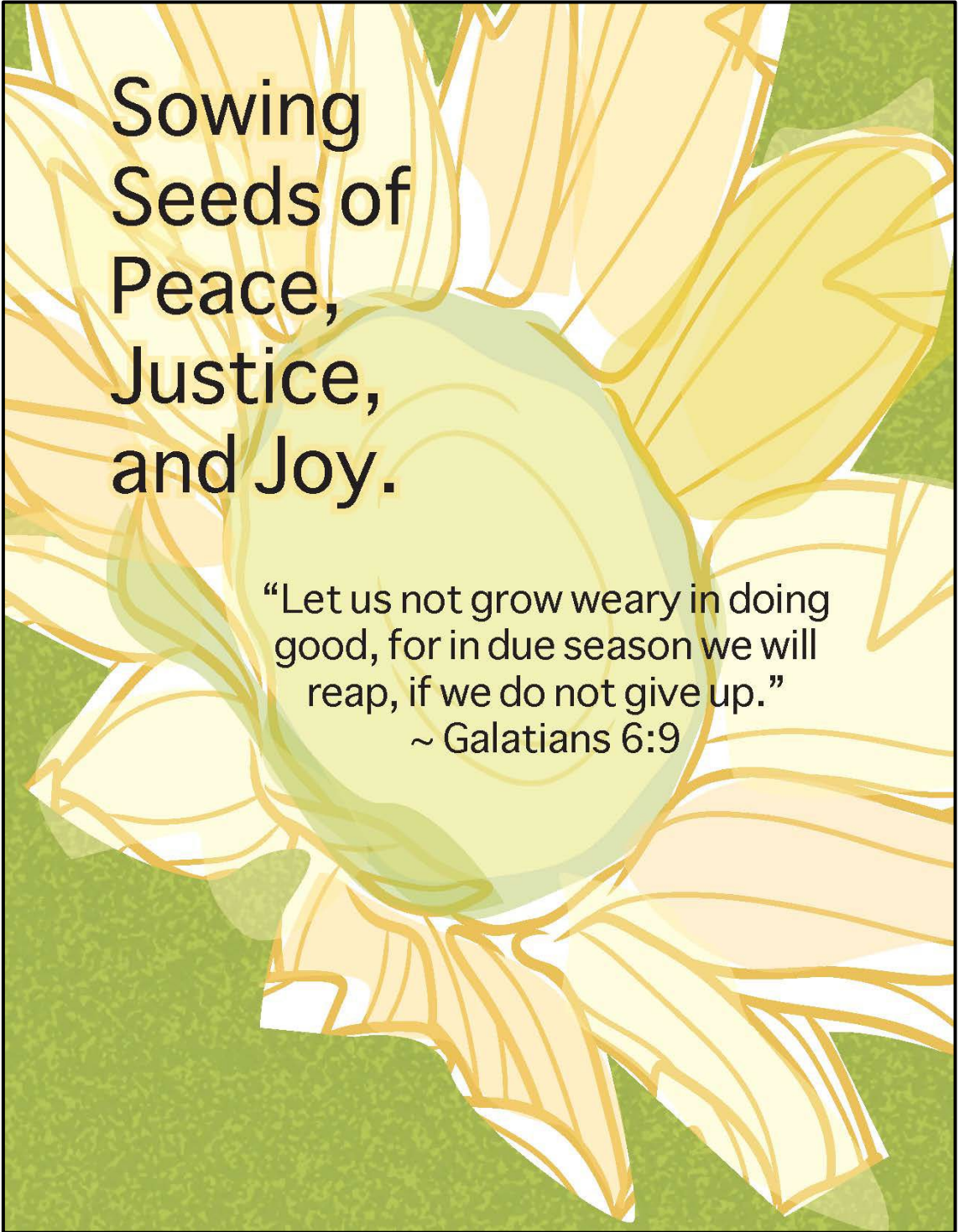




Sowing Seeds of Peace, Justice, and Joy.

“Let us not grow weary in doing
good, for in due season we will
reap, if we do not give up.”
~ Galatians 6:9

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

October 11, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

Minute for Stewardship

Kathy Colville

PRELUDE

Élégie

comp. César Franck

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We gather to worship the God who calls us to do justice.

People: God, here we are! All glory belongs to you.

Leader: We gather to worship the God who calls us to cherish kindness.

People: God, here we are! From you all good things come.

Leader: We gather to worship the God
who calls us to journey humbly together and with God.

People: God, here we are!

Give us all we need to follow where you guide us.

*HYMN NO. 755

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

WEISSE FLAGGEN

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you have chosen us for a purpose —
that we might bear lasting fruit for your Kingdom.**

**You call us to walk humbly before you
and to share in the struggle with the least of these,
yet we have failed to live up to this call.**

**When the church becomes the center of our world
and we fail to see beyond its walls,
forgive us.**

**When our eyes become so fixed on priorities of our own making
that we fail to look for Jesus
in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger,
the naked, the sick and the imprisoned,
forgive us.**

**When we praise you with our lips
yet fail to reach out to others with
acts of loving and caring, justice and mercy,
forgive us. Have mercy upon us.**

Silent Confession

**Those who are able, please stand.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 582**

Glory to God

GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

COLLECT

Michael Roane

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Lord, lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.**

**Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.**

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, and our universe.

**Let us dream together, pray together, and work together,
to build one world of peace and justice for all. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

James 3:13-18

(Pew Bible, NT Page 230)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Roane

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Zechariah 8:9-13

(Pew Bible, OT Page 883)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Sowing the Seeds of Peace, Justice, and Joy"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 769**

For Everyone Born (verses 1-3, 5)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

arr. Hal Hopson

*For the troubles and the suff'rings of the world, God, we call upon your mercy:
the whole creation's laboring in pain!*

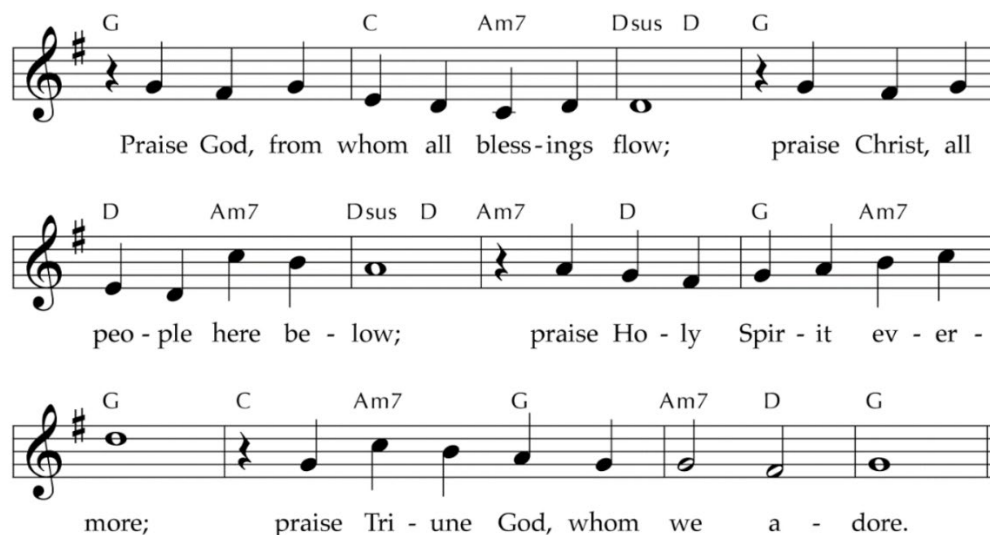
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people.

Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!

We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice, to cover and embrace us.

*Have mercy Lord! We pray for pow'r, the pow'r that will sustain your people's witness:
until your kingdom come, Kyrie eleison.*

*Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O God.*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all
 peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -
 more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Satisfy us with your love in the morning,

People: and we will live this day with joy and praise.

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession)

**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 today 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary in G

comp. Henry Heron

Worship Notes



Sign In

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.



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 are given to the glory of God and in thanks for all of the saints of First Presbyterian Church who nurtured us and continue to support our members and help our community flourish.

Sources for today's worship text: *Binary Breaking Worship*, *The Pastor's Workshop*, and the Universal Prayer for Peace (author unknown), first spoken publicly by Mother Teresa in 1981. ***Music*** is reprinted under OneLicense.net: A.713926.

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.

Today is Pastor Appreciation Day: Please join us in thanking ***Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox, John Weicher***, and ***Susan Dunlap*** for their leadership, care, and faithful service to our church family.

Upcoming 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/>



Stewardship Kickoff: Join Us Directly After Worship!

Join us after worship as we kick off our 2027 Stewardship season, “Sowing Seeds of Peace, Justice, and Joy.” Bag rice and beans for Emanuel Food Pantry, assemble Blessing Bags for our Walk-In Ministry, write postcards, peel apples, make sunflower crafts and pinecone bird feeders, play the *Ask Your Neighbor* game, and join in some group singing. And of course, there will be good food to share! Not able to stay? Please pick up your stewardship packet on your way out!

The Somethings Annual Retreat 2026: It's time for our annual fall retreat! Join the FPC Somethings (our 20s and 30s ministry) **October 16-18** for a weekend of connection, spirituality, and rest at Ocean Isle, NC. We'll be staying at a beautiful house right on the water, and worship will include a newly commissioned communion set, plus more surprises to come. There is one spot remaining; please reach out to Pastor Esther (e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org) for more information.

Save the Date for Rock Creek Singers and Vox Vivorum: Join us **Friday, November 6, at 7 p.m.** for a concert featuring the Rock Creek Singers, an ensemble of the Washington, DC Gay Men's Chorus, along with Durham's own men's chorus, Vox Virorum. The evening will feature songs celebrating love and equality, from traditional choral music to pop and Broadway favorites. **Admission is free, and doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Building Update: Rebuilding Together: Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins **in mid-October**. Once construction begins, the Fellowship Hall will close, the kitchen will remain open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. Questions? Email Betsy at office@firstpres-durham.org.

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We Celebrate with:

Jane Carsey Talbot and **Kevin Talbot**, daughter and son-in-law of **Dawn Shelton**, on the birth of their child **Isabelle Joy**.

We Offer Our Condolences:

To the family, friends, and fellow firefighters of **Andrew Brokes**, who died in the line of duty on **October 8** while searching for victims in a building fire. We hold them, the two injured firefighters, and all our first responders in prayer.

We Remember in Prayer:

Jancy Johnstone, at Duke Hospital following a fall and surgery.

Susan Hoffman, niece of **Mickey Velkey** and cousin of **Beth Brockman**, as she recovers from lung surgery.

Tony Brown

Sue Fricks

Ann Huff

Fred Moore

Paul Cornsweet

Joe Harvard

Jenni James

Beth Neece

Sam Crabtree

Kerry Holbrook

Bob Lewis

Franzi Rokoske

Susan Cyr

Lee House

Harriett Mitchell

Felicia Sprincenatu

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley, Alfred Tisdale**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

Chatham Ridge Assisted Living: **John Fricks**

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

Minnie Sue Douglas, mother of Mindy Douglas

Rosalynn Farrell, mother of Rachel Bethune

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Larry Hethcox, father of Esther Hethcox

Carl Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Anthony Ketcham, brother-in-law of Wil James

Elizabeth Manceras, mother of Julio Manceras

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman

Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin

Patrick O'Neill, father of Brianna Bennett

Janet Ouzts, sister of Celia Dickerson

Rebecca Todd ("Toddie") Peters, mother of Sophie Peters

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Joe Quirk, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

Annie Reaves, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

Jean Shaffer, friend of Cheri Reece

Lydia Still and Emory Grace, daughter and granddaughter of Kelli Hunnicutt

Ann Tidwell, mother of Brandi Kirkland

Vivian Turner, mother of Donald Turner

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE!

Sunday, October 11

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost,
Stewardship Kickoff*

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

12:00 PM Stewardship Kick-Off Event

4:00 – 6:30 PM Youth Group (Parking Lot)

Monday, October 12

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

1:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting (Pastor's Study)

6:00 PM Christian Ed Committee (Zoom)

6:00 PM Personnel Committee (Room 209)

6:00 PM Property Committee (Room 205)

6:30 PM Service & Mission Committee (Watts-Hill)

7:00 PM Worship and the Arts Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 14

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

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 15

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

Friday, October 16

All Day Somethings Fall Retreat (Offsite)

Tuesday, October 13

7:00 PM Somethings Book Group (Associate Pastor's Study)

Saturday, October 17

All Day Somethings Fall Retreat (Offsite)

6:00 PM First Friends (Offsite)

Sunday, October 18

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

All Day Somethings Fall Retreat (Offsite)

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

12:15 PM MnM Gathering (Wilson Parlor)

5:00 – 7:00 PM Youth Group (Parking Lot)

CHURCH STAFF

Janet Askew, Business Associate
Lenore Champion, Director of Children's Ministry
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor
Brandi Kirkland, Communications Associate
Matthew Moore, Minister of Music
Donald Turner, Facilities Associate
John Weicher, Associate Pastor
Betsy Williams, Church Administrator

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

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511 ORGANIZED 1871