



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

March 31, 2024 – Easter! The Resurrection of the Lord
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! For name tag assistance, 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.

Words in Preparation for Worship

John L. Bell

*Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Praeludium in C Major (BuxWV 137)* Dietrich Buxtehude

Introit *On Easter Morn* Scottish melody/
Parker/Shaw

*Call to Worship

Christ is risen;
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness before the chorus of the dawn.
Alleluia, Christ is risen;
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Risen with glory and grace in reserve, and authority beyond measure.
Alleluia, Christ is risen;
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 232** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* Lyrica Davidica

Psalm of Praise from Psalm 118

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad

The Color is Back!

During the Lenten season we fasted from color in our bulletins and the art that is at the top of the bulletin, but now that it is Easter, they are back!

John 20:1-10

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

What are **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 above 10%, recognizing that the world needs to know generosity and love that exceeds expectation.

songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly." I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

Anthem

Sing Forth, Every Voice, For the Lord is Risen

Handel/Hopson

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

New Testament pg. 114

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Surprise? Surprise!

Anna Pinckney Straight

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

*Affirmation of Faith

This is the Good News -

The grave is empty, Christ is risen. Alleluia!

This is the Good News -

The light always shines in the darkness. Alleluia!

This is the Good News -

Once we were no people, now we are God's people. Alleluia!

This is the Good News -

Christ is the indestructible peace we now share with each other. Alleluia!

*Hymn 236

The Strife Is O'er

1695/Palestrina

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Psalm for Easter Day

Proulx



This is the day the Lord has made;



let us re-joice, let us be glad.

Anna Pinckney Straight

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Pastor on Call

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Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

*The Words in Preparation for
Worship are from a hymn (#231
in our hymnbook) written by
John Bell and Graham Maule
The Call to worship and
Affirmation of Faith are from
Eggs & Ashes, published by
Wild Goose Publications, Iona
Community.*

***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
in celebration of His Creation by Denise and Josh Willey.*

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.**

***Hymn 248**

Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!

Wren/Beethoven

Benediction

Response

Be Not Afraid

Taizé/Berthier

Postlude

Allabreve in D Major

J.S. Bach

Liturgist: Patrick Ryan

Musicians: Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

Mark Roberts and Rich Garafolo, trumpets

Ushers: (8:30am) Jay Haggard, Barbara and Sam Bidwell, Mark Dail, Janelle Haggard

(11:00am) Tim Elliott, Drew Linkous, Wendy Moeller, Yvonne Olmstead,

Denise and Josh Willey

Supporting **One Great Hour of Sharing** is one way our congregation celebrates Easter. This special offering enables us to share God's love through three life-saving programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. If you would like to give, there are special envelopes in the narthex and vestibule, or you can use the envelopes in the pews (just write OGHS on the envelope) or you can give online via our regular online giving page.

What does it mean to be a part of a family of faith? What does it mean to be a part of the Body of Christ? First Presbyterian Church is a historic congregation, but our faith is not in the past. We are a people who pray, listen, laugh, weep, feast, study, seek and serve. **New Member Classes** are scheduled for April 7, 14, and 21 during the Sunday School Hour, 9:40 am – 10:40 am in the Session House. Childcare is available, and you are invited! Anna Pinckney Straight ~ 252.637.3270 ~ anna@firstpresnb.org

Adult Education – The next session begins Sunday, April 7. Meets 9:40 am – 10:40 am.

- *Creation Care: Exploring Ways to Talk and Act with Love* – Meets in the Owl Room.
- *The Present Word* – Meets in the Session House.
- *The Story* – Meets in the Conference Room.

Please visit the website or pick up a brochure in the church office or Sanctuary for more information and a complete listing and description of Adult Education classes.

LIFE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Below is a sample of some of the things that are happening at First Presbyterian Church. We invite you to learn more on our website (firstpresnb.org) or by signing up to receive our newsletter or weekly email.

Contact the church office or email church@firstpresnb.org

Coffee Fellowship: Sundays, 9:30 am –10:00 am

Sunday School: Sundays, 9:40 am–10:40 am

Next session begins April 7

The Present Word

The Story, Old Testament

Creation Care

New Members Class – starting April 7

SALT (Grades 3-5)

Next meeting April 14, 5:30 pm

Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

Next meeting April 7, 5:30 pm

Covenant Choir

Next rehearsal April 8, 3:45 pm

Preschool Choir

Next rehearsal April 10, 11:45 am

Sanctuary/Daybreak Choirs

Next rehearsal April 18, 5:15 pm

Sanctuary Bells

Next rehearsal April 7, 3:00 pm

Resurrection Singers

Next rehearsal April 11, 5:00 pm

Monday Evening Bible Study on Zoom

Meets weekly, 7:00 pm

Calvin & Hops: Men's Bible and Fellowship Group

Next gathering April 21, 4:00 pm (Brewery 99)

Women at the Well: Women's Bible and Fellowship

Next gathering in April

Presbyterian Women's Circles

Both evening and daytime gatherings.

Monthly Fellowship Dinners

Next dinner will be April 17, 5:30 pm

Outreach: Volunteer Opportunities:

Backpack Blessings

Religious Community Services

Merci Clinic

English Language Tutoring

Welcoming Refugee Families

Life of Prayer

Wednesdays at 12:00 pm, in-person and on Zoom

Contemplative Worship: Wednesdays, 5:00 pm

Grief Support Group

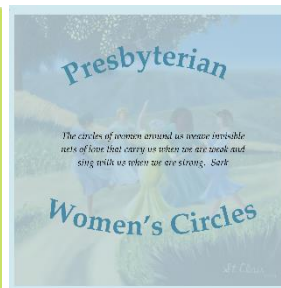
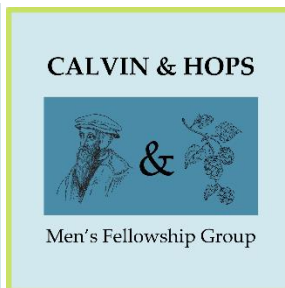
Next gathering April 9, 12:00 pm

Divorce Support Group

Next gathering April 23, 2:00 pm

Pickleball: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

Knit 4 You: Mondays, 1:30 pm



SUNDAY SCHOOL for TODAY, MARCH 31

New classes begin April 7. 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

Children and Youth

Easter Egg Hunt

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Office Hours:

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