

Newsletter

July 28, 2026



The Pigeon and the Firefighter

Friends, in my sermon on Sunday I mentioned a recent viral [TikTok of a pigeon and a firefighter](#). Many of you ask where you could find that video, and I figured I would include it in this week's newsletter for your viewing pleasure!

I know I mention pigeons often...

[Read More Here](#)

Handy Links

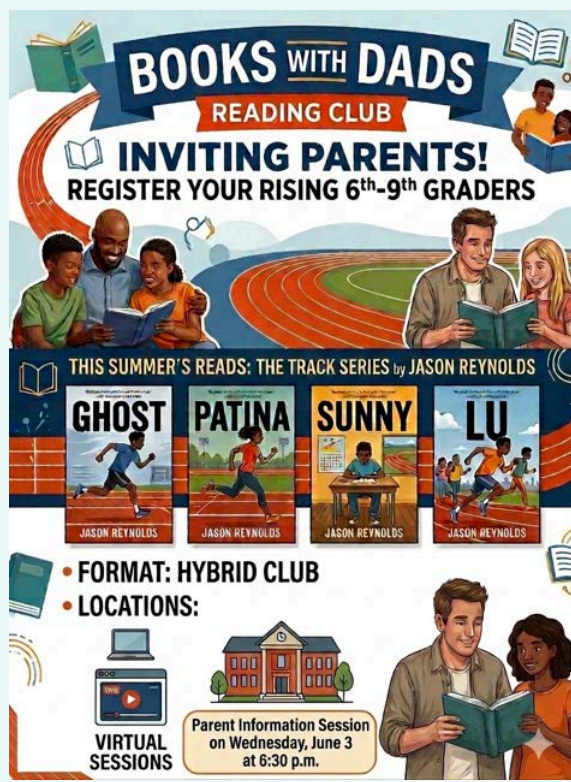
For full details on how to submit announcements and which communication channel to choose, please [click here](#) to view our Church Communications Submission Guide.

[Online Giving](#)
[Online Calendar](#)
[Phishing & Spoofing](#)

[Ways to Give](#)
[July Birthdays](#)
[Joys & Concerns](#)

The churchlife app can be used to locate address information for sending cards to individuals and families. If you do not already have the app, you may not be able to download it from the app store. Some Androids do not support the app.

Happening This Week



Books with Dads

This summer, our own faith formation teacher Bob Pleasants and his friend Montez Thomas will again be reading & leading Books with Dads. This year, they're working through Jason Reynolds' "Track" series. The gatherings are hybrid, so kids can join however works best for their family. This is particularly good for middle schoolers, but other youth are welcome. Youth don't have to do all of them to do one - each is a stand-alone event.

Remaining Schedule:

July 30 - Sunny | August 10 - Lu

Questions? Email Bob Pleasants at bob.pleasants@gmail.com.

First Friends — August Gathering This Saturday!

Join us for our August First Friends gathering, hosted by **Deborah and Tyler Momsen-Hudson**. **Saturday, August 1 at 6:00 p.m.** Bring a side, dessert, or drink to share, plus your camp chairs if you have them. We'll be outdoors, so dress accordingly.

Location: 1339 Holden Roberts Farm Rd, Hillsborough, NC 27278



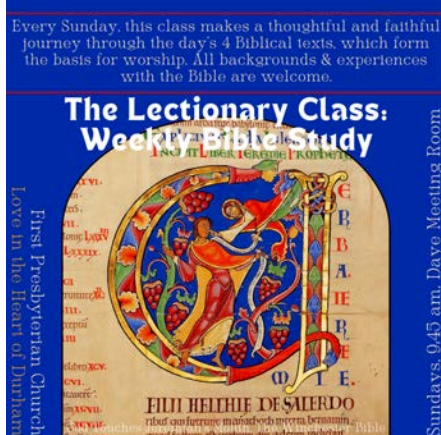
Accessible parking is available in the driveway close to the house.

[RSVP Here](#)

Lectionary

Robert Daye Meeting Room

Join us each **Sunday at 9:45** in the Robert Daye Meeting Room for discussion of the lectionary readings.



August 2: Can't you just imagine the disciples' frustration with Jesus? "You give them something to eat." Why does he make such impossible demands?

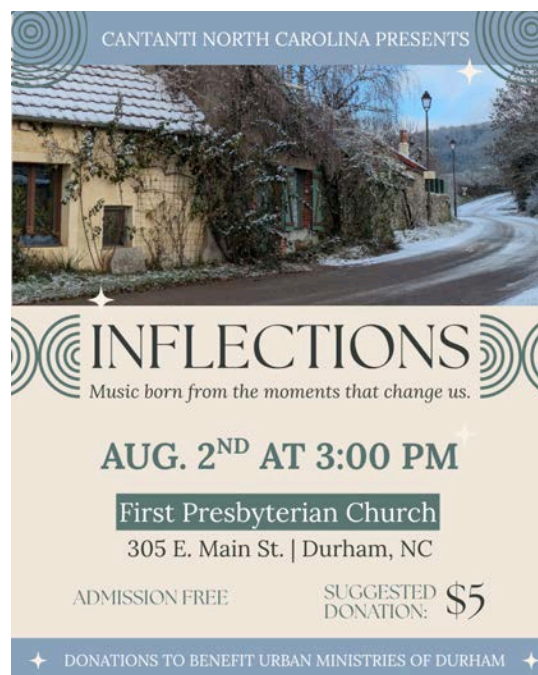
August 9: Before he was sold into slavery in Egypt, Joseph was an annoying, arrogant little brother. Was his suffering in slavery required for his spiritual growth? To ask it another way, did Peter have to sink into the sea before his

faith could grow?

Cantanti North Carolina Presents: Inflections

Cantanti North Carolina, a choral ensemble conducted by **Dan Huff**, presents its 2025-2026 European Tour Home Concert, "Inflections," **Sunday, August 2 at 3 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. This concert explores music about moments or themes that change our thinking and, consequently, our lives.

Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$5, and all proceeds benefit [Urban Ministries of Durham](#). Bring a friend for an afternoon of beautiful music in the sanctuary at 305 E. Main St. All are welcome.



Join Us for Worship



August 2

Mindy Douglas, preaching

August 9

Wilson Gunn, preaching

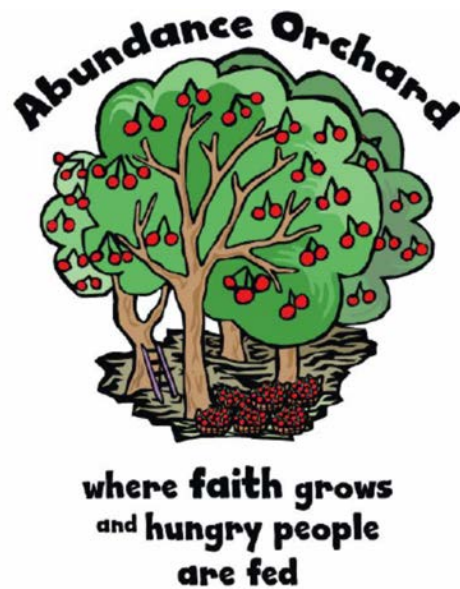
Children's Ministries

Children's Faith Formation

Children's Summer Faith Formation will meet on Sunday at 9:45. Last Sunday we started by checking the garden to see if it needed water and looked for any produce that needed to be picked!

Our story was about when Jesus ate dinner at the home of Mary and Martha, and we worked on making and decorating bird houses (birds are important for the garden!).

If you'd like more information about children's faith formation or serving with our amazing kids, please email **Lenore Champion**: l.champion@firstpres-durham.org



Youth Ministry

Youth Calendar

Our youth are on the go this summer! From mission trips to Asheville and Appalachia, to conferences at Massanetta and Montreat, to hangouts at the Milkshake Factory and Fantasy Lake, there's something happening almost every week through August. Youth and families can find the full calendar of dates, times, and locations right here.

If you have questions about any event or want to get your student plugged in, please email John Weicher at j.weicher@firstpres-durham.org.

FRIENDS WELCOME - JESUS LOVES YOU - ALL SUMMER LONG

FPC Youth Summer 26 Calendar



JUNE

- BRENT BLESSING & T-SHIRT HANDOUT 6/7, 10:15a, Wilson Parlor
- MISSION COMMISSIONING IN WORSHIP 6/7, 11a, Sanctuary
- ASP TRAINING 6/7, 1:30-3:30p, 1339 Holden Roberts Farm Rd.
- MILKSHAKE FACTORY HANGOUT 6/10, 7-8p, 359 Blackwell St.
- ASHEVILLE YOUTH MISSION 6/14-19
- APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT 6/21-27
- SERVING @ THE DIAPER BANK & LUNCH 6/30, 9a-1p, FPC parking lot

JULY



- ROCK CLIMBING & SHAKE SHACK 7/7, 6:30-8p, 1713 Legion Rd Chapel Hill
- MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE 7/14-17
- HOMEMADE ICE CREAM HANGOUT 7/23, 7-8p, 2713 Dogwood Rd.
- MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE 7/26-8/1

AUGUST




- LITTLE FREE PANTRY FILL-UP BLITZ 8/6, 7-8:30p, FPC
- THE PARLOUR HANGOUT 8/9, 7-8p, 117 Market St.
- FANTASY LAKE 8/16, 1-5p, FPC
- STOCK SALE BRUNCH 8/23, 12:15p

Fellowship Opportunities



First Friends Beach Trip 2026

Calling all Beachcombers! The annual First Friends Beach Trip is set for **September 11 through 13**, and the search for this year's location is underway. If you would like to join the fun, now is the time to let the group know.

Housing costs are expected to run between \$350 and \$400 per bedroom for the full weekend. To hold your spot, please Venmo \$100 to @Kathy-Conner-11 by **July 15**. This deposit is non-refundable, though if your plans change, you are welcome to find someone to take your place.

First-timers are always welcome and always delighted in. For more information, contact **Kathy Conner** at kwc.enoriver@yahoo.com or **Deborah Momsen-Hudson** at 919-417-8664 or dmomsenhudson@gmail.com.

Get Involved



Volunteers Needed: Phyllis Supple Memorial Service and Reception

A memorial service celebrating the life of **Phyllis Supple** will be held in the sanctuary on **Friday, August 7 at 11:00 AM**, followed by a reception in Watts Hill Hall. We are seeking volunteers to help

with setup, serving, greeting, and cleanup, as well as members willing to bring food for the reception, including fruit plates, nuts, cookies, gluten free cookies, finger sandwiches, and cheese and crackers.

If you are able to lend a hand or contribute a dish in Phyllis's memory, please sign up by **August 4** at <https://tinyurl.com/supple-memorial>.

25th Anniversary of Fill That Bus! Campaign

It's that time of the year! FPC has been part of a long-standing tradition of showing up for public schools and making a tangible impact across public school classrooms in Durham. Last year, you donated a mountain of goods valuing \$1250+. Join us again in ensuring 2,400+ DPS educators and staff at 100% of DPS schools have access to free classroom supplies through the Teacher Store so they can focus on teaching, not out-of-pocket spending. See list of supplies needed to restock the store or support financially through the FPC Durham campaign page!



Donations: <https://bullcityschools.app.neoncrm.com/FPCDurham26C2C>

Supply list: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dmd7pp0sH7eveR8GZ2zuicry1-N2w5O1/view?usp=sharing>

New to FPC? Join Us for Presbyterian 101

What's with the robes and stoles? What's a session? How do I get involved? If you're a visiting friend (or new member!) with questions like these, join FPC



leaders for Presbyterian 101 — a conversation on Presbyterian theology, polity, worship, and how to get connected.

When: August 16, 23, and 30 at 9:45 a.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Come as you are, with all the small questions or big doubts. We're excited to have you!

Volunteer in the Office

Share your time to support the daily work of the church.

[Read More](#)

Sanctuary

Flowers

There are open dates for [worship flower donors in September](#). This ministry offers a meaningful way to donate flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor



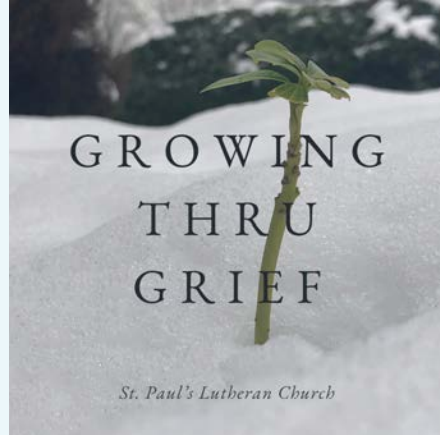
of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion. The flower arrangements bring the colors and beauty of nature to our worship service each Sunday. [Read more on our website.](#)

[Sign Up Here](#)

Community Events

Growing thru Grief

Please join us this **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, for another relevant and helpful presentation when we welcome death doula, **Holly Lux-Sullivan**, who will address "The Literal Feelings of Grief."



Growing thru Grief meets **every Tuesday at 4:00**, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis. Our short presentation is followed by a small group discussion. There is no cost to participate, and no preregistration is necessary. We are open to all who grieve.

Light the City: Utility Bill Assistance and School Supplies

On **Saturday, August 15 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, Light the City comes to Durham County Memorial Stadium. Presented by Duke Community Affairs and powered by First Calvary Baptist Church, this is one of Durham's largest community service events, bringing together churches, nonprofits, businesses, and volunteers to serve our city.



This year's offerings include \$25,000 in utility bill assistance, free school supplies for every middle school student in Durham Public Schools, household essentials like diapers and toiletries, health screenings, and family friendly activities throughout the day.

If you or someone you know could use a hand, or if you would simply like to see Durham showing up for Durham, this is a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Learn more at <https://fcbcdurham.org/light-the-city/>.

Yoga Offerings

Monday at 4:30pm | Watts-Hill Hall

Friday at 10:30am | Room 201

For more information email [Jane Wettach](mailto:jane.wettach@fcbcdurham.org).

**Please note that yoga will be canceled on August 6.*



yoga
CLASS

A class for you to relax your body and soul

MONDAY
Vinyasa Flow
4:30 PM

JOIN US FOR
YOGA AT FPC

FRIDAY
Chair Yoga
10:30 AM

CONTACT JANE WETTACH FOR MORE INFORMATION



Ends of the Earth

A Contemplative Retreat to Experience the Wisdom, Food, and Musical Traditions of Celtic Christianity

September 18–20

Avila Center for Community Leadership

Ends of the Earth will offer participants an opportunity to slow their pace, gather for thoughtful listening to each other and the natural world, enjoy nutritious communal meals, and restore energy for engagement in the world. The retreat will include teachings, practices, food, and music grounded in the Celtic Christian traditions, which took shape at the westernmost ends of Europe on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland beginning in the 5th century.

First Presbyterian Church | www.firstpres-durham.org

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First Presbyterian Church of Durham NC | 305 E. Main Street | Durham, NC 27701 US

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