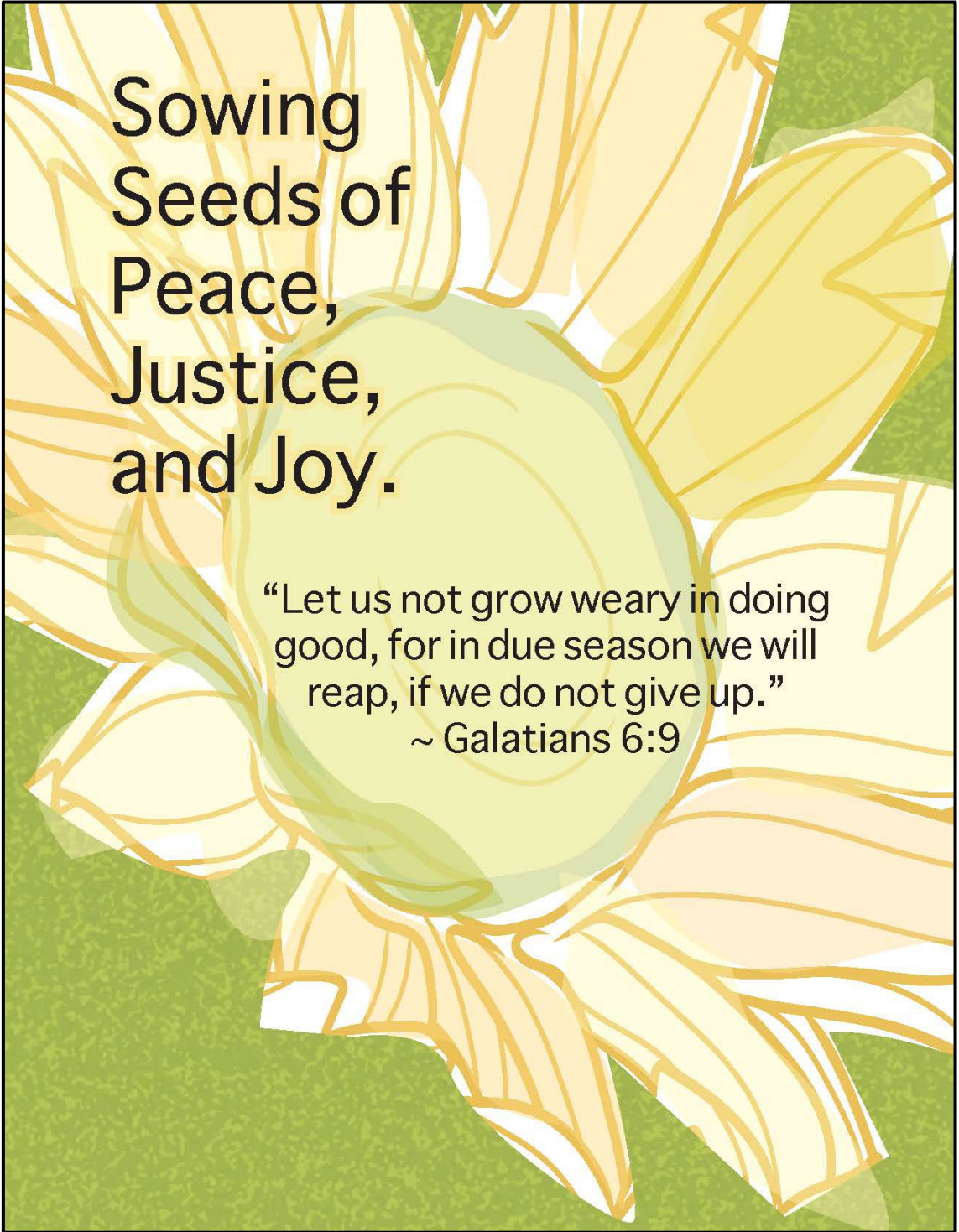




Sowing Seeds of Peace, Justice, and Joy.

“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 18, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Minute for Stewardship

John Weicher

Matthew Moore

PRELUDE

Elegy

comp. Michael Higgins

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader: In this place,

**People: friends and strangers meet,
the broken are mended,
and the weary welcomed.**

Leader: In this moment,

**People: the ordinary becomes miraculous,
and life is on pause.
This is God's time.**

Leader: In this sanctuary,

**People: God's goodness is revealed.
Our doors open with kindness.
Our lives join together.**

*HYMN NO. 1

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICEA

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**What a debt we owe to you, O God.
You have given us all things in Christ
and yet we withhold from you
the honor and glory that are yours.
Instead, we pay tribute to empire,
plot to entrap the innocent,
mock your truth with empty praise,
and put your patience to the test.**

**Forgive us, O God, and by your grace
restore in us the image of your face;
through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

COLLECT

Franzi Rokoske

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God,
you have made us in your image,
and we belong to you alone.
Therefore we offer ourselves to you,
in service, love, and praise.
Use us for the glory of your realm
and the good of your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

(Pew Bible, NT Page 203)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Franzi Rokoske

People: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 96

(Cantor will intone the refrain the first time.)

Refrain

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord; sing all the earth.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:15-22

(Pew Bible, NT Page 24)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Whose Image?"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (From *A Declaration of Faith*)

John Weicher

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.
Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.
It is also God's demand upon every one of us,
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.
Forgiven by God and supported by one another,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

***HYMN NO. 716**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd

comp. Howard Goodall

Psalm 23 (Pew Bible, OT Page 501)

**Doxology*

HOPSON

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings 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*)

John Weicher

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. 546**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Voluntary in D

comp. Pietro Nardini

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,

2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,

3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.

cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;

though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

ho - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

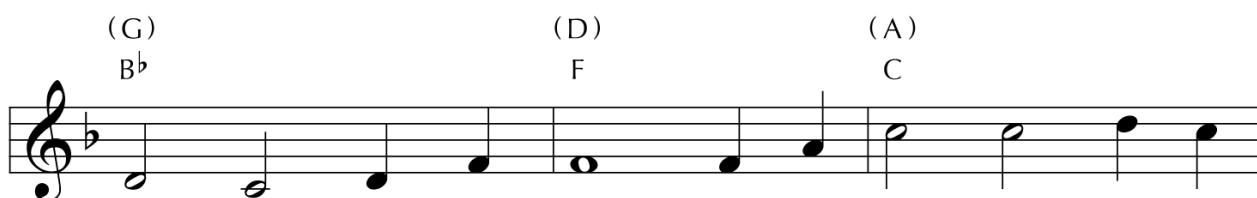
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!



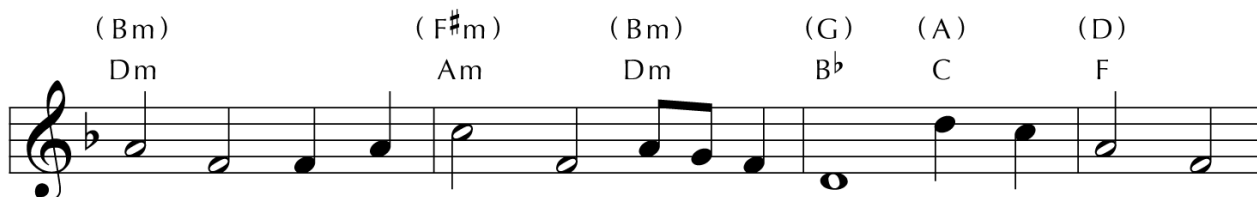
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



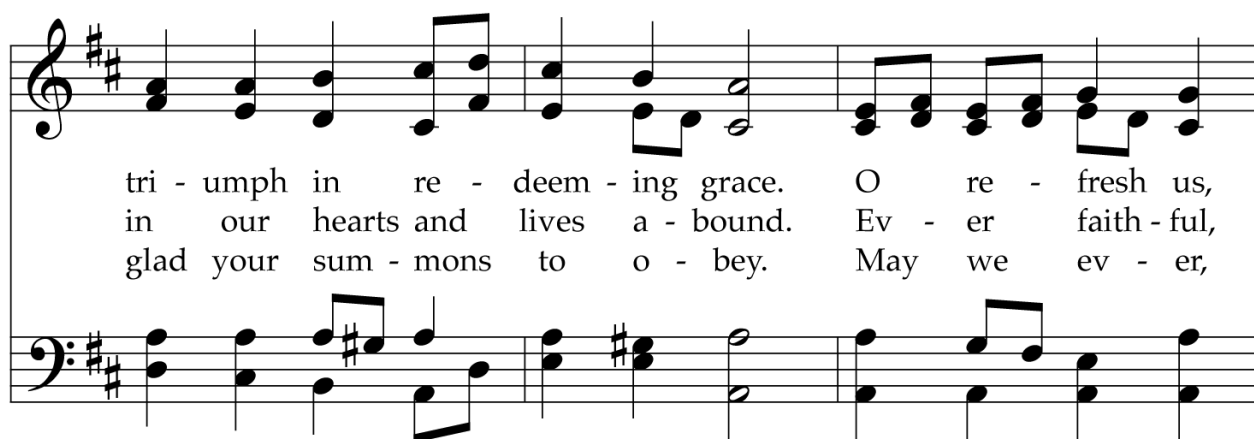
rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

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 memory of *Wes Carson* by *Carol Carson*.

Sources for today's worship text: *Call to Worship Journal*, *Feasting on the Word*, and *A Declaration of Faith*. **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.

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/>



Gather & Grow Support Group – If you are living with a chronic health condition, you are invited to join this clergy-led support group for emotional and spiritual encouragement, discussion of daily challenges, and shared coping strategies. This group will meet on **Tuesday, October 20 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Wilson Parlor. For questions or additional information, please contact **Susan Dunlap** at susan.dunlap@duke.edu.

Souls to the Polls – Join us **Sunday, October 25**, for *Souls to the Polls*. Meet at St. Joseph's AME Church (2521 Fayetteville St.) around **1 p.m.** to join the caravan to the early voting site at NCCU's Turner Law School, or head straight to Party at the Polls at **2 p.m.** at the Turner Law Building (640 Nelson St.; **arrive by 1:30 for parking**) for food and fellowship. Durham County residents can vote early that day; bring a photo ID.

Trunk or Treat! – Bring your family and costumed kids to the FPC Parking Lot on **Sunday, October 25, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.** for an evening of candy, hot dogs, festively decorated trunks, a photo booth, and community fun! All members and neighbors are welcome. **Volunteers needed:** To host a decorated trunk and hand out treats, email or text **Mimi Dunn** at marydunn618@gmail.com.

Give Hope. Give Blood. – First Presbyterian is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive here at the church on **Thursday, October 29, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.** One donation can help save multiple lives, and it takes just about an hour of your afternoon. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments help the Red Cross plan. Reserve your time at tinyurl.com/fpc-durm-blood-drive-Oct-2026.

Mahjong at FPC – Join us for Mahjong on **Friday, October 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.** All skill levels are welcome, whether you play often or are just learning, and experienced players are invited to help teach. Questions or interest in signing up? Contact Amy Wilson at alleamy@gmail.com or 919-741-0486.

Halloween Sweet Potato Glean – Help prevent food waste and feed hungry neighbors on **Saturday, October 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at First Fruits Farm! Meet in the church parking lot at **8:00 a.m.** to caravan. Costumes are encouraged, and you will be back in plenty of time for evening trick-or-treating. Let us know you're coming at tinyurl.com/fpc-sweet-potato-2026.

Save the Date for Rock Creek Singers and Vox Virorum – 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.**

First Acts Reads The Desk Set – Join First Acts on **Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for a fun table reading of *The Desk Set*, a 1950s workplace comedy pitting sharp-witted officemates against new automation technology. Whether you prefer to read a role aloud or just sit back and listen, all are welcome. You can find the link to register in the weekly reminders email.

Congregational Meeting – The Session has called a Congregational Meeting following worship on **November 8**. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear a brief report from the Personnel Committee with an action item.

2027 Worship Flowers Sign-Up Open – Reserve your preferred Sunday early through the online sign-up sheet to provide sanctuary flowers for the 2027 worship schedule. Providing flowers is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or give thanks. The link to sign-up can be found in the weekly reminders email.

Building Update: Rebuilding Together – Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins soon. 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.

Somesgiving 2026: Our 4th annual Somethings-Giving (Somesgiving!!) is on **Sunday, November 8th from 4-6 p.m.** at **Mary Ashley and Taylor's** house (see discord for address). Please RSVP no later than **Sunday, November 1st** using the link provided on discord. This event needs a lot of hands to happen. In addition to bringing a side or dessert to share, we need volunteers to bring tables and chairs. This event is outside, please dress accordingly. We hope to see you there! Please reach out to **Pastor Esther** if you have questions.

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We Celebrate with:

*We celebrate the marriage of **Erin Elizabeth Boyle**, daughter of **Scottie Seawell** and granddaughter of the late **Dorothy B. Graham**, to **Thomas George Herrick** on Saturday, October 10, 2026 in Los Angeles, CA.*

We Remember in Prayer:

Susan Cyr, at Duke Hospital.

Jancy Johnstone, home recovering from surgery.

Emily Wilkins, as she recovers from 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**

Arbor Terrace, Asheville: **Mal King**

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

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

Susan Hoffman, niece of Mickey Velkey

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

Vivian Turner, mother of Donald Turner

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE!

Sunday, October 18

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

12:00 PM Somethings Fall Retreat Returns (Offsite)

9:30 AM Children's Choir

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 (Youth Room)

Monday, October 19

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

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

6:00 PM Leadership Team (Room 205)

6:30 PM Fellowship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

6:30 PM Welcome & Belonging Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 21

1:00 PM FPC Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, October 20

5:00 PM Finance & Investment Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

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

Thursday, October 22

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

7:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force Book Club (Zoom)

Friday, October 23

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday

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

11:00 AM Worship: Esther Hethcox, preaching;

Communion & New Member Sunday;

Hunger for Change Offering

12:00 PM Diaconate Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

5:00 – 6:30 PM Trunk or Treat (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