



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

April 28, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter
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! 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

*The vine emerges from the earth,
nourished
and nourishing.*

*Rises without visible connection;
roots hidden,
promise unknown.*

*Strong to withstand storms,
fragile when plucked too soon.*

So it is that we grow...

*nourished by invisible connections to the living God,
called to nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Introit *Live in Charity* Taizé/Berthier

***Call to Worship** from 1 John 4

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

**God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.**

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 450** *Be Thou My Vision* Irish ballad

Psalm of Praise Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his

John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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.



Give to First Presbyterian Church, New Bern

glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

Anthem

I Am the Vine

Iona Community/John L. Bell

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

New Testament pg. 109

Sermon

Vines and Vinegrowers

Anna Pinckney Straight

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

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ; fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn 285

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Daw/Cutts

Our Staff

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Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

The photo at the top is of a
kiwi vine.

<https://flic.kr/p/2m5E5Lo>

The words in preparation for
worship were written by
Katherine Hawker and found on
re-worship.blogspot.com.

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Bailey Donlin, soloist

Crocker/Houston/

Lighthelm

*Doxology

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.

Hymn 606

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in memory of my mother, Alma Lee Jones Grady by Dwight Grady.*

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 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Gerhardt/Hemy

Benediction

Response

God of the Fertile Fields

Harkness/de Giardini

Postlude

Wir glauben all an einen Gott (BWV 680)

J.S. Bach

Liturgist: Patrick Ryan

Musicians: Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

Ushers: (8:30) Leslie and Kevin Pinkston, Mark Dail, Joyce Weaver

Children's Sabbath – Sunday, May 5

We are excited to welcome Tracy Radosevic as our
guest preacher for this year's Children's Sabbath!
Following the 11:00am worship, there will be a BBQ
Chicken picnic lunch and BOUNCE HOUSES!!

Donations for the lunch will go towards the
Preschool Scholarship Fund.

Please use the QR code to RSVP for lunch.



Rothermel Lecture – May 5 at 2:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

The Rothermel Foundation is pleased to present:

Tina Pippin, Wallace M. Alston Professor of Bible and Religion
at Agnes Scott College presenting

“Jesus was a poor man: Encountering Jesus in History and Culture”

SPRING ORGAN RECITAL

DANIEL J.
SANSONE

MAY 3, 2024 7:00 PM
400 NEW STREET, NEW BERN

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, 4/28	12:00 pm	New Members Luncheon	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
	5:30 pm	Women at the Well (Harris Teeter Café on MLK)	7:00 pm	Women's Circle 5
	5:30 pm	SALT (Grades 3-5)	Thursday	2:30 pm Pickleball
	5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)		5:00 pm Pickleball
Monday	12:00 pm	Divine Sleep Yoga	Friday	5:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others		7:00 pm Organ Recital
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal	Saturday	10:00 am Pickleball
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	Sunday, 5/5	8:30 am Worship
Tuesday	10:00 am	Staff Meetings		9:30 am Fellowship Café
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		9:40 am Sunday School
	5:00 pm	Pickleball		9:40 am Confirmation Week 5
Wednesday	11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal		11:00 am Worship
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer		2:00 pm Rothermel Presentation

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	Creation Care	Owl Room
The Story	Conference Room	Grades K-5	Worship and Wonder Room

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