



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Established 1817

January 21, 2024 – The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship

Building Community ~ Transforming Lives ~ Engaging the World

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.

WELCOME! Members and visitors are invited to sign the Worship Register during the service.

NAME TAGS are available in the narthex and vestibule. Everyone is invited to wear a name tag so we can greet one another by name! Want a permanent name tag or need a replacement? Contact church@firstpresnb.org

RESTROOMS (including a family restroom) are available in the Ministry Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the narthex. Ushers are available to help if needed.

CHILDREN are welcome here! The nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am to 12:15 pm.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND WONDER follows the Children's Moment during the 11:00 am service; 2nd grade or younger may follow Ms. Kerri to 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.

Prayer of Preparation

God of blessing, you call us to be one with you and your creation.

You want us to seek love, faithfulness, and truth.

Help us carry out the vows we make:

to adore you with our whole heart,

to live in mutual support of one another,

and to love as if your reign has fully come. Amen.

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Vater unser im Himmelreich
(Our Father Who art in Heaven)

Johann Pachelbel

Introit

Jesus Calls Us

Alexander/Jude

*Call to Worship

O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures to all generations!

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 463

How Firm a Foundation

Rippon/1832

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God our Light and our Salvation, sometimes we prefer to live in anonymity, embracing the safety of the shadows. Often the yoke of our

“Every Christian is a sent one. There is no such thing as an unsent Christian.”

– Alan Hirsch

With every step, Jesus’s image in us is formed more fully.

Reflection questions:

Why do you think Simon, Andrew, James, and John were so willing to follow Jesus? How was their response different from that of the crowds? What compels you to follow Jesus?

When is following Jesus particularly hard for you? Why is it worth it?

What does the phrase “the kingdom of God” mean? What does it look like in your life?

Based on Jesus’s call of the disciples, *You Walk Along the Shoreline* notes that their mode of fishing involved nets requiring the participation of more than one person. Likewise, in our work of love and justice we are called to bear witness in community.

Many of the confessions in our *Book of Confessions* are borne out of moments of hardship. The Confession of Belhar arose from South Africa, which was living through the oppression of Apartheid.

Apartheid is the human context for the Confession of Belhar, yet it is never mentioned in the confession. Rather, Belhar lifts up the heart of the Gospel as a bringer of hope for the human condition.

calling feels too heavy and we seek to slip out from under the bar across our shoulders. Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful blindness and deafness to your Way.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Help us know deep in our souls **that you are our Light and our Salvation, our joy and our wonder, our very life. 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.”

Children’s Moment

Catherine Campbell

Anthem

Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult

Alexander/
Holden-Holloway

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

New Testament pg. 35

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 170

You Walk Along Our Shoreline

Dunstan/Steurlein

Sermon

Going Without Knowing

Patrick Ryan

(after the sermon we pause for a time of silent reflection)

*Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind. Together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another’s burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ; that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

*Hymn 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

Bell, Maule/Scottish tune

OUR STAFF
Anna Pinckney Straight

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Vance Harper Jones
Organist Emeritus

Christ Calling His Disciples Icon,
flickr.com user bobosh_t,

Minute for Stewardship

First Presbyterian Church Foundation, Bill Pope

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

I Lift Up My Soul
Erica Smith, soprano

Eugene Englert

***Doxology**

Hymn 606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Meredith H. Nelson by Bill Nelson and Edward, Nancy, and Howard Nelson, and her grandchildren Phillip, Nicole, and Angela.

Prayers of the People and the 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

Response

Jesus Calls Us: By Thy Mercies

Alexander/Jude

Postlude

Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten
(Whoever lets our dear God rule)

J.S. Bach

Musicians: Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs; Ann Courtney, flute

Ushers: Stas & Brenda Humienny, Mark Dail, Chris Kelso (8:30)

Tim Elliott, Dan & Margaret Pritchett, Lydia Finlayson,

John Robert Mattocks & Wood Mattocks (11:00)

Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30 pm, don't forget to join us for a baked potato bar with all the fixings! Be sure to RSVP ASAP for your group so we fix enough taters. It's going to be a spudtastic time!



New Members Class – Starting **January 28**, there will be a three-week class for those who would like to learn more about First Presbyterian Church, New Bern and are interested in exploring what it means to be a member of this church family. This class will **meet January 28, February 4, and February 11 in the Session House**. Participants who would like to become members will be given the opportunity to be welcomed at either the 11:00 am worship service on February 11 or the 8:30 am worship service on February 18. For more information, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight.

Calvin and Hops – Calvin and Hops is an informal men’s gathering (not limited to Presbyterians) that discusses theology and the life of faith. Led by Ken Wilkins, we meet for a beer (beer-drinking not mandatory), usually some salty snacks brought by one of the group, and a discussion about the topic of the month—for about an hour. For more information, please contact Ken Wilkins at kwilkins262@gmail.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, 1/21	8:30 am	Worship	Wednesday	2:30 pm	Pickleball	
	9:30 am	Fellowship Café		11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal	
	9:40 am	Sunday School		12:00 pm	Life of Prayer	
	11:00 am	Worship		1:00 pm	Lunch Wagon Committee	
	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal		3:30 pm	Welcoming Committee	
	4:00 pm	Calvin & Hops (Brewery 99)		5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship	
Monday	5:30 pm	SALT & Youth Group	Thursday	5:30 pm	Fellowship Dinner	
	2:00 pm	Knit 4 Others		2:30 pm	Pickleball	
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir		5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Administration Commission	Saturday	10:00 am	Pickleball	
	7:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study (Zoom)		Sunday, 1/28	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Staff Meetings			5:30 pm	Youth Group (6-12)
	2:00 pm	Divorce Recovery Group				

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For full class descriptions, locations, and more,
visit the website ~ www.firstpresnb.org
or pick up a brochure in the Sanctuary or church office.

Present Word	Session House Parlor	Faith and Film	Owl Room
The Story	Conference Room	Grades K-5	Worship and Wonder Room
Let’s Talk	Session House	Youth (Grades 6-12)	Youth Rooms

SESSION

Clerk: Karen Reed

Class of 2024
James Copland
Christin Grady
Kenneth Holton
Carole Koi
Vaughn Purnell
Helen Robinson
Joyce Weaver

Class of 2025
Stephanie Brinson
John Finlayson
Sarah Catherine Gibbs
Rufus McAden
Yvonne Olmstead
Linda Staunch
David Stevick

Class of 2026
Janet Benrey-Swain
Fossie Lathan
Debbie Murray
Pam Pope
Darryl Warren
Gray Wheeler
David White

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Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm