

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

27 November 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Wait for the Lord

Taizé/Berthier

Advent Candle Lighting

One candle to remind us of the prophets, who believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ. As we hear in the ninth chapter of Isaiah, the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. Let us pray: **Living God, we thank you for faithful people of every age. We pray that we, too, may have faith, in spite of darkness in our times, and may look for the coming of Jesus into our world. Amen.**

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God who is with us, and God who is on the way, we confess that we do not wait or watch for you. Works based in fear encumber and distract us. Petty jealousies, hard quarrels, ambitions rooted in selfish desires—they command our attention. We have ceased to hope for peace and harmony among the nations or for security apart from the defenses we construct. We hear your promises, Lord, but dare not trust them.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

God of power and love, awaken us to hope and fit us for your coming, that we may watch for you with confidence and joy.

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

Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:36-44

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

Sermon

Waiting for Jesus, Again

Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Anthem

Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation

Housman/Shaw

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and
Sanctuary Choirs

The prayer of confession is from *Call to Worship, Volume 41.1* ©2007 Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Affirmation of Faith is found in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Common Worship and is based on scripture: *1 Cor. 15:1-6; Mark 16:9 (16:1-9); Matt. 16:16; Rev. 22:13; John 20:28*

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Bookmark the church calendar! www.firstpresnb.org/calendar

Sunday, Nov. 27	9:40-10:40 am	Advent Craft Fair (J. Murphy Smith Center)
	4:00 pm	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir) - canceled
Monday	10:30 am	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team
	12:00 pm	Divine Sleep Yoga Class
	2:00 pm	Knit 4 Others
	3:45-5:00 pm	Covenant Choir (grades K-5)
	6:00 pm	Administration Commission
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (via Zoom)
	10:00 am	Program Staff Meeting
	10:30 am	Full Staff Meeting
	2:30 pm	Pickleball (J. Murphy Smith Center)
Wednesday	11:45 am	Preschool Choir
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer
	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
Thursday	2:30 pm	Pickleball (J. Murphy Smith Center)
	5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Daybreak & Sanctuary)
Saturday	10:00 am	Pickleball (J. Murphy Smith Center)
Sunday, Dec. 4	8:30 am	Worship
	9:15-10:15 am	Fellowship Café (Ministry Center)
	9:40-10:40 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
	4:00 pm	Sanctuary Bells (Handbell Choir)
	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Youth Group (grades 6-12)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Offering – Deadline today!

In response to the devastation wrought by recent hurricanes Ian and Fiona, the Session has approved a special offering designated for Hurricane Relief. To contribute, simply write “Hurricane” on an envelope or in the memo line of a check or choose “Hurricane Relief” as your fund in the online giving portal.

New Member’s Classes

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian? We will offer New Member’s classes on Sunday, **December 4** and Sunday, **December 11** with a worshipful welcome either at the 11:00 worship service on December 11 or the 8:30 service on December 18. If you’d like to know more, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight. (anna@firstpresnb.org).

Congregational Meeting – December 4

The Session has called a congregational meeting to be held during the 11:00 worship service (approximately 10:45) to hear the report of the Nominating Committee for the election of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee as well as fill the one vacant spot on the Session in the class of 2025. More information about the slate of candidates will be available and a zoom link will be emailed in the Sunday Morning email for those who cannot be present in person at the 11:00 worship service. If you need to be added to that email list please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

❖ 9:40 am-10:40 am: 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

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, 9:40 am-10:40 am

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor (not meeting on Nov. 27, resuming on Dec. 4)

The class is studying “God’s Exceptional Choice” for the fall. Contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions.

C.S. Lewis’s Narnia – December 4, 11, 18 – Session House Main Room

Taught by Jessica Skinner. Advent in Narnia. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are themes throughout the Advent Season. Take some time to join us in discovering and reflecting on these themes with the classic novel, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. We will spend three weeks in Advent using the book and a variety of other sources to help guide the discussions about Advent and the reflections in Narnia. If you would like a copy of the C. S. Lewis book, please let us know. A copy of *The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe* is \$9.00, and a box set of the Chronicles of Narnia is \$21.00. This class is suitable for Narnia fans of all ages—children and youth are welcome!

Midweek Opportunities

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 (410 507-5508, dianeelliott0@gmail.com) The class is free, but donations are accepted.

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

We meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 via Zoom and are reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. The book is available from Amazon, new or used. 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.

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 - Wednesday evenings, 5:00-5:30 pm

Led by Lloyd Griffith, this service in FPC's chapel is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on Biblical text. The Lord's Supper is observed on the 4th Wednesday.

Pickleball! What is Pickleball? A relatively new sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. You are invited to join in the fun on most Tuesdays (2:30), Thursdays (2:30), and Saturdays (10:00) in the J. Murphy Smith Center (Middle Street). No experience is necessary, and this group loves welcoming new members and visitors!

SERVICE AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Operation Jammies

The goal is to collect "new" pajamas, robes, and booties, for mothers and children receiving services from Coastal Women's Shelter. For the children, the sizes needed are 6 months to 16 for both boys and girls. The women's sizes range from Small – XXL. Collection bins are inside the main entrance of the Ministry Center and the items will be collected until **December 19th**.

RCS Donations Needed

The following items are needed: pasta, Tuna Helpers (or beef, etc.), canned beans, dry beans, peanut butter, ramen noodle soups, rice (1 or 2 lb. bags), socks, underwear, winter coats, blankets/comforters. You can leave donations in the marked containers inside the entrance of the Ministry Center or take them to RCS!