



REVEREND MITZI LESHER–THOMAS

Member of New Hope Presbytery

Ordained January 6, 2002

Formal Education:

Mary Baldwin College

B.A. – Psychology/Religion 1991 – 1995

Union Seminary – Presbyterian School of Christian Education

M.Div./MA in Christian Education 1995 – 1999

Career Experience:

Associate Pastor for Visitor and New Member Engagement

Cary Presbyterian Church Cary, NC 2017 – present

Pastor Associate for Congregational Ministries

Temporary Head of Staff (April – July 2016)

Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church Chapel Hill, NC 2009 – 2017

Pastor

Edgewood Presbyterian Church Sanford, NC 2003 – 2004

Pastor

Pleasant View Presbyterian Church Albertson, NC 2000 – 2003

Pastoral Resident

UNC Memorial Hospital Chapel Hill, NC 1999- 2000

Continuing Education:

- Montreat Music and Worship
- Duke Divinity School – Pastors' School
- Clergy Coaching 2018- 2020
- Stephen Ministry – Steven Leader Training
- Clinical Pastoral Education at UNC Memorial Hospital
- Clinical Pastoral Education at the Medical College of Virginia

Other Activities:

- Clergy Mentor for New Pastors
- Conference Chaplain, Montreat Music and Worship Week One – 2018
- Member of Salem Presbytery Executive Council
- Women's Bible Study & Retreat Leader, University Presbyterian Church Chapel Hill, NC
- Women's Retreat Leader for Pittsboro Presbyterian Church, Pittsboro, NC
- Women's Leader at Carol Woods and Carolina Meadows Retirement Communities, Chapel Hill, NC
- Vacancy Moderator and Worship Leader for Mt. Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church
- Vacancy Moderator and Worship Leader for Gulf Presbyterian Church
- Worship Leader/Guest Preacher Annual Memorial Service held by Bridges & Cameron Funeral Home, Sanford NC

Statement of Faith: Mitzi Leshner – Thomas

In sovereign love, God spoke creation into being--creating light and darkness, bringing order in chaos, and bearing witness to God's power and grace. Created in God's image, humanity was entrusted with the care and nurture of God's good creation and called to a life in service to God's kingdom. In sinful disobedience, humanity broke their covenant with God, turning away from God's desire for creation. Nevertheless, God's love for creation is without limit or end, and finds its fullest expression in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Written by human hands and inspired by God, Holy Scripture is the authoritative means by which we come to know the promise and fulfillment of God's love for the world. Scripture teaches us about God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, bearing witness to the power, mystery, and grace of the Trinity. By the power of the Holy Spirit and through the grace of Jesus Christ, the church celebrates the two sacraments witnessed to in scripture--baptism and communion. Baptism marks our inclusion in the covenant community, an outward and visible sign of God's grace and the new life won for us in Christ. Reconciled to God and one another in baptism, the community gathers at Table, joining together in the joyful feast, proclaiming the saving love of the risen Lord. In Christ we witness the fullest expression of God's love and grace; a God who stoops down, taking on the form of a servant to show all creation a still more excellent way. Christ

proclaimed the reign of God by reordering justice (Matt 20:1--16), freely administering mercy (John 8:1--11), offering unconditional love (Luke 15:11--32), and passing the peace of the Holy Spirit (John 16:1--15) following his resurrection. The church, though in itself imperfect, is a provision of God's grace in a broken world bringing peace where there is strife, justice where there is oppression, and love where there is hate. By the power of the Spirit, the church strengthens the people of God for service in the world.