

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

*"Downtown by history and by choice"*

*Bi-Weekly Newsletter*

November 13 - 26, 2018



The Church Office will be **CLOSED** Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 in observance of the **Thanksgiving Day holiday**. Wishing everyone a safe and happy thanksgiving celebration.

***Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his mercy endureth forever.***

1 Chronicles 16:34

## **From the Pastor . . .**

Dear friends,

For many, the month of November serves as an opportunity to embrace gratitude as a spiritual discipline of sorts. Some keep a gratitude journal for the month, writing down one thing in the morning for which they are grateful and another in the evening. Others start a gratitude jar and watch as it fills with the ways they are grateful. Still others post on Facebook something for which they are grateful each day. These disciplines serve as opportunities to recognize the many gifts in our lives. Too often we take these gifts for granted. When we stop to realize how many gifts we have been given, even on those days filled with trials and griefs, we can become overwhelmed with gratitude.

In the Christian faith, we understand gratitude to be a close companion of God's grace. Karl Barth writes, "Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder lightening." While much in this world stirs up our fears, anxieties, self-doubts, and judgment, God's grace and love remind us that the earth is the Lord's and that in Christ we have fullness of life and hope for all eternity. God's light shines brightly and overcomes even the darkest corners of despair. When we open our eyes to God's movement in our midst, we know this, and our gratitude for God's grace overflows.

I pray that this Thanksgiving month you will be able to set aside your deepest concerns and worries, turn them over to God, and rejoice in the gifts of love that you have been given and invited to share with others. May love and light overflow in your life and may you find joy and gratitude in the most surprising of places.

Maya Angelou, that wise and wonderful poet, knew about gratitude in the midst of hardship. She knew about God's grace and she knew how to find joy and light even in the darkest of places. She writes:

“Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel  
to say your nightly prayer.  
And let faith be the bridge you build  
to overcome evil and welcome good.”

May you be blessed beyond measure with grace and peace and may you know  
Christ’s constant presence with you.

With love,  
**Mindy**



**SYMPATHIES:** The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Arthur Clark and family** on the death of his wife and FPC member **Mary Clark**. Mary died November 6, 2018. The family has requested that a service to remember and celebrate her life be held Tuesday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m. at The Cedars of Chapel Hill retirement community where the Clarks lived.

**Added this week**

**Catherine Gitia**, friend of Mary Gitata  
**Paul Martin**, brother of Beth Neece

**Duke Hospital**  
**Joseph Ngumi**

**Home**  
**Lee Courtland**  
**Franzi Rokoske**  
**Carolyn Wolfe**

**Care Communities**

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: **Julian Boswell**  
Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin**  
Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**  
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**  
The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

**Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff**

**Brent Barber**, brother-in-law of Christyn Klinck  
**June Hewitt**, friend of Sue and John Fricks  
**Heath Huberg**, friend of Kathy Parkins  
**Ben Johnston-Krase**, pastor of Durham's Farm Church  
**Kathy Johnston**, niece of Jeanne Hervey  
**Beth Livingston**, friend of Carol Wills  
**John Morey**, father of Robin Morey  
**Hayden Williams**, family member of Carol Wills

Kudos to **Debbie Hamlin- Aggrey** and the Membership Committee for hosting last Sunday’s New Members luncheon for all who have joined



FPC within this past year, or who plan to join on this Sunday, November 18. We wanted to thank you for joining, answer any questions that you might have, tell you what's going on over the upcoming holidays, and celebrate the blessing that new members bring to First Presbyterian Church. We wanted to celebrate YOU!

Those who will be joining FPC this Sunday include:  
***Diane Goff (Leslie McDow's mother),***

***Brandon Hewitt, Cheri Reese, Rob Parker and Beth Taylor*** (re-joining),  
and ***Courtney Trutna.***

## **NOTES and SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Congratulations . . .**

- to ***Carolyn McAllaster*** who is this year's recipient of the *Advocate of the Year* award for the NC Aids Action Network. Each year, the Network presents the *Advocate of the Year* award to advocates who have provided dedicated service to advance HIV treatment in their local communities and across the state. The award will be presented **Friday, November 16** between 5:00- 7:00 p.m. at a reception at Dos Perros in downtown Durham.
- to ***Robert Daye***, FPC sexton, who celebrated his 41<sup>st</sup> work anniversary at FPC on Sunday, November 11!

Many thanks to ***Cherrie Henry*** for hosting the **Scratch/Young Adults group** at her home for a potluck dinner on November 10th; and to ***Jay and Christyn Klinck*** for hosting **First Friends and families** at their home for a dinner around the fire pit that same evening. As new members join the church, please invite them to join you at these fellowship events.

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### **FPC PARKING ALERT on evenings and weekends . . .**

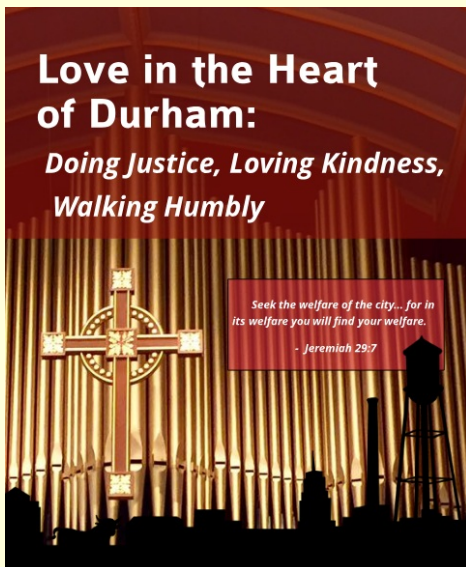
FPC has had a long-standing agreement with the Marcus Hill Law Office next door to the church (311 E. Main) to park in that lot on weekends, especially Sunday mornings, in exchange for use of the church's trash dumpster. **We have now been asked to leave the three spaces closest to the rear of the building open for his staff who may be called in to work on special projects to meet deadlines, especially on the weekend. So we ask that you not park behind the building in those three specific spaces.** Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **FPC Landscaping and Grounds Update**

You'll notice the arrival of a new trash can, which is placed on the sidewalk between the foyer and the parking lot. This location was selected based on weekday foot traffic and the presence of trash in nearby bushes. We may add additional trash cans in the future.

This spring it was discovered that several of the rose bushes have Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) or Witch's Broom. Unfortunately if a rose has RRD, it must be removed. Due to the large number of diseased roses and the ability of the mites that cause the disease to easily spread, we are removing all the rose bushes on the

church grounds. The Landscape and Gardening sub-committee will identify new plants to replace the roses. - **Chris Brown**, Property Committee chair



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge, you can do so **online** or mail it in. Please also take the opportunity to complete the ***Time and Talent Questionnaire***.

Contact Tom Bloom if you have questions about the pledging process or need copies of the packet or questionnaire: [t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org).

Again, thank you for being the heart of this community and for being witnesses of Christ's love in the city,

**Cris Rivera** and **George Bernhardt**  
Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

## Sunday, November 18

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Scripture Readers' Class**

**11:00 a.m. Worship** (Six new members to be received)

Mindy Douglas , preaching

**ATTENTION PARENTS:** This Sunday, the Children's Choir will sing "Feed My Lambs" at the 11:00 service. Parents, please don't forget! We have several younger children now in the choir and they are eager to sing for us and for the glory of God. Kathy will be sending out an email to you regarding details. Following worship this Sunday, the children will practice in the choir room for 30 minutes then join their parents for lunch in Watts-Hill Hall. The children will sing again in worship on December 9th.

Liturgist: **Bob Yoder**

Narthex Greeter: **Alice Raney**

After Worship Greeters: **Kim Abels** (side/font); **Diane Prosser** (rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Amy Dillon** (head), **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey** (flowers), **Laurie Williamson** (counting), **Dale Gaddis**, **John Mozart**, **El Hess**



## Sunday, November 25

**9:45 a.m. - Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. Worship & Communion**

**Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

Remember to bring your **Hunger for Change Offering** on the 4th Sunday of the month. We will also **receive supplies for blessing bags during the communion service on November 25th**. Thank you for being such a generous faith community.

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Liturgist: **Amy Wilson**

Narthex Greeter: **Chris Williams**

After Worship Greeters: **George Bernhardt**(side/font);



**Barbara Buckley** (rear/narthex)

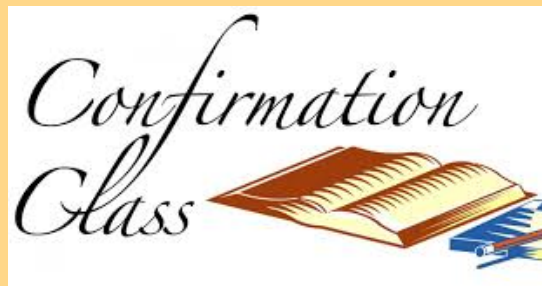
Ushers needed. Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Click [here](#) to see full list of class offerings)

### Children's Sunday School, Grades 3 - 6

This fall we are trying out a new rotation model of Sunday School which allows our 3rd – 6th graders opportunities to experience the foundational stories of the Old Testament in many different ways through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. **November's study is *The Great Family: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob***. The class meets in **room 201 of the CE Building** at 9:45. Bring friends and join us!



**for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> graders and up**

*(plus youth from Covenant PC who are joining us)*

**Many thanks to the members of FPC's Confirmation Class and their mentors** who participated in the Shabbat Service of Solidarity on Friday, November

3, following the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Philadelphia. Two members of the class, **Laura Mish McDow** and **Lomituzi Mbilka** led a prayer in worship on All Saints Sunday, honoring the Jewish members of the Tree of Life who had lost their lives.

On **Sunday, November 11**, the group traveled to Farm Church in downtown Durham, a PC(USA) Church that uses its resources to address food insecurity in our city. We wore our work clothes, and did a little gardening, got our hands dirty, before worshipping with them.

This **Sunday, November 18**, we are back at FPC for a time of reflection, when we will be visited by a youth group from the Sikh Gurudwara of NC who will join us for worship and lunch in Watts-Hill Hall afterwards.

It's great to be making faith friends all over the city/all over the world. Our last visit takes place on **Sunday, November 25**, when we will be the guests of Covenant Presbyterian Church for their 10:00 a.m. worship service. Two of our class members, **Theodore Lucas** and **Nathan Bullock** are members at Covenant, and so we are visiting their church at their request.

Learning to be good guests is part of our agenda for the semester as we are visiting 8 different faith communities in the Triangle. During the winter, we will spend some time in the classroom articulating what it means to be a Christian in the Reformed Tradition. Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions.

### Youth Sunday School

#### Grades 9-12

Join us in the youth classroom at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Class leaders are

## **Adult Studies**

**Faith and Community Class:** What is one of the best ways to take care of your brain as you age, and to stay positive? One way is to improve your memory with effort, motivation, and practice, by singing! We should be singing more, especially hymns more regularly. So, **THIS SUNDAY, November 18**, we will distribute hymnals and have a sing-along. We will sing hymns of thanksgiving, as well as other hymns. The class meets in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45. All are welcome.

On **Sunday, November 25**, we will welcome *Jennie Belle* who works for the NC Council of Churches on issues of immigration and sanctuary. "To welcome the immigrant, to feed people when they need it, to clothe people when they need it, to house people when they need it . . . this is something that our faith calls us to do," Belle says. Come with your questions about immigration, since we have an expert in our midst. The class meets in **Watts-Hill Hall** at 9:45. Again, all are welcome!

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## **Lectionary Class**

### **November 18:**

We are only human, and we misinterpret even what we see and hear. If we misunderstand the motives of those around us, how can we begin to understand what God is doing in our world?

### **November 25:**

On the last Sunday before Advent, we celebrate Christ as King. What does it mean to be subject to a king? What do we owe to our king?

Join us in the **East Parlor** at 9:45 on Sunday mornings for these discussions.

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**Journeys and Scratch Class:** This Sunday, November 18, we will begin discussing chapter 5, *Criticism and Pathos in Jesus of Nazareth*, from Walter Brueggemann's book "The Prophetic Imagination." All are welcome to join the discussion whether you have had time to read the book or not. We meet in **room 205** of the education building at 9:45.

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**Women's Spiritual Formation:** We are currently meeting with the "Becoming an Anti-Racist Church" class at 9:45 in the **Wilson Parlor**. We will resume our spiritual formation discussion with *Susan Dunlap* after Thanksgiving.

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**Becoming an Anti-Racist Church** – an eight-week course on themes of racism, diversity, white privilege and barriers to inclusivity led by FPC's Racial Equity Task Force. Class meets in the **Wilson Parlor** at 9:45.

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**The Pleasures of Parenting** – a time of discussion and support for parents (led by *Mindy Douglas*) who find raising children in today's world to be an exciting and daunting task. The class will meet in the **apartment classroom**, upstairs in the church house at 9:45.

## **Bible Study: Isaiah**

We will end our current study this Friday, November 16, then take a break for the holidays. We will resume our study of Isaiah in mid-January, 2019.

## **YOUTH GROUPS**

### **Sunday, November 18**

**4:30 - 6:30 p.m.** Middle School Youth

Topic: *The Arts of Prayer*

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** High School Youth

Topic: *Still & Quiet & Tactile & Holy*

Supper is provided for both groups from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

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### **Sunday, November 25**

Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday weekend with your family and friends.

**No Sunday evening youth groups.**

Click [here](#) to view the Youth Groups calendar for 2018-2019.

## **Happenings around FPC**



### **Care Packages for College Students**

The Pastoral Care Committee is assembling care packages for our college students and young adults who are serving our country. The church is invited to support this project by bringing in flat items for the packages - **gum, hot chocolate, microwave popcorn, hard candy, granola bars, puzzle or joke books, etc.** A basket is labeled in the foyer for the donations. **Only two more Sundays to receive donations. Items are needed by November 25.** The care packages will be mailed the week after Thanksgiving. Your support is very much appreciated.



### **The FPC Worship and Arts Committee presents Art by Hendrika Vande Kemp**

Hendrika works with re-purposed frames and mats and a variety of recycled and re-purposed papers: metallic envelope liners and printed envelopes; stationery sheets; book jackets, end papers, and decorative borders; candy, chocolate, and tea bag wrappers; and gift wrap and gift bags. She loves the combination of a geometrically structured pattern and the creative challenge of coordinating paper colors and texture with a frame and mat. For this exhibit at First Presbyterian Church (on display in Watts-Hill Hall), Hendrika has created a number of new designs with liturgical and theological

themes, including a Celtic Cross, an Anchor, ICTHUS, a Pearl of Great Price, a Shofar, a Pomegranate, The Holy Grail (Chalice), and a Violin.

## First Friends and Families Fellowship Group

### SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, December 8**

Advent Dinner at **Melinda Ruley & Stewart Fisher's home**

Details forthcoming! Watch for the EVITE.



### Calling all Paraders and Pageanteers!

The Durham Holiday Parade takes place on **Saturday, December 8**, and we line up at 9 a.m. to march down Main Street to Duke's East Campus (stay tuned for meet-up details). Our theme this year is "Light to the World", and we have neon glow necklaces

for everyone to wear as we march. In addition, you may wear as many lights around your hat or your waist or your coat as you want. We want to sparkle, blink, and bring Jesus' light to the world as we march. All ages are invited to parade with us! More info about the parade and fun fest [here](#).

FPC's Children's Christmas Pageant will be the next day, **December 9**, during 11:00 worship. It involves a simple story called *Journey to Bethlehem* that requires a narrator, an angel, two shepherds, and a star. Other children and youth can join in as shepherds, angels, and animals. Come one, come all! We will be using handbells as sound effects. We will have one more rehearsal with the readers and the Handbell Choir before we run through it on Sunday morning, (December 9) during Sunday School. It would be great if parents could help with face painting on that Sunday morning, and with costuming. Thank you for encouraging and helping your children participate in the story of Jesus' birth.

### Daytimers' Luncheons for November and December

**Tuesday, November 27**

**11:30 a.m. at Bennett Pointe Grill**

Please RSVP to **Mickey Velkey** 919-864-9823

or email her at: [marilyn.velkey@usa.net](mailto:marilyn.velkey@usa.net).

The **December gathering** will be held at Croasdaile Village. The date and details are forthcoming. Watch your mailbox for an invitation.

## Service and Mission Opportunities

### Growing thru Grief

Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. **Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays (except for holidays) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis. We gather at 4:00 pm for registration, coffee, and cookies; the meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6:00 p.m.** This program offers year-round support for those who have lost a loved one. The meetings begin with a short presentation



about one aspect of grief and then we break into small groups for discussion.

**TONIGHT**, Nell Noonan will speak about “Knew Me/New Me.” On **November 27**, Duke HomeCare and Hospice will lead the session on “Surviving the Holidays,” and on **December 11**, Debbie Davis will perform on her cello. On weeks without a formal presenter, our facilitation team offers some discussion-starters.



## **FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD FUNDRAISER**

Durham has an incredible food scene. It also has a significant problem with family homelessness. **Please join Families Moving Forward on Friday, November 16 from 6-9 pm at The Rickhouse (609 Foster St,**

**Durham)** for our **Chefs for Change Dessert Gala** for an evening of community celebration, local desserts, auction/ raffle, live entertainment, and the unveiling of their 2019 Chefs for Change Series chef line-up!

They will also be awarding the James T Hewitt Distinguished Service Award. Sweets aren't your thing? They'll have savory dishes as well. Dress up or dress down – all are welcome! Go to [fmfnc.org/gala](http://fmfnc.org/gala) for more info and to get your tickets. (\$50 each, \$33 is a tax deductible donation!)



Brothers and sisters, it's time once again for our annual Thanksgiving community meal for our food bank recipients. **We would greatly appreciate any donations of whole turkeys, preferably cooked, for the dinner being held on Wednesday, November 21. You are also welcome to make a monetary contribution to**

**help support the hot meal as well as the food distribution for the evening. If you are interested in helping prepare and serve the meal and organize the food for distribution, please let us know.** Thanks for your continuing support! -- Julio at Iglesia Emanuel



## **Help Eastern NC Hurricane Victims with Gift Cards!**

Craven County was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and again by Florence in 2018. With these back-to-back disasters, many families have exhausted their FEMA and insurance resources, yet their homes are still unlivable. Winter is coming! **The Presbytery**

**of New Hope is asking for gift cards from Lowes, Home Depot, Ace, or 84 Lumber.** Giving a gift card in someone's name is a great way to honor them this Advent season.

**Send gift cards to:**  
Presbytery of New Hope  
2022 McDonald Ln  
Raleigh NC 27608

(Please note value of the card on its face with a sharpie and let them know if you would like a receipt.)



# *Souls Ajar*

an Emily Dickinson Festival

LECTURE ♦ POETRY READING ♦ ART-SONG CONCERT ♦ ART EXHIBITION



**1-5:30PM SAT NOV 17 2018**

for details and full schedule of events, visit  
[www.strobilusarts.tumblr.com](http://www.strobilusarts.tumblr.com)

free with a suggested \$10 donation

**CHAPEL IN THE PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**314 Great Ridge Parkway in Chapel Hill**

Presented in the Chapel in the Pines sanctuary, Strobilus Arts curates a diverse selection of aesthetic enrichment for the greater community. We welcome everyone, and our buildings are fully ADA accessible.

The following schedule comprises events which may be attended separately or in any combination.

1:00 PM: A lecture by Dr. Eliza Richards, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and American Studies at UNC Chapel Hill, presenting an overview of the poetics of Emily Dickinson and a close reading of several poems to be featured in the concert at 4:30.

2:15 PM: A reading of selected poems by Emily Dickinson.

3:00 PM: A craft talk by Deborah Coclanis, exploring the creative proposition of the art song, in which a composer sets an extant text to music, and examining several works featured in the concert at 4:30.

3:45 PM: A reception in the fellowship hall, featuring a buffet of desserts made from Emily Dickinson's recipes. An exhibition of visual works by congregational artists will be on display.

4:30 PM: A concert given by Deborah Coclanis (piano), Lesley Curtis (soprano), and Ann Harrison (reader), featuring a program of art songs, each using text taken from Emily Dickinson's poetry.

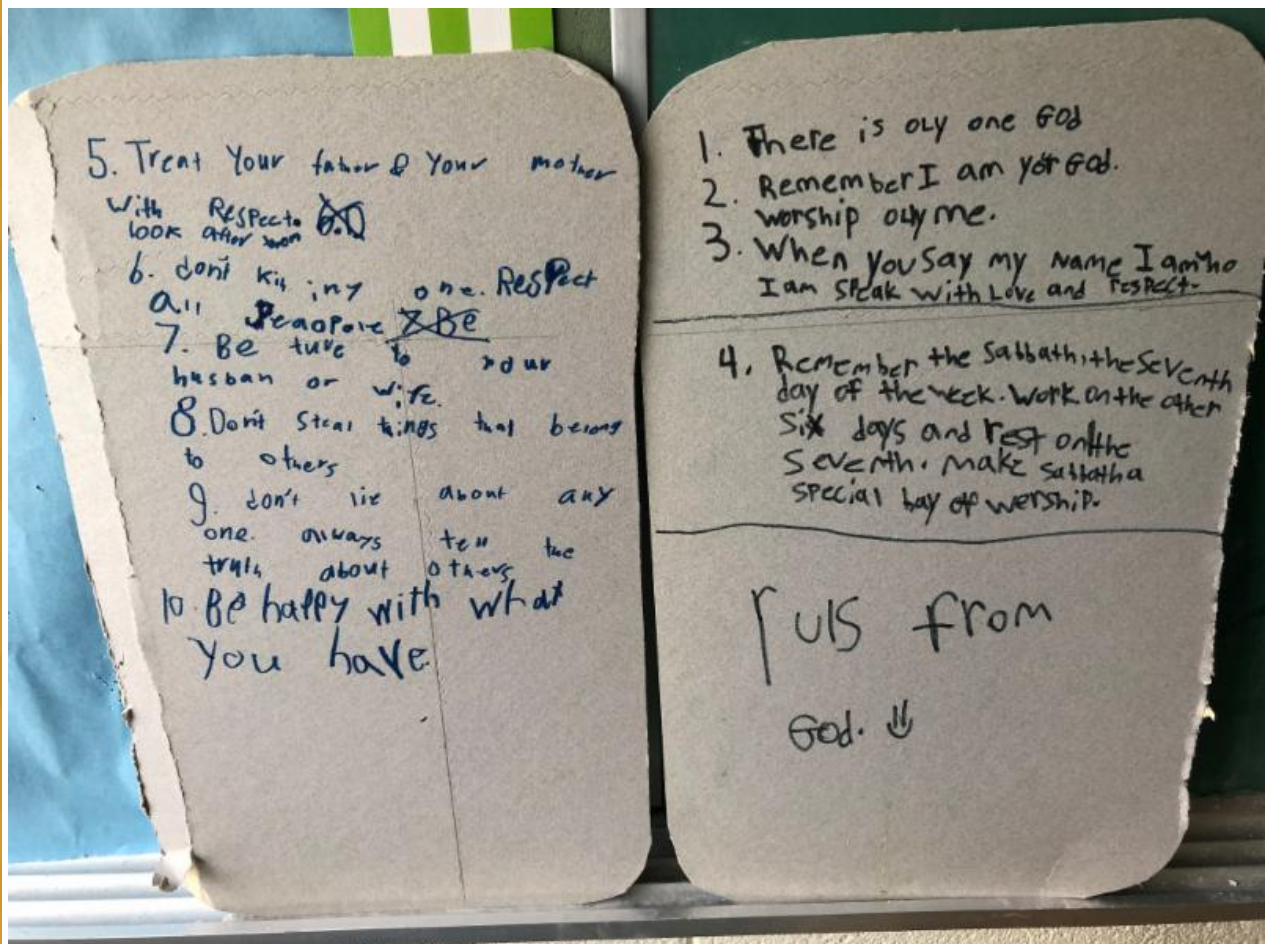
**Human Kindness Foundation** invites you to a reception on **Saturday, December 1, from 11:00 to 12:30**, at the Rubenstein Art Center, 2020 Campus Drive (on Duke's campus). "Serving Life: Re-Visioning Justice," an art show produced by [hiddenvoices.org](http://hiddenvoices.org) in collaboration with men living on death row, allows you to meet these men through stories of their childhoods, their lives



in prison, and their faith journeys. FPC member **Catherine Dumas**, who leads a meditation group in a death row unit, will be available to discuss the art.

<https://artscenter.duke.edu/event/serving-life-re-visioning-justice/>

## The 10 Commandments by FPC's K, 1st , 2nd grade Sunday School Class



### November Birthdays

The next church newsletter will be issued November 27.

Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office  
by Sunday, November 25.

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website