

SERVING TODAY

LITURGIST: Rev. Lloyd Griffith

USHERS:

8:25a.m. Jay Haggard (Head), Mark Dail, Mara Edmister, Don Ingraham, Ruth John, Joyce Weaver, Prudence Wing

10:55a.m. Pat Avery (Head), Marge Avery, Tom Brunk, Chip Chagnon, Stephanie Morris, Margaret Pritchett, Dan Pritchett, Will Robertson

GREETERS:

8:25a.m. Janelle Haggard

10:55a.m. Hal and Marilyn Vandersea

WORSHIP NOTES

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR September 22

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalm 79:1-9

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

SESSION 2019

Maren Sonstegard-Spray, Moderator; Karen Reed, Clerk

Administration

Chris Kelso '19

Betsy Conzelman '20

Trudy Martin '20

Care

Becky Nohr '19

Polly Frank '20

Doug Phelps '19

Communications

Susan Ryan '19

Oscara Stevick '19

Jim Findley '21

Education

Jennifer East '19

David Hale '20

Janet Bryan '20

Fellowship

Cathy Warren '20

Peter Moeller '20

Beth Foley '21

Outreach

Bruce Pollock '21

Peggy Clark '21

Bill Harris, '19

Worship

Janelle Haggard '21

Gayle Hardy '21

George Moore '21

PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF

* The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray, *Associate Pastor*

* The Rev. Lloyd Griffith, *Parish Associate*

* Daewon Goldenbaum-Yang, *Director of Education and Youth Ministry*

MUSIC PROGRAM STAFF

* Pat K. Rowlett, *Director of Music*

Vance Harper Jones, *Organist*

Susan Mabie, *Director, Resurrection Singers*

Cindy Sutton, *Assistant Organist and Pianist*

Dru Wilkins, *Music Assistant*

OFFICE & SUPPORT STAFF

James Briley, Jr., *Treasurer*

Louis Foye, *Sexton*

* Tommy Hall, *Administrative Coordinator*

* Connie MacLean, *Executive Secretary*

* Cathy Wingfield, *Communications Coordinator*

* Amber Zapffel, *Financial Secretary*

* Cindi DeVoe, *Nursery Staff*

Missy Dixon, *Nursery Staff*

* Kerri Wheeler, *Children's Worship*

Lisa Wood, *Nursery Staff*

PRE-SCHOOL

* Kerri Wheeler, *Director of Preschool*

You can contact persons designated * by replacing their first names as in the example for our pastor: maren@firstpresnb.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW BERN

ORGANIZED 1817

— THE LORD'S DAY —

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

15 September 2019

— Eight Twenty-five and Ten Fifty-five AM —

**First Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith
where Jesus Christ transforms lives:**

through *worship*, as we praise and glorify God;

through *outreach*, as we embody God's love in service to the world;

through *education*, as we listen for God's Word;

through *giving*, as we express gratitude to God;

through *caring*, as we love and care for one another;

through *communication*, as we invite all to join in God's work;

through *fellowship* as we share our lives and faith together.

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

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.

WORSHIP SYMBOLS indicate the following:

✦ Please rise in body or spirit

† 8:25 AM only

‡ 10:55 AM only

WELCOME guests! 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. Beginning at 8:30AM, our paid and background-checked nursery workers would be honored to care for your little ones (infants--4 years). Please see an usher for directions to the nursery (room 1.23 in the Ministry Center). The nursery is available for nursing at anytime. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder. For those 3rd grade and up, ask an usher for worship bags for your child(ren).

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

ACCESSIBILITY: Hearing assistance devices with ear coverings are available and large print hymnals are available in the last row of pews. Please ask an usher if you have need. Wheelchair accessibility is provided by ramps on either side of the Sanctuary and in back of the Ministry Center.

ASSEMBLE IN PRAISE OF GOD

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

The moments before worship are a transition from “getting there” to “being here.” We want to encourage everyone to silence or turn off cell phones in order to set this time apart as sacred moments for worship. You are invited to use this time to quiet your mind, and in your personal prayers find yourself becoming more attentive to God’s Spirit present in our midst. The Prayer of the Day is offered to assist you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day, you are Lord; and when chaos threatens to overwhelm and we dread the next news cycle— still, you are Lord. Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining. Speak then your mercy into this place until we discover the courage to open our eyes, unclench our hands, and move toward our neighbor in need, until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of your grace; for we long to honor the name of Jesus, by whose breath we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Wood

INTROIT *We Have Come to Join in Worship* Moore

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Psalm 14 and 1 Timothy 1

Leader: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

People: We proclaim that God’s presence is real and alive and thriving!

Leader: Evildoers declare through their actions, “We go through life alone.”

People: But we see God’s grace, faithfulness, and steadfast love in our lives and in the world around us.

Leader: Praise be to God!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

✦ **HYMN 12** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Smith/Welsh tune

✦ UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect of this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came.

Do not abandon us to our foolishness.

In judgment, illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us home— until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored. (Silent confession)

✦ **KYRIE ELEISON** John Merbecke

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ **RESPONSE 437** *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* Wetzel

You are the Lord, _____ giver of mer-cy! _____ You are the Christ, _____
_____ giv-er of mer-cy! _____ You are the Lord - - giv-er of mer-cy! _____

✦ SUMMARY OF THE LAW

“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

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Please greet or respond to one another: *The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.*

GOD’S WORD

✦ **CHILDREN’S MOMENT** Pat Kerr Rowlett
Hymn 188, verse 1 *Jesus Loves Me!*

✦ **THE LORD’S PRAYER** p. 35
Hymn 188 *Jesus Loves Me!*
Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, Taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.”

OFFERING *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along your pew. Special Collection for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for Hurricane Dorian Relief*

In the pew racks are prayer cards to name someone in particular need of intercessory prayer. You are encouraged to provide the information and place the card in the offering plate.

Offertory *Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door* Spiritual
Resurrection Singers

✦ Doxology 606

✦ Dedication of Pledges, Tithes, and Offerings

✦ **HYMN 187** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* Thrupp/Bradbury

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON 1 Timothy 1:12-17 NT 211

ANTHEM *Glorify Thy Name* Adkins

Resurrection Singers
Cindy Sutton, piano; Winston Dixon, bass

SECOND LESSON Luke 15:1-10 NT 78

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

✦ **HYMN 649** *Amazing Grace* Newton/1829

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Bob Monte by his family.

CEMC: Marshall Falkenberg (rel)

PRAYER /† THE LORD’S PRAYER

MINUTE FOR MISSION Camp Albemarle Tom Hussmann

✦ **AFFIRMATION** *A Declaration of Faith* Chapter 5(4) PC(USA) 1991
The Spirit helps believers grow in the new life.
The Christian fellowship was not a society of perfect people. The struggle between the old way of life and the new was severe. Yet the Spirit produced among followers of Jesus love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil. We believe the Holy spirit works today Whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ. As long as we live we struggle with sin, But the Spirit’s presence assures us God will complete what he has begun in us.

✦ GLORIA PATRI 581

GO IN GOD’S NAME

✦ BENEDECTION

✦ **RESPONSE** *God be with you till we meet again* Hymn 541
Loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd’s care enfold you God be with you till we meet again.

✦ **POSTLUDE** *March of the Knights* Stickles