

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 12, 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

"Elegy"

John Ireland, arr: Alec Rowley

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader: We come as seekers,

People: **unsure of what we seek.**

Leader: We come as followers,

People: **not understanding the One we follow.**

Leader: We come to worship,

People: **even though we don't know how.**

Leader: Holy One, by your grace,

People: **meet us where we are. Meet us here. Meet us now.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

*Galilee*

*Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.*

\*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**O Lord, you have called us to take up our cross and follow you,  
to bear the yoke of life as your servant,  
to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity,  
but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires.**

**You call us to seek justice and peace,  
but we are satisfied with injustice and discord.**

**You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed,  
but we do not insist on freedom for all.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

**Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit,  
so that all may know your justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

\*Those who are able, please stand.

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

*We Are Forgiven*

*We Are Forgiven*

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

## PASSING THE PEACE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom.**

**Let your Holy Spirit now open us**

**to hear with greater clarity the teachings of today,**

**that we may hold dear in yet new ways what it is you will for us,**

**in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### EPISTLE LESSON

James 3:1-12

Jennie Alwood

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my siblings, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup> Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Creator, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My siblings, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my siblings, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:27-38

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup> He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Self-denial?

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

RESPONSE

*In an Age of Twisted Values*

*Church United*

*In an age of twisted values we have lost the truth we need.*

*In sophisticated language we have justified our greed.*

*By our struggle for possessions we have robbed the poor and weak.*

*Hear our cry and heal our nation; your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.*

*We have built discrimination on our prejudice and fear.*

*Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty if we hold resentments dear.*

*For communities divided by the walls of class and race,*

*hear our cry and heal our nation; show us, Lord, your love and grace.*

*We who hear your word so often choose so rarely to obey.*

*Turn us from our willful wandering; give us truth to light our way.*

*In the power of your Spirit come to cleanse us, make us new;*

*hear our cry and heal our nation till our nation honors you.*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Declaration of Faith*

John Weicher

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God’s kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God’s kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.**

INTERLUDE (*FPC Wind Quintet*)

*Kingsfold*

arr., James Biery

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

## DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Mindy Douglas

Invitation to the Offering

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Open our ears to the struggles around us;  
open our voices to speak out for justice;  
open our hearts to welcome the forgotten;  
open our treasures so they may be used to care for all your children.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Mindy Douglas

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble,

(Psalm 20:1)

People: **the name of the God of Jacob defend you.**

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.**

## SENDING

*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.*

*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.*

## \*BENEDICTION

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

## \*POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur*

William Faulkes



**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 September 5, **61** joined us for in-person worship and **35** households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

**Music Notes:** The Musical Interlude is based on the hymn tune *Kingsfold*, the same tune as the Sending hymn. This unique arrangement, originally for organ, is by **James Biery**, an organist/composer from Grosse Point, Michigan, who is also a friend of **Kathy Parkins**.

We are grateful to **Gordon Campbell** (organist) and quintet members **Brent Curtis**, **Christyn Klinck**, **Sheya Wehrman**, **Li-Chen Chin**, and **David Smith** for leading our music today.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of **Florence McDow** by her family: **Will**, **Leslie**, and **Laura McDow**.

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

Portions of *today's texts and music* were reprinted from *A Spacious Faith*, *Call to Worship*, *Book of Common Worship*, *Feasting on the Word*, and *Lectionary Liturgies*.

**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.

~ Joys and Concerns ~

**Added this week:** Family members *Ty, Laurel, Joe, and Cheli Seddon* of Martha Seddon, a former administrator at FPC, were hospitalized following a serious car accident on Labor Day.

*Kerry Holbrook      Margaret Sims*

**Care Communities:**

Brookdale Durham: *Julian Boswell*

Carver Living Center, *Everlyn Bass*, aunt of Valerie McMillian

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Emerald Pond, Durham: *Paul Cornsweet*

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

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Ellen O'Brien*, mother in-law Mindy Douglas

**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

*Lynn Everett*, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

*Will French*, son of Berry & Katie French

*Lori Griffin & baby Teagan Rose*, niece of Jeanne Hervey

*Chris Grill*, former FPC intern

*Phil Goss*, a friend of the congregation

*Grace*, Chris James' great-niece

*Chris Irwin*, cousin of Linda Barenchi

*Will McDow's parents*

*Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson

*Ed Overton and wife Abby*, friends of Doug Butler

*Carlton Rounds' mother*, Carlton is a friend of Li-Chen Chin

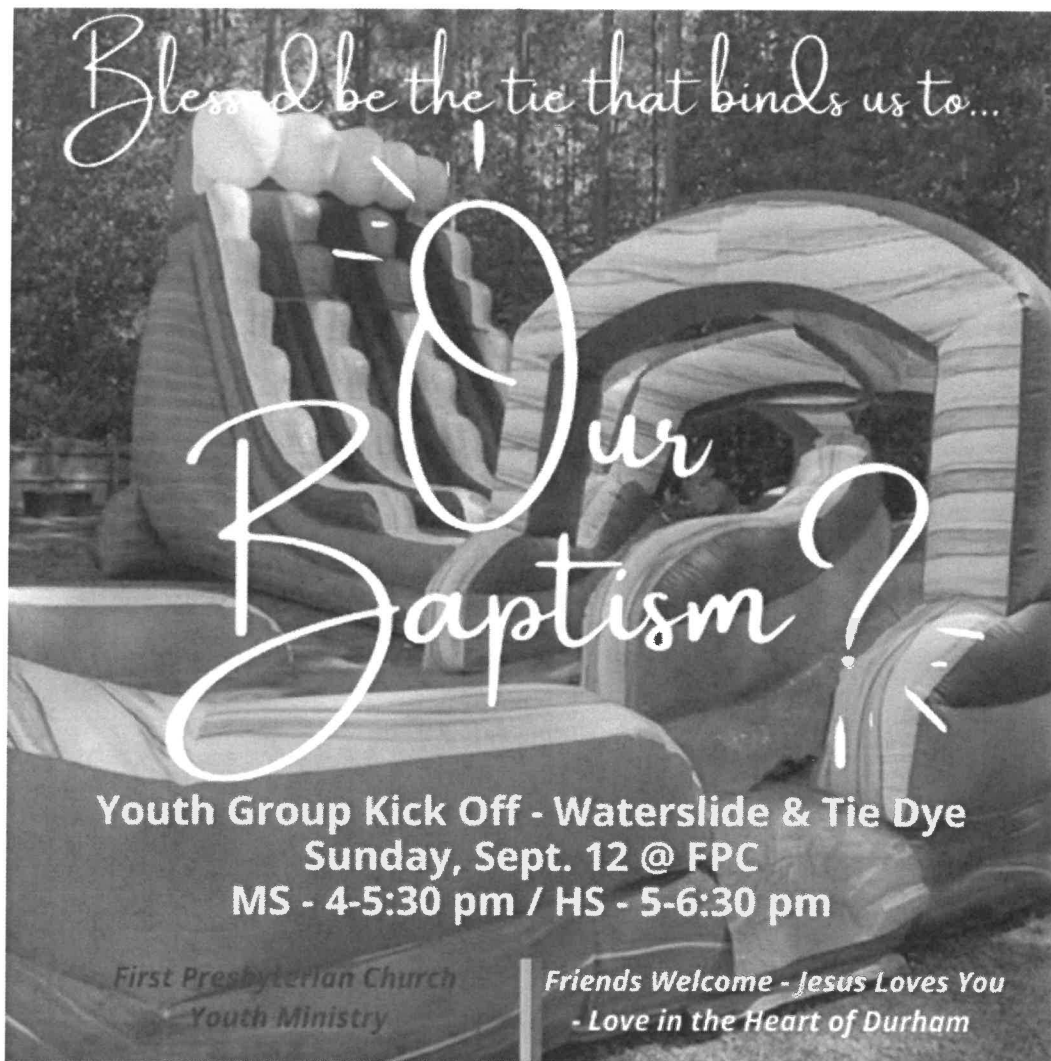
*Karen Renee Shoaf*, friend of Kathy Parkins

*Heath Tuttle*, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

*Deb Walsh*, friend of Celia Dickerson

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



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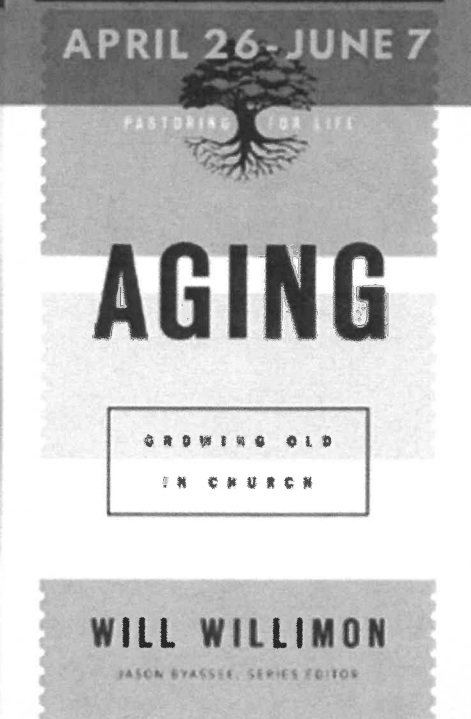
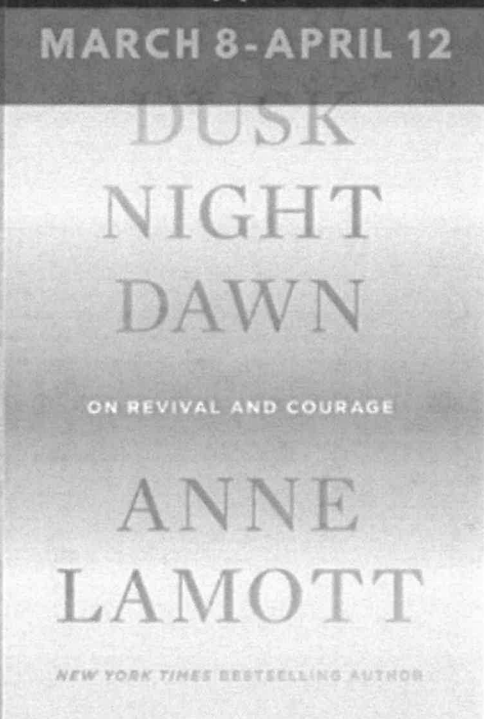
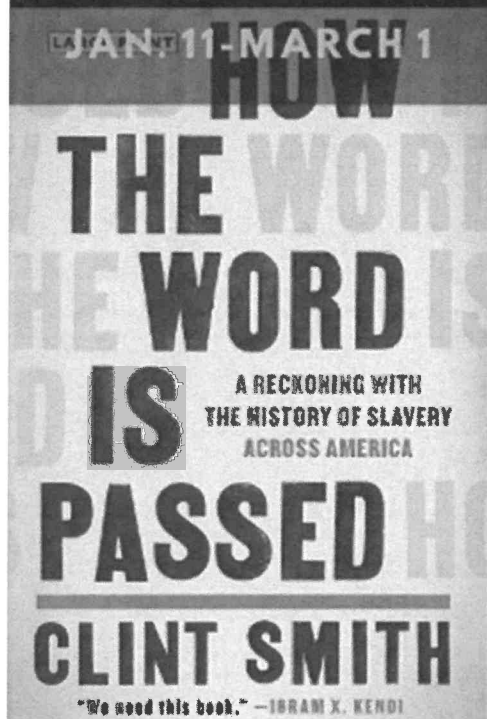
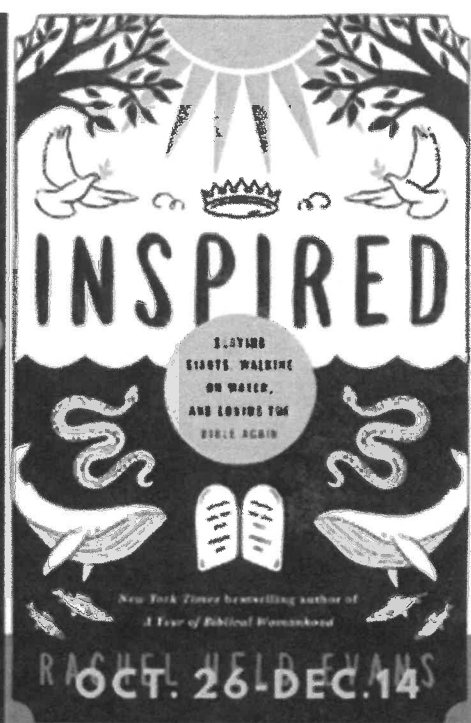
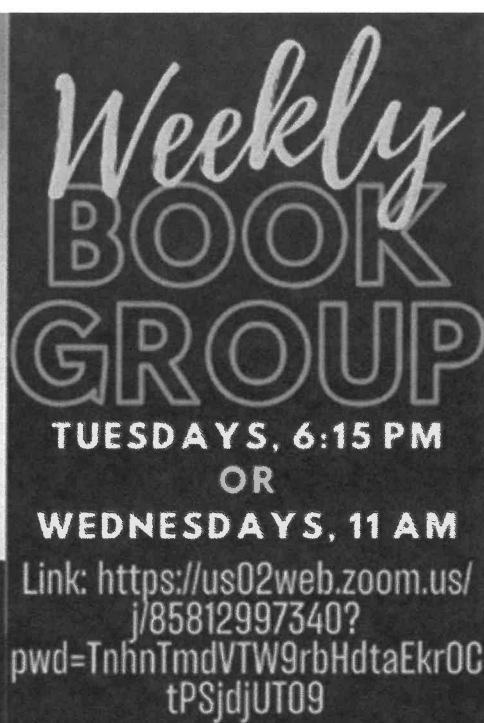
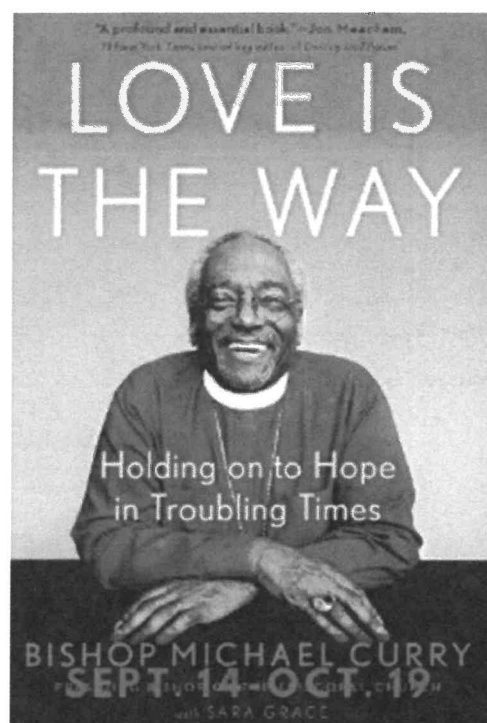
### **Custodian Position Available**

We are looking for a custodian! The position is 35 hours a week and includes cleaning, maintenance, and event set-up and clean-up. A full job description is available at [Custodian Position](#). If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them send an application letter and résumé (including two references) to [sexton-search@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:sexton-search@firstpres-durham.org). Application deadline is September 25, 2021. First Presbyterian Church is a certified Durham Living Wage employer. NOTE: Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

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### **Are there any quilters, or aspiring quilters, in the house?**

For many years, under the leadership of *Ruth Roberson, BJ Morton, and Dawn Carsey Shelton*, baptized babies have been presented a handmade quilt to tangibly represent the love of the congregation for the newest member of the FPC family. These ladies have decided to pass the torch to a new set of sewers. *Jane Wettach* has agreed to take on the ministry and would love to work with experienced or aspiring quilters. If you would like to join the baptismal quilt ministry, please contact Jane at [janewettach@gmail.com](mailto:janewettach@gmail.com) or 919-612-8396.



## Weekly Book Studies

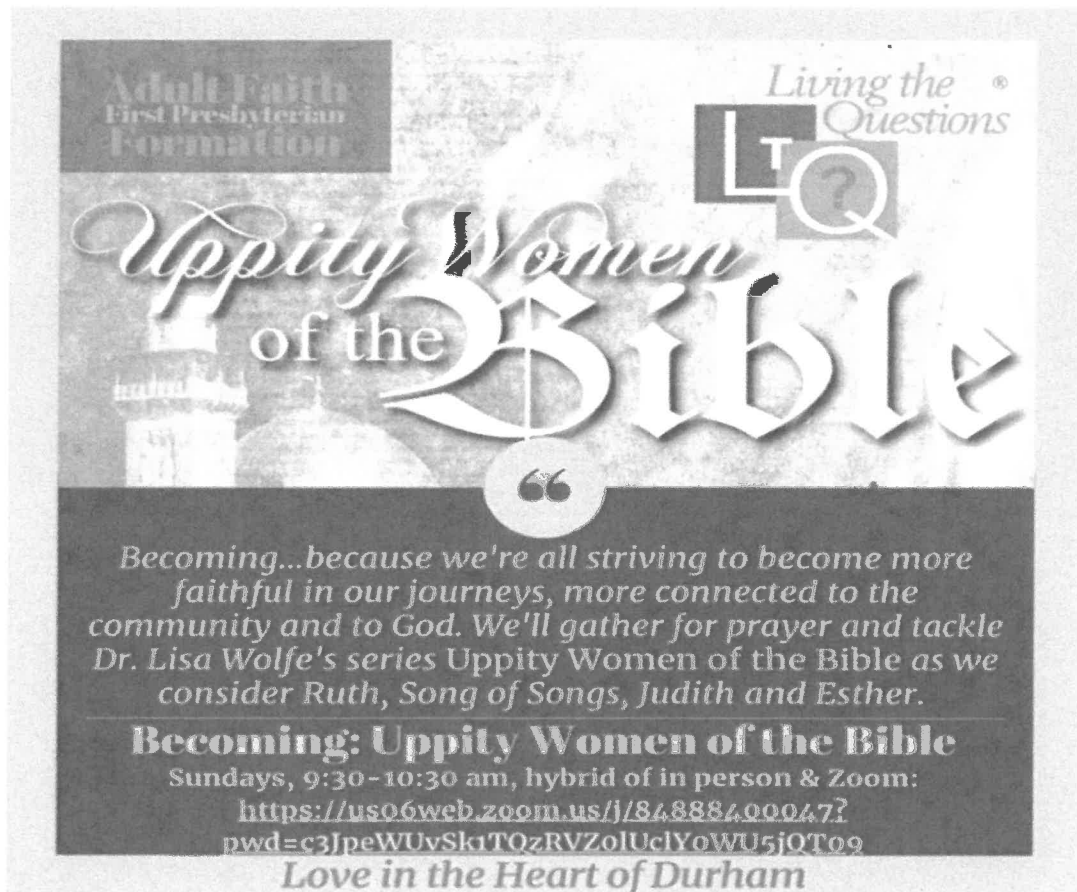
Current Study: "Love Is the Way"

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

via Zoom - [Link to class](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85812997340?pwd=TnhnTmdVTW9rbHdtaEkrOCtPSjdjUT09)





## **BECOMING – OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED**

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall  
and on Wednesday evenings, September 22 and October 27  
at Hi-Wire Brewing from 6:00-7:00 p.m.



**Thursday, October 7, 2021**

**1:00-6:00 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall**

Primary contact/organizer: Julie Whiddon

Julie's email: foxylady2642@yahoo.com

Julie's phone number: 919-399-0299

**Sign up through Julie or sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org using code: firstpres.**

Informational brochures are available from the table in the church's foyer.

**SAVE THESE DATES – Activities for all ages!**



**September 18 at 7:30 a.m.** (Rain date: Sept. 25)

**Bird Watching with David & Judy Smith**

Sandy Creek Park (all ages welcome)

**October 2 at 10:00 a.m.** (Rain date: Oct 16)

**Walk/ride with Jancy Johnstone along The American Tobacco Trail** - Meet under Hwy 147 by the ballpark (all ages welcome)

**October 3 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Backyard Ecology & Bee Keeping**

Keith and Franzi Rokoske's home

2510 Wrightwood Ave, Durham

(Some clothing requirements; all ages welcome)

**October 5 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Tour of the Nasher with Brent Curtis** (Maybe come early for lunch in the café)

**October 9 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Tour Historic Montrose Garden with Ellie Meade** (ages 10 and up)

**October 15 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Trivia Night with Ian & Jennie Belle** on the grounds of FPC (ages 15 and up)

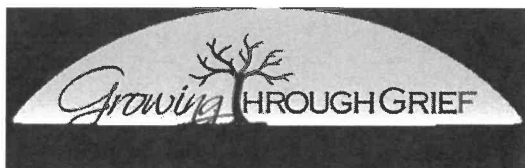
**October 17 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Walking Tour of Downtown Durham** with Vera Cecelski/Laura Hanson (ages 12 and up)

Beginning at the Museum of Durham History



**These are activities for families with young children.  
More information will be available soon!**



On **September 14** we are returning to in-person meetings at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis, in Durham. **September 14** also marks the beginning of our fall Introduction to Grief series, which

will feature six consecutive presentations by **Jane Williams**. Jane is a PhD clinical psychologist who has done post-graduate fellowships at UCLA and Harvard Medical School and a member of First Presbyterian, Durham. Here are the September dates and topics that Jane will address:

- |          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Sept. 14 | Changes in Our Understanding of Grief |
| Sept. 21 | The Process of Grief                  |
| Sept. 28 | The Uniqueness of Grief               |

Everyone attending must be fully vaccinated or have had a negative COVID test within three days. Masking will follow governmental rules. Attendees will be required to sign a Pledge indicating their vaccination status and agreeing to safety procedures. For more information, contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org).

## The Week at a Glance!

<b>Sunday</b> <b>September 12</b>  Youth Group Kick Off <b>4:00-5:30 PM</b> Middle School <b>5:00-6:30 PM</b> High School	<b>Monday</b> <b>September 13</b>  <b>10:30 AM-12 Noon</b> Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study  <b>1:00 PM</b> Worship Planning  <b>2:00 PM</b> Program Staff Meeting	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>September 14</b>  <b>6:15 PM</b> Evening Book Study <i>Love Is the Way</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> The Things That Matter Book Group at the Momsen- Hudson home	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>September 15</b>  <b>11:00 AM</b> Morning Book Study <i>Love Is the Way</i>  No Chancel Choir rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b> <b>September 16</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>September 17</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>September 18</b>  <b>7:30 AM</b> Bird Watching with David & Judy Smith at Sandy Creek Park	<b>Sunday</b> <b>September 19</b>  <b>9:30 -10:30 AM</b> Faith Formation  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship  Youth Group <b>4:00-5:30 PM</b> Middle School <b>5:00-6:30 PM</b> High School

### 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](mailto: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**