

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

*Allegro in A (from BWV 361)*

G.F. Handel

INTROIT

*Creation*

Franz Joseph Haydn

*The spacious firmament on high, with all the blue ethereal sky,  
And spangled heavens, a shining frame, their great original proclaim.  
Th' unweary'd sun, from day to day, doth his Creator's power display;  
And publishes to every land the work of an almighty hand.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: People of God, all around us creation is bursting with change.

People: **The sky reflects the auburn hues of once-green trees,  
the cool air signals a new season's arrival.**

Leader: In the wind of this newness, we hear a distinct sound:

People: **the call of our Creator God, inviting us into a fresh season of worship.**

Leader: Amidst creation's transforming landscape,  
today we are invited into our own transformative season,

People: **invited to worship God with gladness, with vigor and with hope.  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*HYMN NO. 664

*Morning Has Broken*

Bunessan

\*CONFESSION OF SIN

Susan Dunlap

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Living God, this changing season reveals our limited perspectives.**

**Where you show us changing life, we only see decaying leaves.**

**Where you blow new winds, we only notice the cold.**

**When you show us our neighbor, we only see inconvenience.**

**When you challenge our complicity, we see the reflections of others and not our own.**

**Forgive our failures, O God,**

**and remind us of who we are—your beloved creation,**

**called to form a new season of abundance and life for our community and world.**

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

**\*THE PEACE**

Susan Dunlap

**SONG OF GRATITUDE**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -  
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your  
voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near."

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Ruth 2: 5-13

(Pew Bible, OT page 242)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Kerry Holbrook

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALTER READING**

Psalm 65

(Pew Bible, OT page 527)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Esther Hethcox

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Step Back, Step In"*

Esther Hethcox

*(Silent reflection)*

**\*HYMN NO. 36**

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

*Ar Hyd Y Nos*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Iona Affirmation of Faith*

Susan Dunlap

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all creation.  
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to the Offering

Susan Dunlap

Offertory Anthem

*How Lovely Are the Messengers*

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Gordon Campbell, piano

*How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace!  
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,  
Throughout all the lands their glad tidings.  
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.*

**\*Doxology with Alleluias (all sing)**

*Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; alleluia; alleluia;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Mindy Douglas

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

**... 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. 367**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

*St. George's Windsor*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Esther Hethcox

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Voluntary in C*

G.F. Handel

Later today . . .

**Shop at Bull City Fair Trade until 5:00 p.m. in support of FPC's Walk-in Ministry.**

**The Piano Performance Team**, a unique group of 3-6 piano students from North Carolina, will be in concert in the sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. The concert is free, open to the public, and will last an hour.



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

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, and ability to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Ritual of Friendship pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The ***flowers*** are given to the glory of God by ***Tyler and Deborah Momsen-Hudson*** in thanksgiving and praise for all Christian educators that have impacted and taught our family.

**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 the audio/video console at the rear of the sanctuary. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

**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. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of worship.

**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.

**Portions of today's worship texts** were written by Esther Hethcox.

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~ **Our Concerns** ~

**Susan Buck** is recovering from surgery.

**Lee House and his parents** remain at Philadelphia Children's Hospital where Lee underwent surgery.

<b>Paul Cornsweet</b>	<b>Susan Cyr</b>	<b>Kerry Holbrook</b>	<b>Jenni James</b>
<b>Franzi Rokoske</b>	<b>Mitzi Lesher-Thomas</b>	<b>Alfred Tisdale</b>	

**Care Communities**

Croasdaile Pavilion: <b>Dub Gulley</b>	Durham Ridge Assisted Living: <b>Phillip Herndon</b>
Hillcrest Convalescent: <b>Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills, Jim Wolfe</b>	

**Family and Friends of the Congregation**

**Kim Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings  
**Larry Hethcox**, father of Esther Hethcox  
**Bob Lucas**, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore  
**Keith Nivens**, uncle of Mindy Douglas  
**Doug Rimmer**, brother of Steve Rimmer  
**Terri**, friend of Kerry Holbrook  
**John C. Weicher**, father of John Weicher

**Sylvia Elder**, grandmother of Esther Hethcox  
**Gabe Lamazares**, assoc. rector, St. Philip's EC  
**Brian Knowles**, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese  
**Alan Petersburg**, brother-in-law of Jenni James  
**Calvin Rogers**, friend of Steve Rimmer  
**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss  
**Emily Wilson**, daughter-in-law of Chuck & Jean Wilson

**FPC's Thriving Congregations  
Committee presents . . .**

November 19

# River of Life Gallery Walk

## What

Gallery Walk to explore and  
reflect on FPC's recent history

## When

Kickoff on November 19th, will  
remain available through  
December 3rd

## Where

Fellowship Hall



Grace Abels opens her care package.

### **CARE PACKAGES**

If you have a student in college, please confirm with **John Weicher** by November 30<sup>th</sup> that he has their current mailing address for receiving packages. Care packages will be mailed to our college students on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BIBLE STUDY: Galatians in four weeks**

In this letter Paul passionately defends the inclusiveness of the Gospel. In often dramatic language he insists the Gospel is for everyone, not just a few. Everyone is invited to join this class that is equal parts rigorous Bible study and personal application. We will meet **Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10, 17 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the basement parlor** (Spiritual Formation Room in the basement), across from the Youth Room. For more information, contact **Susan Dunlap**, [sjd4@duke.edu](mailto:sjd4@duke.edu).



## **The Season of Advent begins!**

### **Sunday, December 3**

#### **ADVENT FESTIVAL & ALTERNATIVE GIFTS FAIR**

9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall for children and youth  
and following worship for everyone else

- ✓ Advent devotional materials can be picked up
- ✓ Advent activities provided for children and youth
- ✓ Purchase alternative gifts from mission partners
- ✓ Enjoy light refreshments

### **Tuesday, December 5**

#### **Service of Healing and Wholeness**

(sanctuary, 6:00 p.m., with candle lighting)

### **Friday, December 8**

#### **Vocal Arts Ensemble Annual Holiday Concert**

(Free admission, sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.)

### **Saturday, December 9**

#### **Durham Holiday Parade**

(Watch party from front steps of sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Sunday, December 17**

Lessons & Carols (sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

Children's Christmas Pageant (sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.)

All-Church Potluck (Watts-Hill Hall, following the pageant)  
followed by a Carols Sing-Along

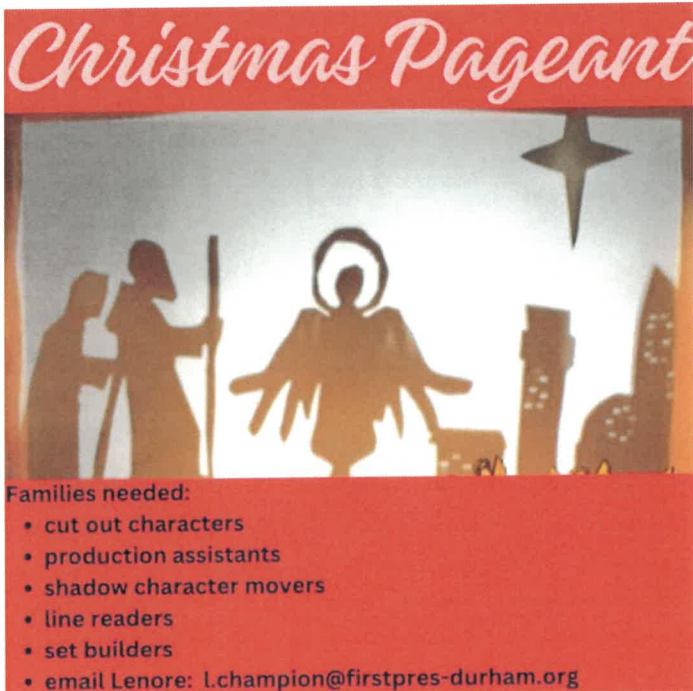
### **Sunday, December 24**

Worship (sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

(sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.)





**Christmas Pageant**

Families needed:

- cut out characters
- production assistants
- shadow character movers
- line readers
- set builders
- email Lenore: [Lchampion@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:Lchampion@firstpres-durham.org)

**Attention parents:** We have an exciting event coming up on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. - the annual Christmas Pageant. We are trying something new this year: a giant Shadow Box drama.

Sign-up to help with this event at  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA8A82CA6F5CE9-46090723-christmas#/>

We will meet December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-noon at the church to get everything ready for the Pageant. Thanks for your help!

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The **Urban Ministries of Durham Clothes Closet** needs clothing to restock and continually stock their garments. A box has been set up in the narthex for any donations you can make. *Jancy Johnstone* will pick these up on Thursdays mornings and take them to Urban Ministries. Please think about us when you are cleaning your closets.

**We need:**

- **Men's:** pants, shirts, T-shirts, jackets or coats, and shoes. (We are always in need of men's pants, waist sizes 30, 32, 34, and 36 inches.)
- **Women's:** pants, shirts, jackets or coats, shoes, and bras.
- **Children's:** pants, shirts, jackets or coats, and shoes.
- **General Use:** Backpacks, blankets, hats, mittens, or gloves.

Clothes should be clean, and free of stains and visible defects. We cannot take dry clean only clothing or used underwear or socks. We provide new socks and underwear to everyone.

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## **Rally Against the Death Penalty**

Please join The North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NCCADP) on **Saturday, December 2, 1:00-2:30 p.m.** for a rally calling on Governor Roy Cooper to commute all death sentences to prison terms before he leaves office. Register to participate in this rally at [bit.ly/NowIsTheTimeRally](http://bit.ly/NowIsTheTimeRally). We'll gather across the street from the Governor's Mansion (200 E. Jones Street, Raleigh) for a brief program of music, speeches, and poetry. We'll also have postcards for people to sign to the Governor. Following the program, we'll cross the street to the Mansion where we will march around the block. Bring your friends and family so we can fully encircle the Governor's residence!

# Morning Has Broken

664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery

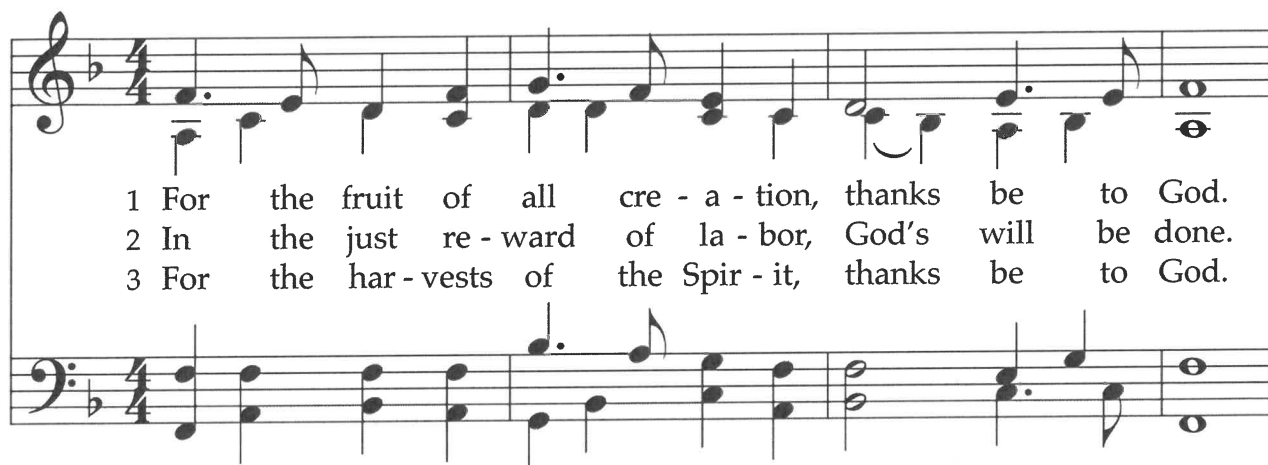


morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

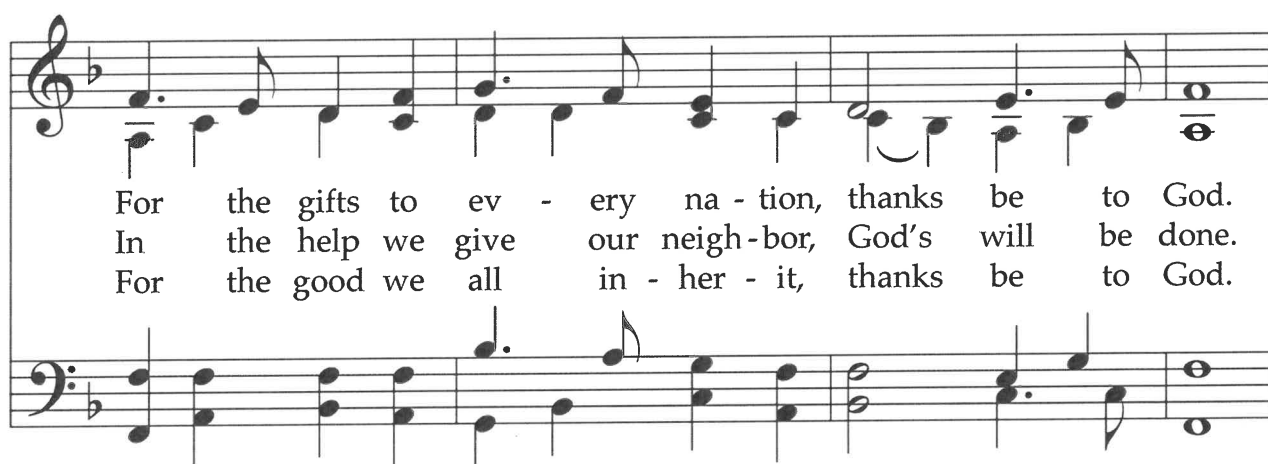


# For the Fruit of All Creation

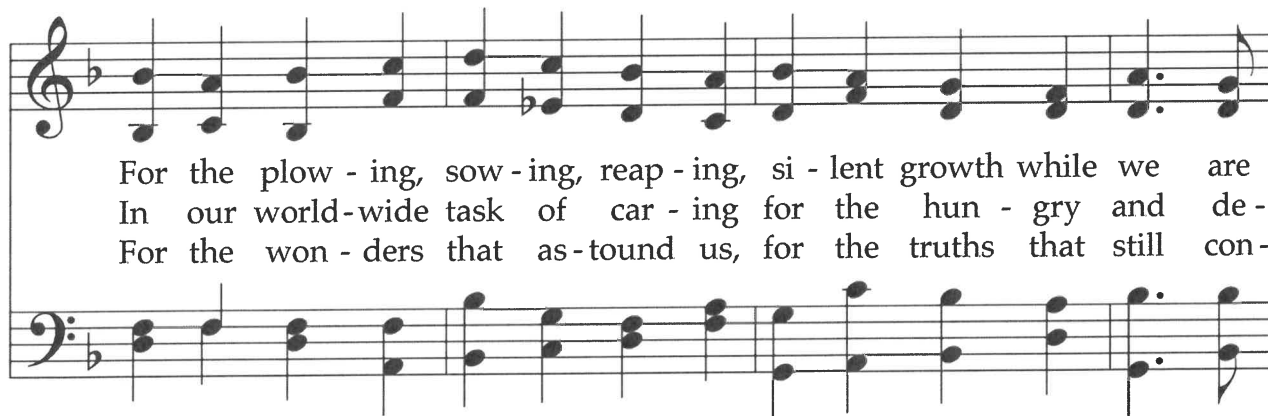
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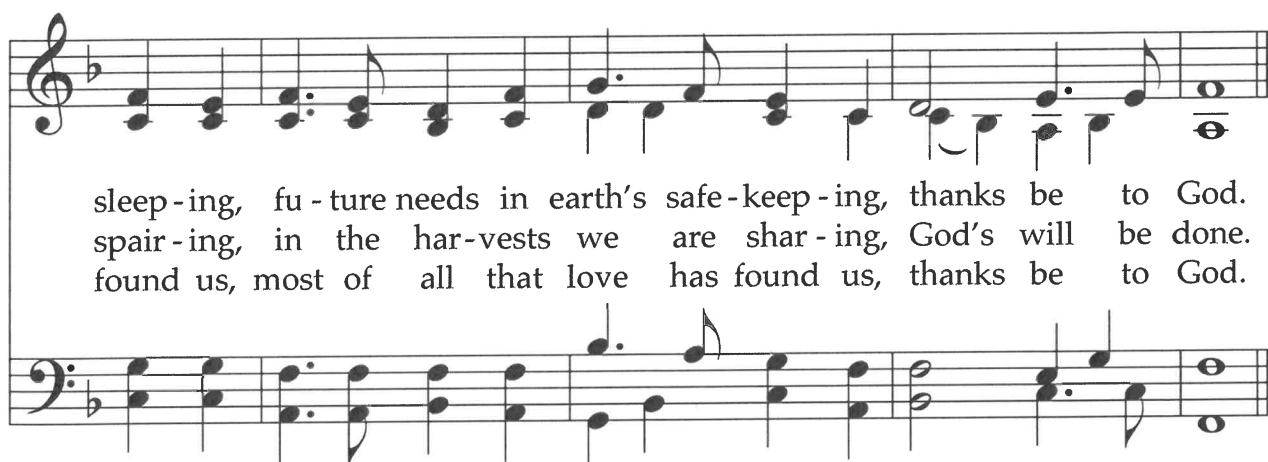
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

# 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,  
3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



# The Week at a Glance!

*Rivers of Life Gallery Walk (Watts-Hill Hall)*

<p><b>Later Today</b></p> <p><b>12 Noon-5:00 PM</b> Shop Bull City Fair Trade Market to benefit FPC's Walk-in Ministry (811 9<sup>th</sup> Street)</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Free Concert: The Piano Performance Team (sanctuary)</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p><b>Monday, November 20</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM-12 Noon</b> Walk-in Ministry Interviews</p> <p><b>1:30 PM</b> Worship Planning</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, November 21</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Finance Committee</p> <p><b>6:00-7:00 PM</b> Tutoring (Iglesia Emanuel)</p> <p><b>6:00-7:00 PM</b> ESL for women (Iglesia Emanuel)</p> <p><b>7:00-8:30 PM</b> ESL for men (Iglesia Emanuel)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Wednesday, November 22</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir</p>
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<p><b>Thursday, November 23</b></p>  <hr/> <p><b>Friday, November 24</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Saturday, November 25</b></p>	 <p><b>Sunday, November 26</b></p> <p><b>9:45 AM</b> Faith Formation classes for children &amp; adults</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship &amp; Holy Communion The Hunger for Change offering is received.</p> <p><b>After Worship:</b> Somethings Litty Lunch at Bull City Burgers (Let's get liturgical! Join Pastor Esther and the Somethings to explore <i>why</i> Christ the King Sunday exists within the Church calendar year— and what meaning it holds for our lives.)</p> <p><b>12:15-1:15 PM</b> Youth Group (lunch out)</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>
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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>.

## CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator  
 Lenore Champion, Director of Children's Ministry  
 Vernon Cooper, Sexton  
 Mindy Douglas, Pastor  
 Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate  
 Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton  
 Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Bowers Heit, Parish Associate  
 Esther Hethcox, Designated Associate Pastor  
 Sybil King, Administrative Assistant  
 Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)  
 Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator  
 Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music  
 John Weicher, Associate Pastor

**305 EAST MAIN STREET   DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701   919-682-5511   ORGANIZED 1871**