

Mercy

Unbounded

First Presbyterian Church

Durham, North Carolina

September 8, 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Peacemaking Season

September 8, 2024

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

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

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual,
arr. Charles Callahan

***INTROIT**

Hallelujah! We Sing your Praises
Anna Blair, drum

South African Hymn

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread; give to all who thirst and hunger.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Trust in the Lord, who made heaven and earth;

People: **trust in the Lord who loves every part of it.**

Leader: Trust in the Lord, who cares for those in need;

People: **trust in the Lord, who leads us to do the same.**

All: **Let us worship God, who shows us the way.**

***HYMN NO. 826**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

God of favor, we have not been true to you.

You have chosen the poor in the world, but we have dishonored them.

You plead the cause of the afflicted, but we crush them.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have favored the rich and despised the poor.

We have dismissed the needy with empty words.

Soften our hearts and make straight our ways.

Heal our unbelief and turn us back to you.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

***PASSING THE PEACE**

John Weicher

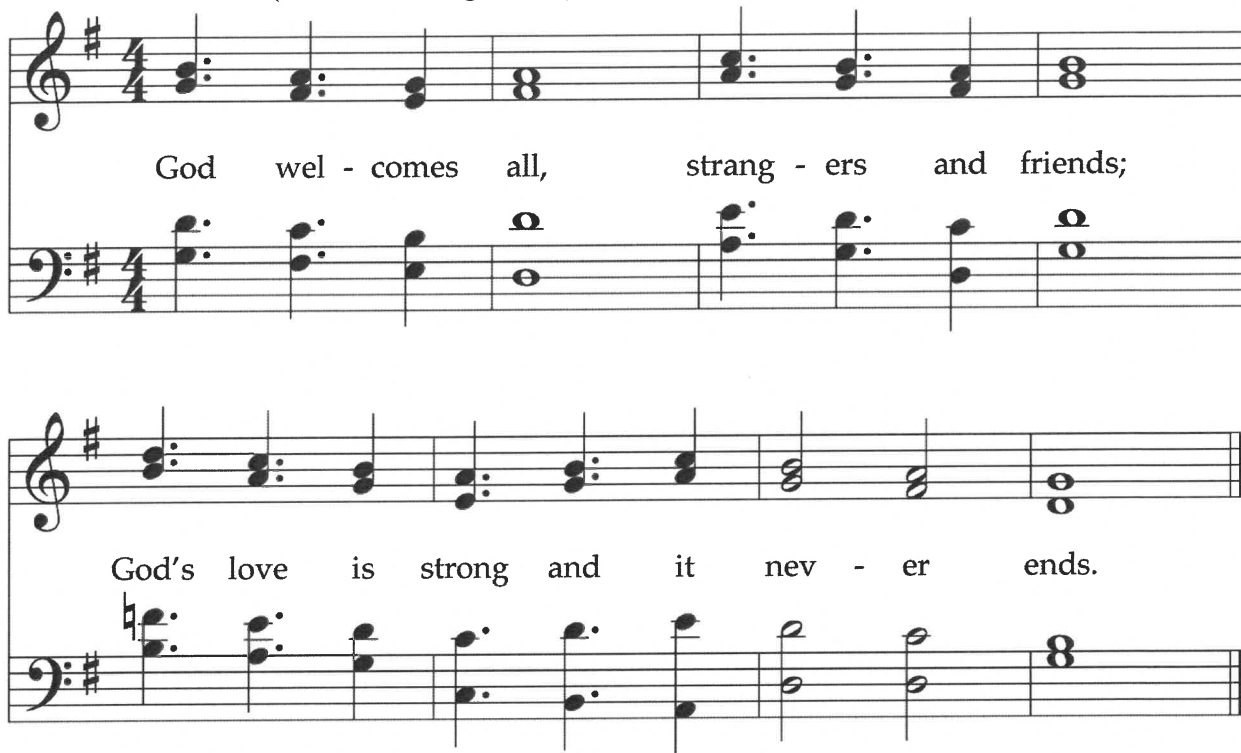
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Those who are able, please stand.

***REGATHERING HYMN (No. 399, sung twice)**

Themba Amen



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Carl Rist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **God of mercy, in a hurting world, your love shows us another way to live.**

Help us to join in your work, mending what is broken.

May our trust in you be our guide,

leading us to care for our neighbors nearby

and the ones we do not yet know. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

James 2:1-10, 14-17

(Pew Bible, NT Page 229)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Carl Rist

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 7:24-30

(Pew Bible, NT Page 42)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Mercy Unbounded"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(Adapted from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Esther Hethcox

God sends us to exercise compassion.

We acknowledge God is at work here and now

when people show personal concern for each other

and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate.

(Affirmation continues to next page.)

**We believe God sends us
to risk our own peace and comfort
in compassion for our neighbors.
We are to give to them and receive from them,
accepting everyone we meet as a person;
to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind;
to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility.
God's mercy and compassion are without limit.**

***HYMN NO. 767**

Together We Serve

San Anselmo

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Anthem at the Offertory

Thee We Adore (Adoro Te Devote)

*Plainchant Tune,
arr. Ralph Johnson*

*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee, who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;
both flesh and Spirit in thy presence fail, yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.*

*Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God: cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
increase our faith and love, that we may know the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.*

*O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see; may what we thirst for soon our portion be,
to gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face, the vision of thy glory and thy grace. Amen.*

***Doxology with Alleluias**

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!***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Leader: Maker and redeemer of all, we lift our hearts to thank you,
because you open our ears to hear your voice
and release our tongue to sing your praise.

You created the earth as a place of encounter
between you and your creatures.

You called your people from slavery and wilderness
to covenant and abundant life through your crucified and risen Son.

(Prayer continues to next page.)

Leader: And so, we proclaim the triumphs of your grace,
 joining with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven
 in the hymn of your eternal glory:

All (sung): *Sanctus* *Land of Rest*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Bless - ed is the one who comes



God of pow - er and might, heaven and earth are
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



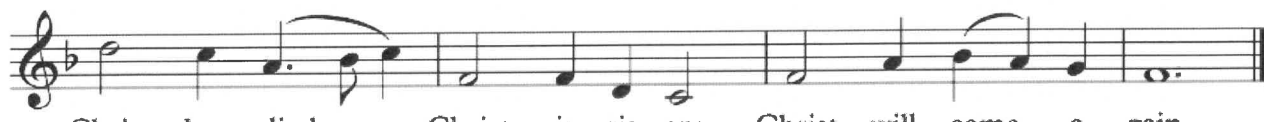
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Life-giving God, you share your bread with the poor,
 and you make this banquet the place
 where in the power of your Spirit
 we are united as one body in your Son.
 Make this meal a moment of reconciliation between you and your people,
 and let those who share in it be ambassadors of reconciliation
 within your wounded world.
 Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup,
 that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung): *Land of Rest*



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: God of the afflicted, you have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith
 and to be heirs of the kingdom that you have promised to those who love you.

(Prayer continues to next page.)

Leader: Make your church rich as you are rich,
 in compassion and mercy, in wisdom and grace;
 and make your people poor as you are poor,
 in sharing the calamity of those who endure injustice
 and knowing the pain of all who live with the world's anger.
 Take away the mask of poverty, that all may see with joy
 the riches of those the world calls poor,
 and remove the mask of wealth, that all may see with love
 the poverty of those the world calls rich.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.)

Hasten the day when your gentle mercy
 triumphs over the world's harsh judgment,
 and all find a place at the feast of your kingdom,
 ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All (sung):

Land of Rest



THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Ecumenical version ★)

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Esther Hethcox, Mindy Douglas

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The bread is gluten free, and the elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. The bread server will dip a pre-cut piece of bread in the common cup for you and then pass it to you. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)

Communion Anthem

Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees

*Trad. Spiritual,
 arr. Hal Hopson*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Esther Hethcox

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

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

(Prayer continues to next page.)

**All: Gracious God, we have eaten at your table,
feasting on the promises of your love and faithfulness.
May this feast of hope sustain us as we go forth
to bear witness to your expansive love. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 536** *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen* *Surge Ecclesia*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** *Mindy Douglas*

***POSTLUDE** *Flourish on "Lift High the Cross"* *Rebecca Groom te Velde*



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 Jesus 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.

The *flowers* today are given by *Caroline Davis Rourk* to the glory of God and in memory of her grandmother, *Margaret Neil Smith*, her brother, *Malcolm H Rourk III*, her parents, *Jane Davis Rourk and Malcolm Henderson Rourk Jr*, her uncle, *William Javan Davis*, and her boyfriend, *Christopher Michael Whitworth*, USMC.

★ *The Lord's Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated*: From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular—in the common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way.

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. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of 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 the audio/visual console. 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.

Portions of today's worship texts are reprinted from *Call to Worship (Lectionary Companion 2023-2024 Year B, Volume 57.1)*, *Eucharistic Prayers, Feasting on the Word (Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2)* and *Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net A.713926.

The *2024 Season of Peacemaking* begins today. Check out *FPC's Peacemaking Banner* which is on display in Watts-Hill Hall today. It will remain on display through the end of September. The banner was prepared in 2009 and completed in 2010 to honor the 30th anniversary of "Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling." FPC adopted this commitment to peacemaking and affirmed it in 1983. The congregation chose and signed the squares. *Sue Fricks* assembled the squares into this banner.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Jen McGonigle* is undergoing tests after receiving a diagnosis of B cell lymphoma this week.
- *Paul Pasquarella*, husband of Michael Honeycutt, is home following a recent hospital stay.
- *Ian & Jhan Vallenga*, our mission co-workers in Nicaragua who are facing an interruption of their mission work by the Nicaraguan government.

<i>Fred Callaway</i>	<i>Ann Huff</i>
<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Jenni James</i>
<i>Sam Crabtree</i>	<i>Mitzi Leshner-Thomas</i>
<i>Drew Cummings</i>	<i>Madge McKeithen</i>
<i>Susan Cyr</i>	<i>Vernon Neece</i>
<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Franzi & Keith Rokoske</i>
<i>Lee House</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*
 Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*
 Hillcrest Convalescent: *Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills*

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Tim Boyer, cousin of Fred Moore
Jerry Boles, sister-in-law of Maxie Honeycutt and aunt of Michael Honeycutt
Francisca Cristobal, family of Al & Judy Arrowood
Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Larry and Lynn Farrell, parents of Rachel Bethune
Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah M-Hudson
Andrew (nephew) & Ford (brother) of Kerry Holbrook
Katie Jackson, wife of Matt Hirsch
Rosalind Mutua, sister of Mercy Ndambiri
Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James
Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer
Joe & Mary Kay Robinson, former members of FPC
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher
Denisha Williams, daughter of Sybil King

BAD FAITH

Christian Nationalism's **Unholy** War on Democracy

Music by Carolina Justice League

**SUNDAY
SEPT. 15,
2024**

HAYTI HERITAGE
804 OLD FAYETTEVILLE ST.
DURHAM, NC
27701

Doors open at:
2:30pm
Viewing of
Documentary:
3:30pm
Panel Discussion:
5:00pm

Featuring Panelists:
Johnathan Wilson-Hartgrove,
Joey Shelton, and J. Sterett

Register Here

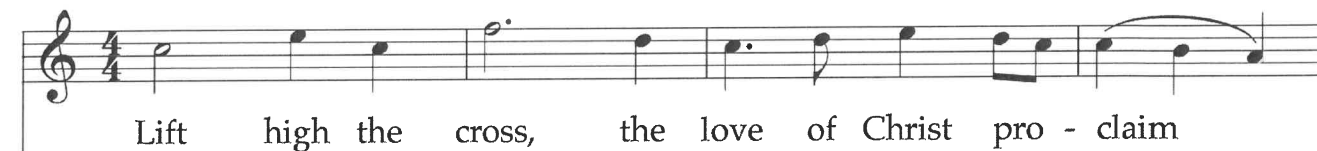
Sponsors
 NC Poor People's Campaign
 Durham Congregations in Action
 NC Council of Churches
 NCCU Wesley Foundation
 Epworth United Methodist Church
 Covenant Presbyterian Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 Durham Presbyterian Church

Lift High the Cross

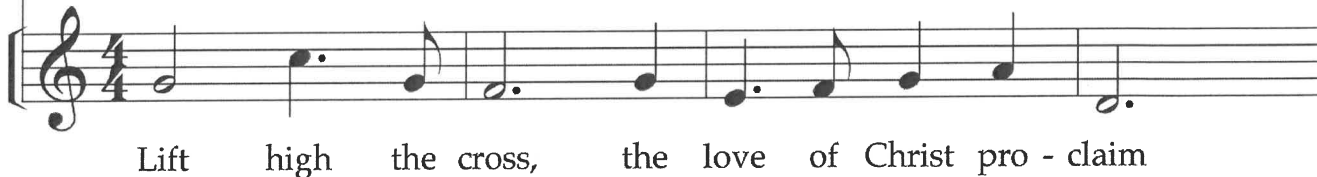
826

Refrain

Descant



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



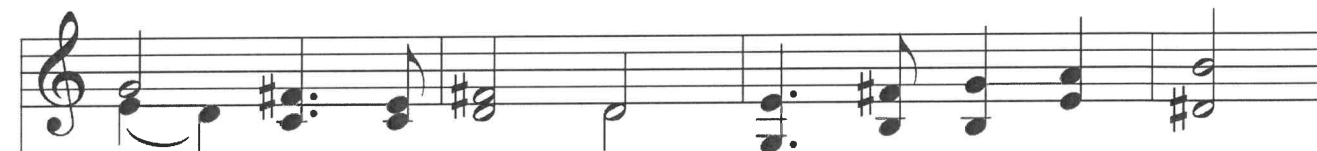
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim



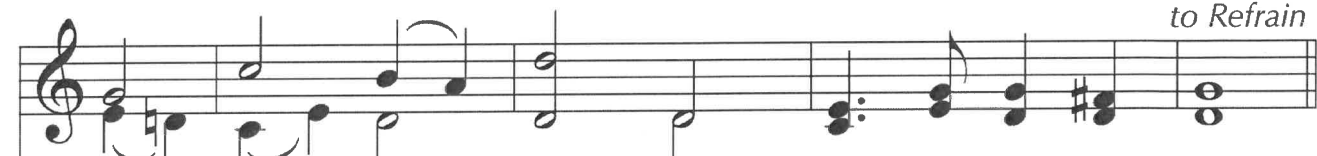
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



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



- 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:

to Refrain

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.



Together We Serve

767

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)
 B \flat F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
 E \flat B \flat Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)
 B \flat F E \flat Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 B \flat E \flat B \flat Cm F7 B \flat

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

D G Bm F#m Em7 A Bm

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age

A D Em A Bm Gmaj7

meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -

Em7 A D Bm7 E Asus A D

vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -

G Em A A7 Bm Em A7 D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today

12:10 PM Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)
5:00 PM Youth Group Kickoff and Parent Meeting
8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (check-in and fellowship via Zoom)

Monday, September 9

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews
10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)
1:30 PM Worship Planning
6:00 PM Christian Education Committee (via Zoom)
 Property Committee (CE building, Room 205)
 Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room)
6:30 PM Service & Mission Committee (via Zoom)
7:00 PM Worship & the Arts Committee (via Zoom)

Tuesday, September 10

Newsletter today

7:00 PM Things That Matter Book Group (home of Marsha Butler)
7:00 PM The Somethings Prayer Service (Wilson Parlor)

Wednesday, September 11

1:00 PM All Staff (Daye Meeting Room)
6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

Saturday, September 14

4:00 PM Duke University Chorale & SONAM Benefit Concert for FPC's Walk-in Ministry

Sunday, September 15

17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Faith Formation Classes for Children, Youth and Adults
11:00 AM Worship
12:15-12:45 PM Children's Music with Kathy Parkins (Choir Room)
3:30 PM View "Bad Faith" (Hayti Heritage Center) followed by a discussion of the film at 5:00 PM (Hayti Heritage Center)
5:00-7:00 PM Youth Groups
8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)

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



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

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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