



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

6 March 2022
1st Sunday of Lent

Worship for the Lord's Day

Prayer of Preparation

*Spirit of the desert, you drove Jesus to the edge of the world to find his truth and calling:
scour our hearts and awaken our hunger that freed from empty clinging
we might find ourselves in you; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the wilds. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Carl Piutti

Introit

The Glory of These Forty Days

Gregory/1543/Bach

***Call to Worship**

Remember the story of our faith.

We are the people God has delivered.

Rejoice in the hope of our faith.

God goes with us, step by step.

Cling to the promise of our faith.

Our God will not abandon us. Let us worship God!

***Hymn 166**

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Hernaman/1562

Confession

As Lent unfolds before us, great God, we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem. The road is long, our sins are many, and our burdens are heavy. We can't imagine new life, Easter life, because our current lives are filled with poor choices and less-than-faithful efforts. Meet us in our weakness. Take up our sins. Ease our burdens. Carry us on the way.

(Pause for a time of silent confession)

Bring us to Jerusalem, at last.

**Show us a love that is stronger than death,
a love no tomb can hold. Amen.**

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.’”

(11 am) Children’s Moment

The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

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

Anthem

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

American Spiritual

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Luke 4:1-13

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Declaration of Faith, 1977

Jesus was what we are. He grew up in a family and a society troubled by the common problems of the world. His knowledge was limited by his time and place in history. He felt deeply the joy of friendship and the hurt of being rejected. Jesus prayed, struggled with temptation, knew anger, and was subject to suffering and death. He was like us in every way except sin. Jesus was what we should be. He served his Father with complete trust and unwavering obedience. He loved all kinds of people and accepted their love. In constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit, Jesus allowed no temptation or threat to keep him from loving God with his whole being and his neighbor as himself. We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be. He exposes our failure to live as he lived. He demonstrates the new humanity God promises to give us through him.

***Hymn 175**

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Pat and Marge Avery to the glory of God and in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on March 11.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our refuge and fortress, our shelter and shade, **Hear our prayer, O God.**

Response

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Taizé/Berthier

Benediction

Postlude

Worrisome Forty Days Blues

Martha Mier

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 prayer of preparation is from Steven Shakespeare, “Prayers for an Inclusive Church.” (New York: Church Publishing, 2009).

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession is from *Call to Worship: Volume 55.1 Lectionary Aids 2021–2022, Year C* ©2021 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

**To see art focused on
and inspired by
today's scripture
reading,
look here:**



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 now optional for worship and church activities, following current medical advice and decreasing infection and hospitalization numbers. We encourage anyone who has a need or will be more comfortable wearing a mask to please feel free to do so. The Session continues to monitor the situation and changes will be noted on our website and communicated by email. If you'd like to be added to the church email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting TODAY

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called our annual meeting for **March 6, 2022**. It will be held during both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services to receive the annual report from Jim Briley, treasurer, and Anna Pinckney Straight, pastor.

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Groundbreaking – THIS SATURDAY

Habitat for Humanity of Craven County invites you to join us THIS SATURDAY, **March 12**, at 9:00 am for our Faith Build Groundbreaking Ceremony! The Faith Build construction site will be located at 2007 Pearson Street in the Pembroke neighborhood. Parking will be available across the street. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception at the Pembroke Community Center (2000 Moore Ave). All are welcome!

ESL Classes

ESL classes will resume at First Presbyterian Church in March with first classes on Monday, **March 7**, at 10:00 am, and Saturday, **March 12**, at 9:00am. We are especially excited to restart this English literacy program for our Montagnard community after two years of the Covid shutdown. To ensure we have a smooth-running operation, **we need additional tutor volunteers**. We strive to have our tutors typically tutor twice a month for an hour to an hour and a half at a time. We provide training so prior tutoring experience is not necessary. Contact Gene Peele (gpeele@centurylink.net) if you are interested in learning more about our ESL program or shadowing one of our tutors to see how it works.

Crisis in Ukraine – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces; and have lost power, been cut off from water and fuel. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies. The UN anticipates that as many as 6.7 million will be displaced internally. Likewise,

Ukrainians are fleeing to neighboring countries, primarily to Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, while others have moved to other European countries. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working to fund sister churches and partner ecumenical organizations already in place in the region. To help support this work: Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Nominations for Session Class of 2025

The Session Nominating Committee would like the Congregation to nominate members for the Session class of 2025. Please prayerfully consider those whom you think would be willing to serve the Church. Please make sure the person you nominate would be able to do this. You may email your nominations to Margaret Cooper at cooperme@embarqmail.com or you can fill out the nomination form and leave it in the basket in the Narthex. Please have the nominations by **March 13**.

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).

Confirmation for 8th and 9th Graders

Confirmation is a time when, through study and prayer, youth prepare to profess their faith and take the vows of membership in the church. At First Presbyterian, this usually takes place in the 8th-grade year or later. We will have a Confirmation Class starting March 20 during the Sunday school hour, 9:40-10:40

am. Please contact Anna Pinckney Straight no later than March 9 about participating (anna@firstpresnb.org or (252) 637-3270).

Worship and Sacraments Class for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Graders

When a child is baptized, the parents or guardians promise to teach the child about God and God's love. At the same time, the congregation makes a promise to help the child grow in faith. As the child grows in mind and body, it is the duty of everyone in the family and faith community who loves that child, to provide opportunities for learning that will lead the child to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. At First Presbyterian Church, one of the ways we fulfill this duty is through the Worship and Sacraments Class. The Worship and Sacraments Class is for children in 2nd grade or older and their parents/guardians. The class teaches the children about the Sacraments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and components of worship. The class meets in the Session House on March 20, 27, and April 3 from 12:15-1:30 pm. Please let Maren Sonstegard-Spray know by March 9 (maren@firstpresnb.org or at (252) 637-3270) if your family will be participating.

Youth Fellowship

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, meets tonight 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house.

Save the date for VBS – June 13-17! More info to come!

Sunday School for Adults

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class is beginning a new series "God Frees and Redeems," **TODAY, March 6**. This series examines the nature of God through the lenses of liberation and Christian freedom. God's deliverance is experienced in the story of the Passover and the good news of Easter. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

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

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. Peterson is the author of The Message paraphrase of the Bible and of several books we have previously

done in Sunday school: *Traveling Light* (on Galatians), *Leap Over a Wall* (about King David) in 2013, and *Run with the Horses* (on Jeremiah). *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 today, **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.

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

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 9:40-10:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

Church Membership Class/Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight - Ministry Center Conference Room (in the Staff Office Suite)

Would you like to know more about what it means to become a member of First Presbyterian? On **March 6 and 13** we will be offering an introduction to church membership with the opportunity to become a member and be welcomed either at the 11:00 worship service on March 13 or the 8:30 worship service on March 20. If you have questions or would like to know more, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight (anna@firstpresnb.org or 252-637-3270).

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. 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

We are studying "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).

Calvin and Hops (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, **March 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 – a nice indoor space for gathering is also available!

Wine and Theology

Open to anyone interested in wine AND theology! We will meet Sunday, March 13, at Cravin' Wine (2500 Trent Rd Suite 16, located in Trent Road Plaza) at 4:00 pm. This will be a casual gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Wine will be available for purchase for \$5 a glass with some small bites to go with it. Questions? Contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Church Email List and Church Newsletter

We communicate a lot of things happening in the life of the church through emails through 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!

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 to 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!

Flowers

 If you would like to provide flowers for the church to honor an anniversary, birthday, or memorial date coming up this spring or summer, please see the Flower Calendar in the pink folder in the Narthex. If the date you want is already taken, you may also have the flowers displayed in the Narthex on that Sunday.

Nametags

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing their nametags! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where

you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: PRAYER

March 6

Jesus' Super Power: Prayer

Luke 4: 1 - 13

March 13

Coming Clean in Prayer

Luke 18: 9 - 14

March 20

Stubborn Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

March 27

Prayer is also Lament

Psalms 6 & 88

April 3

Praying without Speaking

Luke 4: 31 - 37

April 10

Praying Your Wants

Matthew 26-36

*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.*

*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.*