



*Bible Quilt, Harriet Powers, 1886, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC*

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Established 1817

**26 June 2022**

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**10:00 AM Worship**

*Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World*

## WELCOME VISITORS!

Name tags are available in the narthex and vestibule – we would love to greet you by name! Members **and** visitors are invited to sign the Friendship Pad when passed to you during the service.

Nametag questions?

Please contact

marcy@firstpresnb.org

**CHILDREN** are welcome at First Presbyterian Church! The nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool children in Room 1.23 and 1.24 in the Ministry Center from 8:30 am to 11:15 am.

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

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** and **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** with ear coverings are available in the Narthex.

## Prayer of Preparation

*Holy God, you have called a people to be your family out of every tribe, language, and nation, to love and serve you daily in a world of beauty, complexity, and diversity. Help us to honor and respect the dignity of difference as we seek to be one with you and each other this day and always. Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

### Prelude

*Trust and Obey*

Staszkeski

### Introit

*Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*

Reed/Crüger

### \*Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 16 (NIV)

Keep me safe, my God,  
for in you I take refuge.

**I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
apart from you I have no good thing."**

I say of the holy people who are in the land,  
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

**Those who run after other gods  
will suffer more and more.**

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.

**The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant  
places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.

**I keep my eyes always on the Lord.**

**With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,

because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

**You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

**\*Hymn 2**      *Come, Thou Almighty King*    1757/de Giardini

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Lord God, You are the perfect Creator, and You tell us we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We confess that our pride prevents us from believing this truth. We question Your craftsmanship and often wish that you had made us a different way. We do not see each other equally or accurately. We tend to think that some are more gifted, more attractive, even more godly than others. Rather than claim Christ's righteousness for all who believe, we judge one another, even ourselves, on worldly merit. Forgive us, Lord, and heal us of this sinful tendency. Help us celebrate how You have made us in Your image with perfect purpose and care. Lord, we know that You call us into Your holy service to use our gifts to further Your Kingdom on earth. We confess that we find ourselves using our God-given gifts to further our own agendas instead of Yours. Renew our hearts and strengthen us. Be with us as we do the work You have given each of us to do.**

*Silent Confession*

## Assurance of Pardon

**MASKS** are now optional for worship and church activities.

If you would like to **FIND OUT MORE** about First Presbyterian Church, including what it means to be a member of the church, please contact [anna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:anna@firstpresnb.org)

Following the **CHILDREN'S MOMENT** in the 10:00 service, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center across the hall from the nursery. For all children in worship, there are worship bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

If you have questions about children, youth, or family ministry, please contact [catherine@firstpresnb.org](mailto:catherine@firstpresnb.org)

If you would like to receive **CHURCH EMAILS** containing news, announcements, and/or the newsletter, please contact [cathy@firstpresnb.org](mailto:cathy@firstpresnb.org).

Visit the website!  
[www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)



The prayer of preparation and prayer of confession are from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press

## 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.’”**

## Children’s Moment

The Rev. Catherine Campbell

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

**\*Hymn 543** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

Colligan

## Prayer for Illumination

## Scripture Reading

Genesis 4:1-16

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

## Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

## \*Affirmation of Faith

from A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991) Chapter 10 (4)

God’s mercy and judgment await us all.

**In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has already demonstrated his judging and saving work. We are warned that rejecting God’s love and not caring for others whom God loves results in eternal separation from him and them. Yet we are also told that God loves the whole world and wills the salvation of all humankind in Christ. We live in tension between God’s warnings and promises. Knowing the righteous judgment of God in Christ, we urge all people to be reconciled to God, not exempting ourselves from the warnings. Constrained by God’s love in Christ, we have good hope for all people, not exempting the most unlikely from the promises.**

**Judgment belongs to God and not to us. We are sure that God's future for every person will be both merciful and just.**

**\*Hymn 445**      *God, How Can We Forgive*      Duck/Jewish

**Giving of God's Tithes and our Offerings**

**Offertory**      *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*      Faber/Dutch

**\*Doxology**      Hymn 607

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ all creatures here below  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Pete and Nancy Deichmann to the glory of God and in appreciation for Maren's service and leadership to the Church the past four years.*

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

God, in your mercy, **hear our 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**

**Response**      *Lord, Make Us More Holy*      spiritual

**Postlude**      *Cantabile*      Ethel Smith

## OUR STAFF

**Anna Pinckney Straight**  
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**Louis Foye**  
Sexton

Liturgist: The Rev. Catherine Campbell

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and  
Sanctuary Choirs

Cover Image - From "A Quilted Sermon," by James Romaine: This quilt, which is known as a Bible Quilt, is by the African American artist Harriet Powers. Powers was born into slavery near Athens Georgia in 1837. She was married and had at least nine children. Powers' creative imagination comes down to us in two quilts. In this Bible Quilt Powers employs scenes from the scriptures to construct a narrative of creativity and violence, of sin and salvation. This quilt, which Powers called "the offspring of my brain," is a visual proclamation of her artistic intelligence and spiritual vision. Constructed of 11 panels arranged in 3 rows, this quilt has been called "a sermon in patchwork." What is particularly amazing about this Bible Quilt is how Powers organizes, juxtaposes, and connects the individual story panels into a visual narrative. Subjects are Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, a continuance of Paradise with Eve and a son, Satan amidst the seven stars, Cain killing his brother Abel, Cain goes into the land of Nod to get a wife, Jacob's dream, the baptism of Christ, the crucifixion, Judas Iscariot and the thirty pieces of silver, the Last Supper, and the Holy Family.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Cookout

This will be held on the Session House lawn beginning at **3:00 pm on Monday, July 4**, allowing plenty of time to fellowship prior to going off to the City of New Bern scheduled events which start at 5:30. Hamburgers, hot dogs hot off the grill, traditional cookout sides, and summertime desserts will be served. In case of inclement weather, the event will be in the J. Murphy Smith Center. Please RSVP to the church office ([church@firstpresnb.org](mailto:church@firstpresnb.org), 252-637-3270). The deadline for sign-up is Thursday, **June 30th at 5:00 pm**. Please sign up early to allow our team ample time to prepare properly.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

This summer, **Grades K-12** are welcome in the "Read this Book" class meeting in Room 2.21 from 8:40 am-9:40 am. Nursery will be available, birth to Pre-K, 8:30 am-11:15 am. Children's Church will also meet for rising grades K-2 after the Children's Moment.

Parents, drop off your kiddos **Grades K-5 at Chick-Fil-A for an hour on Wednesdays from June 22 through July 27 at 10:00 am this summer.** We will be working through a series of Bible stories where people gather to eat a meal... and the lessons they learn. *Breakfast will be provided from the kid's menu at Chick-Fil-A.* This is an opportunity for you to run errands, or perhaps join up with other parents for a little mall-walking exercise.

Youth **Grades 6-12**, mark your calendars for a Raleigh Mystery Trip on Thursday, July 21 from 8:00 am - 7:00 pm. Wear tennis shoes and bring \$20 for lunch and dinner. What's the agenda? It'll be choose your own adventure style. Open to the first 12 youth to register online.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

*Sunday Mornings, 8:40 am-9:40 am*

### **The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor**

The class is studying "Partners in a New Creation" for the summer. Contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions.

### **Read This Book Adult Sunday School – Ministry Center Room 2.21 and on Zoom**

Join us for Read This Book every Sunday in June and July. Each week a different person will present a book that informed, challenged, or inspired them, and connected with their faith. You don't have to attend every week to participate in the class, and friends and family are welcome to attend! To be included on the email list for the class, contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Schedule of presenters:

- July 3      Jim Copland, "John Witherspoon's American Revolution" by G. Mailer
- July 10     Nancy McAden, Gilead Series by Marilynne Robinson
- July 17     Lynn Gorges, "Teach a Woman to Fish: Overcoming Poverty Around the Globe" by Ritu Sharma

- July 24 Anna Pinckney Straight, "Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to The Women of The Torah and The Throne" by Wil Gafney
- July 31 Jessica Skinner, "Final Gifts: Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying" by Maggie Callahan  
*Midweek Opportunities*

### **Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group**

This new group hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-cry-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support your getting through this confusing and often painful process and putting your life back together. Our next meeting is Monday, **July 18**, from noon to 1 pm in the Chapel. All are welcome. For more information contact Anna or Maren.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month (the next meeting is on **July 12**) from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with understanding and support after someone they love dies. Come and bring a friend.

## **SERVICE AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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.

*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.*