



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

**January 4, 2026
Celebration of Epiphany
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, New Bern 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; 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

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johann Pachelbel

Introit

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

ERMUNTRE DICH

John 1:35-46

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

*Call to Worship

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.
**Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
wise men came from the East, saying:
**Where is he who is born king of the Jews?
For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.**

May the wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.
Let us worship God!

*Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us.

(we pause for a time of quiet confession)

Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 1:35-51

New Testament, pg. 92

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Come and See

Anna Pinckney Straight

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

GIVE TO FPC



firstpresb.org/give

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The cover art selections for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany have been taken by Paul Scott Schernitzki here at First Presbyterian Church.

The prayer of confession is from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press.

*Affirmation of Faith

from a Declaration of Faith, 1977

God is at work beyond our story. We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will among all peoples of the earth. We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe. We acknowledge no other God. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God. We praise and enjoy God. To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.

*Hymn 150

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

**Giving of God's Tithes, Our Offerings, Coins for Hunger,
and Sharing of Star Words!**

Offertory

Coventry Carol

arr. Martin Shaw

*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

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 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

*Benediction

Postlude

In der ist Freude

J. S. Bach

Liturgist: Patrick Ryan

Musicians: Ensemble (8:30 am), Sanctuary Choir (11:00 am)

Ushers: Kathleen McBride (8:30 am)

(11:00 am)

BECOMING A MEMBER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEW BERN

The next new member classes will be held on January 11, 18, and 25 from 9:40 -10:40 am (the Sunday Faith Formation Hour) in the 1st floor conference room of the Ministry Center. Contact Anna Pinckney Straight for questions or more information: anna@firstpresnb.org.



THE WEEK AHEAD

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| SUNDAY 1/4 | 8:30 am | Worship |
| | 9:30 am | Fellowship Café |
| | 9:40 am | Faith Formation |
| | 11:00 am | Worship |
| | 5:30 pm | Youth Group (Grades 6-12) |
| MONDAY | 10:30 am | Presbyterian Women's Circle #2 |
| | 2:00 pm | Knit For Others |
| | 3:00 pm | Outreach Commission |
| | 3:45 pm | Children's Choir Rehearsal (Grades K-5) |
| | 7:00 pm | Women's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| TUESDAY | 10:00 am | Staff Meeting |
| | 10:00 am | Presbyterian Women's Circle #1 |
| | 1:30 pm | Presbyterian Women's Circle #4 |
| | 2:30 pm | Pickleball |
| | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary Bells |

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| WEDNESDAY | 12:00 pm | Life of Prayer |
| | 1:00 pm | Beginner Mahjong |
| | 5:00 pm | Contemplative Worship Service |
| | 5:00 pm | Presbyterian Women's Circle #5 |
| THURSDAY | 2:30 pm | Pickleball |
| | 5:15 pm | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal |
| SATURDAY | 10:00 am | Pickleball |
| SUNDAY 1/11 | 8:30 am | Worship |
| | 9:30 am | Fellowship Café |
| | 9:40 am | Faith Formation |
| | 11:00 am | Worship |
| | 5:30 pm | SALT (Grades 3-5) |
| | 5:30 pm | Youth Group (Grades 6-12) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES - STARTING TODAY



Today begins a new season adult Faith Formation classes. Every Sunday morning from 9:40 - 10:40 am, all are welcome to join. Scan the QR code to learn more about all of the Faith Formation opportunities!

COINS FOR HUNGER - TODAY



A simple act of gratitude can have a meaningful impact. The coins collected today with the offering are transformed into funds that support the work of Religious Community Services. Want to bring a food item in addition to or instead of coins? *January's special request is canned tuna and chicken!*

What food requests are ahead?

February: Breakfast Cereal

March: Macaroni & Cheese

April: Rice

May: Canned Beans

June: Ramen Noodles

July: Canned Pasta Meals

August: Peanut Butter & Jelly

FELLOWSHIP DINNER - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14



Join the FPC family for January's Fellowship Dinner on Wednesday, January 14 at 5:30 pm in the J. Murphy Smith Center. We will be enjoying chili and desserts! To help us prepare, please sign up using the QR code or call the church office by Monday, January 12 at 12:00 pm.

DAY OF SERVICE - MONDAY, JANUARY 19 - 9:00 AM



The Outreach Commission invites you to honor this coming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as a day on instead of a day off, by showing up to help Coastal Carolina Disaster Resiliency Agency (read about them on their website www.ccdranc.org). The day starts at 9:00 am and you can stay the whole day or part of the day. To learn more about what we will be doing and to sign up scan the QR code.

SUNDAY FLOWERS



Would you like to share in the beauty of our Sunday worship by providing flowers? Sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office. Flowers are offered to the glory of God in honor or memory of loved ones and may be taken home after worship or shared as a caring gesture with others.



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OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday
9:00am-1:00pm

**CAMPUS MAP AND
BUILDING NAMES:**

