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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

MARCH 17, 2024

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

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A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Esther Hethcox

Minute for Fellowship

Jane Brown

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Don Hustad

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 65:1-4)**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: You are to be praised, O God;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**People: To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

Leader: Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

**People: Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

Leader: They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.

All: Let us worship God.

***HYMN NO. 436**

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O Quanta Qualia

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Heidi Biermann

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Gracious and loving God,
open our hearts
so that we are able to admit to you
the fullness of our lives –
that which is beautiful and good,
and that which is hurtful and hateful.**

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.

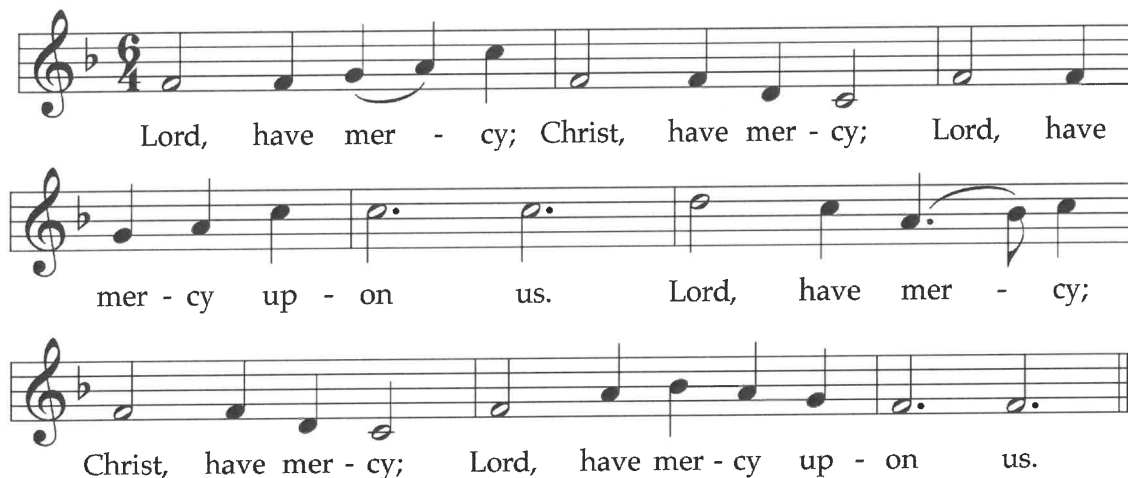
We do not turn to you as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray.

Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service.

Silent Confession

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Assurance of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

Heidi Biermann

***RESPONSE** (Hymn No. 71, refrain only)*First Song***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Ellie Everett

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, who is our way in the wilderness,
guide us, by your Word, through these forty days,
and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,
so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

(Pew Bible, OT page 735)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Ellie Everett

People: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

(Pew Bible, NT page 194)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Forgiveness"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*) (From *The Confession of 1967*) Esther Hethcox

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community.

This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to Christ's call.

***HYMN NO. 444**

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Detroit

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Heidi Biermann

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. James Mulholland

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;

prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

***Doxology**

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

NEW MEMBERS SERVICE OF WELCOME

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Affirmation of Faith (*in unison*)

The Apostles' Creed (ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

(Creed continues onto the next page.)

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer

Sung Response (Hymn No. 727, verses 1-2)

The Servant Song

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Esther Hethcox

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Esther Hethcox

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. 826**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Fugue in C

Johann Pachelbel



First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Sign in

Donate online

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

Today's ***flowers*** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of ***Dewey Lawson*** by ***Bet Lawson***.

Special thanks to members of this year's Confirmation Class who have been serving as lay liturgists in worship throughout Lent. Today, ***Ellie Everett*** is our final confirmand reader.

New Members: We welcome and introduce the following persons who were received into membership earlier today by the Session:

- **Dean and Rosemarie Baker** live in Durham with their three children: **Michael** (age 13), **Grace** (age 10), and **Isabella** (age 8). Dean and Rosemarie grew up in Miami, FL. They work for Durham Public Schools. Dean enjoys travel and painting. Rosemarie enjoys travel, attending events, and thrifting. Dean and Rosemarie join FPC by reaffirmation of faith.
- **Anna Blair** lives in Durham and is a student at UNC-Chapel Hill. She grew up in South Carolina where she was a member of a Methodist Church. Anna's hobby is percussion. She learned of FPC through her aunt, Mindy Douglas. Anna joins FPC by Letter of Transfer.
- **Doug Brown and Amanda Atkin** are married and live in Raleigh with their son, **Samuel Brown** (age 17). Doug grew up in Wilmington, NC. He works for the State Archives of NC in Raleigh. He enjoys traveling and sports. Amanda grew up in Greenville, SC. She works for CareBox Healthcare in Sanford as a clinical trial navigator. She is also an ordained minister and serves as chaplain at Welcome House Raleigh. Amanda's interests are refugee resettlement and knitting. Doug and Amanda join FPC by reaffirmation of faith.
- **Timothy (Tim) and Shelley Turkington** live in Durham. Tim is a medical physicist working in PET Imaging at Duke University. He grew up in central Kentucky. His interests are music, singing, building things, gardening, and cycling. Shelley is a science teacher with Durham Public Schools. She was born in Somerville, NJ and grew up in Virginia Beach, VA. Her interests are singing, travel, and watching college sports. Tim and Shelley both sing in the FPC's Chancel Choir. They join FPC by reaffirmation of faith.

The **Lenten Banner** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of **Bess Bryant** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

The **Pulpit Paraments**: In 2012 First Presbyterian Church commissioned Laurie Wohl to design and create paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. Her liturgical projects emphasize the "threads that bind" and the unity of the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne 'St. Clair' Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

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.

The **bulletin cover** was created by high school youth, **Mason Armstrong**, in 2022.

Easter Lilies will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or remember someone in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, please fill out the enclosed card and return it to the Church office. Make check payable to *First Presbyterian Church*, memo: Lilies. You can also return the enclosed card and donate online by scanning the QR code. The deadline to participate is next Sunday, March 24.

Holocaust Exhibit: FPC is hosting the “*Some Were Neighbors*” exhibit from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum through March 27 in Watts-Hill Hall. The exhibit is open Monday - Friday between 1:00-5:00 p.m., and on Sundays between 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. when Watts-Hill Hall is not in use.

- ***Jancy Johnstone*** is recovering from thumb surgery.
- ***Michele Miller-Cox***, Day School director, will have back surgery this week.
- ***Troy Evans***, nephew of Vernon & Beth Neece, is recovering from heart surgery.
- ***Jasper Gunn***, child of Wilson Gunn, will have surgery this week.

Care Communities

Family and Friends of the Congregation

6

50th Durham CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, March 24, 2023

Duke University Chapel

FACT SHEET



The CROP Hunger Walk is a family-friendly walk that links the Durham community together in solidarity with our neighbors all around the world who must walk long distances daily for food and water. Funds raised from the walk provide food and other resources for families in Durham and across the globe. The 2024 Durham CROP Hunger Walk will be an outdoor walk, but virtual participation is still an option.

Residents in Durham and the surrounding areas, including religious communities, businesses, schools, non-profit agencies, organizations, or any person who wants to contribute their time and/or money to help support those in need.

Sunday, March 24, 2024

1:30 pm. Registration, Music, Greetings, Global Village Activities

2:30 pm - Walk Starts!

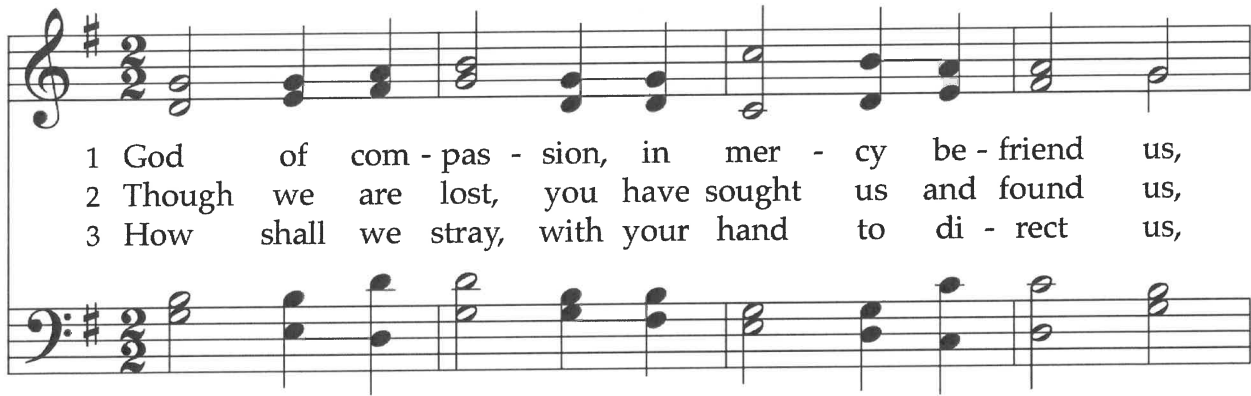
The walk will begin and end at Duke University Chapel, on Duke's West Campus. Check www.durhamcropwalk.org for parking directions & map. *For the health-vulnerable avoiding crowds, walk a personal route around your neighborhood, or favorite trail or track, and post online on social media!*

CROP Walk participants begin by inviting their friends, businesses, organizations and employers to support them with contributions prior to the Walk. REGISTER ONLINE as an individual and for a team at www.crophungerwalk.org/durhamnc, then share with contacts to invite donations!

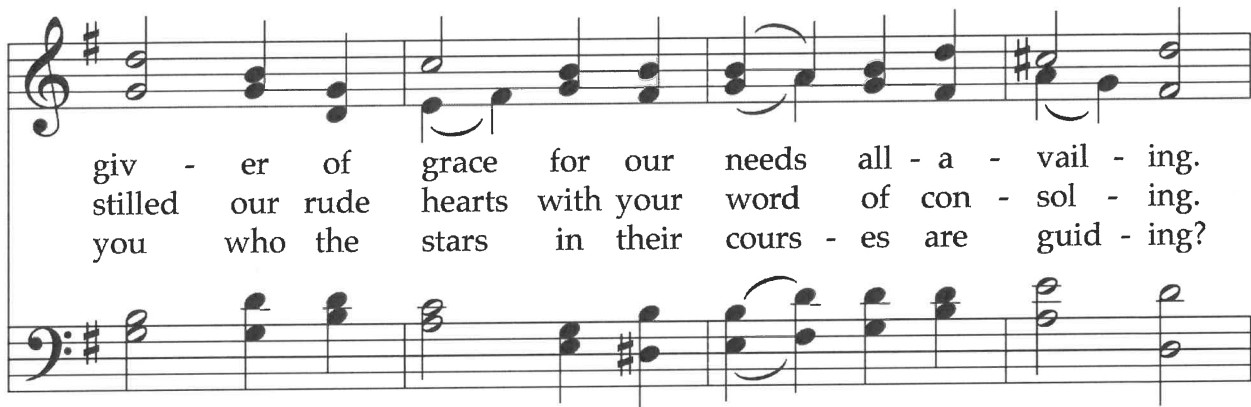
We need your help in reaching our goal of \$6,000 this year. Go to the link below and sign up to walk or support a member who is walking. <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/first-presbyterian-church-durham>

God of Compassion, in Mercy 436

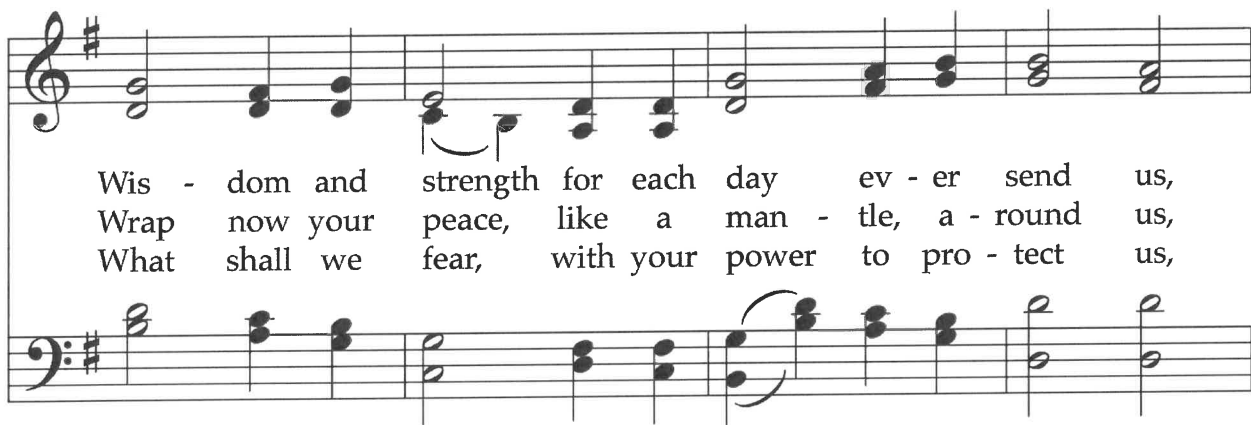
Befriend Us



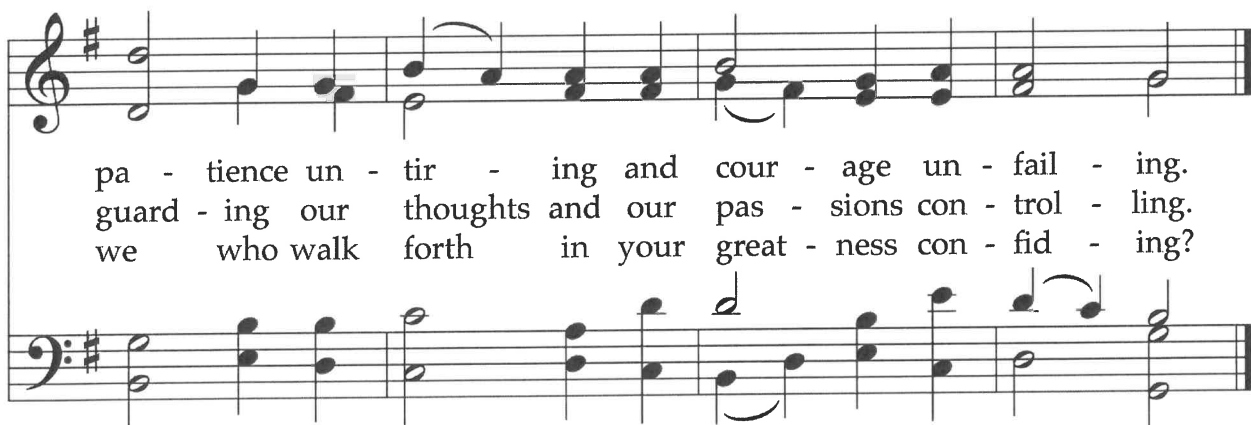
1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,



giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?



Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,



pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 444



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for-giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease.



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on-ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

to Refrain

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today

12:15 PM Leadership Training for newly elected deacons and ruling elders (Watts-Hill Hall)

1:00 PM Youth return from beach retreat

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

Monday, March 18

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews

1:00-5:00 PM "Some Were Neighbors" Holocaust exhibit open for viewing (Watts-Hill Hall)

1:30 PM Worship Planning

5:00 PM Handbell Choir

Tuesday, March 19

1:00-5:00 PM "Some Were Neighbors" Holocaust exhibit open for viewing (Watts-Hill Hall)

5:00 PM Finance & Investment Committee (via Zoom)

7:30 PM Somethings in Lent (Daye Meeting Room)

Wednesday, March 20

9:30 AM Roundtable Breakfast with Judea Reform Congregation and StepUp clients (Judea Reform synagogue)

1:00 PM Program Staff

1:00-5:00 PM "Some Were Neighbors" Holocaust exhibit open for viewing (Watts-Hill Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 21

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews

1:00-5:00 PM "Some Were Neighbors" Holocaust exhibit open for viewing (Watts-Hill Hall)

Friday, March 22

1:00-5:00 PM "Some Were Neighbors" Holocaust exhibit open for viewing (Watts-Hill Hall)

Saturday, March 23

Sunday, March 24



9:45 AM Egg Hunt (playground)
Light refreshments (Watts-Hill Hall)
Adult faith formation classes are TBA.
No faith formation classes for children and youth.

10:15 AM Palm Parade around downtown Durham

11:00 AM Worship

2:30 PM Durham's CROP Hunger Walk
(meet at 2:00 PM in front of Duke Chapel)

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

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

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, Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus

Esther Hethcox, 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