

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Durham, North Carolina

**YOUTH SUNDAY**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Durham, North Carolina

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2023

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

### PRELUDE

*Toccata in C*

J.S. Bach

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Report of Search Committee

Mindy Douglas  
Gordon Campbell

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

### \*OPENING SENTENCES

Noah Dillon

Leader: Come one! Come all!

People: **Everyone is welcome!**

Leader: Friends and strangers.

People: **Siblings and parents.**

Leader: Introverts and extroverts.

People: **Teachers and scholars.**

Leader: Cat lovers and dog lovers.

People: **Duke, UNC, and State fans.**

Leader: The hungry and the thirsty.

People: **The tired and worn out.**

Leader: The sower and the seeds.

People: **The accepting and the stubborn.**

All: **We are all God's children.**

### \*HYMN NO. 410

*God Is Calling through the Whisper*

W Żlobie Leży

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN

Gretchen Sims

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

**Dear God, forgive us for contributing to climate change,  
and stealing opportunities from our children,  
like birds stealing seeds.**

**Forgive us for judging others silently and quickly,  
and not allowing them to take root in our rocky hearts.**

**Forgive us for manipulating others  
for our own benefit without looking back,  
like thorns.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Lawrence Mbugua

Those who are able, please stand.

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

Lawrence Mbugua

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Will Creighton

Leader: God, we hear about your mercy – how we are loved despite our faults.  
God, we hear about your grace, and your abounding love.

People: **God, you are the great provider, who sows the seeds of faith,  
that grow one-hundred-fold and spread the Word around.**

Leader: God, we hear about your mercy – how we are loved despite our faults.  
God, we hear about your grace, and your abounding love.

All: **Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 13:1-9

(Pew Bible, NT Page 13)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Mary Ellis Merritt

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Webb Cummings

**\*HYMN NO. 171**

*A Sower Came from Ancient Hills*

*Seachrist*

**EPISTLE READING**

Romans 5:1-5

(Pew Bible, NT Page 155)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Leone Mbugua

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Charlie Kelley

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(From *A Declaration of Faith*)

Isa Cummings

**The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence  
that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.**

**In Christ, God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,  
certainty of victory over death,  
assurance of mercy,  
and judgment beyond death.**

**This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.  
We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.**

**But hope plunges us into the struggle  
for victories over evil that are possible now  
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.**

**Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition,  
however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity  
that are surely coming.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Ruby Gentithes

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Thilo Fullenkamp

Offertory

*Cardigan*  
Ruby Barron, piano

Swift

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thilo Fullenkamp

Leader: O God, you have given us so much, from A to Z,  
People: **the Ability to love; Brothers, sisters and siblings;**  
Leader: Character, whether we're Dancing or Enduring hardships;  
People: **our Faith, Gratitude, Health, Integrity, Joy and Knowledge;**  
Leader: Love for others and love from friends;  
People: **Mercy, so we can give mercy to our Neighbors;**  
Leader: the Opportunity to see Pretty sunrises;  
People: **the chance to ask Questions; the ability to Reason, even in Silence;**  
Leader: Talents and Understanding to do good in the world;  
People: **and even in our Vulnerability, we still Worship God's eXcellence,**  
Leader: and Yell our praises,  
People: **with Zero doubt of God's love. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Evelyn Walters

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Evelyn Walters

**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.**

\*HYMN NO. 295

*Go to the World!*

*Sine Nomine*

\*BENEDICTION

Webb Cummings, Charlie Kelley

\*POSTLUDE

*Concerto in A Minor*  
Ruby Gentithes, violin

Vivaldi



**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.

**Today's flowers** are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for the devotion of the Worship and Arts Committee by Phyllis Supple.

**Childcare:** A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. **Activity bags** are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

**Hearing Assistance Receivers** are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to an usher. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

**Restroom locations:** To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

**All of today's service** was chosen, written, or created by our youth. This began with selecting the scripture passages. From there, liturgy was written entirely by the youth of the church, usually not by the particular youth leading the particular element. The hymns were chosen. The preachers wrote their sermons. The artist created the artwork on the cover.

~ **Serving Today** ~

Preachers – *Webb Cummings & Charlie Kelley*

Musicians – *Ruby Barron & Ruby Gentithes*

Liturgists – *Will Creighton, Isa Cummings, Noah Dillon, Thilo Fullenkamp, Ruby Gentithes, Lawrence Mbugua, Leone Mbugua, Mary Ellis Merritt, Gretchen Sims, Evelyn Walters*

Ushers – *Dot Barron, Addie Creighton, Doran Cummings, Karl Sims, Penny Walters, Tate Weicher*

Artist – *Isa Cummings*

**NOTICE OF CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, February 19 following worship** to elect officers and at-large members to the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee.

~ **Our Concerns** ~

**CONDOLENCES:** The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *Kathy Conner, Benjamin, and Caleb*, on the death of Kathy's mother, *Sheri Watson*, on February 10.

- *Patrick Dobson*, son of Linda Dobson, brother of Nancy Kost, and uncle of Jack Kost, recovering from emergency open heart surgery at Duke Hospital. Additional surgeries are planned.
- *Joe Harvard*, recovering at The Forest at Duke Health Center from foot surgery.
- *Parker Morton*, in palliative care at Hock Family Pavilion.

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Susan Cyr*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*George Kafula*

*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*

*Franzi Rokoske*

*Andy Widmark*

*Carol Wills*

**Care Communities**

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe*

**Family and Friends of the Congregation**

*Blaine Ballantyne*, friend of Jane Brown

*Father of Andres*, friend of the congregation

*Pam Hanson*, mother of Laura Hanson

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

*Brooke*, roommate of Heidi Biermann

*Grace*, Chris James' great-niece

*Bob Lucas*, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

*John Wakefield*, cousin of Vernon Neece



## **Pray for and support earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through long-standing partners in Syria, in addition to ACT Alliance members in Syria and Turkey, all of whom are already on the ground. Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999-ST earthquake. Gifts can be made, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “DR999999-ST Earthquake” written on the memo line and mailed to

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),  
P.O. Box 643700,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.**

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## **WINTER POP-UP ACTIVITIES**

**FPC’s Fellowship Committee has scheduled POP-UP activities for February:**

**February 18** 2:00 p.m. - Brent Curtis will lead a tour at Duke’s Nasher Museum (\$5 entry fee).

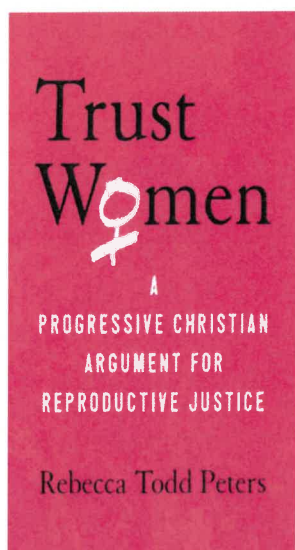
**February 25** 1:00 p.m. - Ellie Meade will lead a tour of the woodlands (estate) of Montrose Gardens in Hillsborough.

To join us, sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ea4ad2da46-fellowship#/>. Activities are kid-friendly but may not be appropriate for the incredibly young.

For more information contact Jancy Johnstone: 919-824-6489 or [JancyJohnstone@gmail.com](mailto:JancyJohnstone@gmail.com).

As the Fellowship Committee plans future events, we are seeking your feedback about your interests and preferred times to meet. Please complete the online Fellowship Survey as soon as possible. Need access to the survey? Contact Sybil King in the church office: 919-682-5511 x 217.

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### **FAITH**

### **FORMATION**

**Faith & Community  
Class**

**You are invited to a  
discussion on  
reproductive justice.**

**Sundays . . .**

**February 19 & 26**

**9:45-10:45 a.m.  
in Watts-Hill Hall**

### **FPC’s LGBTQ+ Community Welcomes Esther Hethcox**

*Kerry Holbrook, Cris Rivera, and Beth Stringfield* are hosting a gathering to welcome Esther to FPC’s LGBTQ+ Community on **Sunday, February 19 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** at Cris and Beth’s home (4001 Inwood Drive, Durham). Please RSVP to either Cris ([mcrisrivera@gmail.com](mailto:mcrisrivera@gmail.com)) or Kerry ([Kerry99@mindspring.com](mailto:Kerry99@mindspring.com)) so we may know how many to plan for. Light refreshments will be served.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

**12 Noon** Imposition of Ashes Service in the Memorial Garden

**6:00 PM** Evening worship with message by Amy Heit, imposition of ashes, and holy communion in the sanctuary



- Entire congregation is invited (all ages) - children are welcome in worship.
- Light meal of veggies and bean soup (vegetarian and GF) along with bread and beverages follows the worship.
- Please RSVP the number of people attending in your party (adults and children). Respond to the EVITE or call Sybil in the church office: 919-682-5511 x 217.
- Cost: For those over age 12, a **\$7.00 donation** is encouraged to help cover the cost of the meal. Cash, check, text, or credit card accepted at the meal.

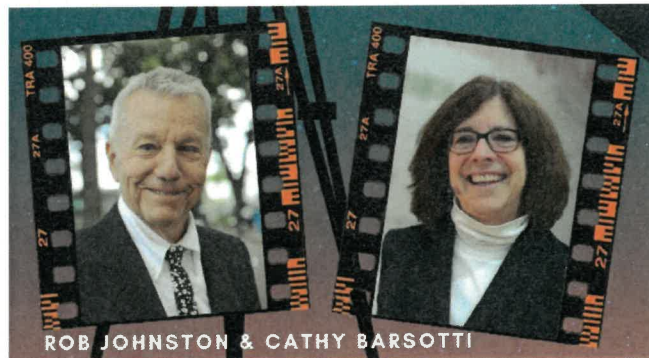
For more information contact [Ashley Swavely](#) or [Jane Wettach](#).

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**Save the Date!**

### **MCPHERSON LECTURESHIP 2023**

**THEME: Finding God in the Movies**



#### **Sunday, March 26**

**9:45 a.m. Faith & Community Class**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**

**3:00 p.m. Community Lecture at FPC**

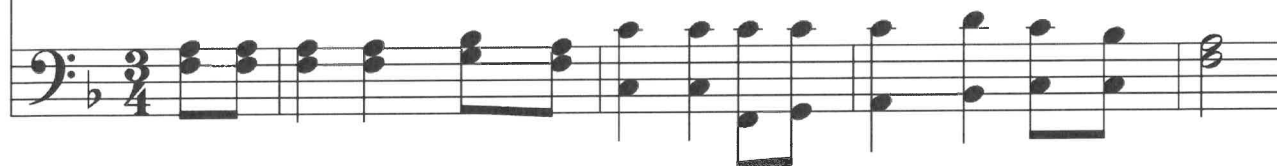
#### **Monday, March 27**

**9:00 a.m. Clergy and Youth Leader Breakfast at FPC**

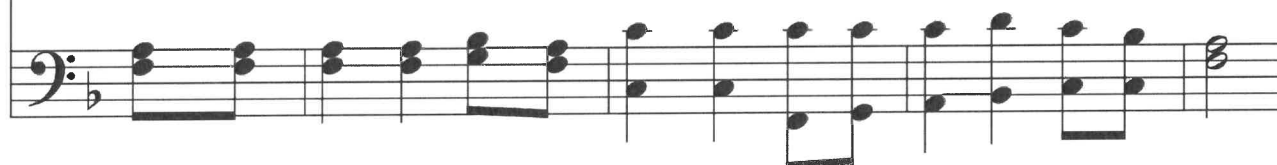
# 410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



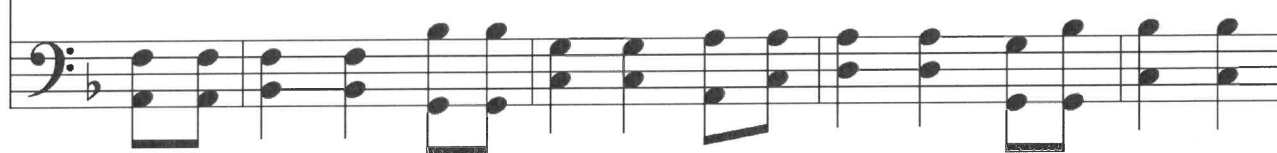
1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,  
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,  
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



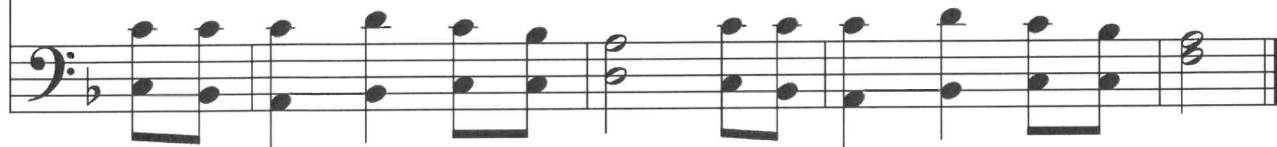
through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.  
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.  
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:  
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:  
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?  
God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?  
God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!





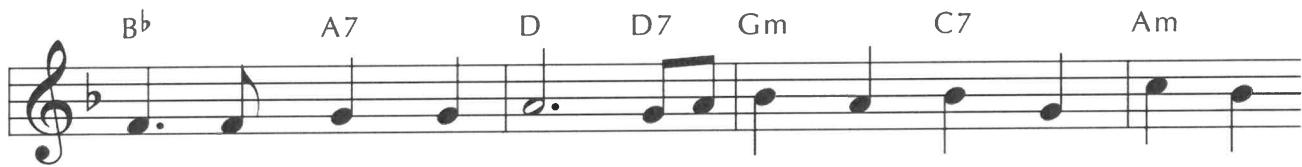
# 171 A Sower Came from Ancient Hills



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good  
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -  
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a  
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



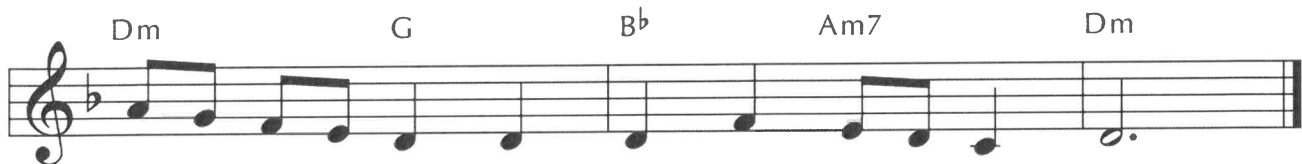
seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his  
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -  
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for  
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not  
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren  
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den  
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



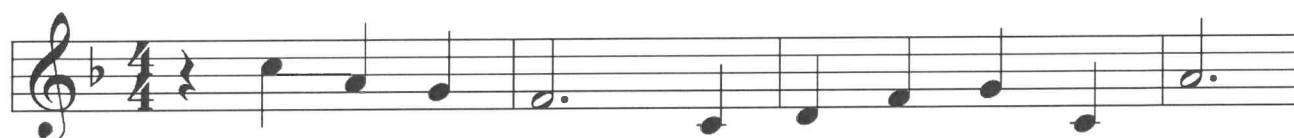
hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in  
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on  
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'  
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.  
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.  
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!  
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

# Go to the World!

295



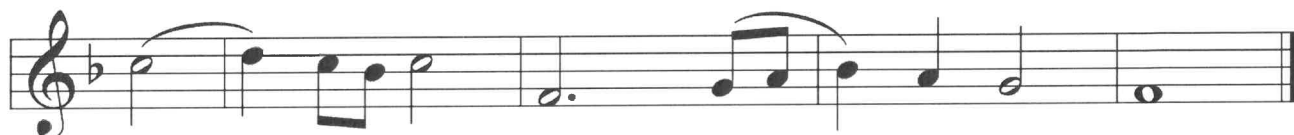
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.  
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## This Week at a Glance!

<p><b>After Worship:</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</p>	<p><b>Monday, February 13</b></p> <p><b>1:30 PM</b> Worship Planning</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Christian Education Committee</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Property Committee</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Service &amp; Mission Committee</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Worship &amp; the Arts Committee</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, February 14</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Things That Matter Book Group (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p><b>6:15 PM</b> (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>This Here Flesh</i></p> <p><b>St. Valentine's Day</b> ♥</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, February 15</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>This Here Flesh</i></p> <p><b>1:00 PM</b> All Staff</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir</p>
<p><b>Thursday, February 16</b></p> <p><b>6:00-7:30 PM</b> Durham CAN Action Team Training (Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>Friday, February 17</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Saturday, February 18</b></p> <p><b>2:00 PM</b> Tour Duke's Nasher Museum with Brent Curtis (remember to sign up)</p>	<p><b>Sunday, February 19</b> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b></p> <p><b>9:45-10:45 AM</b> Faith Formation Classes</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship followed by Congregational Meeting</p> <p><b>12:15-3:15 PM</b> Youth Group Ice Skating w/ Trinity Ave PC (meet in foyer)</p> <p><b>3:00-5:00 PM</b> FPC's LGBTQ+ Community welcomes Esther Hethcox (meet at the home of Cris Rivera &amp; Beth Stringfield)</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</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  
 Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton  
 Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Bowers Heit, Parish Associate  
 Esther Hethcox, Pastoral Associate  
 Sybil King, Administrative Assistant  
 Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)  
 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**