

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 4, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRELUDE

Attende Domine

Jeanne Demessieux

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: Why do we come to worship God?

All: We come seeking a blessing from our Lord.

Leader: What is this blessing that we seek?

**All: We seek an encounter with our God, who washes us in mercy,
fills us with love and calls us to serve.**

Leader: Let us worship God together.

CHORAL RESPONSE (No. 331, vv. 1, 3-4)

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand National Hymn

*God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.*

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

You are love, O God, and you have loved us from the beginning.

Forgive us

when we do not share your love with the world;

when we choose selfishness over compassion;

when we choose what feels comfortable rather than what is right;

when we strive for success instead of faithfulness;

when we value independence over community.

Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short.

Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*All who are able, please stand.

CHORAL ANTHEM*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

arr. by Mark Schweitzer

*There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **Come, Holy Spirit;**
when we become stubborn and unbelieving,
open hearts to receive your Word,
then set us free to follow in the power of Christ's love. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM LESSON

Psalm 123

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 6:1-13

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON*"Incredible Prophets"*

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

CHORAL RESPONSE (No.757, vv. 1,3-4) *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Kingsfold

*Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(A Declaration of Faith)

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Christ calls us to be disciples.

In forming his people and sending them into the world

Jesus called individuals to be disciples.

**They were to share the joy of his companionship,
to understand and obey his teachings,
and to follow him in life and death.**

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 siblings,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **As we have heard, so we have seen God's compassion in our lives.
As we have seen, so we will live, offering our gifts to God,
so others might know God's steadfast love
is present with them in every moment. Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

Leader: To you I lift up my eyes,

People: **have mercy upon us, O Lord.**

Leader: Let us pray.

(prayers of intercession and thanksgiving)

All: **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 this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL SENDING (No. 747) *Enviado soy de Dios (The Lord Now Sends Us Forth)*

Enviado

Solo by Amy Wilson

Enviado soy de Dios, mi mano lista está para construir con él un mundo fraternal.

*Los ángeles no son enviados a cambiar un mundo de dolor por un mundo mejor;
me ha tocado a mí hacerlo realidad. Ayúdame, Señor, a hacer tu voluntad.*

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live.

*The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.*

***BENEDICTION**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

***POSTLUDE**

Lord Jesus Christ, Unto Us Turn

J.S. Bach



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On June 27, 117 joined us for in-person worship and 37 households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

Special thanks to **Gordon Campbell** for serving as organist today while **Kathy Parkins** is away.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God and in thanks to the many talented, generous members, clergy, and staff who have brought weekly worship services into our homes.

Many thanks to **John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck**, for their behind-the-scenes technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings.

Portions of **today's texts** and music were reprinted from *Call to Worship* and the hymnal, *Glory to God*.

Childcare: a staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the Christian education building for use during worship.

Worship activity bags are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

Large print worship bulletins along with **children's worship / activity bulletins** are available from the table as you enter the sanctuary from the foyer.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the Christian education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

These Days devotional books for July – September 2021 have arrived. While supplies last, regular and large print copies are available at no cost from the table in the church foyer or request a copy be sent to you by US mail.

Donors needed for worship flowers: We have Sundays this summer for which we need flower donors for worship. Click [here](#) to see open Sundays and to sign up to be a donor.

Are you ready to join FPC?

We will welcome and introduce new members on Sunday, July 25 during our 11:00 a.m. worship. Please let [Mindy Douglas](#) (pastor) or [Mitzi Leshner-Thomas](#) (associate pastor) know if you are ready to join. Session approval is needed prior to you being received into membership at First Presbyterian.

~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett and family* on the recent death of her sister-in-law, *Edith Micere Chomba*, in Kenya.

Added this week:

Linda Barenchi, as she takes her husband Chuck's ashes to California for interment.

Dorothy Collin Horne, mother of Ginny Horne

Brian Keyt, cousin of Laura Kelley

Burt Mulford, friend of Floalice Reaves

Jennifer Paetzold-Garcia, cousin of Sharon Hirsch

Victims and their families in the Surfside Condo building collapse in Florid.

Kerry Holbrook Fred Moore Ruth Roberson Margaret Sims

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: *Julian Boswell*

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: *Arthur Clark*

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Emerald Pond: *Paul Cornsweet*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Walter Chambliss*, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: *Fran Bryant*

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Brent Blanton, friend of Bob Pleasants and Kim Abels

Carolyn Bonner, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

Margaret Cleveland, friend of Katharine Whitmore

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Phil Goss, a friend of the congregation

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Lori Griffin, great niece of Jeanne Hervey

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Joy Orval and *Sharyl*, friends of Kerry Holbrook

Ed Overton and wife Abby, friends of Doug Butler

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Carlton Rounds' mother, who is fighting cancer. Carlton is a friend of Li-Chen Chin.

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

Please remember to update the pastoral staff on the progress of your loved ones.

"Time Out" Radio Show

Bill Hendrickson's guest on **Monday, July 5** will be *Prasad Kasibhatla*, professor of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke and husband of *Susan Dunlap*. Included in Prasad's work is the study of the environment and how it affects our atmosphere. Time Out is recorded via Zoom and broadcast at 5:00 p.m. online at wcomfm.org and over the airwaves at FM103.5.



Fresh out of college, single, married, graduate student, young professional or piecing it together one day at a time – we're all becoming (or striving to become) ... more connected, faithful, joyful. If you're interested in sharing the journey and shaping a new small group, join us at the following gatherings:

Sunday, July 11 Neomonde 12:45 p.m. (after worship)

Sunday, July 25 Ninth Street Bakery 12:45 p.m. (after worship).



It's been a minute.

Let's (re)introduce ourselves.

As you return to worship in the church building, whenever that is, please bring a photo of you and yours doing something fun (or at least something) from during the pandemic. It can be anything, but make sure your face(s) is/are visible. Then, label it and tack it up on the long bulletin board in the foyer—supplies will be available. *For our children*, there will be a border on around the bulletin board that they can draw on as they return.

Tour Historic Stagville

The Faith & Community Class will tour Historic Stagville again on **Saturday, July 17 from 8:00-10:00 a.m.** NOTE: This tour replaces the July 10th tour which has been cancelled. FPC's own **Vera Cecelski** will lead this tour which is limited to 20 persons. Please sign up ([here](#)) in advance if you plan to take this tour. Stagville is a state historic site located in Durham that includes the remnants of the one of the largest plantations in North Carolina. The site consists of original slave quarters (1851), a massive barn (1860), and a Bennehan family house (1787-1799). Stagville is dedicated to teaching about the lives and work of plantation slaves.

Discussion Leaders Needed for Faith & Community Class

Later this summer, we're continuing to learn and understand the stories of race in our country. Following *The Best of Enemies*, the Faith & Community class will be watching Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s documentary, *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. Each week, **July 18-August 15**, we'll watch 30 minutes together over Zoom and then discuss, so there's no homework required. This class needs discussion leaders. ***It's easy to do – please contact John Weicher if you are interested.***



FPC Sponsors Community Blood Drive

There is a critical blood shortage right now because of the lingering pandemic. FPC will host a Community Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on **Thursday, July 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall (305. E. Main Street)**. For more information or to make an appointment to donate, sign up online at

redcrossblood.org with sponsor code: **firstpres**. Each donor who participates in FPC's blood drive will be eligible to receive a \$10 Amazon gift card. Contact FPC's coordinator, **Julie Whiddon**, if you wish to help with the drive or have questions about donating blood. Beginning Sunday, July 11, you will be able to sign up following worship at the table in the church foyer. **FPC has a goal to fill 30 appointment slots during this drive.** Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative, and A negative. According to the Red Cross, type O negative is the universal blood type that can be safely transfused to anyone and is often used to treat trauma patients. Please sign up to give blood and help save a life.

SUMMER SABBATH PRACTICES rescheduled!

We have new dates for our ALL-Church event, Summer Sabbath Practices which will be held at church each evening from **Monday, August 16 through Friday August 20!** Come for 1, 2, 3, 4, or ALL evenings!! Each evening we will explore a different FAITH PRACTICES: Hospitality, Prayer, Service, Storytelling, and Retreat. There will be something for EVERYONE plus FREE DINNER is included - EAT PICNIC STYLE OUTSIDE OR GRAB DINNER TO TAKE HOME! Also, we need volunteers to sign up to help at this event.

331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil-some


hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star-ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de-fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er-end-ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,


our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

757


Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



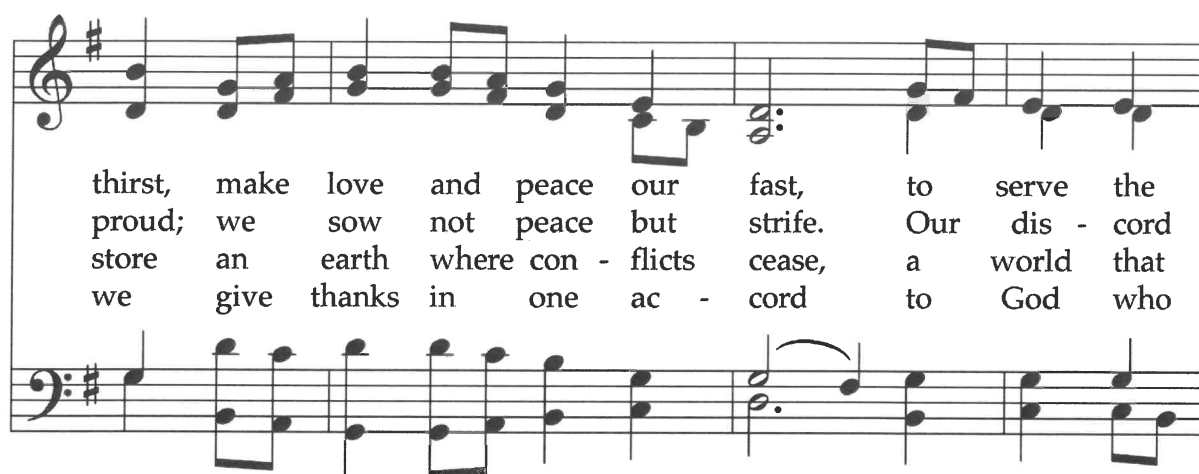
1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



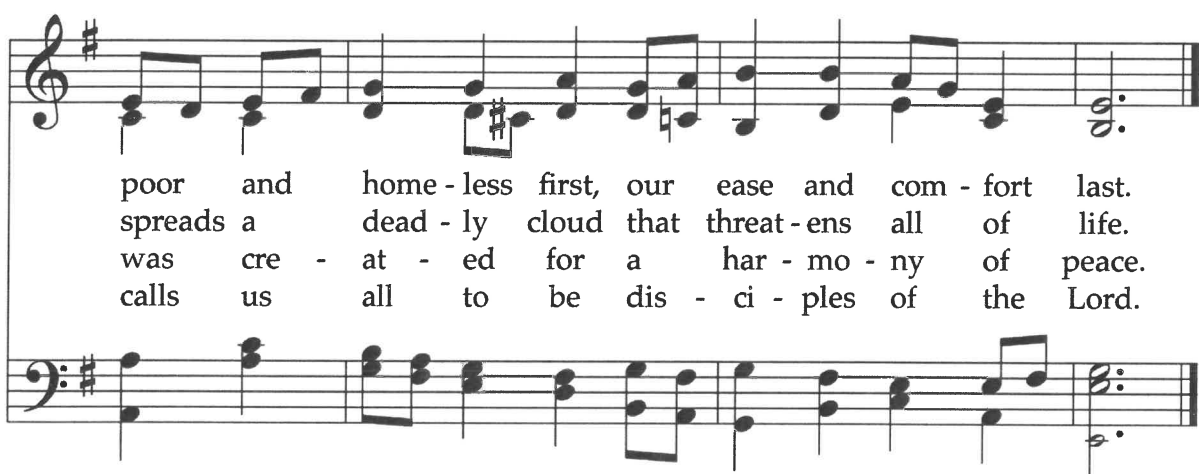
Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may



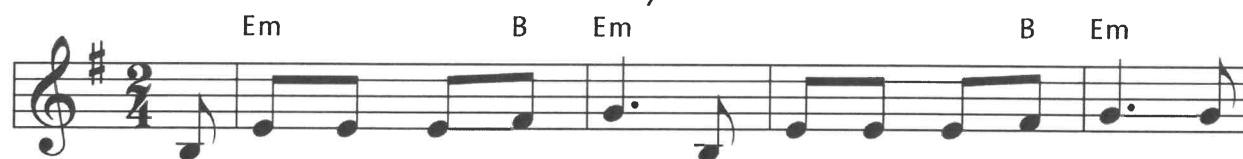
thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who



poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

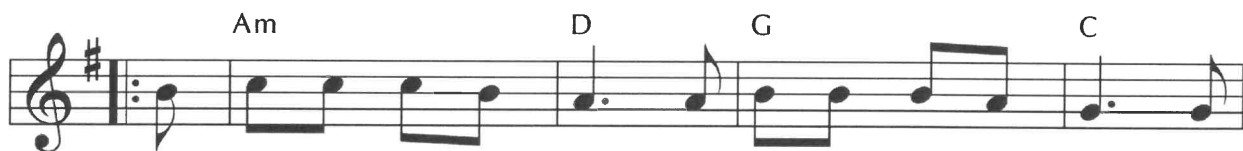
Enviado soy de Dios



The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa -



make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.



The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain to
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un



do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name; that
mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor; me



falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help
ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad. A -



us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.
yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.

Growing thru Grief - July Preview

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m., for now on Zoom. Those who attend need to have both audio and video available. Each meeting begins with a short presentation about a part of the grief journey, and then we break into small groups for sharing and conversation. Here are our speakers for July:

- July 6** Betsy Barton, to be announced
- July 13** Sarah Woodard, "A Journey through Grief—Facing It with Self-Compassion"
- July 20** Margaret Albert, "The Influence of the Pandemic"
- July 27** Margaret Albert, "Loneliness and Being Alone"

To register for one of these Zoom meetings, please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org by 8:00 a.m. on the Monday before the meeting.

Day School News

On **Sunday, July 11, 2021 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**, the refurbished train on the FP Day School playground will be dedicated to ***Sheila Breitweiser***. Close friends of Sheila (Pat and Tom Rocks of Wilmington) made a generous donation in honor of Sheila to help refurbish the train. Please join the Day School in this dedication.

The Day School is also hiring. If you know of someone who is passionate and has experience working with children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years old, please have them send a cover letter and resume to admin@fpdayschool.org.

Volunteers needed at Urban Ministries


For years, FPC has committed to provide volunteers to help prepare and serve meals at Urban Ministries of Durham. Even through the pandemic, members of FPC and those connected to us, have faithfully showed up as volunteers. If you are fully vaccinated and itching to serve again, please know that you are needed. As always, only volunteer when you are comfortable doing so.

Contact ***Jen McGonigle*** to sign up for one of FPC's regular time slots or call Jen at 202-421-5870. If you have interest in serving at Urban Ministries at other times and in other ways, click this link: <https://umdurham.org/get-involved/opportunities.html>.

Iglesia Emanuel Food Pantry

Food insecurity was a major issue in our community long before the pandemic arrived, but it has become even more of an urgent challenge in the past 16 months. Way too many families continue to struggle to make ends meet. The Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel has been an extraordinary blessing for an average of 500 families every single week. We could not possibly do this work without the amazing, faithful support of so many volunteers and donors! There is a spot for everyone -- helping on site, bagging rice and beans from home, purchasing food, giving financial support. Come join us as we spread God's love in this most tangible and essential way and have fun in the process! Click here to let us know how you would like to participate. Or contact ***Margaret Rubiera*** for more info.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p>  <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>Monday, July 5</p> <p>5:00 PM Time Out Radio: Bill Hendrickson interviews Prasad Kasibhatla (live on FM103.5 and wcomfm.org)</p> <p><i>The church office is closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday.</i></p>	<p>Tuesday, July 6</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:00 PM Program Staff</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 7</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, July 8</p>	<p>Friday, July 9</p>	<p>Saturday, July 10</p>	<p>Sunday, July 11</p> <p>9:45 -10:30 AM Adult Faith Formation</p> <p>10:00-10:30 AM Children's Faith Formation</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-streamed)</p> <p>12:30-1:30 PM Day School Playground train dedication</p> <p>12:45 PM "Becoming" (new fellowship group) at Neomonde</p>

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant



Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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

305 EAST MAIN STREET

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701
ORGANIZED 1871

919.682.5511