



Christ Child Just Born, by Mike Chapman

First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina

May 3, 2026

Front Cover:

From the artist "St Martin-in-the-fields church in the centre of London is visited by thousands of people each day. For the millennium I was commissioned to produce a sculpture to be placed in Trafalgar square, during Christmas prior to the celebrations. It seemed to me that a tiny life-size baby carved from stone in such an enormous environment would be the best way to remind us all of just whose birthday we were celebrating. In a 4.5 tonne block of Portland stone, this work can be found at the entrance to the church."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Now Dance and Sing Ye Christians All

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader: You are a chosen people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood.

People: **We proclaim the mighty acts of God, who calls us from darkness to light.**

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: **Once we were no people, now we are the people of God.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

*HYMN NO. 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Westminster Abbey

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin,

but we confess that we have not obeyed your word.

We have harbored malice toward our enemies;

we have been deceitful in our relationships;

we have been insincere in our commitment;

through gossip we have slandered our friends.

Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance.

Help your children long for your sustenance,

that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 243

Be Not Afraid

Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid' (Hymn No. 243). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Chris Uithoven

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Lord, as we listen to your holy Word,
open our hearts to the power of your Spirit,
call us out of darkness,
and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 108)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Chris Uithoven

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

(Pew Bible, NT Page 233)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Living Stones"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith*

John Weicher

**We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world
through this community of ordinary people,
therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church.**

**Christ is the Head of the church,
therefore we are responsible to Christ**

when we make policy and decisions in the church.

**Christ is the foundation of the church,
therefore it will not fail despite our weakness.**

**We are confident that the Lord of the church
will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions,
help us in our weakness,
and use the church to accomplish his purposes.**

*HYMN NO. 536

Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

Surge Ecclesia

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Dorsey, arr. Howard Helvey

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,

take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near,
when my light is almost gone;
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone;
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*Doxology with Alleluias

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia; Alleluia;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: You made a way through chaos, constructing God,
the Word echoing on mountaintops and whispering in valleys;
the Spirit teaching songs to the stars,
and breathing life into those created
in your image as your precious children.

Prophets came to remind us that

you would not put us to shame,

psalmists sang to us of your longing to cut the net of sin and death and set us free,
but, together, we rushed into the open arms of temptation.

Then you sent Jesus,

so that in knowing and believing in him,
we would know and believe in you.

With those who have nothing and with those who give everything away,
and with the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices to you:

All (sung):

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high- est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high- est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You shape a safe place for us, imaginative God,
and send your Child, Jesus, to show us the Way.
Born a baby, he shows us how to grow into your people.
The cornerstone of your kingdom,
he uses us to build a spiritual home for all.
Committing his spirit to you,
he entered the emptiness of death,
so we might stand on the solid ground of the resurrected life.
Even as we celebrate the Life that was his,
as we claim the Truth that all are one with you,
we take refuge in that mystery called faith:

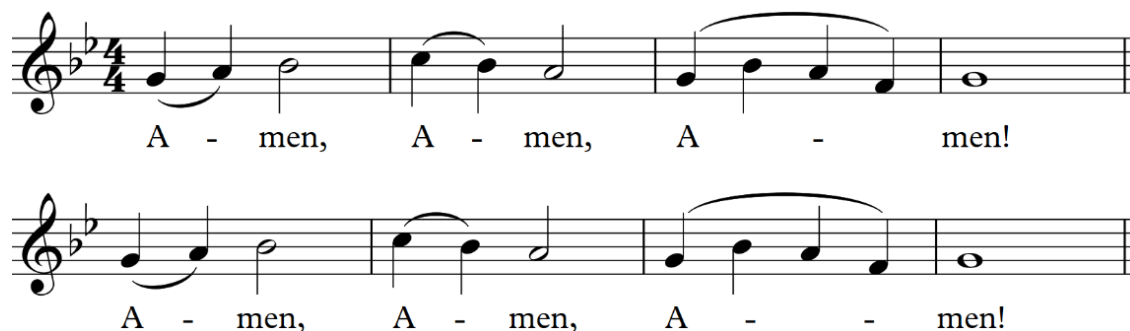
All (sung):

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Once, we were alone and hopeless,
but by your mercy, Living God, we are now a family,
gathered in your love around this table,
where the Spirit sanctifies the bread and cup.
You come to us as bread,
filling us with your grace and sending us out to be your people.
You offer us the cup of hope,

healing our troubled hearts
 and strengthening us to serve your world.
 And when the Way leads us home to you,
 when your Life gathers us with our siblings
 around the table which is prepared by your Truth,
 we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever,
 God in Community, Holy Three in One.

All (sung):



THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

★ Ecumenical Version

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas, John Weicher

***COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

(The bread and the elements are gluten free and were prepared in a gluten-free area. We use grape juice in the cup. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. The server will give you a piece of bread, which you dip in the cup. Parents, please assist children as they take bread and lightly dip it into the cup. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)

Communion Hymn

This Is the Body of Christ

Iona Community

*This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole:
 this cup, as promised by God, true to his word,
 cradles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

John Weicher

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: We have been served, O God of the Table.

Guide us now as we leave this place

and go into your world to serve, to build, and to love.

And keep us safe until we gather around it again. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 301**

Let Us Build a House (vv. 1, 3, 5)

Two Oaks

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Christ Is Arisen, Alleluia

*Tanzanian folk tune,
arr. J. Wayne Kerr (World Hymns)*

**Those who are able, please stand.*

Happening Today

Children’s Choir will meet following worship in the Christian Education building.

Rev. Julio Ramirez-Eve’s Sabbatical Art Exhibit (Part 2): Join Iglesia Emanuel members and friends today at 1pm for food, community, and an art exhibit featuring original works inspired by Julio’s sabbatical trip to Australia last summer, particularly by the Aboriginal artwork he saw there. The exhibit will be held at Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel (2504 N. Roxboro St).

SONAM (Singers of New and Ancient Music) will join with members of the Duke String School for music about finding refuge in the storm at its spring concert today at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Admission is free and donations will support the work **Families Moving Forward** (fmfnc.org) does helping families with children experiencing homelessness.

Youth Group will meet at 4:30pm for Flour War and Goodbye to Parker Stiles (2927 Tavistock Dr).



First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Sign In

Donate Online

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian welcomes individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The ***flowers*** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mindy Douglas’ 10th year serving First Presbyterian Church, and as inspiration for the years to come by ***Laura Hanson***.

Flower Donation Opportunities Available: There are open dates for worship flower donors in July. To sign up, visit bit.ly/FPCflowers26 or click on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter.

The ***Paschal Banner*** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten and Easter symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of ***Bess Bryant*** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

Our ***paschal candle and stained red oak stand*** is a visible sign of God’s enduring presence in our beautiful century-old sanctuary. Adopted by early Christians, the lit candle represents the Risen Christ’s triumph over darkness and death. The beeswax candle is inscribed with a Cross and an *alpha* and *omega*, symbols attesting to Christ’s presence among us always. Traditionally, the candle is lit during worship services throughout the fifty days of Eastertide from Easter to Pentecost.

★ ***The Lord's Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated:*** From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular or in the common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that, by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. Of course, you may always choose to pray in the words closest to your heart, be those words debts or trespasses.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* and *Feasting on the Word: Year A, Vol 1*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

These Days devotional books for April-June are available in the foyer.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. ***Activity bags and baskets*** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them to the foyer at the end of worship.

Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the first and second floors of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Upcoming Community Events

Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>



Yoga is offered at FPC on Mondays at 4:30pm (vinyasa flow class), and Fridays at 10:30am (chair yoga class). Contact ***Jane Wettach*** for more information at janewettach@gmail.com.

Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Freedom will have a **Faith Leaders Advocacy Day** at 8:45am on Tuesday, **May 5**, at the NC General Assembly. Learn more and register for the Advocacy Day at shorturl.at/M2PY8.

Guest Preacher Next Sunday: We are thrilled to welcome one of the leaders of the denomination to our pulpit this Mother's Day! ***Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley***, the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary, will be preaching at 11am on **May 10**. Our own ***Cris Rivera*** is currently enrolled at Union, and they will be one of our liturgists.

The next ***All-Church Luncheon*** will be next Sunday, **May 10!** Please stay after worship that day for a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, and a cap of \$25 per family, payable with cash or card the day of. No RSVP required; visit bit.ly/FPCLunch510 to volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up.

"Things That Matter" Book Group: On Tuesday, **May 12**, the group will discuss *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. ***Kathy Parkins*** will facilitate the discussion and ***Caroline Pritchett*** will host. The book discussion is at 4pm. Please RSVP to Caroline at 919-491-4490 or caropritchett@gmail.com. All are welcome!

First Acts - Playreading Group: All are welcome to join in to read Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” (or sit in and listen!) on Saturday, **May 16**, 9am-12pm, in the Fellowship Hall. We intend to explore the play more deeply and identify the themes from this Pulitzer Prize-winning play that are still relevant to our lives today. Visit bit.ly/41yxIBX to register and provide some additional information. Please contact ***Mason Essif*** at masonessif@comcast.net or ***Chris Uithoven*** at chris.uithoven614@gmail.com for more information.

Welcome new FPC Staff! We are excited to welcome two new staff members who officially begin their work with us tomorrow, May 4. ***Janet Askew*** will serve as our new Business Administrator. ***Brandi Kirkland*** is joining the staff as our new Communications Associate. We look forward to introducing them to you!

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

We celebrate with *Nora Tubbs Tisdale* and her family as she receives the Distinguished Alumni Award at Union Presbyterian Seminary this week as a part of their annual Sprunt Lecture Series.

Condolences:

We remember in prayer *Claire Su*, upon the death of her father, *Wu-Chou Su*.

We pray for *Marcia Lorimer* and *David Lorimer* upon the death this week of their relative *Jan Wootton*.

We remember in prayer:

Kerry Holbrook, as they recover from spinal surgery.

Carl Holladay, friend of the congregation, in Duke Hospital.

Dan Huff, following a brief hospitalization.

Amy Mapel, who will have shoulder surgery this week.

Alfred Tisdale, following a surgical procedure this week.

Perry Black

Susan Cyr

Lee House

Fred Moore

Tony Brown

John Fricks

Ann Huff

Lori Pistor

Paul Cornsweet

Sue Fricks

Elizabeth Manceras

Franzi Rokoske

Sam Crabtree

Elizabeth High

Harriett Mitchell

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Alfred Tisdale*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills, Phyllis Supple*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

Southpoint Atria: *Madge McKeithen*

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Ashley Alvord, colleague of Sharon Hirsch

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and
Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Sara Degand, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Gera Fleming, mother of Christyn Klinck

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of
Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Donna Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Anthony Ketcham, brother of Wil James

Marcia Magee, aunt of Kathryn Muchison

Marie Maly, sister of Barbara Fish

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman

Martha Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon and
Beth Neece

Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Annie Reaves, great-niece of Floalice and
Robert Reaves

Joe Quirk, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 394



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

D G Bm F#m Em7 A Bm

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age

A D Em A Bm Gmaj7

meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -

Em7 A D Bm7 E Asus A D

vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -

G Em A A7 Bm Em A7 D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

301

Let Us Build a House *(vv. 1, 3, 5)*

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



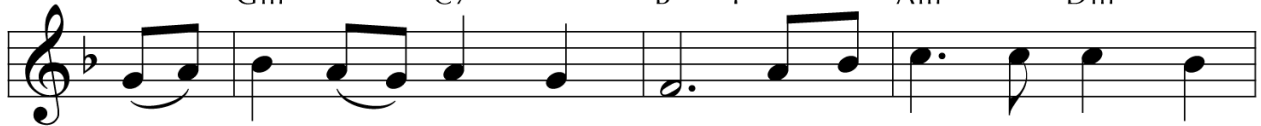
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

THE CHURCH

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, May 3 *Newsletter Deadline*

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship with Communion: Mindy Douglas, preaching

3:00 PM SONAM Concert (Sanctuary)

4:30 PM Youth Group: Flour War (2927 Tavistock Dr)

Following Worship

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)
Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)
Youth Summer Trips Stock Sale (Upper Lobby)

Monday, May 4

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)

1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)

4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

7:00 PM Youth Ministry Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

Tuesday, May 5 *Newsletter Release*

Wednesday, May 6

1:00 PM FPC Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 7

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

Friday, May 8

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day; Senior Blessing; Baptism

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship: Rev. Jacqueline Lapsley, preaching

Following Worship

All-Church Luncheon (Watts-Hill Hall)
Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)
Youth Summer Trips Stock Sale (Upper Lobby)
Youth: Guru & Rising 6th Grader Lunches (Lobby)

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton



Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus
Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
office@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>

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