

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

Minute for Mission – Union of Southern Service Workers

Nah'Shon Blount

PRELUDE

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

American hymn, arr. Hustad

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 81)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Sing with joy to God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

People: **Raise a song and sound the timbrel,
the merry harp, and the lyre.**

Leader: Blow the ram's horn at the new moon,
and at the full moon, the day of our feast;

All: **Come, let us worship God!**

***HYMN NO. 396**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Holy Manna

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us

for we exalt ourselves and mock the humble.

**We choose to believe we are self-sufficient,
rather than trust in your strength.**

Open us to your Spirit,

that we might serve all people

without regard to the outcome,

devoting ourselves to your honor alone.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Those who are able, please stand.*

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 402**

How Lovely, Lord

Merle's Tune

*A sun and shield forever
are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings;
no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers
of blessing overflow.*

COLLECT

Carl Rist

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: O God,

you invite the poor and the sinful

to take their place in the festive assembly of the new covenant.

May your church always honor the presence of the Lord

in the humble and the suffering,

and may we learn to recognize each other as neighbors and friends,

gathered together around your table of grace. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 77)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Carl Rist

People: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

(Pew Bible, NT Page 227)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"How Shall We Live?"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Declaration of Faith

Esther Hethcox

Christ calls us to live for our neighbors.

Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded.

His life on behalf of others led to persecution and death.

He commanded his disciples to live the same way.

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us

lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet.

Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor,

to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good,

to share what we have.

We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness,

to love our enemies, to accept risk and pain which love involves.

***HYMN NO. 769**

For Everyone Born

For Everyone Born

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory

Simple Gifts

American folk hymn, arr. Schulz-Widmar

*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!

(The Hunger for Change Offering is received following the anthem.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Esther Hethcox

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

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. 774**

There Is Now a New Creation

Stuttgart

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Toccata in C

Johann Pachelbel

Happening Today

The "Somethings" *(young adults)* ***End-of-Summer BBQ:*** Today at 6:00 pm at the home of Megan and Alexis Dubiel.



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 in honor of all who make music to the Glory of God.

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 first and second floors 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 resources were reprinted from: *Call to Worship, Year C* and *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Upcoming Community Events

Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>



Men of Faith meet the first Friday of each month for calories, conversation and caffeine. Join them at Mad Hatters at 8 am on September 5.

Things That Matter Book Club: First Presbyterian has a book club and welcomes new members! We meet every other month, and the first meeting is Tuesday, September 9 at 4:00 pm to discuss "This Is Happiness" by Niall Williams. For more information, please contact Kathy Parkins at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org.

From the Racial Equity Task Force: If you are interested in what FPC is doing to promote racial equity across intersections, please plan to attend our Racial Equity Task Force meeting on Sunday, September 7 after church in the Wilson Parlor.

Art Auction: Unique Opportunity! Eugene Brown has retired and closed his Koi Gallery. He is offering numerous photos and art pieces from throughout the world for a silent auction to be displayed in the Wilson Parlor room. In addition, a new Apple Laptop 13inch M4 will also be available for purchase. Reasonable prices. Highest bidder wins! Viewing has begun and bidding commences September 14 - September 28. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church.

Save the Date

First Friends is a fellowship group of FPC folks that tend to be 55 and older. Hope to see you at our gatherings! **Saturday, October 25** at Amy and Dan Mapel's home and **Saturday, November 22** at Carl Rist's home.

Faith Formation Kickoff

Sunday, September 7 at 9:45 am



We're on the ***Path to Peace***. That's the theme for our faith formation this year, which kicks off Sunday, Sept. 7, at 9:45 am. Join us for a festive time of giant inflatable fun, activities, food, fellowship and a chance to meet teachers and learn classroom spaces. This is for all of our classes, from our little littles up through our various adult classes. (And the giant inflatable will be reactivated after worship.)

Sonam & Duke Chorale

Saturday, September 13 at 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church of Durham



Join the *Duke Chorale* and *Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM)* for their first concert of the season! Admission is free, with a suggested donation accepted at the door in lieu of tickets. All proceeds go to First Presbyterian Church's Walk-In Ministry, which provides resources for Durham residents in need. We hope you'll join us! Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues.

Memorial Services

We gather in faith and remembrance to honor those who have passed. These memorial services provide an opportunity for family, friends, and our community to come together in prayer, reflection, and gratitude for the lives of our loved ones. You are welcome to join us in offering support, sharing memories, and finding comfort in the presence of one another. Below is a list of upcoming services.

- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for ***Kate Busa*** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on ***Saturday, September 6*** at ***11 a.m.***
- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for ***Keith Rokoske*** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on ***Saturday, September 20*** at ***10 a.m.***

THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING



First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Hunger for Change and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect and bag food for the Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world. The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

- 50% - International Hunger Relief Programs
- 40% - Local Hunger Programs
- 10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry have been frequent recipients. FPC has also received funds to purchase supplies for blessing bags.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about \$0.30 per month or \$3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute \$1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate \$3.00, and a **quarter**/a day will generate \$7.50 per month.

The last Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

Thank you for your offering today!

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Condolences:

We extend our love and concern to **Matthew Eggleston** upon the death of his great-grand-uncle **Jack Thomas** of Winston-Salem, NC.

We remember in prayer:

Jahnai Goodwin, who was recently baptized and welcomed into membership at FPC, had hand surgery on August 29.

Tony Brown	Paul Cornsweet	Sam Crabtree	Kerry Holbrook
Lee House	Ann Huff	Mal King	Mitzi Leshner-Thoma
Jen McGonigle	Madge McKeithen	Harriett Mitchell	Jim Rogers
Franzi Rokoske	Phyllis Supple	Alfred Tisdale	Ginny Widmark

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes**
Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**
Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

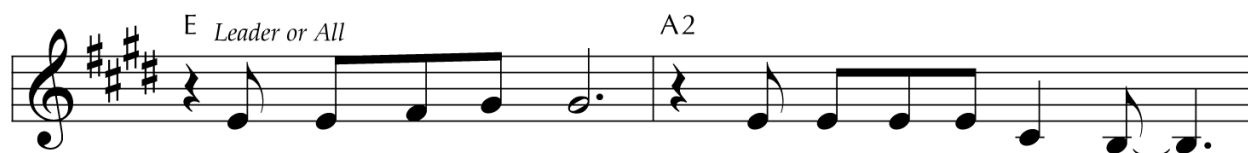
Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**
Pruitt Health - Durham: **Fred Callaway**

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Julia Allen, grandmother of Amy Wilson
Evan Breyer, grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore
Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood
Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece
Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey
Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch
Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff
Martha Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece
Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins
Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood
Sara Neece Silletto, daughter of Vernon & Beth Neece
Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

jus-tice and joy!

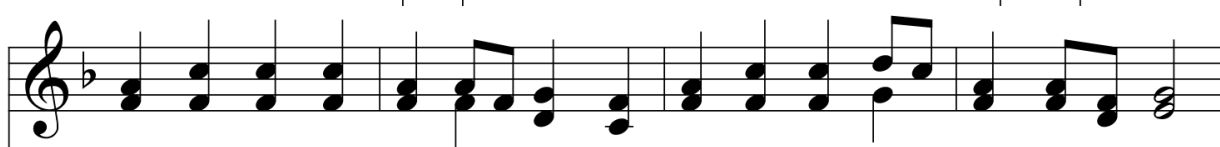
Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396



1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
 2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis-ter aid - ed him.
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
 4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.



Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
 Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
 Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.



All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
 Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
 Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.



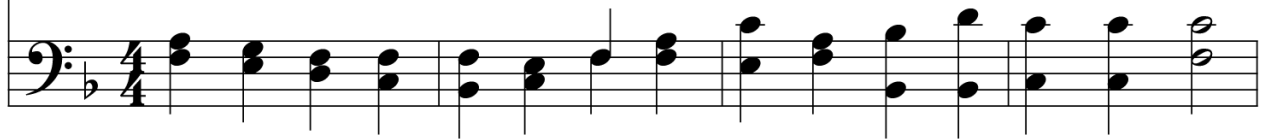
Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
 Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.



774 There Is Now a New Creation




1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!



This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today <i>Art Viewing in Wilson Parlor</i></p> <p>6:00 PM The "Somethings" End of Summer BBQ (home of Megan & Alexis Dubiel)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, September 1</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, September 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's office)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM The "Somethings" Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, September 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Senior Choir (choir room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, September 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, September 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 AM Men of Faith Breakfast (Mad Hatters)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, September 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Kate Busa Memorial Service (Sanctuary) Reception to Follow in Watts-Hill Hall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, September 7 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation Kickoff for all ages.</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion; Mindy Douglas, Preaching</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Group Kickoff</p>	

CHURCH STAFF

Shakira Bethea, Church Administrator
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
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>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511 ORGANIZED 1871