



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Established 1817

March 3, 2024 – The Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship

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.

Building Community ~ Transforming Lives ~ Engaging the World

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

Whispering God, who longs for us to hear your voice, and waits in the sheer silence for us to recognize your presence, meet us in this quiet moment. Silence my loud, tumultuous thoughts, and grant my brain rest. Help me let go of my distractions, and my desire to be distracted, to simply sit here with you. And, as the silence unsettles my spirit, let the waves of your peace and presence wash over me. Amen.

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

*Aus tiefer Not Schrei ich zu dir
(Out of the depths I cry to Thee)*

Georg Böhm

Introit

Be Still and Know That I Am God

Bell/Iona

*Call to Worship

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Neumark

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the liminal places, you draw us into the quietness of the desert so that we can encounter ourselves. But we confess that all too often we stubbornly cling to false images rather than face the necessity of change. You call us into the emptiness of the desert so that we can confront

Where did the color go?

During the Lenten season many people give something up or add something to their daily lives as a way to remember and honor the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and in prayer to prepare for his ministry. We're fasting from color in our bulletins and the art that is at the top of the bulletin.

Psalm 62:1-8

¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. ² He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken. ³ How long will you assail a person, will you batter your victim, all of you, as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence? ⁴ Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence. They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. ⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

What does it mean when we are called to **give God's Tithes and our Offerings?** Biblically, tithes are 10% of all that we receive - the goal we set for ourselves. Practically, it is the % you set aside first and give in recognition of the centrality of your relationship with God. Offerings are what we give on top of that, recognizing that the world needs to know generosity and love that exceeds expectation.

our desires. But we confess that all too often we continue to choose our own comfort rather than serving the needs of others. You drive us into the dangers of the desert so that we can engage with your kingdom. But we confess that all too often we prefer the smooth roads of safety over the perilous pathways of justice.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Forgive us, O God, wherever we have chosen to be, or do, or dare less than you have asked of us; and as we walk on in the desert with you help us watch and wrestle with these things so that we might choose differently in the future. 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."

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Sonia Larson

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Bible Reading

Psalm 62:1-8

Old Testament pg. 526

Gospel Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-18

Old Testament pg. 247

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Cultivating Space in Silence

Anna Pinckney Straight

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

Hymn 414

Be Still and Know (sung twice)

Bell

Be still and know that I am God,

Be still and know that I am God.

*Affirmation of Faith

from a Declaration of Faith, 1977

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.

*Hymn 169

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Whittier/Maker

Anna Pinckney Straight

Pastor

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Sexton

Richard Colflesh

Maintenance

Pastor on Call

pastoroncall@firstpresnb.org

Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

Are you interested in becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church congregation? The next new members' classes will be April 7, 14, and 21. Reach out to Anna Pinckney Straight to sign up or learn more!

The prayer of preparation is from reclaimtoday.org. The prayer of confession is from Pat Bennett's Walking in the Wilderness: Wild Goose Publishing,

Minute for Ministry: Presbyterian Women

Janet Bryan and Meredith

Edmister

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings and Coins for Hunger

Offertory

Servant Song

Gilliard/arr. D. Haas

***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 are given to the glory of God
and in honor of Mary Grace's birthday by Stephanie and Asher Brinson.*

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

Go with Us, Lord

Cathey/Tallis

Postlude

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten (BWV 691)

J.S. Bach

(If thou but suffer God to guide thee)

Liturgist: Patrick Ryan

Musicians: Covenant Choir; Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

Ushers: (8:30am) Jay Haggard, Mark Dail, Janelle Haggard

(11:00am) Pat Avery, Linda Staunch

During Lent our sermon series is all about "Cultivating Space." As a part of this series there is an empty box in each bulletin- space to clear your mind, take notes, write a prayer, draw a picture, or something – anything – else. How are you cultivating space for God? How is God cultivating space in your life? Upcoming themes: March 10, Cultivating Space in Yourself and March 17, Cultivating Space Apart.



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, 3/3	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal	Wednesday	11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal
	5:30 pm	SALT (Grades 3-5)		12:00 pm	Life of Prayer
	5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)		5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
Monday	10:00 am	Women's Circle 2		7:00 pm	Women's Circle 5
	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others	Thursday	2:30 pm	Pickleball
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal		5:00 pm	Pickleball Introduction
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)		5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	10:00 am	Women's Circle 1	Saturday	10:00 am	Pickleball
	10:00 am	Staff Meetings	Sunday, 3/10	8:30 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch		9:30 am	Fellowship Café
	1:30 pm	Women's Circle 4		9:40 am	Sunday School
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		11:00 am	Worship
				3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal

Meredith Edmister has taken the lead in forming a **new Presbyterian Women's Circle** which will begin in September 2024. Meetings will be held one time per month from September to May. For those with young children, childcare can be provided during the meeting. If you are looking for an opportunity to nurture your faith through prayer and Bible Study as well as a time for fellowship, please contact Meredith at 919-539-9627 or medmister@zoho.com.



This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, which means we collect our **Coins for Hunger!** Coins for Hunger is about how a small act of gratitude—one or two coins at each meal—can be transformative. Your coins turn into funds that are sent to Religious Community Services in New Bern where feeding people is one of the things they do. RCS served 94,520 meals in 2022 at a cost of \$1.75 per meal.

This year, our Lenten Lunches are exploring the Melodies and Harmonies of the Lenten Season. **Tuesday's Lenten Lunch (3.5.24 from 12:00 pm–1:00 pm)** will include a brief worship service, presentation from the Rev. Anna Pinckney Straight on **Poetry of Lent**, and a delicious lunch prepared by the Presbyterian Women. Lenten Lunches continue through Tuesday, March 26.

March 13, 2024	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">EASTER FELLOWSHIP DINNER</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">BAKED HAM, MACARONI & CHEESE, DEVILED EGGS AND BAKED APPLES</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">5:30 PM</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">JMS CENTER</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">RSVP HERE:</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">HYMN FESTIVAL</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">7:00 PM SANCTUARY</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">TREASURES OLD AND NEW TO CELEBRATE THE LITURGICAL YEAR</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">PRESENTED BY NATIONALLY KNOWN HYMN WRITER MARY LOUISE BRINGLE, PHD</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DANIEL SANSONE, ORGAN</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">FEATURING THE MEMORIAL ORGAN, FISK OPUS 89</p> </div>
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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	Genesis 1-11	Owl Room
The Story	Conference Room	Grades K-5	Worship and Wonder Room

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400 New Street, New Bern, NC 28560	PO Box 1069, New Bern, NC 28563	252.637.3270 church@firstpresnb.org www.firstpresnb.org	Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm