

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 15, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRELUDE

Sonata no. 4
“Adagio” and “Allegro”
Kent Foss - trumpet

D. Gabrielli
arr. Michel Rondeau

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader: God is the source of wisdom,
People: **the fount of life eternal.**
Leader: Let us listen for the wisdom of God
People: **and worship the One whose words shape the world.**

RESPONSE

O God, Show Mercy to Us
Lesley Curtis, soloist

Thaxted

*O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,
so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
and unto every people your saving grace be shown.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;
in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.*

*For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,
and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,
and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.*

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Susan Dunlap

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**All-knowing God, we are your children,
but we have turned away from your wisdom and walked in our own ways.
We have lived carelessly and squandered time.
We have been foolish and failed to understand your will.
We have been drunk with the wine of this world and debauched in our own desires.
Purge us from evil and fill us with your Spirit.
Clear our minds from clutter that we may discern what is right and walk in your
ways. Amen.**

*Those who are able, please stand.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Torrell Armstrong

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of our Lord;
that when Christ comes,
we may be found active in service and joyful in praise;
in and through Christ's holy name. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 111

Torrell Armstrong

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. ² Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them. ³ Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever. ⁴ You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion. ⁵ You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant. ⁶ You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations. ⁷ The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure. ⁸ They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. ⁹ You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 5:15-20

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Walking Carefully”

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

INTERLUDE

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Belhar Confession, adaptation

John Weicher

We believe in the triune God who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe that the unity of the people of God must be manifested and active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord and share one hope. Together we come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ, that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together and together serve God in this world.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

John Weicher

Invitation to Offering

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Weicher

Leader: As we offer our gifts to you, O God,

People: may we not stand by, thinking we need only watch you go to work.

Leader: But may we join you in feeding the hungry, in offering a welcome to outsiders,

All: and building communities of peace and justice. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Susan Dunlap

INVITATION TO PRAYER

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

Refrain:

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.*

*There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.*

Verse:

*For wisdom, for courage, for comfort:
hear our prayer.*

*In weakness, in fear:
be near; hear our prayer, O God.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Susan Dunlap

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: and also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving)

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

SENDING

If Thou But Trust In God to Guide Thee Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.*

*Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.*

***BENEDICTION**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

***POSTLUDE**

Sonata no. 4

D. Gabrielli

"Presto"



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 August 8, **100** joined us for in-person worship and **51** households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

Thanks, and appreciation to organist and member **Gordon Campbell** for playing the organ and Kent Foss for serving as trumpeter this morning.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of 58 years of marriage by **Joe and Carlisle Harvard**.

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

Portions of **today's texts and music** were reprinted from *Feasting on the Word, Call to Worship, Lectionary Liturgies, Daily Prayer*, and the *Iona Abbey Music Book*.

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.

~ **Our Concerns** ~

Added this week: *Luke and Rob Everett's* mother, *Lynn Everett*, is in the hospital.
Will Chambliss's father in-law **Jim Vacca** was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Kerry Holbrook *Ruth Roberson* *Margaret Sims* *Deborah Momsen-Hudson*

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: *Julian Boswell*

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Jim Wolfe, Walter Chambliss*, father of Will Chambliss.

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

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

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Trice

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lori Griffin & baby Teagan Rose in NICU- niece of Jeanne Hervey

Phil Goss, a friend of the congregation

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Dorothy Collin Horne, mother of Ginny Horne

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Ed Overton and wife Abby, friends of Doug Butler


Jennifer Paetzold-Garcia, cousin of Sharon Hirsch

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

Kathy Stahl (mother) & *Larry Purtzenski* (stepfather), parents of Katy Loebrich.

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

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



after worship service
Save the Date: Sunday, August 22

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Wear shorts and clothes that are easy to move around in because we will have a BLOWUP OBSTACLE COURSE in the parking lot
- All folks who will carry backpacks in the new school year: BRING YOUR BACKPACKS for our backpack blessing during worship
- FOOD TRUCK on site

FUN FUN FOR ALL AGES FUN FUN

It's baaack!

And it's a backyard cookout!

Winesday

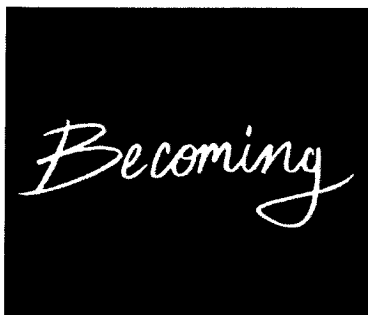
August 25

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Come meet some new friends or reconnect with familiar faces!

Hosted by Jane & Bill Brown
 1312 Dollar Avenue

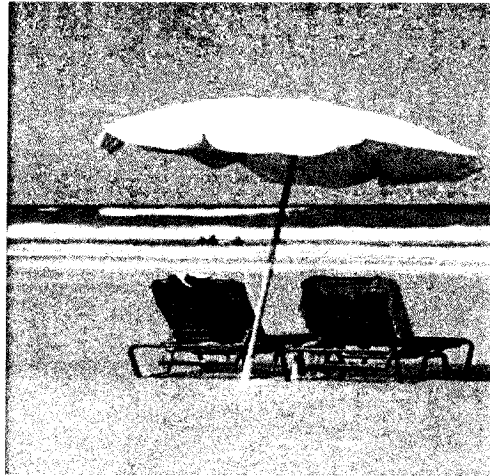
Sliders provided, please bring a side to share
 RSVP to Jane Brown



If you are looking for a chance to connect with others who are finding their way at FPC and maybe in life.

Then join us at **7:00 p.m. (August 18)** at **Simon Says Dip This** for a chance to connect with others AND... because it's no fun to eat ice cream alone, let me know if you plan to join us at 7:00 p.m. at Simon Says Dip This.

Questions? Contact Mitzi Leshner-Thomas



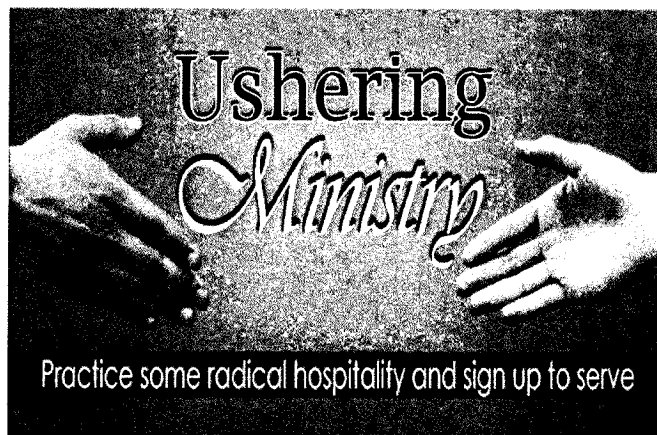
FIRST FRIENDS ANNUAL BEACH TRIP

The Beach Trip will be
September 24-26

We are good to go if all are vaccinated.
If there are some not vaccinated, then we need to mask when indoors.

Please contact **Kathy Conner** with questions.

Please respond to the Evite by September 5th.



Looking for an easy way to meet other FPC'ers?

An easy, low time commitment way to get involved?

Want to help others experience the warm welcome you received at FPC?

The deacons and Mitzi are looking for people willing to serve as ushers / greeters one Sunday per month. Don't worry about being locked in - substitutes and opportunities to change will always be available as lives and plans evolve.

You'll be part of a team working together to help welcome people to worship.
No committee meetings and no prior experience needed - just a willing heart.

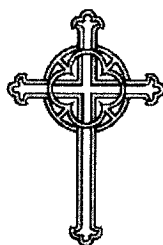
Questions or ready to volunteer, email Mitzi Lesher-Thomas.

The Week at a Glance!

Sunday, August 15	Monday, August 16 1:00 PM Worship Planning	Tuesday, August 17	Wednesday, August 18 No Chancel Choir
Thursday, August 19	Friday, August 20	Saturday, August 21	Sunday, August 22 9:45 -10:30 AM Adult Faith Formation 10:00-10:30 AM Children's Faith Formation 11:00 AM Worship (Blessing of Backpacks) After worship Fall Kick off

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 Leshner-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 919.682.5511
ORGANIZED 1871