



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

**May 5, 2024 – The Sixth 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 located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

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

**TODAY IS CHILDREN'S SABBATH!**  
Children are welcome here!

The nursery is available for infants and toddlers in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am to 12:15 pm. Please sign in with the Nursery Attendants.

Children PreK and up are encouraged to stay in worship today. There is no Worship and Wonder. There are clipboards with coloring and activity sheets available.

There are two rocking chairs available at the back of the Sanctuary. Please feel free to use them!

## Words in Preparation for Worship

Genesis 1:9-12

*And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

### Prelude

*Claire de Lune*

Claude Debussy

### Introit

*A Mustard Seed*

John Horman

## \*Call to Worship

The Creator has planted seeds in all of us.

**May we nurture good deeds and loving-kindness.**

Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit.

**May we bless and build up our neighbors.**

The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow.

**May we be nurtured, may we be blessed, and may we grow.**

Let us worship God!

### \*Hymn 487

*These Treasured Children*

Jones/15<sup>th</sup> C.

## Psalm of Praise

From Psalm 92

**It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works,**

**Guest Preacher:**

**Tracy Radosevic**

*Tracy is a dynamic, playful, internationally acclaimed storyteller, educator, retreat facilitator, and coach. Since 1991 she has traveled all over the United States, as well as to several foreign countries, bringing her special brand of humor, insight, and faith to audiences of all ages and denominations through the power of embodied performance.*  
www.tracyrad.com

In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian denominations in the United States voted to come back together, healing the split that occurred in 1861, forming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). One of our first actions was to begin work on a new statement of faith that would be the words of the entire denomination. The **Brief Statement of Faith** was approved in 1991, and, as the most recent entry in our Book of Confessions, it is playing a significant role in Confirmation Classes this spring.

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.



**O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep! The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

**Anthem**

*Sometimes*

Nancy Patsios

**Blessing of the Preschool Teachers**

*There is a nursery available today in the Ministry Center for ages 3 and under. Children are invited to sit down front during today's sermon. Parents are welcome to join them. There is no Worship and Wonder.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon**

*How does YOUR garden grow?  
Parable of the Sower*

Tracy Radosevic

*(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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**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 171**

*A Sower Came from Ancient Hills*

Stuempfle/Horman

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

**Offertory**

*Write Your Blessed Name*

K. Lee Scott

## Our Staff

### Anna Pinckney Straight

Pastor

anna@firstpresnb.org

### Patrick Ryan

Associate Pastor

patrick@firstpresnb.org

### Catherine Campbell

Director of Children, Youth,  
and Family Ministry

catherine@firstpresnb.org

### Pat K. Rowlett

Director of Music

pat@firstpresnb.org

### Daniel Sansone

Associate Director of Music  
and Organist

daniel@firstpresnb.org

### Susan Mabie

Director of Resurrection  
Singers

### Tim Elliott

Facilities Manager

property@firstpresnb.org

### Dawn Inglis

Office Administrator  
church@firstpresnb.org

### Kerri Wheeler

Preschool Director

kerri@firstpresnb.org

### Summer Hough

Financial Administrator  
summer@firstpresnb.org

### Sarah Ross

Director of

Communications

comms@firstpresnb.org

### Louis Foye

Sexton

### Richard Colflesh

Maintenance

### Pastor on Call

pastoroncall@firstpresnb.org

### Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

Cover Art: Seed and the Sower,  
from Art in the Christian  
Tradition, a project of the  
Vanderbilt Divinity Library,  
Nashville, TN.

## \*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*

*by Cindy and Dave celebrating our anniversary on our way to forever together.*

## 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

*Lo, I Am With You*

John Horman

### Postlude

*Hornpipe (from Water Music)*

G.F. Handel

---

**Liturgists and Ushers:** Patrick Ryan, Henry Bryan, Winnie Cheek, Georgia Donlin, Olivia Donlin, Gregory Edmister, Bates Gibbs, Maddox Gibbs, Andrew Griggs, Landon Grove, Tierney Grove, Emma Warren, and Knox Warren  
(11:00 am) Elizabeth Gibbs, Hayes Gibbs

**Musicians:** Daybreak, Sanctuary, and Covenant Choirs

---



First Presbyterian Preschool (FPP) has been a ministry of First Presbyterian Church since 1993. It enrolls 100 students each year from August-May ranging in age from 6 weeks to PreK. For the 2024-2025 school year, FPP will operate Monday-Friday from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. During the summer months, it offers 6 weeks of day camps to the community. On average, FPP awards \$15,000 in scholarships annually. Proceeds from today's BBQ Chicken Lunch will help replenish the scholarship fund. Thank you for your support of this ministry. Kids at FPP know the love of Jesus and this church family!

---

This is the first Sunday of the month, which means we collect our **Coins for Hunger!**

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.

In 2023, between the RCS Community Kitchen, Food Pantry, and Operation Outpost programs, they served a remarkable **113,520 servings** of food that were put back into our community.

The cost per serving of food at RCS remained low, **at only \$2.75**, making it an affordable and accessible option for those in need.

There are plenty of jars available for coins in the narthex, or you can make your gift for this project using an envelope – just write “RCS” or “Coins for Hunger” on your check or memo on your offering.





# Sunday, May 26

through

# Sunday, September 1

## One Worship Service at 10:00am

in person and streamed live

Adult Sunday School from 8:40am-9:40am

Childcare available in the nursery from 8:30am-11:15am

### THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday, 5/5</b>	12:00 pm	BBQ Chicken Lunch	<b>Tuesday</b>	6:00 pm	Presbyterian Men
	2:00 pm	Rothermel Presentation	<b>Wednesday</b>	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer
<b>Monday</b>	10:00 am	Women's Circle 2		5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
	12:00 pm	Divine Sleep Yoga	<b>Thursday</b>	2:30 pm	Pickleball
	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others		5:00 pm	Pickleball
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal		5:00 pm	Resurrection Singers Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am	Pickleball
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Women's Circle 1	<b>Sunday, 5/12</b>	8:30 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Staff Meetings		9:30 am	Fellowship Café
	1:30 pm	Women's Circle 4		9:40 am	Sunday School
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		9:40 am	Confirmation Week 6
	5:00 pm	Pickleball		11:00 am	Worship

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

For full class descriptions, locations, and more, visit the website ~ [www.firstpresnb.org](http://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

Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from  
ONE LICENSE with license #A-701790, and CCLI with license #3202763. All rights reserved.

**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](mailto:church@firstpresnb.org)  
[www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)

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