



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

May 12, 2024 – The Seventh 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.

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.

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

Words in Preparation for Worship

*High and Holy God, give me this day
a word of truth to silence the lies that would devour my soul
and kind encouragements to strengthen me when I fall.
Gracious One, I come quietly to your door needing
to receive from your hands
the nourishment that gives life. Amen and Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Leonard

Introit

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Hoffman/Showalter

***Call to Worship**

Let my whole being bless the Lord!
Let everything inside me bless his holy name!

Let my whole being bless the Lord
and never forget all his good deeds:
**how God forgives all your sins,
heals all your sickness,
saves your life from the pit,**
crowns you with faithful love and compassion,
and satisfies you with plenty of good things
so that your youth is made fresh like an eagle's.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 363**

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

Wesley/Darwall

Psalm of Praise

from Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the

Witness (noun) with-ness: the state or fact of being close to or connected with someone or something: close association or proximity.

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.



Give to First Presbyterian Church, New Bern

living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Blessing of our Graduating Seniors (11:00 am)

Mary Neal Cheek, Caroline Goodwin, Mary Caroline Grady,
Stephen Healy, and Hannah Henderson

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

Anthem

We Are a Church

Jay Althouse

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 17:6-19

New Testament pg. 111

Sermon

Known, Kept, and Loved

Patrick Ryan

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

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Pierpoint/Kocher

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Scriven/Converse

*Doxology

Hymn 606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;**

Our Staff

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Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

The words in preparation for
worship are a prayer from
Bernard of Clairvaux
Word of Life image from Art in
the Christian Tradition, a project
of Vanderbilt Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN. Creative
Commons.

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 Mothers Helen Eure Willey, Jean Carawan Gaskins,
and Catherine Eure Willey Went 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 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

Crosby/Knapp

Benediction

Response

May the Love of the Lord

Ling/Lim

Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. Mark Hayes

Liturgist: Anna Pinckney Straight

Musicians: Cindy Sutton, Pianist

Resurrection Singers; Winston Dixon, Bass

Ushers: (8:30) Marc Dabagian, Mark Dail, Barbara & Sam Bidwell

(11:00) Pat Avery, James, Wood, and John Robert Mattocks

May Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30 pm

J. Murphy Smith Center

RSVP today and sign up your group for this menu!

Jim Briley's pork BBQ, Stanly County red slaw, baked sweet

potatoes and apples, broccoli salad, corn muffins,

and Bill Lathan's banana pudding ice cream!



Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday- the day when the Holy Spirit
arrived as wind and flame and sent the disciples into the world
to share the Good News! You are invited to dress accordingly
next Sunday – wear red, orange, yellow – whatever you have
that will match the theme of the day!

May is Jewish American Heritage Month

Our neighbors at Temple B'nai Sholem invite us to attend

Jewish Heritage Movies and Children's Stories

Monday, May 13th at 4:00 pm: *Hava Nagila*

Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 pm: *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*

Storytime: *The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco

Events will be held at the J. Murphy Smith Center, 508 Middle Street

Admission is free. No ticket or RSVP needed. Refreshments will be available.



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

Sunday, 5/12	8:30 am	Worship	Wednesday	5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
	9:30 am	Fellowship Café		5:30 pm	Fellowship Dinner
	9:40 am	Sunday School	Thursday, 5/16	2:30 pm	Pickleball
	9:40 am	Confirmation Week 6		5:00 pm	Pickleball
	11:00 am	Worship		5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Monday, 5/13	12:00 pm	Divine Sleep Yoga		5:30 pm	Budget and Finance Meeting
	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others		7:00 pm	Called Session Meeting
	4:00 pm	Outreach Commission	Saturday, 5/18	10:00 am	Pickleball
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	Sunday, 5/19	8:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 5/14	10:00 am	Staff Meetings		9:30 am	Fellowship Café
	12:00 pm	Grief Support Group		9:40 am	Sunday School
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		11:00 am	Worship
	5:00 pm	Pickleball		4:00 pm	Calvin and Hops (Brewery 99)
	7:00 pm	Stated Session Meeting		5:30 pm	End of Year Party (Birth-Grade 12)
Wednesday, 5/15	10:30 am	Women's Circle 3			
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer			

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