



Naive drawing in the style of an ancient map of Jerusalem, Raphael Perez, 2011, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

27 June 2021
5th Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

through weakness. We cannot conceive how you could heal us. Forgive our lack of faith, O God, and renew our trust in you, for we would be disciples of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

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.’”

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Mark 4:35-41 and Psalm 122

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

Sermon

Vaughn Purnell

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991) Chapter 8 (4)

God sends us to exercise compassion.

In his concern for justice in the social order God has never forgotten the needs of individuals. In the end the Lord will judge all persons by the simple, unremembered acts of kindness they did or failed to do for the least of their sisters and brothers. We acknowledge God is at work here and now when people show personal concern for each other and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate. We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors. We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind; to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility. We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

Anthem

Cantate Domino
“Sing to the Lord”

James J. Chepponis

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Madison and Julie Crum to the glory of God and in loving memory of their daughter and Sampson’s mom, Mary Kate.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Dr. Mike Davis on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Delores Davis, on June 19th.

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Powell

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

A special thank you to our ushers!

Liturgist: Steve Mabie

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choir

Led by Susan Mabie

Cover Image Note from Artist: “To communicate brotherhood and peace among Islam, Christianity, and Judaism”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date

Our new Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Dr. Anna Straight's first Sunday is next Sunday, July 4th! There will be a welcome reception following each service.

Nametags

As more and more of the congregation is returning to worship in person after not seeing one another in quite a while AND in anticipation of Anna's arrival, we want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing your nametags again! 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.

Welcoming Tip of the Month

Many First Presbyterians love to sit at the end of the pew, while that middle section often has empty spots. Sometimes latecomers need a seat. When someone taps on your shoulder to get one of those empty seats in the middle, it's an opportunity for you to offer a warm welcome. You can quickly stand, offer a smile, and make room for that individual. Or...you could even slide over a couple of seats to the middle!

First Presbyterian Church identifies itself as a welcoming community of faith and intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. The Welcoming Committee over the months will be offering you monthly tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.

Flower Calendar

Do you have a family birthday, anniversary, or memorial date coming up this fall? Currently, October 10th and November 7th and 14th are open. Other dates are available to the end of the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Nursery Open

The nursery has reopened for the 11am service (from 10:30am-noon) for children, infants through second grade.

Paid Nursery Worker Recruitment

First Presbyterian Church is looking for two paid Nursery Workers and a paid Nursery Coordinator to care for our infant to four-year-old children on Sunday mornings and at special services. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have experience in caring for young children, complete a background check and complete CPR training for infants and children. Hours for the positions are normally 8:00 am – 12:30 pm. Interested individuals should send a resume to the Office Administrator at church@firstpresnb.org.

Adult Sunday school Class “Read This Book”

JOIN US for Read This Book every Sunday, 9:30-10:30am on Zoom and in person (in the large central classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center). 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).

Here is the schedule of upcoming presenters:

- **June 27** Elaine Berberich “Learning to Pray: a guide for everyone” by Fr. James Martin
- **July 4** No Class!
- **July 11** Stacey Griffith "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels" by Ken Bailey
- **July 18** Anna Straight "Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found It Again Through Science" by Mike McHargue
- **July 25** Wendy Moeller "Hope In Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter" by Timothy Keller

Adult Sunday school class “The Present Word”

George Evans is leading "The Present Word class: Call in the New Testament". The class meets IN PERSON Sunday morning 9:40-10:40am in the Session House Parlor. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Virtual VBS – Packets available

We're so excited to announce that BOLT: Totally 80s VBS is coming to your house this summer and *can be done at any time!* With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads your family step-by-step through each day, BOLT is designed to bring the fun and faith-formation of VBS to your home! Depending on your pace, you can expect that each day's experience will last about an hour and a half. It's great for kids 5 and up. This virtual VBS is designed to be completed over four days, but those days can be spread out however you want!

African Jewelry Making Workshop

Arts to End Genocide (ATEG) and Faith Connection will have a workshop in African Jewelry Making on Saturday, August 21, in the First Presbyterian Church J. Murphy Smith Center gymnasium. There will be two sessions (limit 125 each); 12:30-2:00 and 2:30-4:00. Reservations are recommended: 252-481-4772. Participants will receive a free packet of beads and materials to make a bracelet and/or earrings. Additional packets and/or individual beads will be available for purchase. This event is a benefit to help fund the relocation of 500 children out of a garbage dump in Bamako, Mali, West Africa, to a safer and healthier location.

Food 4 U

Our Food 4 U program has been restarted and is ready to go. The only thing we need is food FROM you! Food 4 U is (will be) available to be picked up anytime for your family or someone you know who needs it. There is a freezer in the Session House kitchen and containers in the pantry there. Take a container home for the next time you have extra soup, casserole or whatever and bring it in. Labels are also provided. Thank you for thinking of and caring for each other in this way! Questions? Call Polly Frank, 703-927-4626.

Notes:

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.