



13 February 2022
6th Sunday after
Epiphany

Youth Sunday

*Shaw Butte School Mosaic,
ca. 21st century, Shaw Butte
Elementary School, Phoenix, AZ,
from Art in the Christian
Tradition, a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Guide my steps as I face choices to care for the earth or not, to show compassion toward others or not, to care for myself or not, to be true to Christ or not. May each of my choices draw me closer to you. Amen.

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *This is My Father's World* arr. P. Keveren

Introit *O God, You Are My God* Strasser

*Call to Worship

Marshall Hinckley

When we turn our hearts away from God and toward ourselves,
putting trust in our own strength,
**we become like a shrub in the desert,
living in a parched, salty place.**

When we trust in God, when our trust *is* God,
we are like a tree planted by water.

**Our roots go deep, we are ever-green;
even in a drought we are not anxious,
but bear fruit, full and beautiful,
gifts of the God who made us.**

Anthem *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* Williams/Hughes

Confession *Max Mills*

**God of judgment and renewal, we admit to you and to each other that we
have not always loved you and our neighbors as fully as you call us to love.
We have failed to be good stewards of the air, the water, the animals, and the**

plants. We have turned away from you and toward our own self-interest. We have been shortsighted, and we are humbly sorry. Help us turn back to you, O Lord, to reach toward you as a tree sends its roots out toward water. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

James Mattocks

Summary of the Law

Katelyn Bryan

“‘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

(11am) **Children’s Moment**

Middy Hinckley and Mary Neal Cheek

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

*2nd-grade children or younger may depart for Children’s
Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center*

Anthem

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

McNeill

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Brent Hinkley

Lesson

Jeremiah 17:5–10

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

Sermon

Elder Brent Hinkley

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

Hannah Henderson

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.

Anthem

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

Jernigan

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Josh and Denise Willey to the glory of God and in honor of Tommy Hall, a beloved longtime Sweetheart to First Presbyterian Church.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Benediction

Elder Brent Hinkley

Postlude

How Majestic is Your Name

Michael W. Smith

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.

The Offering taken at the doors by the Youth is our Souper Bowl of Caring Offering which supports hunger relief efforts in our community. The money raised goes to RCS which serves hot meals every day.

Prayers reprinted by permission of *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1* © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press.

Youth Ushers: Ben Copland, MC Grady, James Holton, Jamey Spruill
Souper Bowl of Caring Ushers: member of SALT (3rd-5th grade)

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

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

MASKS are required in the Sanctuary for the time being. At a meeting of the Worship Commission on December 22, it was decided to return to a mask requirement for worship and to put a pause on singing by the choir and the congregation. It is our hope that this will be a short-lived pause until we have a better grasp on the effects of the Omicron variant. As always, if you have had an exposure to someone with Covid-19 or have symptoms that indicate a possible Covid-19 infection, we hope you will either receive a negative test before coming to worship or choose to worship online via the video or podcast.

These changes to our Covid-19 response are communicated by email and will be shared on our website and Facebook page. If you'd like to be added to this email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Empty Bowls

(a joint outreach of Religious Community Services and The Craven Arts Council & Gallery) Thursday, **February 24, 2022**, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Temple Church, 1500 Kingdom Way, New Bern. Empty Bowls tickets are now on sale! Tickets are \$30 each. Proceeds go to support the Arts and to feed the hungry. At the event, you will be served your choice of two bowls of soup prepared by participating area restaurants and churches. Also, you will be invited to choose a pottery bowl, handmade by a local potter, to take home! It is a fun festive event!

Tickets are \$30 each and are available at the Bank of the Arts, Fuller's Music, or Mitchell's Hardware. For more information call: (252) 638-2577 or www.emptybowlsnewbern.org

Financial Administrator

First Presbyterian Church is seeking a Financial Administrator. The Financial Administrator supports the mission of the church by working closely with the pastors, church treasurer and the Budget and Finance Committee to ensure good stewardship of the church's financial assets by receiving and processing all incoming monetary contributions and other cash receipts, by maintaining accurate financial records and reports, and by disbursing funds in compliance with controls established by the treasurer and Budget and Finance Committee to safeguard the church's funds. The position completes the payroll and compiles tax-related documents pertaining to employees. It also tracks tuition and fees for the Preschool. The Financial Administrator is supervised by, and answers to, the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. It is a full-time position that includes benefits. Due to sensitive contribution information, it is the practice not to hire current church members. Please contact David Taylor, Personnel Committee Chairman (cdtaylor695@gmail.com), if you know a qualified person who would be interested.

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

The church is also looking for a Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry. That person will support the mission of First Presbyterian Church by developing

and nurturing a youth ministry, overseeing children and youth education, and creating a family ministry that integrates young families into the congregation in a meaningful experience that includes worship, study, fellowship and service to our members and the community. The position is supervised by the Associate Pastor, and it is a full-time position with benefits. The duties of the position include but are not limited to the following:

- Develop Youth Group activities that attract individuals and focus on Christian fellowship and service to the church and community
- Develop and oversee the Children's and Youth Ministry Christian education programs of the church, and
- Create a family ministry involving young families in the congregation in meaningful activities including worship, study, fellowship, and service.

Please contact David Taylor, Personnel Committee Chairman (cdtaylor695@gmail.com), if you know a qualified person who would be interested.

Help Out with Habitat – Meals Needed

Habitat for Humanity is excited to welcome the following schools this spring for Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break: Sacred Heart University (Connecticut), Franklin Pierce University (New Hampshire), Eastern Connecticut State University, Elmhurst University (Illinois), University of Delaware, and Hartwick College (New York). Help us demonstrate some southern hospitality through food and fellowship. Location will be updated closer to the date, but most likely all sites will be located in the Pembroke community. If you would like to provide lunch or dinner for these students, have a desire to host students at your home or a restaurant, or provide a gift card, you can reach out to Catherine Campbell directly (ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org OR 252-633-9599, ext. 104). If you are able, please plan to stick around for fellowship after dropping off a meal.

An Evening to Celebrate Women: Habitat for Humanity of Craven County

International Women's Day will be celebrated by Habitat for Humanity of Craven County with a "Perceiving Strength" Tea & Fundraiser event on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022**, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Harrison Center on Middle

Street. In addition to tea served in beautiful china teacups, and a selection of delicious pastries and finger sandwiches, a silent auction will offer an opportunity to bid on a variety of great items. Tickets are \$25 per person, or \$200 for a table of 8 guests, and can be purchased by contacting Catherine Campbell at Habitat for Humanity at 252-633-9599, ext.104, or ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org. Additional donations, or Regrets with a donation, are always welcome.

Education

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

Sunday School for Children

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

Praying in Color/Sue Callahan – Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center)

Maybe you love color. Maybe you are a visual learner, a distractible or impatient soul, or a word-weary pray-er. Perhaps you struggle with a short attention span, a restless body, or a tendency to live in your head. The prayer practice “Praying in color,” by Sybil MacBeth, invites your hands as well as your mind into prayer and gives you a new way to be with God. Join us for a class that explores various ways doodling can be used to pray for others and ourselves. No art experience is required, and supplies will be provided. For more information contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org)

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class is currently studying the series “Justice, Law, History” in Old Testament texts. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Getting Old – Growing Gracefully/Lloyd Griffith – Ministry Center Room 2.21 and Zoom

“The laws of nature that dictate sundown dictate our demise.” This final part of our journey raises inevitable questions: What is our relationship with the younger generation? What is truth? What is the connection between work and vocation? How can I stay engaged with the outer life? How can I stay engaged with the inner life? Where do I go when I die? How we respond to these built-in concerns is ours to choose. We can answer this inevitable aging process with denial or defiance and find ourselves on a passage of decline and inaction.

OR...we can collaborate faithfully with this unique section on the arc of life and find ourselves on a different passage of engagement and discovery of a Holy energy holding and guiding us along the path. This Sunday School class meets at 9:40 am in room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center) and **on Zoom**. We will be guided through these challenges of the journey by Parker Palmer’s “On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity and Getting Older.” Please contact the church office or Lloyd Griffith to register for this class. Inquiries welcome!

Law and Religion/James R. Copland – Session House Main Room

America’s original constitution did not expressly cover the relationship between church and state. But the Bill of Rights—insisted upon by some states, including North Carolina, as a precondition for joining the union—led off with it: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” This course will cover the historical background framing the First Amendment’s religion clauses; the evolution of Supreme Court doctrine interpreting them, and modern cases and controversies. Copland is formerly a Coker Fellow in constitutional law at the Yale Law School, but the course is intended for a general, rather than a legal, audience. Where appropriate, Biblical

interpretation and discussion will be incorporated to augment the discussion of law. This class meets at 9:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

Glittering Vices: A look at the Seven Deadly Sins/Maren Sonstegard-Spray - Session House Main Room - Starting February 20

During the season of Lent, a time of self-examination and reflection, let's take a closer look at the seven deadly sins (also known as the seven capital vices). The study of vices has a revealing and illuminating power and can be the starting point for spiritual growth. We will be guided by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung's book "Glittering Vices" (but no need to buy the book) and feel free to join in for any of the classes. We will meet 9:40-10:40am in the Session House Main Room.

Tell It Slant/Wendy Moeller - Ministry Center Room 2.21 – Starting March 6

Being offered in the Owl Classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center will be a class on Eugene Peterson's book *Tell it Slant*. Many of you are familiar with Peterson as the author of *The Message* paraphrase of the Bible. He is also the author of several books we have previously done in Sunday school: *Traveling Light* (on Galatians) which we studied in 2011, *Leap Over a Wall* (about King David) in 2013, and *Run with the Horses* (on Jeremiah) which was used the fall of 2019 right before Covid. *Tell It Slant* spends time with Jesus and his entourage on their way from Galilee to Jerusalem as they travel through Samaria, exploring eleven parables in ten chapters in the middle of the Gospel of Luke. Peterson does not disappoint! The class which starts Sunday, **March 6**, and continues through the end of May, will be led by Wendy Moeller. You can purchase the book if you are interested in reading it; it is helpful but not necessary.

Mid-Week Formation Opportunities

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we read *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado, a well-known pastor and prolific author, familiar to many in our congregation. Lucado cautions us against living in a "me-centric" universe, which keeps us from flourishing and helping others to flourish in the "God-centric" realm in which all of us are called to live and to

serve. For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl 637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller 876-7259 (c).

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 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 Griffith for more information.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format. 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. 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 – New Book for Lent

We are starting a new book on Thursday, **March 3** and running for Lent: "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield. 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).

Sunday Afternoon Men's Beer and Theology

The next gathering of Men's Beer and Theology ("Calvin and Hops") will meet at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **February 20**, led by Ken

Wilkins. This is a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Don't let any bad weather stop you from coming – there is a nice indoor space for gathering!

Special Offering: 2022 Faith Build Information Session by Catherine Campbell - Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center) - February 20

The 2022 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build is starting in February! It is an opportunity for service and relationship building in our community. On Sunday, **February 20**, 9:40-10:40 in the Library, Catherine Campbell, the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, will walk through a history of Habitat for Humanity, how we make an impact in our community, and what volunteering looks like for all ages and abilities as the Faith Build begins. The ground-breaking will take place on Saturday, **March 12** at 2110 Pearson Street. Stay tuned for more details!

Special Offering: Suicide Prevention by Madison Crum - Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center) - February 27

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention offers hope for those in crisis and for those who have been impacted by suicide. This presentation by Madison Crum will discuss suicide research, and prevention techniques for both individuals and the community. The discussion will also offer suggestions on regaining a sense of hope after losing a loved one to suicide.

Flowers for Church

Would you like to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary, or honor a loved one who has passed? February 27 and other dates in the spring are available. The sign-up sheet is in a pink folder in the Narthex.

Looking for Reception Volunteers

If you enjoy working with friendly people in a terrific environment and can volunteer your time on weekdays from either 9 am-1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office (252-637-3270). We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers!