

8th Sunday after Pentecost
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Seasonal Color: Green

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please take a moment to silence your cell phones and electronic devices.
And, with the gift of music, let us prepare our hearts, minds, and souls
for this special time with God and with one another.)*

PRELUDE: “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” arr. Cindy Berry

(Please stand in body or spirit and let us join together in the Call to Worship)

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Before the earth was formed, we were chosen by God to be God’s people.

God gathers us together that we might sing of joy and hope, as God’s beloved.

Before the stars glittered in the night sky, we were chosen through Christ to be God’s family.

Christ gathers us together that we might carol the good news of redemption.

Before the rivers flowed to the seas, we were chosen by the Spirit to serve creation.

The Spirit gathers us together that we might dance in the fields of peace with our sisters and brothers.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

You are an awesome God, and you love us very much. Thank you for sending Jesus, and calling us together to celebrate his work. Please take away the road blocks that stop us from coming into your presence, and fill in the pot holes that slow us down and make the way bumpy. In Jesus’ name we pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” GTG #275

(During the singing of the hymn, worshipers are invited to bring their Daily Change offering forward as an act of worship and place them in the containers in front of the sanctuary.)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We would sing praises to you, Composer of our lives, but we remember the harsh words we used toward a friend this week. We would learn your healing hymns of grace, but the broken chords of our anger and pain echo deep within us. We would dance in the circle of your love, but we recall how quickly we turned and ran when offered opportunities to serve your people. Forgive us, Gifter of every blessing. Open our hearts and fill us with your mercy. Open our ears that we may hear the songs of grace you

would teach us to share with the world. Open our eyes that we may see the hope we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our inheritance of love and joy. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “Glory Be to the Father” GTG #581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 26:1-4 pg. 653

SPECIAL MUSIC: “When Peace like a River” GTG #840
(Ray Rhinehart and Laura Sparks, Soloists)

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: II Corinthians 10:1-6 pg. 184

SERMON: “Worship God with Your Mind” Rev. Mark Bonnema

*HYMN: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” GTG #438

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by The Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “The Solid Rock” arr. Melody Bober

*DOXOLOGY: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” GTG #606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In this company of God’s believers, we find our inheritance – the deep richness of God’s grace. With this company, we offer our gifts, so that others might be able to set their hopes on Christ, with whom we are all blessed by God. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” GTG #547

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP: Taylor & LeAnna Rhinehart

*Please stand in body or spirit
Bold print words are read in unison.

Lay Leader this morning is Amy Loyer.
Elder on Call this week is Charles Moody.

Rev. Mark Bonnema – Today we welcome back Rev. Mark Bonnema as our guest pastor. Mark and his wife Eva have lived here just over a year, but they already love life in North Carolina. It doesn't hurt that their three of their four granddaughters live just down the road in Denver, where their father pastors Unity Presbyterian Church. Mark and Eva met at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where Mark earned his M.Div. and Eva her Master of Religious Education. Their first church was in Kitchener, Ontario, and the second in Kankakee, Illinois. Then it was off to the Seattle area for almost 30 years. They raised their three sons there. Mark served as a chaplain, first in a retirement community, then in hospice and hospitals. Eva served churches as Director of Christian Education, then as a Preschool Director. Mark & Eva enjoy hiking, reading, board games, and playing with granddaughters.

Copyright information for today's service music:

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"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Text: Martin Luther, 1529. Music: Martin Luther, 1529, alt. "Glory Be to the Father"; Text: Trad. liturgical text, Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851; "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology, Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709, Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt. Music: Thomas Hastings, 1830, alt. "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983. Music: Welsh Melody. "When Peace Like a River" Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876, alt. Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS – THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN THIS SANCTUARY: If you would like more information about the church and our programs, please stop by the visitor's table in the narthex.

1. You are in God's House. We want you to feel God's presence.
2. All around you are Christian people. They will want to shake your hand and greet you in the name of Christ. Won't you meet them with a friendly smile? We would not have you leave this place without a warm welcome and a feeling that you want to come back.
3. Please sign the Friendship Book.
4. Those interested in membership information or who desire to join are asked to call the church office, or check the Friendship Book.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: (10:00am) Worship bags for children are located in the entryway. In addition, children (ages 3 yrs. old – 2nd grade) are welcome to stay with their families for the entire service, or they may attend B.L.A.S.T. Children's Church following the *Time for Young Disciples*, when children will be led from the Sanctuary to our Children's Church room and they will return to the sanctuary before the closing hymn.

THE PEACE CANDLE: The smaller, glass candle on the Communion table is a *peace candle*, and here is the candle's story and meaning.

In 1986, a group of Americans attended a Russian Orthodox worship service. At the close of the service, an elderly woman pressed a three-ruble note into the hand of a Presbyterian pastor (only about \$5 in American dollars, but a significant gift for this elderly woman). The woman asked him to buy a *candle* with it, and light that candle in his church as a symbol for *peace*. That Presbyterian pastor purchased a *candle* with the money, placed it on the Communion table in his sanctuary, and lit it during each worship service. Then the church bought other candles, in glass containers, and sent them to other churches with the request that they be lit during their worship services, as a symbol of our common hope for *peace*.

These *peace candles* have since spread across our world and across denominations. Our congregation received our *peace candle* on Sunday, November 16th, 2014. And, we have shared a *candle* with our sister church of El Redentor in Guatemala. Together with sisters and brothers in Guatemala and around the world, we light our candles every time we worship to remind us to pray for peace in our lives, in our communities, and in our world.

THE MINISTERS

All Members of First Presbyterian Church

THE MINISTRY STAFF

Laura Sparks – Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

lsparks@fpnewton.com

Brandon Winbush - Director of Music

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim J. Berry – Office Manager

kberry@fpnewton.com

Jim Ten Kate - Treasurer

Bill Inscoe - Treasurer Emeritus

MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH

Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley – Congo

Rev. Dr. John McCall – Taiwan

Eliane Menezes - Guatemala



THE SESSION

Class of 2024

Gary McDougal (1)
Charles Moody (3)
Amy Owensby (1)
Amy Yenderusiak (3)

Class of 2025

Lynette Inscoe (2)
David McCart (3)
Mimi Michael (4)
Randy Miller (4)

Class of 2026

Eva Bonnema (1)
Margie Pulliam (2)
Ray Rhinehart (5)
Jim Ten Kate (3)

(1) Council on Discipleship

(2) Council on Caring

(3) Council on Administration

(4) Council on Sharing

(5) Council on Praise

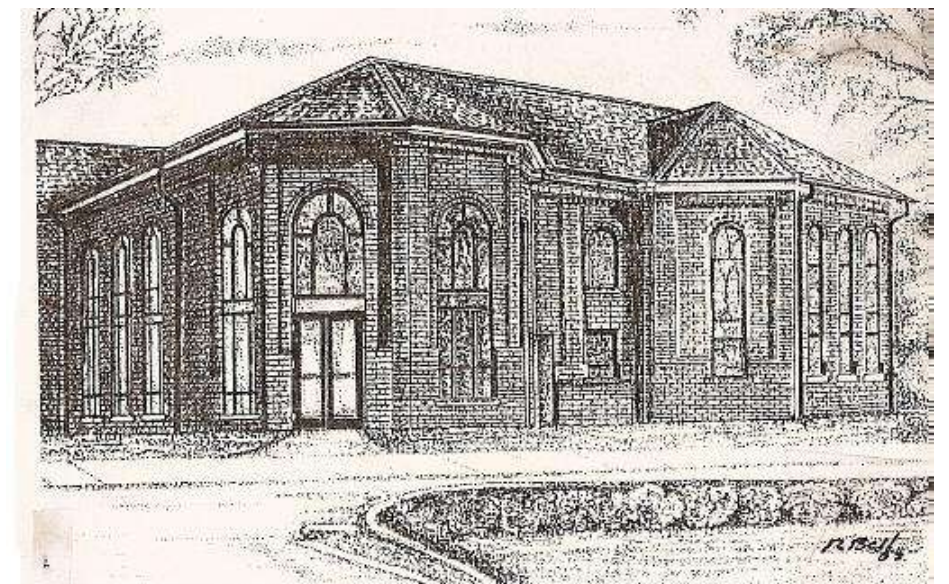
Amy Owensby - Clerk of Session

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

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701 N. Main Avenue
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658
www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.