



First
Presbyterian
Church
New Bern, North Carolina

Adult Education Fall 2023

Sunday Mornings, 9:40am – 10:40am

Session 1

September 10 – October 15

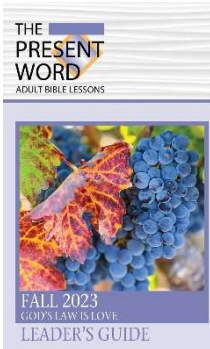
Before going to class, visit the Fellowship Café!

Sunday mornings 9:30 am – 10:00 am in the Ministry Center.

The Present Word

Taught by George Evans

Session House Parlor



The Present Word is an in-depth Bible study for adults that dives deep into God's Word, studying the Bible over a six-year period and focusing on a specific theme each quarter. The goals of *The Present Word* curriculum are to engage in a serious study of Scripture in order to discover its deeper meaning and how it is relevant to today. This fall, the study focuses on *God's Law Is Love*, looks at love in the context of God's law. The lessons focus on

New Testament texts that radically reinterpret the significance of the Mosaic law for those who love Christ and respond in faith.

Let's Talk: Conversations on Life and Faith

Facilitated by Wendy Moeller, Jessica Skinner,

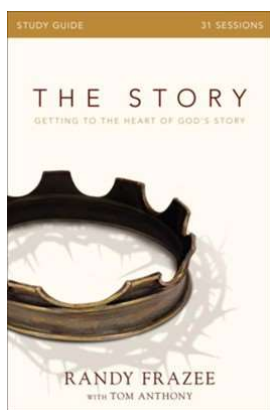
Beth Paul, and Stacey Griffith

The Owl Room (Ministry Center, 2nd floor)

Eugene Peterson, Anne Lamott, Will Willimon, Kathleen Norris, Father James Martin, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Father Richard Rohr, Kate Bowler--for any who have been involved in the Adult Formation classes at First Pres these last several years, those will be familiar

names. This fall we will have the opportunity--through a series of video interviews and podcast recordings--to hear them and others in conversation with each other and with us as they ponder the intersection of life and faith and the surprising ways and places in which those two merge. The second half of each hour will be reserved for group reflection and discussion on the issues presented by our "guest speakers," all facilitated by members of the Adult Christian Education Committee, so that we who have had glimpses of God may become more comfortable in sharing those glimpses with anyone interested in listening!

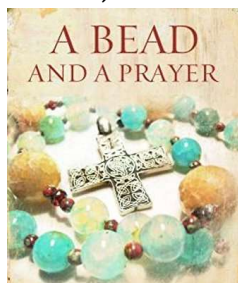
The Story ~ The Old Testament
Taught by Lana Brunk and Dick Betts
Conference Room (Ministry Center, first floor)



The Story condenses the Bible into 31 accessible chapters and sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel, opening participants' eyes to God's master plan, unfolding in the lives of the Bible's characters as well as their own lives. Books have already been purchased and will be available in the class.

Prayer Beads
Taught by Lynn Gorges and Janet Bryan
Hawkins Library (Ministry Center, 2nd Floor)

Have you heard of Protestant prayer beads? Do you know how to use them or do you wonder if it is okay to use them? We will explore the history and art of using prayer beads as a tool for prayer. You will also have the opportunity to make your own set of prayer beads. We'll be using *A Bead and A Prayer: A Beginner's Guide to Protestant*



Prayer Beads by Kristen E. Vincent as our text; copies will be available on the first day of class! Class size is limited to 12, so please sign up in advance: church@firstpresnb.org or 252.637.3270. [Sign Up for Beading Class Here](#) or via the website.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, New Bern!

September 10, 17, 24, and October 1

**Taught by Anna Pinckney Straight
and Chip Chagnon (September 24)**

Session House Main Room

Would you like to know more about First Presbyterian Church, New Bern? Are you ready to become a part of this family of faith? These classes are an introduction to the Presbyterian faith and life--both generally and specifically at First Presbyterian Church, New Bern. On October 1, there will be members of the Session present who will be ready to receive those who are ready to join (you would then be welcomed in worship--either at 11:00 on Sunday, October 1 or 8:30 on Sunday, October 8).

You are welcome to attend all four classes, but all four are not required. This is designed so you can attend the ones that meet you where you are (either logistically or in terms of content). And if you are ready to join but cannot attend on October 1, please be in touch with Anna so we can figure out how to proceed.

September 10: Presbyterian Church History:
from Calvin to Mister Rogers.

September 17: Presbyterian Church Beliefs:
Sacraments, Worship, Education

September 24: First Presbyterian Church, New Bern History

October 1: First Presbyterian Church, New Bern Congregation
Education, Outreach, Worship, the future.
Where is God leading us?

Sunday Afternoon and Mid-Week Opportunities

**Calvin and Hops (Men's Beer and Theology)
Brewery 99, 1030 Pollock St.**

Third Sunday of the month, 4:00 pm



Calvin and Hops is an informal monthly gathering of men (not limited to Presbyterians) to discuss theology and the life of faith. Led by Ken Wilkins, we have a beer (beer-drinking not mandatory), usually some salty

snacks brought by one of the group, and discuss the topic of the month for about an hour. For more information, please contact church@firstpresnb.org.

Divine Sleep Yoga class

Taught by Diane Elliott, Mondays, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lighthouse



This class, taught by Diane Elliot, starts with 10 minutes of mindfulness, followed by 30 minutes of restorative yoga to therapeutically open and relax the body. Restorative yoga will transition into Divine Sleep Yoga Nidra.

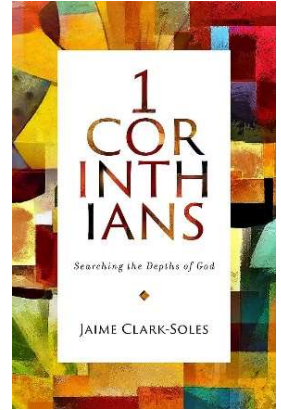
This guided meditation systematically guides and relaxes you at every level of being, including physical, energetic, mental, emotional, and spiritual layers. Everyone can practice Divine Sleep Yoga Nidra, regardless of age. Participants may bring a prop, such as a yoga mat and blanket for comfort. Contact Diane Elliott with questions at 410-507-5508 or dianeelliott0@gmail.com. The class is free but donations will be accepted.

Women's Bible Study

Starting Monday, September 11 with a potluck at 6:00 pm

And then on zoom the following Mondays, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

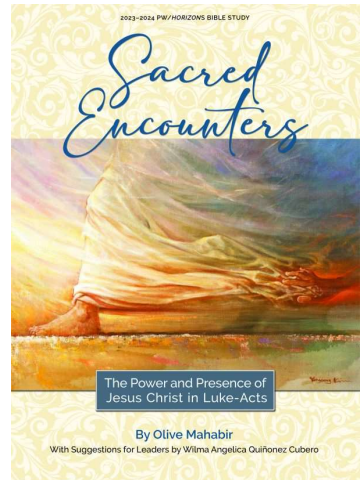
The Monday Evening Women's Bible Study, Zooming together every Monday evening this fall, 7:00-8:30 PM, will be studying *First Corinthians--Searching the Depths of God* by Jaime Clark-Soles, an author we came to love when we worked our way last spring through her Gospel of John study. Jaime will help us consider what the Apostle Paul would have us do to live faithfully in the messy, but joyful, community which we call "church." [For a teaser, read here](#), then call Wendy Moeller 252-876-7259, Leslie Pinkston 252-658-1053, or Marice Debruhl 252-637-5468, or email moeller.garland448@gmail.com to get on our Zoom list.



Presbyterian Women

Gatherings once a month for study and fellowship

This year the PW study will be *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. She invites us to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. Over nine months, participants will experience, through Luke-Acts, the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history, as well as present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Contact Janet Bryan at janruth_51@hotmail.com for more information.



Circle 1

Mimi Dixon, Leader; Norma Morra, Co-leader

Meets 1st Tuesday at 10:00 am (9:30 am social) in the Hawkins Library
(Ministry Center 2nd floor)

Circle 2

Martha Strickland, Leader; Connie Cowling, Co-leader

Meets 1st Monday at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Café
(Ministry Center 1st Floor)

in September meeting on the 11th

Circle 3

Kim Avolis, Leader; Janet Bryan, Co-leader

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm (6:45 pm social) in the Fellowship Café
(Ministry Center 1st Floor)

Circle 4

Sally Maestripieri, Leader; Pam Gaskill, Co-leader

Meets 1st Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the Owl Room and by Zoom
(Ministry Center 2nd floor)

Circle 5

Carole Koi, Leader; Sue Spiker, Co-leader

Meets 1st Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Café



Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group

Third Monday, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Returning Monday, October 23

Ministry Center Chapel (1st Floor)

This new group hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-criy-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support your getting through this confusing and often painful process and putting your life back together. You need not have attended before nor do you have to commit to attending every month. Contact Patrick Ryan (Patrick@firstpresnb.org) with questions.

Grief Support Group
Second Tuesday, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Ministry Center Chapel (1st Floor)

The ongoing Grief Support Group provides its members with understanding and support after someone they love dies. You need not have attended before nor do you have to commit to attending every month. Come and bring a friend. Contact Patrick Ryan (Patrick@firstpresnb.org) with questions.

Life of Prayer – the Practice of Contemplative Living
Led by the Rev. Patrick Ryan
Wednesdays, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, Starting September 13
Owl Room (Ministry Center, 2nd Floor) and on Zoom

This group journeys together along a way that Jesus taught in hopes of nurturing a heavenly perspective that is more aware of the spiritual dimension in our lives. Everyone is welcome and as we welcome the Rev. Patrick Ryan as our new leader, we will spend the first few sessions reflecting on where we have been and charting a path forward! Patrick@firstpresnb.org for more information or to get the Zoom link.

Wednesday Evening Worship
Led by the Rev. Patrick Ryan
Wednesdays, 5:00 pm-5:30 pm, Starting September 13
Chapel (Ministry Center 1st Floor)

This worship service is an opportunity which offers a mid-week pause in our busy lives to ponder God's living Word presented to us in Scripture. As we welcome the Rev. Patrick Ryan as our new leader, we will have a chance in these first few weeks to get acquainted and make a plan for moving forward. Contact Patrick@firstpresnb.org if you have questions!

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars and Watch for Details!

Wednesday, October 4 ~ 5:30pm

First Presbyterian Church Lawn

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pets for a special prayer service then make plans to stay for our October Fellowship Dinner at 6:00.

Sunday, October 22 ~ 2:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Rothermel Foundation Lecture

Featuring James C. Peterson, PhD

Human Gene Editing for the Good Life

Sunday, November 5

Celebrating the ministry of the Rev. Lloyd Griffith
upon his retirement in worship at 11:00 am
and after worship with a reception in the Session House

Sunday, December 3 ~ 9:40 am - 10:40 am

J. Murphy Smith Center

Advent Craft Fair - for All Ages!

Come and make an advent wreath,
pick up an advent devotional, and more!

*Times and locations are correct as of 8.27.2023
but can change due to holidays, health, and group needs. We'll
do our best to keep you updated through
the website, newsletter, and bulletins.*