



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Established 1817

March 10, 2024 – The Fourth 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

Slow me down, God. Place your hand upon me and steady the racing of my heart.

Take this weight from my shoulders, and pry these to-dos from my fingers.

Deepen my breath and still my mind so that I can remember whose hands really do keep the stars hung in space. Amen.

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Arioso

J.S. Bach

Ben Copland, cello

Introit

There Is a Redeemer

Melody Green

Bailey Donlin (solo), Millie Perdue, Erica Smith, and Tilly Smith

*Call to Worship

Psalm 107:1-3, 21-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love,
for God's wonderful works to humankind.

**And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of the Lord's deeds with songs of joy.**

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 634

To God Be the Glory

Crosby/Doane

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we

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.

The Passing of the Peace is an ancient ritual where we extend the forgiveness we have received with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you," hearing "and also with you" in response. The passing of the peace stresses what we hold in common---we are all in need of God's grace and it is this grace that holds us together in community.

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life with God.

eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we complain as though the manna, raining down from heaven for us even now, is not enough? Why do we worry that your well of living water will someday run dry? It is surely our sin that causes us to live as though we do not trust your goodness.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

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

Millie Perdue and Thomas Lathan

Anthem

First Song of Isaiah

Jack Noble White

Bailey Donlin, Millie Perdue, Erica Smith, and Tilly Smith

Please join in singing the refrain of Hymn 71

Surely it is God Who Saves Me

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

New Testament pg. 192

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Cultivating Space in Yourself

Hannah Henderson

Steven Healy

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

*Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Text

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

OUR STAFF

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Organist Emeritus

The Prayer of Preparation is written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, *The Lives we Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*, 2023.

Liturgy written by Baron Mullis and provided for free distribution. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2024

*Hymn 705

You Are Holy

Imboden and Rhoton

Please join in singing the second line

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

The Perfect Prayer
Erica Smith, soprano

Oley Speaks

*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 memory of Margie Avery, to honor what would have been our 52nd wedding anniversary by Pat Avery.

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, Lamb of God

Jernigan

Postlude

Wir glauben all an einen Gott (BWV 680)

J.S. Bach

Liturgist: Katelyn Bryan, Marshall Hinckley, Middy Hinckley, Thomas Lathan, Alice B Norment, James Mattocks, Wood Mattocks, Haddie Purdue, Liuty Rmah, Jamey Spruill

Musicians: Confirmation, Daybreak, and Sanctuary Choirs

Ushers: Amalia Buffington, Ben Copland, Mara Edmister, Ben Healy, Roselyn Rcom, Liuty Rmah, Jamey Spruill, Gray Wheeler

The "Helping Hands" committee of the Care Commission is in great need of additional volunteers to visit our homebound members or those residing in care centers. We need men as well as women on our team. For additional information, please contact Patrick Ryan, Christin Grady, or the church office.

New Members Class: 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!

This year, our Lenten Lunches are exploring the Melodies and Harmonies of the Lenten Season. **Tuesday's Lenten Lunch (3.12.24 from 12:00 pm–1:00 pm)** will include a brief worship service, presentation from Mary Louise Bringle on **Hymnody of Lent**, and a delicious lunch prepared by the Presbyterian Women. Lenten Lunches continue through Tuesday, March 26.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, 3/10	12:00 pm	Sacraments Class		7:00 pm	Hymn Festival
	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal	Thursday	2:30 pm	Pickleball
Monday	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others		5:00 pm	Introduction to Pickleball
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal		5:00 pm	Resurrection Singers Rehurs
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)		6:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	10:00 am	Staff Meetings	Saturday	10:00 am	Pickleball
	12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch	Sunday, 3/17	8:30 am	Worship
	1:00 pm	Grief Support Group		9:30 am	Fellowship Café
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		9:40 am	Sunday School
Wednesday	11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal		11:00 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer		3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship		5:30 pm	SALT (Grades 3-5)
	5:30 pm	Fellowship Dinner			Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> March 13, 2024 </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">EASTER FELLOWSHIP DINNER</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">5:30 PM JMS CENTER</p> <p style="margin: 0;">BAKED HAM, MACARONI & CHEESE, DEVILED EGGS AND BAKED APPLES</p> </div>	<p style="margin: 0;">RSVP HERE:</p> 	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">HYMN FESTIVAL</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">7:00 PM SANCTUARY</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TREASURES OLD AND NEW TO CELEBRATE THE LITURGICAL YEAR</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">PRESENTED BY NATIONALLY KNOWN HYMN WRITER MARY LOUISE BRINGLE, PHD</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">DANIEL SANSONE, ORGAN FEATURING THE MEMORIAL ORGAN, FISK OPUS 89</p> </div>
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During Lent, we will continue our Sermon Series all about "Cultivating Space."

March 17: Cultivating Space Apart

As a part of this series there will be an empty box in each bulletin- space where you can take notes, list distractions as a way to clear your mind, 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?

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