

## Serving Today

### Ushers:

8:25a.m. Jay Haggard (Head), Mark Dail, Margaret Heberlein, Don Ingraham, Bruce Pollock, Ruth Swank, Joyce Weaver  
 10:55a.m. David Stevick (Head), John Robert Mattocks, Wood Mattocks, Wood Gibbs, Linda Palmer, Olivia Brinson, Lora Starr, Hal Vandersea

### Greeters:

8:25a.m. Janelle Haggard  
 10:55 a.m. Margaret Colbert

Lectionary Reading for December 29, 2019

Isaiah 63:7-9                      Matthew 2:13-23  
 Hebrews 2:10-18

**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.

FROM THE TREASURER: Please try to "catch up" your 2019 support to our Operating Fund. YTD contributions at November 30 are \$32,663 less than 2018.

	<u>11/30/19</u>	<u>11/30/18</u>
Contributions to Operating Fund	\$ 726,389	\$ 759,052
Monthly RCS Offering	\$ 21,127	\$ 21,214
Bicentennial Fund	\$ 113,443	\$ 131,117

## Session 2019

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

### Administration

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

### Care

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

### Communications

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

### Education

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

### Fellowship

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

### Outreach

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

### Worship

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

### Pastoral & Program Staff

- \* The Rev. Edward 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)

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 Phone: 252-637-3270 Fax: 252-637-4494  
[church@firstpresnb.org](mailto:church@firstpresnb.org) [www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW BERN

ORGANIZED 1817

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World



Joseph's Dream, David Martin, 1639-1721

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent December 22, 2019

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

*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.*

The Prayer of Preparation is offered to assist you. 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. *Please silence or turn off cell phones.*

### Prayer of Preparation

God of Advent, we pray for those who live in conflict, that they will be protected. Show us how we can be peacemakers in our own relationships, our own families and workplaces, and in the world. Amen.

### Welcome

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

### Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* Pethel

**Introit** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Polish carol

### Announcements

**Advent Candle Lighting** Isaiah 7:13-16

Come. The days are long, the nights are longer.  
If you are tired, seek a sign of the LORD God.

**Can a sign make it all better?**

Come. Here are honey and bread for comfort.

**Waiting for God’s fulfillment can be discouraging.**

Come. Here is the promise of Immanuel, God With Us.

**Pay attention to the signs.**

God knows we need a sign. Be prepared and welcome the signs.

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

**O come, dear child of Mary, come,  
God’s Word made flesh within our earthly home;  
Love stir within the womb of night,  
Revenge and hatred put to flight.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,  
God’s chosen one, Immanuel, draws near.**

\* **Hymn 119** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* Wesley/Mendelssohn

### \* Prayer of Confession

**You shower gifts on us, O God, and forgive our faults. Yet, we keep accounts and settle old scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of reconciliation and hope. Yet, we make war and call it peacekeeping. You give us a source of confidence and comfort as your Spirit is sent into our midst. Yet, in our anxiety and self-concern, we cause others to be restless. Have mercy upon us, forgive and free us, that we may be renewed to serve your people with goodwill. (Silent confession)**

\* **Kyrie Eleison** John Merbecke



\* **Assurance of Pardon**

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



\* **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) **Children’s Moment** Pat Rowlett

Hymn 137, verse 1

*He Came Down*

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; Hallelujah, forevermore.**

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 137, verse 2 *He Came Down*

**He Came down that we may have light...**

### 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 *People, Look East* French tune  
(8:25) Daybreak Choir (10:55) Sanctuary Choir arr. Rowlett

\* **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**

**O Christ, the stage is set for the presentation of your gift of life, and we are part of the company of players. As the curtain is about to rise, we prepare ourselves for our roles. We commit what we have to your drama that changes lives. Help us to step onto the stage with anticipation and boldness. May we know the script so well that we shall not falter as we share your gift, and ours. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.**

\* **Hymn 132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* German tune

### Prayer of Illumination

**First Lesson** Romans 1:1-7 NT pg. 152  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** *Away in a Manger* K. Lee Scott  
(8:25) Daybreak Choir (10:55) Sanctuary Choir

**Second Lesson** Matthew 1:18-25 NT pg. 1  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Keep Calm and Carry On* The Rev. Bellis

\* **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 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High* French carol

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Albert and Norma Morra in loving memory of her parents Charles and Hazel Hartman and his father Albert Morra.*

*The sympathy of the congregation goes to Louise Portis and Archie Portis Jr. on the death of husband and father Archie Portis Sr. on December 12. Archie was a veteran of WWII.*

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

\* **Benediction**

\* **Benediction Response** *He Came Down* Cameroon song  
**He came down that we may have peace...**

\* **Postlude** *Come, Thou Savior of Mankind* J.S. Bach