

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
ORDER OF WORSHIP  
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, July 21, 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: “For the Beauty of the Earth” arr. Joel Raney

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves: That is not we who choose Christ,

**but Christ who chose us.**

That we are not here because of our goodness

**but because of Christ’s grace,**

That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

**but to allow Christ to enlighten us,**

That we have not come to be entertained

**but to worship God with heart, soul mind and strength.**

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

**Almighty God, your name is awesome. You are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. You are the biggest and the most beautiful and the most powerful. Yet you love to hear us sing and pray. You really love it when your children praise you. Help us to worship you this morning and bring honor to your name. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” GTG #645

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We have sought what is comfortable and are often wrapped up in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, selfishness and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. 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

**Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day. Help us to rely always on your promises in Scripture. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 3:1-17

pg. 50

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” arr. Jane Holstein  
(Brandon Winbush, soloist/pianist)

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Laura Sparks

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 pg. 165

SERMON: “Why Are We Here?” Rev. Dr. Jody Welker

\*HYMN: “Will You Come and Follow Me” GTG #726

**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: “Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown” 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

**WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

\*CLOSING HYMN: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” GTG #435

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

\*Please stand in body or spirit

**Bold** print words are read in unison.

Lay Leader this morning is Becky McRee.  
Elder on Call this week is Amy Owensby.

We welcome the Rev. Jody Welker back to First Presbyterian to serve as our Transitional (Interim) Pastor. Jody served FPC from 1991-2004. He accepted a call to serve the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian church in Cary, NC before retiring in 2021. He has served as the Interim at Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, AR. Sharon became an academic dean at Wake Tech Community College. Anna works in the hospitality industry in Baltimore, Maryland. Joe is serving as stated supply at East Craftsbury PC in Vermont.

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“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” Text: Johann Jacob Shutz, 1675; transc. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.. Music: Bohemian Brethren’s Kirchengesang, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, 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; “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” Text: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt. Music: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Rontgen, c. 1906.

**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 speak to Rev. Jody Welker, Interim Pastor, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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@fpcnewton.com](mailto:lsparks@fpcnewton.com)  
Brandon Winbush - Director of Music

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim J. Berry – Office Manager  
[kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.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   | (4) Council on Sharing |
| (2) Council on Caring         | (5) Council on Praise  |
| (3) Council on Administration |                        |

Amy Owensby - Clerk of Session

## INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Joseph Welker, Jr.

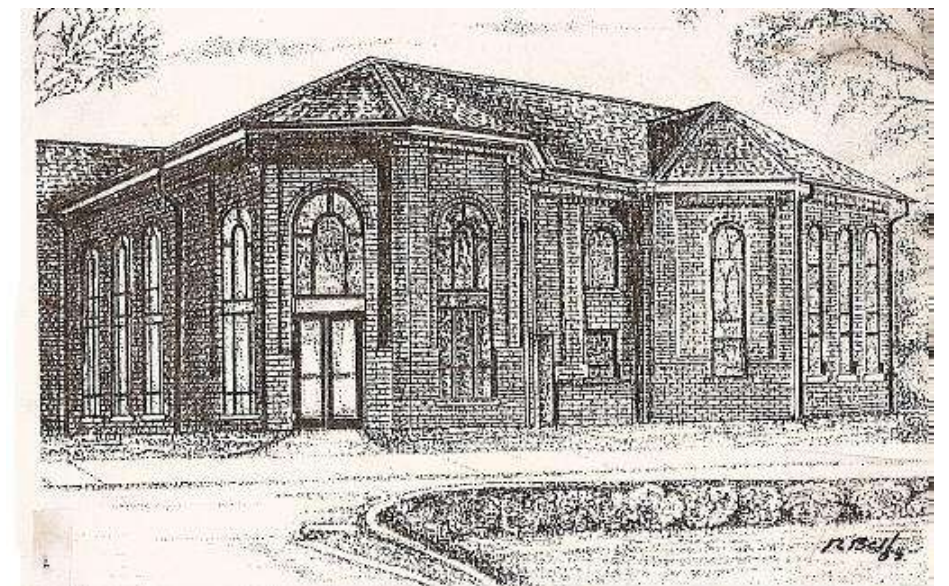
### Pastor Jody Welker may be reached at:

828-464-0648 (Church) [jwelker@fpcnewton.com](mailto:jwelker@fpcnewton.com)  
919-389-4811 (Cell)

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858  
Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Sunday July 21, 2024  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 a.m.



701 N. Main Avenue  
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658  
[www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*Following Christ together in witness, love and service.*