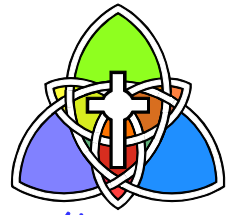




# First Presbyterian Church

*meets at*  
292 West Main Street · Newark, DE 19711  
302-731-5644 · firstpresnewark.org



*Worship Grow Serve*

April 28, 2024

## Fifth Sunday of Easter



*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world  
as we Worship, Grow and Serve.*



\*Those who are able may stand

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thanks for joining us in worship today. Please sign the red Friendship Pad. If you are a visitor, please share with us your contact information, including your email address, so we can add you to our email distribution list.*

## PRELUDE

### \*PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

*(This is a prayer we will sing to prepare our hearts for worship)*

*As the Deer*

Martin Nystrom

**As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longeth after Thee  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship Thee**

**You alone are my strength my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship Thee**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

1 John 4:7-14

One: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

**All: Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

One: God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

**All: In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

One: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

**All: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

One: By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

**All: And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (unison)

**Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new  
in water and Word,  
feeding your people with love, joy, and peace.  
Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings.  
Teach us to love what you have commanded  
and to prune what does not nourish your creation,  
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and  
forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH MESSAGE**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of mercy,  
we confess that we have not borne the fruit  
of the Spirit.  
We have not loved others as you have loved us.  
We have denied the promises of baptism  
and cut ourselves off from you.  
Forgive us, restore us,  
that we may abide in your love  
and live out your mercy,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**ANTHEM**

Cornerstone

Mote, Liljero, Myrin  
Morgan, Bradbury

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison)

**Come, Holy Spirit,  
that through your word we may be guided  
into the love of God for all the world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURES (PAGES 892,878) Acts 8:26-40, John 15: 1-8

Response after reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*The Fear of Bearing Fruit*

Pastor Dan McKenty

*(If you have prayer concerns or joys today,  
please use our Prayer Request Card and give it to an Usher during this hymn.)*

\*HYMN # 836

*Abide with Me, (verses 1, 3 & 5)*

EVENTIDE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

1 Peter 2:22-25

**We believe Christ suffered for us,  
leaving us an example,  
so that we should follow in his steps.**

**“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”  
When he was abused, he did not return abuse;  
when he suffered, he did not threaten;  
but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
so that, free from sins,  
we might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds we have been healed.  
For we were going astray like sheep,  
but now we have returned  
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Be Thou My Vision*

Bob Chilcott

\*SONG OF DEDICATION

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

HYMN # 606

**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**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER CONCERNS

*As each group is prayed for the minister will say: Lord in Your Mercy, and the  
people will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)**

**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.  
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN # 611**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*SONG OF SENDING**

*Light the Fire*

Bill Maxwell

**I stand to praise you  
But I fall to my knees  
My spirit is hungry  
But my flesh is so weak**

**So light the fire in my soul  
Fan the flame make me whole  
Oh Lord you know where I've been  
So light the fire in my heart again**

**I feel your arms around me  
As the power of your healing begins  
You breathe new life right through me  
Like a mighty rushing wind**

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED**  
*To the Glory of God*

**THIS Week's Worship- April 28, 2024**

**USHERS:** Joe Huggins Ted Koser,  
Faithe Koser, Laura Sievert  
**LITURGIST:** Nancy Stevens  
**CLOSER:** Ron Olson  
**COUNTERS:** Matt Reynes, Joe Huggins  
**GREETERS:** Anne Lewis

**Next Week's Worship- May 5, 2024**

**USHERS:** Carol Aftosmis, Marianne Piser,  
Jim Annett, Joe Kowalski  
**LITURGIST:** Jim Annett  
**CLOSER:** Greg Hills  
**COUNTERS:** Ron Olson, Mimi Lovelace  
**GREETERS:** Sandy Wenner, Melanie Sipko

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** Cost \$31.00 Flowers can be dedicated in honor or memory of family, friends and loved ones. You may keep or donate the flowers. A sign-up form is located in the Narthex. Checks *clearly identified for chancel flowers* may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office.

**ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH PAYPAL** - or you can mail or drop your offerings off at the church office. Visit our website giving page for details.

<https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/>

**THE CHURCH CALENDAR** can be accessed on our website using the FPC-N Calendar tab on the top of the homepage.



## GRADUATION 2024



Graduations are coming up fast! Do you have a child, spouse or even yourself that will be graduating this spring? Please email requested information below, along with a picture to Grace at [officemanager@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:officemanager@firstpresnewark.org) or fill out this form and drop it off at the church office.

We will recognize our graduates in the Summer Heart Beat.

*Deadline to return is May 15th.*

***Graduation Sunday will be June 9<sup>th</sup>.***

Name:

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Name of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduating from: (circle one)    High School    College

School Graduating From:

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Future Plans:

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# STRAWBERRY PICNIC

JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> @ 11:30



**Come, eat and enjoy some fellowship.  
Bring a friend or neighbor  
to enjoy the fun.**

## Sunday, April 28, 2024

10:00 am Worship

10:15 am- Children dismissed to Sunday School

11:30 am Adult Spiritual Development

## Monday April 29, 2024

## Tuesday, April 30, 2024

## Wednesday, May 1, 2024

9:00 am Prayer Group

10:00 am Admin/Communications Meeting

12:00 pm Band of Brothers

7:30 Mission and Outreach Meeting

## Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 pm Choir Practice

## Friday, May 3, 2024

## Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00 am First Saturday Breakfast

## Sunday, May 5, 2024

10:00 am Worship- Communion

10:15 am- Children dismissed to Sunday School

11:30 am Adult Spiritual Development

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**PASTOR:** Dan McKenty

Email: [pastor@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:pastor@firstpresnewark.org)

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Grace Laughinghouse

Email: [officemanager@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:officemanager@firstpresnewark.org)

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Harvey Conner

Email: [finansec@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:finansec@firstpresnewark.org)

**TREASURER:** Bob Black

Email: [treasurer@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:treasurer@firstpresnewark.org)

**CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Leia Gibson

**PRAISE TEAM LEADER:** Larry Benson

Email: [praiseleader@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:praiseleader@firstpresnewark.org)

**VIDEO/MEDIA TEAM:** Andre Corbitt, Kaitlin Douglas, Dave Evers, Ted Koser, Beth Marshall, Jim Pierson-Perry, and Laura Sievert

**WEBSITE:** [www.firstpresnewark.org](http://www.firstpresnewark.org)

**PHONE:** 302-731-5644

**EMAIL:** [fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org)

**PRAYER EMAIL:** [prayers@firstpresnewark.org](mailto:prayers@firstpresnewark.org)

**ONLINE GIVING:** <https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/>

(Copy link to your web browser)

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** First Presbyterian Church of Newark

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Friday 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

### LIST OF OFFICERS BY CLASS

#### SESSION

**CLERK** —Nancy Lewis

**Class of 2024:** Jim Annett, Melody Bock, Pat Nelson, Bob Wunder

**Class of 2025:** Joe Kowalski, Nancy Lewis, Ron Olson, Mark Sisk

**Class of 2026:** Mimi Lovelace, Jim Pierson-Perry, Don Tancredi

#### DEACONS

**MODERATOR:** Jane Moore

**Class of 2024:** Rosemarie Beron, Jane Moore, Darlene Newsom, Nancy Stevens

**Class of 2025:** Judy Agnello, Stephanie Birdsall, Jan Huckleberry, Bob Wenner

**Class of 2026:** Julia Blair, Clinton Nanji, Vickie Pierson-Perry, David Angel Trujillo



**Join Pastor Dan for *The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes***

In this course we will hear the parables of Jesus as his disciples, the crowds, and the religious authorities heard them. New and amazing perspectives await us as the parables are revealed in an entirely new light. Join us as we journey back in time to hear our Lord's stories as he first told them.

There is no book to buy, and you need only read the parable beforehand and ponder its meaning to prepare for the class. Classes will be held directly following Sunday worship in Memorial Hall.

May 5 – The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:26-37

May 12 – The Rich Fool – Luke 12:13-21

May 19 – The Great Banquet - Luke 14:15-24

May 26 – The Two Builders – Matthew 7:24-27

June 2 – The Unjust Steward – Luke 16:1-13

June 9 – No Class (Strawberry Picnic)

June 16 – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

June 23 – The Compassionate Employer – Matthew 20:1-16

June 30 – The Serving Master – Luke 12:35-38

July 7 – Lazarus and the Rich Man – Luke 16:19-31

July 14 – Parable of the Pounds – Luke 19:11-27

July 21 – The Parable of the Tenants – Luke 20:9-18

\*The New Revised Standard Version [NRSV] or the New International Version [NIV] are the preferred translations for this course.