

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3, 2021

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
(As we prepare for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God
FPC Wind Quintet

Benedetto Marcello

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service.

People: Where in the world shall we serve our God?

Leader: At home and school and business place – in this community and throughout every land.

People: How in the world shall we serve our God?

Leader: By working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred.

People: Why in the world shall we serve our God?

All: Because the Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us! Amen!

HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (Refrain)

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

United in your love, O God, we are one body across the globe. We are branches of one family whose roots run in the waters of grace. Still, O Lord, we do not act like one body. We find ways to distance ourselves with more than miles. We find ways to divide ourselves into endless groups of “us” and “them.” Again and again, you call us back to the waters; again and again, we turn away. Forgive us, uniting God, and by your forgiveness, challenge us to tend to each others’ wounds.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carl Rist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord God, as you spoke long ago through the voices of your prophets,
speak to us here, speak to us now, through the power of your Spirit
and the promise of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

HEBREW LESSON

Psalms 8

Carl Rist

¹ O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ² Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? ⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mindy Douglas

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.

⁶ But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?" ⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸ subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them siblings, ¹² saying, “I will proclaim your name to my siblings, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The Imprint of Divine Love” Mindy Douglas

MUSICAL *In Christ There Is No East or West* arr. by Carlton R. Young
RESPONSE *FPC Wind Quintet*

*In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*) *Apostles’ Creed* Miguel Rubiera

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

FAREWELL LITANY for Li-Chen Chin & Christopher Wehrman,
Sheya and Sean Wehrman

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We send you forth as disciples of Jesus Christ and as ambassadors of friendship, spreading the good news of God's love in your new surroundings. Go in the spirit of Christ. Be steadfast in your devotion to him.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Know that your ministry with us has served the cause of Christ in this community. Well done, good and faithful servants!

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: May your commitment to Christ grow as you enter another community and another congregation.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Remember that even though we will be separated in space, our shared faith in Jesus Christ will keep us connected.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Unison Prayer of the People:

Gracious God, a wandering Aramean is our ancestor and you have been with us every step of the way on the long journey of faith. Go now with Li-Chen, Chris, Sheya and Sean, we pray. Keep them faithful to you, in prayer, worship, service, and in the new relationships they will make. Give them traveling mercies and a new community of faith through which they may continue to serve you. Bless this family. May our friendship with them continue, and may we ever be one in Christ. Amen.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

John Weicher

Invitation to Offering

The Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering (*use enclosed envelope*)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

John Weicher

We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord, and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you. Transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who are touched by their use. Transform us into people who bless others throughout each day, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right to give you praise, O God. You created the world and all that is in it. The startling diversity of the earth and its creatures were made by you and pronounced good.

Called into life-giving partnership with each other and you, we chose instead to seek dominance and bring about division. We have betrayed each other and denied your image, which is present in every person.

We give you thanks that in each place of shadow and pain and in every divisive moment you have sought us out again, to reconcile us to one another and to you. Therefore with our parents in faith, from every time and place, we sing the fullness of your witness to your world saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: God of mystery: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Prepare us to receive your presence and to know your grace. May this one bread nourish our bodies and the fullness of our lives. May this cup that we share wet our parched and silent throats and quench our deep and yearning thirst. Let this meal reshape our every meal, so that the justice and mercy known here will become our way of life. There is enough food for all, enough peace for all, enough love for all, enough hope for all, enough grace for all. In this truth and in this hope we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Until you appear again among us, we ask your Holy Spirit's presence and guidance in a broken world grasping for wholeness. May the church yearn to proclaim the good news of a world made new and a mercy wider than imaginations can span. Teach us to pray continually the prayer our Savior taught, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Li-Chen Chin

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas, John Weicher

Procession to the outdoors

***THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

(all sing)

Bless Be the Tie that Binds

Dennis

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.

And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;

but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas/John Weicher

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All: **Gracious God, we offer our thanks for the whole communion of saints who witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread, may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup, may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table, may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas/John Weicher

***POSTLUDE**

Go Now in Peace (in-person)

Voluntary in B flat (online)

John Battishill

Instructions for Holy Communion

For those in person: After the words of institution have been said over the elements, our elders and two of our ministers will process the elements to the courtyard. You are invited to follow them, maintaining a safe distance between one another. In the courtyard you will be given a piece of bread and will pick up a cup of juice. We will partake together at the direction of one of the ministers.

For those at home: We invite you to have bread or a cracker and juice, water, or wine for the sacrament of holy communion. As the in-person congregation processes to the courtyard, Kathy Parkins will play the organ and then one of our pastors will invite you to partake of the elements in your home.



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 26, 57 joined us for in-person worship and 43 households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

Music Notes: The **Prelude** by Italian composer Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739) was originally a choral arrangement of Psalm 19, one of Marcello's settings of the first fifty Psalms. The **Response** after the Sermon is an arrangement, originally for organ, of the familiar tune McKee (#317 in our hymnal), by American composer Carlton R. Young, using slightly jazzy rhythms. (If there is room in Christ for East, West, South, and North, there is certainly room for different musical styles.)

We are grateful to **Franzi Rokoske** and **Drew Cummings** for sharing with us their gifts in song and the **First Presbyterian Wind Quintet** (**Christyn Klinck, Sheya Wehrman, Li-Chen Chin, Brent Curtis, and David Smith**) for their contribution to today's service. We are especially thankful for Li-Chen Chin, who has been a member of the quintet since it was founded in 2012 and who will be leaving Durham this week to take a new job in Vermont.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by **Courtney Trutna and Justin Paley** in celebration of their marriage in our sanctuary yesterday.

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 *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.

These Days daily devotional books from October–December 2021 have arrived. Regular and large prints are available. Pick up your copy on the table outside the volunteer's office. You may also contact the office staff to request a copy to be mailed.

Donors are need for worship flowers on Sunday, November 7 and 14. Sign-up on church website

~ Joys and Concerns ~

The Sexton Search Committee is pleased to announce that **Vernon Cooper** has accepted FPC's offer to be our new Sexton, effective October 1, 2021. Vernon previously served as summer administrative assistant at FPC in 2018. He comes with over six years of institutional custodial experience (Furman University), where he completed his undergraduate degree in Politics and International Affairs. Vernon is a lifelong Presbyterian and serves as a Ruling Elder at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church. A native of South Carolina, Vernon and his wife, Jennifer, live in Hillsborough with their two dogs -- Dewey and Kate. Please welcome Vernon to the staff!

Memorial Service: A service of witness to the resurrection for **Martha Rimmer** will be held Saturday, October 16th at 1:00 pm. Martha was the wife of **Steve Rimmer** and the mother of **Lyn Williams**.

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **John & Sue Fricks** upon the death of their family member **John Mooney** from Alabama. Also, for **Robert Daye** and family, who lost his niece **Tammy Jean Daye** from Person County.

Added this week: **Walt Fiore** is the family member of **Linda & Conrad Carter**. Walt is undergoing cancer treatment.

Kerry Holbrook Margaret Sims Paul Cornsweet Minnie Cameron

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Duke Hospice-Hock Pavilion: **Everlyn Bass**, aunt of Valerie McMillian

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 Tice

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

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

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

Ty, Laurel, Joe, & Cheli Seddon, family of Martha Seddon, former FPC Parish Administrator

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.

The Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering is received today.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations utilize up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Presbyterians and Synods retain 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. FPC will allocate its 25% share of this offering to Bright Stars of Bethlehem. Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a US-based non-profit organization that promotes peace and justice in Palestine through Dar al-Kalima University of Arts & Culture and its initiatives for youth, families, and older adults, as well as public advocacy for basic human rights. (<https://brightstarsbethlehem.org/>)



****PLEASE NOTE:** To access zoom, signup genius and other links listed in this bulletin, go to www.firstpres-durham.org and click in the section for listed for Newsletters or Bulletins.)

Fall Fellowship Pop-Ups (Sign-up online to participate)

Questions or concerns, contact **Mitzi Lesher-Thomas.**

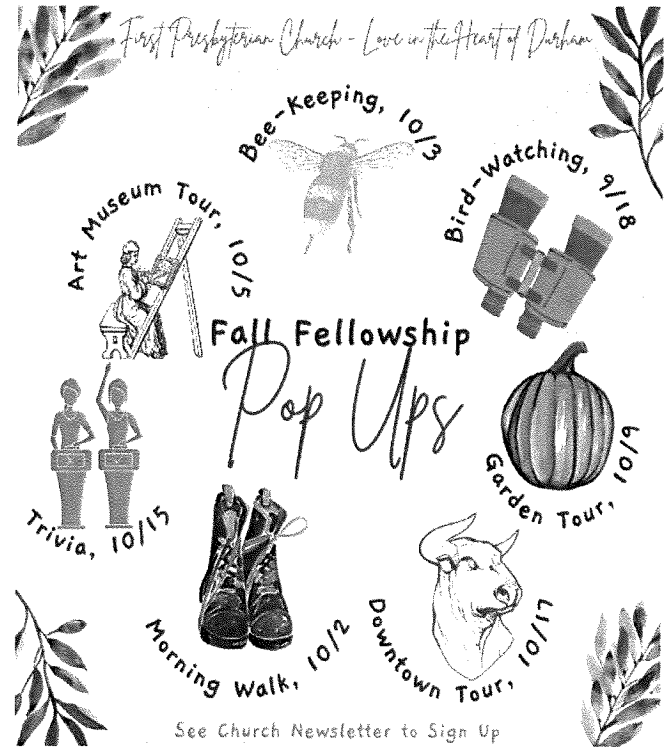
October 3 at 5:00 p.m.
Backyard Ecology & Bee Keeping
Keith and Franzi Rokoske's home
(2510 Wrightwood Ave, Durham)

October 5 at 1:30 p.m.
Tour of the Nasher with Brent Curtis

October 9 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Tour Historic Montrose Garden
with **Ellie Meade**

October 15 from 4:30 - 6:30
Trivia Night with Ian & Jennie Belle
on the grounds of FPC
(weather permitting)

October 17 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Walking Tour of Downtown Durham
with **Vera Cecelski and Laura Hanson**
Beginning at the Museum of Durham History



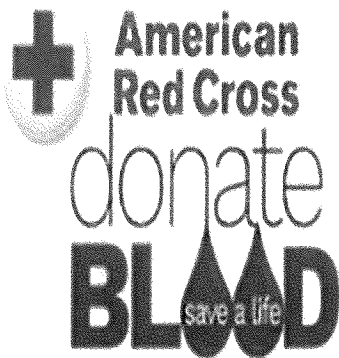
**Thursday, October 7, 2021
1:00-6:00 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall**

**Urgent!! Urgent!! Blood supply at Red Cross is
abnormally low. You can do your part**

**Sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org using code: firstpres.
You may also sign up through Julie Whiddon
(primary contact/organizer)**

Julie's email: foxylady2642@yahoo.com

Julie's phone number: 919-730-6673

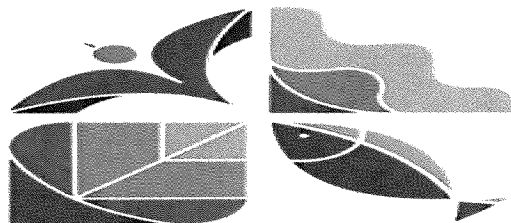


Informational brochures are available from the table in the church foyer.



FPC Youth Groups
Farm Church
Sunday, October 3
4:30pm-6:00pm
Bring/Wear: Gloves,
Water, Mask & Work Clothes

From the Creation Care Committee



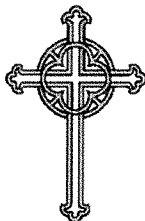
Submissions for the Fall Creation Care newsletter - please send articles, photos, original poetry or prose depicting the glory of God's creation to Cris Rivera.
To subscribe and view past issues, go to the church website.

The Week at a Glance!

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| <p>Sunday October 3</p>  <p>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>4:30 – 6:00 PM Youth Groups Watts and Green Streets</p> <p>5:00 PM Fall Fellowship Pop-Up</p> | <p>Monday October 4</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:00 PM All Staff Meeting</p> | <p>Tuesday October 5</p> <p>1:30 PM Fall Fellowship Pop-Up</p> <p>6:15 PM <i>Love Is the Way</i> Book Study</p> | <p>Wednesday October 6</p> <p>11:00 AM <i>Love Is the Way</i> Book Study</p> |
| <p>Thursday October 7</p> <p>1:00-6:00 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall</p> | <p>Friday October 8</p> | <p>Saturday October 9</p> <p>9:00 AM Church Basement Clean-up</p> <p>12:30-2:00 PM Fall Fellowship Pop-Up</p> | <p>Sunday October 10</p> <p>9:30-10:30 AM Adult Faith Formation</p> <p>10:00-10:30 AM Children and Youth Faith Formation</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>4:30–6:00 PM Youth Group</p> |

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music

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

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ORGANIZED 1871