First Presbyterian Church

Biweekly Newsletter

November 3, 2026

A Letter from Pastor Mindy



Dear friends,

Sunday, November 8, is Stewardship Dedication Sunday. On this day, we will dedicate to God our pledges for 2027. Many of you have already turned in your pledge (thank you!) and others of you may want to bring your pledge envelope to turn in on Sunday. Either way, we will pause to remember that everything we have comes from God and to give thanks for God's bounty. What joy it is to share what we have been given to support Christ's mission in Durham and in the world! Thank you for considering a tithe (10% of your income) or, if this is not possible, a 4% increase to your 2026 giving (if applicable) as we seek to support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian Church in the year ahead.

Our annual budget supports our worship, Christian education programs, children's and youth ministry, staff salaries and benefits, and mission giving to the community. The budget pays our electric, gas, and water bills. In addition, your gifts provide for fellowship events, teacher training, confirmation, racial equity work, leadership materials, pastoral care, and office supplies. Your gifts support a vibrant and active church that continues to provide spiritual worship, a place to learn and grow, and community for people of all ages. First Presbyterian Church supports missions all around Durham, including Emanuel Food Pantry, Urban Ministries of Durham, Housing for New Hope, Families Moving Forward, the First Presbyterian Day School, and our own Walk-In Ministry. Over 90% of the annual budget comes from your generous pledges and gifts. Thank you!

In addition to your financial gifts, you also share generously of your time and talents. Thank you for the many ways you give to the mission and ministries of the congregation by showing up to teach, lead, sing, plan, usher, lead worship, set-up and clean-up for events, serve on committees, visit the sick, provide food for those recovering from surgery, and volunteer with local non-profits and justice ministries in the community. Thank you for being good stewards of the gifts God has so generously given you!

Your vision for what First Presbyterian Church can do and be in Durham and how we can grow in our own faith and life as we share the light of Christ with the world is significant. May God continue to guide us in our work and worship that we may be here sharing love in the heart of Durham for many decades to come!

With gratitude for you all,

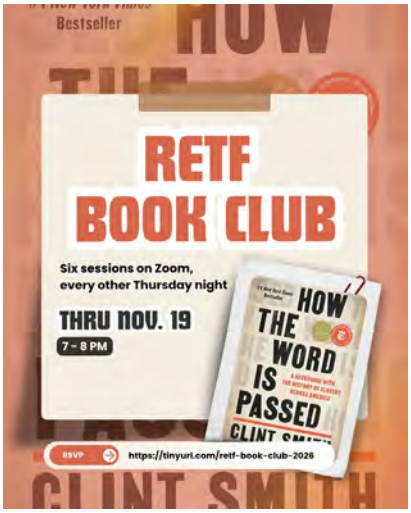
Mindy

Homegrown: NC Women's Preaching Festival



Join clergywomen and faith leaders from across North Carolina for this year's Homegrown: NC Women's Preaching Festival on **Thursday, November 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham. This year's theme is *"Cross-Pollination: Shared wisdom across space, place, and identity."* Our own ***Pastor Esther Hethcox*** is on the planning team and is one of this year's speakers, and many friends of FPC are involved too. Registration is $75 for standard tickets, $25 for students and people with limited income, and $100 for a "Pay It Forward" ticket that also funds scholarships.

Register at **ncwomenpreaching.com**.



Racial Equity Task Force Book Club

The Racial Equity Task Force's book club on *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith has two sessions left, on **Thursday, November 5**, and **Thursday, November 19, from 7 to 8 p.m.** on Zoom. The discussions have been excellent, and you're welcome to join even if you haven't come to an earlier session.

> **For the Zoom link:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.

Men of Faith



The First Presbyterian Men of Faith will meet at Mad Hatter's Bakeshop on **Friday, November 6, at 8 a.m.** for breakfast, coffee, and fellowship. Whether you come every month or have never joined us before, you're welcome at the table. It's a relaxed start to the morning and an easy way to get to know other men at FPC. Just show up and pull up a chair.



First Acts Reads *The Desk Set*



Please register to join us for a reading of *The Desk Set*, a 1950s ensemble workplace comedy **this Saturday, Nov. 7th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** in Room 205.

The play pits Bunny and her sharp-witted officemates against the technology (and the men touting its productivity) threatening their jobs. Mayhem and hilarity ensue, but with a happy holiday ending.

> **To register:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.



Somesgiving

It's that time of year! Join us **November 8 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** for Somesgiving at ***Mary Ashley*** and ***Taylor's*** house (address on discord). We will be outside regardless of weather, so dress accordingly! Don't worry if the sign-up looks full, we will accept all help to make this event happen. Please **RSVP ASAP**.

> **To RSVP:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.



Chili Lunch & Football Watch Party

Grab a bowl and cheer on your team! Join the Fellowship Committee after worship on **Sunday, November 15**, for a chili lunch and football watch party in the parlors at FPC. Bring a slow cooker of your favorite chili to share (warming tables will be set up in the hallway outside the parlors during worship), or just come hungry. Games will be on the big screen, and all ages are welcome. Wear your team colors!

Join Us for Worship



November 8
Stewardship Dedication Sunday
Mindy Douglas, preaching

November 15
John Weicher, preaching

First Presbyterian Church

Youth Ministry

For more info on upcoming Sunday youth activities, watch for our Friday Weekly Reminders email!

Youth Group Calendar: We Can Do Hard Things

All gatherings are for all youth, grades 6th-12th, 5-7 pm at FPC unless noted.

Jodi 5K & Brunch	High Schoolers, morning of 11/8
Middlers vs. Advisors	Middle Schoolers, 11/8
We Can Do Hard Things	11/15
Keep Awake Retreat	High Schoolers, 11/20-22
Cookie Baking & Care Packages	Middle Schoolers, 11/22, location TBD
No Gathering - Thanksgiving	*11/29*
Christmas Acts of Random Kindness	12/6
Advent Supper & Carol Sing	12/13, 6-7:30p, location TBD
No Gathering - Christmas Break	*12/20, 12/17, 1/3*
Youth Sunday I - Bible Passages	1/10
Youth Sunday II - Study & Liturgy Writing	1/17
CROSS Service Retreat	Middle Schoolers, 1/22-24
Ice Skating with Trinity Avenue Pres.	High Schoolers, 1/24, details TBD
Youth Sunday III - Study & Liturgy Writing	1/31
Youth Sunday IV - Hymns & Stoles	2/7
Youth Sunday Rehearsal	Saturday, 2/13, 9:30-11a
Youth Sunday	2/14, 9:45a arrival
Learning from Our Elders	2/21
We Can Do Hard Things	2/28
Presbytery Retreat	3/5-7
Mini Golf Tournament w/Trinity Avenue Pres.	3/14, Frankie's
No Gathering - Holy Week/DPS Spring Break	*3/21, 3/28*
Farm Church	4/4, Corner of Watts & Green Sts.
Spring Haven Farm - Goats!	4/11, time & location TBD
Guru Night & Senior Project	4/18
Cookie Baking & Care Packages	4/25, location TBD
Flour War (Westminster, Trinity Ave, Mt Bethel)	5/2, 2927 Tavistock Dr., time TBD
Guru and Rising 6th Grader Lunches (sep.)	5/9, 12:15p
Kickball & Senior Blessing	5/16, location TBD
ASP Training & AYM Training (sep.)	5/23, locations & times TBD

Children's Ministry

Pizza on the Playground

Join us **this Sunday, November 8 from 4:00 to 5:00-ish p.m.** at Duke Park for pizza and a fall afternoon with your church friends. Everyone is welcome! Bring bikes or scooters, or just bring yourself, and enjoy some time to play, chat, and laugh together.

> **To RSVP:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.



Bull City Fair Trade

For 34 years **Bull City Fair Trade** (formerly One World Market) has provided artisans from around the world with a place to sell their handmade items. These sales have helped fight human trafficking, support disabled artists, empower women, support small farmers, keep families together, and build communities in places as close as Raleigh and as far as China. The Service and Mission Committee invites you to shop in store – anytime – but especially on the afternoon of **Nov 8th** at our Greet and Gift.



First Friendsgiving

Join First Friends for First Friendsgiving on **Friday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m.**, hosted by ***Carl Rist and Elisabeth Davis***. Spiral-cut ham and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side, salad or dessert to share. There's plenty of street parking, with overflow parking at Watts Street Baptist Church. Accessible parking is in the driveway; please enter the house from the back.

> **To RSVP:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.

MnM Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the November MnM lunch and conversation on **Sunday, November 22**, right after worship. Watch for RSVP details closer to the date, and email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** to get connected and join the MnM WhatsApp group for quick updates and impromptu invites.





2027 Worship Flowers Sign-Up Is Now Open

Thank you! The 2026 Worship Flowers calendar is full through the end of the year. The sign-up for 2027 is now open. Flowers in the sanctuary are a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or simply give thanks. Choose your Sunday early to get the date you want.

> **To sign up:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.

Building Update



Building Update: Rebuilding Together

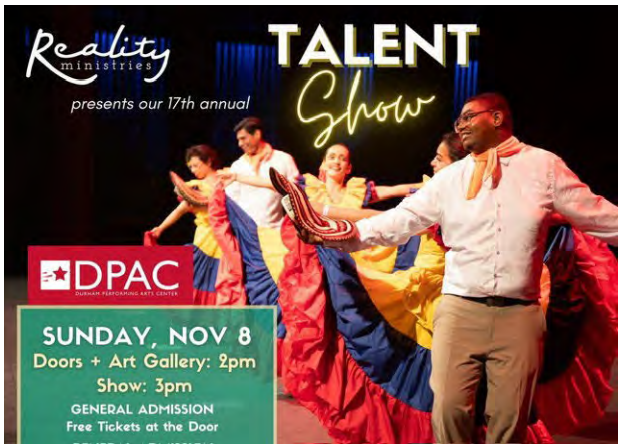
Great news on the upcoming construction project: **Our permit has been approved!** Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins soon, and an official start date will be published as soon as it's available.

Made possible by the generosity of donors to the 2022 Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign, this project will greatly improve accessibility throughout our building and breathe new life into some of our most beloved shared spaces, including a renovated Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall, a new elevator, reconfigured volunteer and Walk-In Ministry offices, a columbarium extending from the memorial garden, a renovated chapel, and new basement showers to support mission teams and emergency shelter. The project also includes roof, organ, window, and HVAC repairs, along with completed solar panel installation.

What to Expect Once Construction Begins:

- The Fellowship Hall and volunteer offices will close for renovation.
- The kitchen will remain available for use.
- Church staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured.
- Some programmatic events may be held offsite or in alternate church spaces.

Questions about the project or how it may affect a specific ministry or event? Reach out to **communications@firstpres-durham.org**.



Reality Ministries 17th Annual Talent Show

November 8 | 2 p.m.

Join Reality Ministries for a wonderful community celebration featuring an inspiring talent show and an art gallery showcase prior to the event. It is a joyful, uplifting afternoon that you won't want to miss!

> **For full details:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.

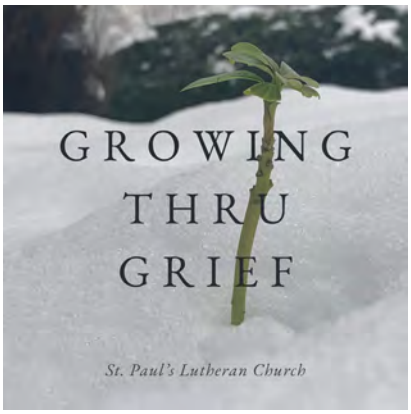
Yoga Offerings

Monday at **4:30 p.m.** | Watts-Hill Hall
Friday at **10:30 a.m.** | Room 201

Classes will resume the regular schedule, with a location change for the Monday class once construction begins.

> **For more information:** email **communications@firstpres-durham.org** or call **919-682-5511**.





Growing thru Grief

Whether you are new to our community or a returning participant, we are grateful for your presence. Please join us **Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.** in November. On **November 10**, ***Timothy Auman*** will present "Beauty Will Save Us: Finding Hope Through the Contemplative Arts." **November 17** is a special remembrance program, "Grieving Through the Holidays," led by Duke Hospice Bereavement Services. On **November 24**, ***Sharon Walker*** will close out the month with "It's Okay to Not be Okay."

Growing thru Grief meets **every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.**, 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.