in November

We will learn some songs for the Candlelight Service Dec. 12 and the Christmas Eve Service, both to be held outside.

Covenant Choir (grades 2-5) will meet Monday November 8, from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Choir Room.

Kinderchoir (Kindergarten and First Grade) will meet Tuesday, November 9, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the Choir Room.

You may register online on our website, or by filling out registration cards available in the Narthex and Vestibule.

Donations of Teacups and Saucers Needed

Habitat for Humanity of Craven County is hosting a Women's Tea Fundraiser for International Women's Day on March 8, 2022. 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 or (252) 633-9599, ext. 104. A small donation like this can help build homes, communities, and hope in big ways!

First Presbyterian's William Lee Hawkins Library

If you happened to miss the tour of the recently relocated William Lee Hawkins Library on October 17th but are interested in figuring out the lay of the land, how to access the computerized card catalogue, and actually find those books you deserve to be reading this fall and winter, please call Wendy Moeller (876-7259) or Carol Hale (626-8080) to schedule a personally customized experience at some time of your convenience.

Chairs?

The William Lee Hawkins Library would love to receive two reading/easy chairs for people to enjoy while they are visiting the library. If you have one (or two) in good condition that might work, please contact the church office.

Operation Jammies for Coastal Women's Shelter

Each year we collect "new" pajamas for every mother and child receiving services from the Coastal Women's Shelter. For the children, size 6 months to 16 for both boys and girls are needed. The sizes needed for women range from small to XXL. There is a collection bin inside the main entrance to the Ministry Center. You can also drop off the pajamas on Sunday morning. Pajamas will be collected until **December 20, 2021**. Also, remember that you can always donate to Coastal Women's Shelter through Gifts of the Heart.

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)

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

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

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 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 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 4th Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

We are reading “No Cure for Being Human: and other truths I need to hear” by Kate Bowler. 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).

Presbyterian (and friends) Sunday Afternoon at the Brewery
Open to anyone interested in beer and theology! We will meet the first Sunday of the month, **November 7**, at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4pm. This will be a casual gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

Sunday Afternoon Men's Beer and Theology led by Ken Wilkins at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **November 21** (on the third Sunday of the month). This will be a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith.

Special Lecture on November 21

The Education Commission is excited to announce a special lecture on the history of New Bern and how that history has shaped our community today. Local historian Bernard George will present a lecture entitled "New Birth of Freedom: The Early African American Experience in New Bern." Bernard George is a former member of the Board of Directors of the New Bern Historical Society and was awarded the Education Award which acknowledged all his work to share New Bern History, most especially our African American history. He was instrumental in the creation of the New Bern African American Heritage Trail. Bernard George's family has lived for nine generations in Craven County. This lecture, and accompanying time of questions and answers, will take place on Sunday, **November 21** from 9:40-10:40am in the Session House.

Church Email List and Church Newsletter

We communicate a lot of things happening in the life of the church through emails using Constant Contact. If you would like to receive regular announcements or the newsletter, or both, please contact Cathy Wingfield (cathy@firstpresnb.org) or sign up on the church website!