

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

28 August 2022

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer of Preparation

*Holy God,
we try to fix and fasten you,
but you will not be stayed.
You are love in motion:
always breathing us into being,
calling us to serve,
sustaining us in the wilderness.
Come to us as the morning breaks.
Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts
until we worship with abandon,
for we pray in the name of the Son you sent
and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

God Welcomes All

Bell/South Africa

Call to Worship

from Psalm 81

Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

I am the Lord your God,
who brought us up out of the land of Egypt.

I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock, you would satisfy us.

Sing aloud to God our strength;
Let us worship God!

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
 God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
 On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
 Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
 Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
 Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mystery, God of life,
 we imagine that we are capable judges
 of power and wisdom and goodness.
 We trust our own standards;
 we separate and categorize;
 we mark the performance of others.
 We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things.
 We fail to watch for you.

We pause for a time of silent confession

Gracious God, hidden and manifest,
 transform our withered imaginations
 until we yield the judgments we trust
 to a love we cannot control. 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.’”

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Judges 4:1-16

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's 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.

Anthem

For Where Love Is, There Is God

Douglas E. Wagner

Prayers of the People and 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

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

The prayer of preparation and prayer of confession are from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A*, Volume 2 ©2014, Westminster John Knox Press.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service was obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-701790, and CCLI # 3202763. All rights reserved.

God Welcomes All: Text: John L. Bell, 2008 Music: South African song; transcribed by John L. Bell, 2008. Text and Music © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken: Text: John Newton, 1775, alt. Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797, alt. As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

For Where Love Is, There Is God: Text: Charlotte Lee adapted from *Ubi Caritas et amor*, 9th century. Music: Tune: Beach Spring. Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner. © 2000 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On September 11 (the Sunday After Labor Day) we will return to two worship services – 8:30 and 11:00. Sunday School for all ages will be from 9:40 – 10:40.

The Coffee Cafe will return to service beginning Sunday, September 11th. Please plan to stop by and grab a cup of coffee and a snack. The Coffee Cafe is operated with the support of the congregation every Sunday morning between services. The cafe is open from 9-10 a.m. each Sunday. It is a great time to visit with people attending the early service or those on their way to Sunday School.

The annual Presbyterian Women Kick-Off Luncheon will be held in the Session House TODAY, **August 28**, following the service and Congregational Meeting. All women of First Presbyterian Church are cordially invited. The luncheon is free of charge and no reservations are required. If you are currently a Circle member, consider inviting a fellow church member to join you. This is an opportunity to meet the PW Officers, connect with members of our five Circles, and learn about the 2022-2023 Bible Study, *Celebrating Sabbath*. A special highlight is our traditional dessert of Dove Bars!

Please plan to join us Wednesday, September 14th for our monthly fellowship meal. This fall kickoff event will be held at the JMS Fellowship Center, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. This will be a great time to fellowship and enjoy a traditional summertime meal. The meal will include bar-b-que chicken, baked potatoes, summer vegetables, salad, and an assortment of desserts. Please contact the church office to indicate your intentions to attend. **The deadline for signup is Monday, September 12th at 5 pm.** Please sign up early to allow our team ample time to prepare properly.

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be held on September 25! We would love to have you join our First Pres Team! You can sign up at the following link to either walk with us on Sept. 25 or simply donate to our team!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-pres-new-bern>

If you have any questions, please email Marianna at mariannardunn@gmail.com!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

- ❖ **Children (Grades K-5) and Youth (Grades 6-12) Sunday School Classes** will begin **Sunday, September 11, and will meet from 9:40 am-10:40 am.** Both groups will be using the "Follow Me" curriculum, beginning with a unit on Making Peace. Children meet in Ministry Center room 1.24 and Youth meet upstairs in rooms 2.23-24.
- ❖ **Children and Youth Fall Kick-off**
B9, G42, I29, 082... BINGO! Get ready to win prizes, mix and mingle, make friends, and laugh the night away! **All families, from Birth to Grade 12** are invited to join in the fun on **Sunday, September 11 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm in the Session House** as we kick off our fall season. *Bring a snack to share! We'll have tea and lemonade.*

If you are interested in a detailed calendar of upcoming Children, Youth, and Family Ministry opportunities, or volunteering, please reach out to Catherine Campbell, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry:

catherine@firstpresnb.org

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.

Midweek Opportunities

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study

We will meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 via Zoom starting **September 12** and will be reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. The book is available from Amazon, new or used. For more information, contact Wendy Moeller at 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl at 252-617-8557. To be placed on the Zoom list, contact Cathy Wingfield at 828-767-0975.

Divine Sleep Yoga class

Taught by Diane Elliott and offered on Mondays, 12:00-1:00 pm in the Lighthouse (on the corner of New and Hancock streets). Participants may bring a prop, such as a yoga mat and blanket for comfort. Contact Diane Elliott with questions (410 507-5508, dianeelliott0@gmail.com) The class is free, but donations are accepted.

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, **September 19**.

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (the next meeting is on **September 13**) 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.