

**The Lord raises  
the poor from the  
dust and lifts the  
needy from the  
ash heap.**

**1 Samuel 2:8**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Durham, North Carolina**

**November 17, 2024**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*(In preparation for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Moment for Mission

Esther Hethcox  
Jackie Rodriguez

PRELUDE

*"Presto"* (from *Organ Concerto, Opus 4, No. 5*)

G.F. Handel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 16:1-3, 5)

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

People: **I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."**

Leader: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all God's delight.

People: **The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

\* HYMN NO. 54

*Make a Joyful Noise to God!*

*Dix*

\*CONFESSION OF SIN (*remain standing*)

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**We have heard it said,**

**O God in whose image all humans are made,  
we should be careful and kind,**

**because everyone is fighting their own silent battle  
of which others do not know.**

**But we have not been careful.**

**And we have not been kind.**

**And we are quick to go to war**

**for the causes and people we hold dear,  
or even just to have someone to fight,**

**often forgetting that the people on the other side  
look just as much like you as we do.**

**Forgive us.**

**Teach us instead to listen to the silence of others.**

**Give us ears to hear and souls that are patient.**

**Remind us again to be careful and kind.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

\*PASSING THE PEACE

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

\* Those who are able, please stand.

**\*RESPONSE (Hymn No. 455)**

*Listen*



Lis - ten to the word that God has spo - ken; lis - ten to the



One who is close at hand; lis - ten to the voice that be -



gan cre - a - tion; lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **You hear every prayer, O God.**

**Your ears discern the silent requests of our hearts,  
our sung pleas, and our corporate entreaties.**

**You understand us so well.**

**Please send your Holy Spirit to illuminate the words of this ancient text,  
so that we might understand you a fraction as well as you understand us. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

1 Samuel 2:1-10

(Pew Bible, OT Page 246)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jennie Alwood

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

1 Samuel 1:4-20

(Pew Bible, OT Page 244)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"A Thousand Losses"*

John Weicher

*(silent reflection)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*A Declaration of Faith*

Mindy Douglas

**God keeps God's promises and gives us hope.**

**In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God kept God's promises.**

**All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.**

**But the work of God in Christ is not over.**

**God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.**

(Affirmation continues to next page.)

*(in unison)*

**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.**

**\*HYMN NO. 543**

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

*Green Tyler*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*Kathy Parkins*

*Lord, keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears;  
May angels guard us while we sleep, till morning light appears.*

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation

*Mindy Douglas*

Offertory Anthem

*Not One Sparrow is Forgotten*

*Shaker Hymn, arr. Hawley*

*(Not one of them is forgotten before God. Luke 12:6)*

*Not one sparrow is forgotten, e'en the raven God will feed;  
and the lily of the valley from his bounty hath its need.*

*Then shall I not trust Thee, Father,  
in thy mercy have a share?*

*And through faith and prayer, my Mother,  
merit Thy protecting care?*

*\*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!*

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

*Mindy Douglas*

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

*(Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession.)*

**All:** **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. 357**

*The Days Are Surely Coming*

*Llangloffan*

*(Following the hymn, Kathy Parkins will escort children upstairs for their music time. If you do not wish to attend the congregational meeting, you may leave the sanctuary at the conclusion of the hymn.)*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Mindy Douglas

Vote to change the designated associate pastor position to associate pastor.  
Election of Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (see handout).

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher



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* are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for the clergy, staff, and members of First Presbyterian Church.

*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 for children ages birth to 5 years old. Kindergartners are welcome in childcare or in worship based on their parents’ discretion. *Activity bags* are available in the foyer for children to use during worship. 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 liturgy* are written by John Weicher. Music is taken from *Glory to God* (Presbyterian hymnal) and reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net: A-713926.

**What does it mean to be Presbyterian?**

If you’re a visiting friend (or new member!) and have questions, join Pastor Esther in the **Wilson Parlor today following worship** for another time of conversation about Presbyterian theology, polity, and worship. Come as you are—with small questions or big doubts. Light refreshments will be provided. A building tour will take place on next Sunday, November 24 following worship for anyone interested.

## **Support Hurricane Victims in Western NC**

**From noon – 5:00 p.m., Bull City Fair Trade will be open to FPC members and friends to shop and enjoy light refreshments.** Ten percent of the sales during this time will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Helene relief on behalf of FPC. Please mention our First Presbyterian Church of Durham when you check out. The store's address is 811 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Parking is available next to the store and along the street.

## **Sharing Worship beyond the Sanctuary**

Friends, we are in need of folks to help expand our live streaming ministry staff. Please contact **Jody Maxwell** ([jodymaxwell3@hotmail.com](mailto:jodymaxwell3@hotmail.com)) if you're willing to support worship in this way. Jody is happy to train new folks.

## **Lay Liturgists Training**

Some of you have shared your appreciation of our lay liturgists and hearing the Word brought to life in the Sunday morning worship services. This is your opportunity to join in this ministry. **A three-hour liturgist training class will be held in the fellowship hall from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.** For planning purposes, anyone interested in being a liturgist is asked to contact **Steve Rimmer** ([csrimmer@nc.rr.com](mailto:csrimmer@nc.rr.com)) or see **Cris Rivera** or **Jennie Alwood**. We recommend that you bring your favorite Bible(s). Our training text will use the NRSV but other versions are great for enhancing your study. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## **Job Announcement for Church Administrator**

First Presbyterian Church is looking for an organized, diligent, responsive and motivated individual to support our mission in the role of full-time Church Administrator. Competitive salary and benefits provided. 3+ years of relevant administrative and/or supervisory experience required. Must be well-versed in use of accounting, communication/social media and database software. NOTE: Members of the church and/or their family are not eligible to apply for this position. For more information, go to the church's website (<https://firstpres-durham.org>) to see job announcement. Interested persons should submit resume/references by email to [adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org).

## **Urban Ministry of Durham Volunteers Needed for November**

**Use this link:** <https://rb.gy/7u8469>

In the month of November we are scheduled at UMD to prepare/serve breakfast on **Friday November 15**, and **Friday November 29** from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. We are also scheduled to make sandwiches for lunches on **Monday, November 18** from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. **We are not needed on Thursday, November 28 -Thanksgiving Day this year.**

If you sign up and cannot make it on your scheduled day, please let **Jancy Johnstone** know as soon as you can. Jancy checks the sign up starting a week before the scheduled day and searches for additional volunteers. If you can't make it, please call Jancy. Thank you for your continued support.

## SYMPATHY

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *Sybil King and family* on the death of her daughter, *Denisha Williams*, who passed away on November 12 from bone cancer. Arrangements are as follows: visitation at 12:30 p.m. and service at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 23 at Northeast Baptist Church, 3204 NC Hwy 55, Durham.

## CONCERNS

*Carlisle Harvard* is in rehab at Croasdaile Pavilion.

<i>Tony Brown</i>	<i>Harvey Estes</i>	<i>Jenni James</i>	<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>
<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Mitzi Leshor-Thomas</i>	<i>Keith Rokoske</i>
<i>Sam Crabtree</i>	<i>Lee House</i>	<i>Jen McGonigle</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>
<i>Susan Cyr</i>			

### Care communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills, Bill Mordecai* (father of Beth Eisenson),  
*Becky Carpenter* (friend of Susan Cyr)

Parkview Health and Rehabilitation Center (Chapel Hill): *Harriett Mitchell*

Pruitt Health (Durham): *Fred Callaway*

### Family and Friends of the Congregation

*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 Momsen-Hudson

*Jim Gudaitis*, husband of Christy Gudaitis      *Jennifer Hervey*, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

*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

*Wu-Chou Su*, father of Claire Su

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

*John C. Weicher*, father of John Weicher

### **You Are Not Alone:**

#### **A Caring Group for People Living with Health Challenges**

These can be very challenging, and it is often hard to share them with other people. If this describes you, you may be interested in a place to find conversation, support, prayer, and fellowship with others who face similar challenges. We have started a group that will provide these things, facilitated by *Susan Dunlap* and *Amy Heit*. We will meet monthly, on the **third Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. in the Wilson Parlor**. For more info, please contact Susan at [sjd4@duke.edu](mailto:sjd4@duke.edu).

## DURHAM CARES

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Advancing the Vision Fundraiser Dinner

Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church  
504 W. Chapel Hill St, Durham

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Luke Powery,

Register here: <https://durhamcares.networkforgood.com>



**Friday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.**

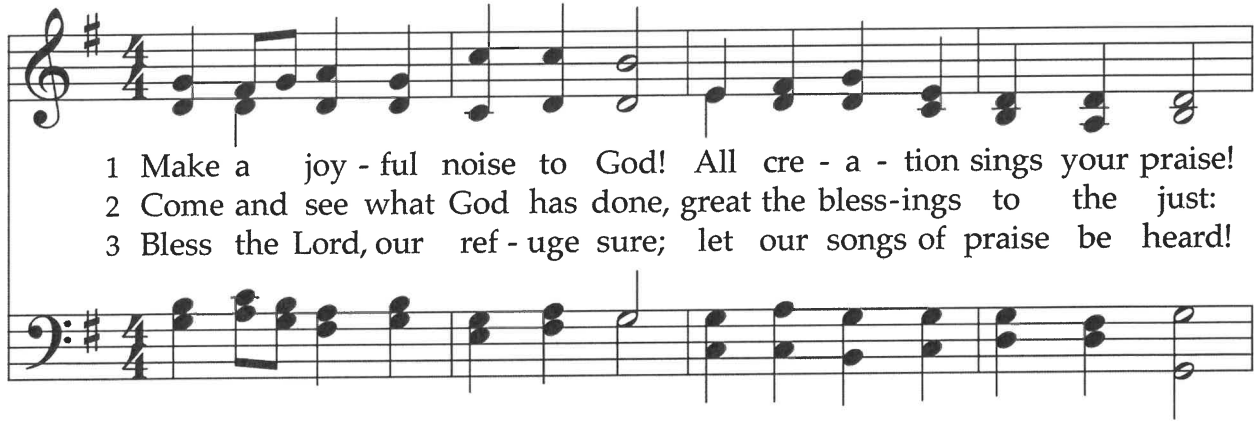
First Presbyterian Church of Durham invites jazz music lovers across the Triangle area for an evening of love, fellowship, and live jazz with Durham's favorite *ChamberSoul* cellist and vocalist, **Shana Tucker**. This **FREE**, all-ages, family-friendly concert in the sanctuary is meant to bring people together for a collective "community hug" that nurtures the soul through music. Shana and her quintet will perform songs from her latest release, "*Hiding in the Light*" and other songs that celebrate our shared humanity and the sacredness of spirituality as the holiday season begins. The Community Concert is generously supported by the **Horst and Ruth Mary Meyer Fund for Music** at First Presbyterian.



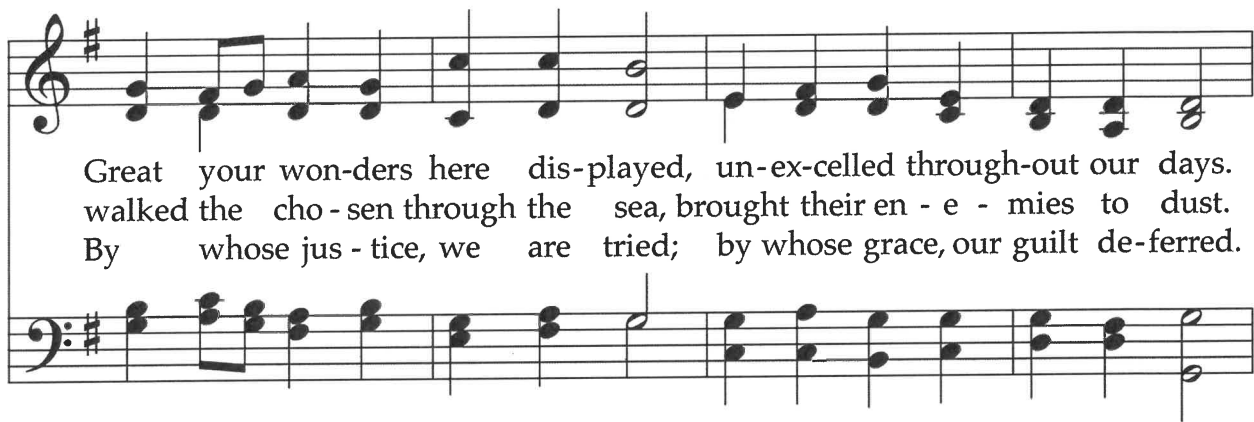
# Make a Joyful Noise to God!

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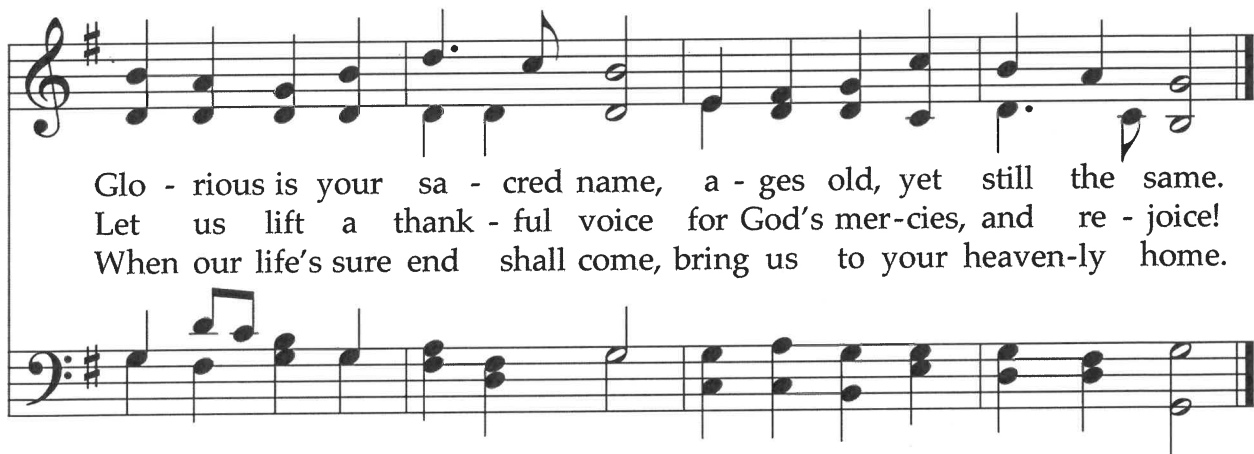
(Psalm 66)



1 Make a joy - ful noise to God! All cre - a - tion sings your praise!  
2 Come and see what God has done, great the bless - ings to the just:  
3 Bless the Lord, our ref - uge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!



Great your won - ders here dis - played, un - ex - celled through - out our days.  
walked the cho - sen through the sea, brought their en - e - mies to dust.  
By whose jus - tice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt de - ferred.



Glo - rious is your sa - cred name, a - ges old, yet still the same.  
Let us lift a thank - ful voice for God's mer - cies, and re - joice!  
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heaven - ly home.

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

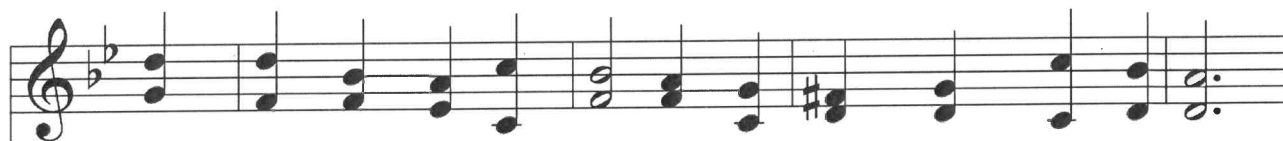
# The Days Are Surely Coming 357



1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,  
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,  
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.  
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.  
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land  
Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,  
Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land



and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.  
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.  
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.



## The Week at a Glance!

### Later Today

**12:00-5:00 PM** Bull City Fair Trade shopping event and fundraiser for western NC (at 811 9<sup>th</sup> Street)  
**12:00 PM** Children's music (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, choir room)  
**12:10 PM** Presbyterian 101 (Wilson Parlor)  
**4:30-6:30 PM** Middle School Youth Group  
**6:00-8:00 PM** High School Youth Group  
**8:00 PM** Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

### Monday, November 18

**9:00 AM-12 Noon** Walk-in Ministry Interviews  
**1:30 PM** Worship Planning (Mindy's office)  
**6:00 PM** Leadership Team

### Friday, November 22

**7:30 PM** Shana Tucker Concert (sanctuary)  
 Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

**High Schoolers Keep Awake Retreat**  
**Friday - Sunday, November 22-24**

### Saturday, November 23

**10:00 AM-1:00 PM** Liturgists Training (Watts-Hill Hall)

### Tuesday, November 19

Newsletter today

**10:30 AM** You Are Not Alone Care Group (Wilson Parlor)

### Wednesday, November 20

**1:00 PM** All Staff (Daye Meeting Room)  
**7:00 PM** Chancel Choir

### Thursday, November 21

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

### Sunday, November 24



**Reign of Christ Sunday**

**9:45-10:45 AM** Faith Formation Classes for all ages

**11:00 AM** Worship

**12:10 PM** Children's music (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, choir room)

**12:10 PM** Presbyterian 101 (Building Tour)

**5:00-7:00 PM** Middle School Youth (off site)

**8:00 PM** Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship

### 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 Sexton*  
*Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus*



*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*

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>.

#### OUR MISSION CO-WORKERS

FPC partners with PC (USA) Mission Co-Workers:  
*Jhan and Ian Dotel-Vellenga, Nicaragua*  
*Jeff and Christi Boyd, Democratic Republic of the Congo*

To learn more about their work, go to  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections>