

## Serving Today

### Ushers:

8:25a.m. Jay Haggard (Head) Ray Callahan, Sue Callahan, Mark Dail, Mara Edmister, Margaret Heberlein, Joyce Weaver

10:55a.m. Alan Avery (Head), Marge Avery, Jim Copland, Margaret Colbert, Wendy Yager, Tracy Fritzsche, Nancy Melling, George Moore

### Greeters:

8:25a.m. Janelle Haggard

10:55 a.m. Dr. & Mrs. Wood Gibbs & Family

Lectionary Reading for December 22, 2019

Isa. 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

We are blessed to have Ann Courtney, flutist, with us in worship this morning. Thanks be to God for Ann's gift of music to our congregation.

**WELCOME** guests! 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.

**WORSHIP SYMBOLS** \* Please rise in body or spirit

**CHILDREN** are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. Beginning at 8:30AM, our paid and background-checked nursery workers would be honored to care for your little ones (infants-4 years). Please see an usher for directions to the nursery (room 1.23 in the Ministry Center). The nursery is available for nursing at any time. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder. For those 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up, ask an usher for worship bags for your child(ren).

**RESTROOMS** are available in the Ministry Center (including a family restroom with changing table) and the Session House.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Hearing assistance devices with ear coverings are available and large print hymnals are available in the last row of pews. Please ask an usher if you have need. Wheelchair accessibility is provided by ramps on either side of the Sanctuary and in back of the Ministry Center.

## Session 2019

Eddie Bellis, Moderator, Maren Sonstegard-Spray, Karen Reed, Clerk

### Administration

Chris Kelso '19  
Betsy Conzelman '20  
Trudy Martin '20

### Education

Jennifer East '19  
David Hale '20  
Janet Bryan '20

### Care

Becky Nohr '19  
Polly Frank '20  
Doug Phelps '19

### Fellowship

Cathy Warren '20  
Peter Moeller '20  
Beth Foley '21

### Worship

Janelle Haggard '21  
Gayle Hardy '21  
George Moore '21

### Communications

Susan Ryan '19  
Oscara Stevick '19  
Jim Findley '21

### Outreach

Bruce Pollock '21  
Peggy Clark '21  
Bill Harris, '19

### Pastoral & Program Staff

- \* The Rev. Eddie Bellis, *Interim Pastor*
- \* The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray, *Associate Pastor*
- \* The Rev. Lloyd Griffith, *Parish Associate*
- \* Daewon Goldenbaum-Yang, *Director of Education and Youth Ministry*

### Music Program Staff

- \* Pat K. Rowlett, *Director of Music*
- Vance Harper Jones, *Organist*
- Susan Mabie, *Director, Resurrection Singers*
- Cindy Sutton, *Assistant Organist and Pianist*
- Dru Wilkins, *Music Assistant*

### Office and Support Staff

- \* Tommy Hall, *Administrative Coordinator*
- \* Priscilla Miller, *Interim Office Administrator*
- \* Cathy Wingfield, *Communications Coordinator*
- \* Amber Zapffel, *Financial Secretary*
- \* Kerri Wheeler, *Children's Worship*
- James Briley, Jr., *Treasurer*
- Louis Foye, *Sexton*
- Lisa Wood, *Nursery Coordinator*
- Cindi DeVoe, *Nursery Staff*
- Missy Dixon, *Nursery Staff*

### Pre-school

- \* Kerri Wheeler, *Director of Preschool*

You can contact persons designated \* by replacing their first names as in the example for our pastor: [maren@firstpresnb.org](mailto:maren@firstpresnb.org)

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW BERN

ORGANIZED 1817



John the Baptist in Prison, woodcut from a book by Martin Luther, 1483-1546

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 15, 2019

— Eight Twenty-five and Ten Fifty-five a.m. —

**Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World**

400 New Street  
New Bern, NC 28560

Phone : 252-637-3270

Fax: 252-637-4494

Email: [church@firstpresnb.org](mailto:church@firstpresnb.org)

Website: [www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)

*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*

If you wish to share a joy or concern with the pastoral staff, please write it on the tan prayer card found in the pew rack. We will collect these cards in the offering. If you wish the prayer to remain confidential, place the card in a provided privacy envelope. The Prayer of Preparation is offered to assist you. *Please silence or turn off cell phones.*

### Prayer of Preparation

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.

### Welcome

Following the “Chiming of the Trinity” and during the “Prelude,” please enter a period of silent meditation.

### Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** *People Look East!* Lovelace

**Introit** *Light of Glory* Martin

### Announcements

**Advent Candle Lighting** Isaiah 35:1-8a

Be strong! Do not fear!

**The wilderness will become a place of joy.**

**The desert will become a field for harvest.**

Be strong! Do not fear!

**The drought will break with a spring of water. The weeds and wild shrubs will become a highway for all God’s children.**

Do not let your head or your heart or your body hold you back!

**The highway will not be a place of fear but of fellowship.**

**All will sing and dance with joy, and none will be lost.**

God is coming. Do not fear!

Response (to the tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

**O come now, living water, pour your grace,**

**And bring new life to ev’ry withered place;**

**Speak comfort to each trembling heart:**

**“Be strong! Fear not, for I will ne’er depart.”**

**Rejoice, rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,**

**God’s chosen one, Immanuel, draws near.**

\* **Hymn 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Wesley/Prichard

### \* Prayer of Confession

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.**

(Silent confession)

\* **Kyrie Eleison** John Merbecke



\* **Assurance of Pardon**

\* **Response 437** *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* Wetzell



\* **Summary of the Law**

**“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.’”** Matthew 22:37-39

\* **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**(10:55) The Sacrament of Baptism and Children’s Moment**

Hymn 95 (sung twice) *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

Baptism of John Caison Aycock, son of Dan and Kate Aycock  
Elder: Oscara Stevick

\* Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 486 to tune #83 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* Copes

Children’s Moment Skip Bradley & Maren Sonstegard-Spray

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.**

Hymn 95 (sung twice) *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

*Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along your pew and place prayer request cards in the offering plate.*

Offertory *Come, O Child of Light* Larson

Resurrection Singers; Ann Courtney, flute

\* Doxology Hymn 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

**Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

\* **Hymn 93** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Weissel/1778

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson** Psalm 146:5-10 OT pg. 581  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** *Bethlehem Wind* Martin  
Resurrection Singers; Cindy Sutton, piano  
Winston Dixon, bass; Ann Courtney, flute

**Second Lesson** Matthew 11:2-11 NT pg. 11  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

\* **Hymn 109** *Blest Be the God of Israel* Perry/Hopson

**Moment for Mission** Christmas Joy Offering

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Daewon and Laura Goldenbaum-Yang to the glory of God in memory of their mother, Won Ho Kim.*

**Prayers of the People and (8:25) The Lord’s Prayer**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Response Hymn 90** *Wait for the Lord* Taizé/Berthier  
**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!**

\* **Postlude** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Cassler