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SERMON SERIES

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Now Rejoice, Dear Christians

J. L. Krebs

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from 1 John 4)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

People: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Leader: God's love was revealed among us in this way:

People: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

Leader: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

People: If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

All: Let us worship God.

***HYMN NO. 321**

The Church's One Foundation

Aurelia

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

you love us, but we have not loved you.

You call, but we have not listened.

**We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.**

**God of grace, help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,**

we may repent, turn to you,

and receive forgiveness,

through Jesus Christ,

our compassionate redeemer.

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. 389**

Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord

Hal'luhu

Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!

Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!

Let all that lives, all that has breath, sing the praise of God, hallelujah!

Let all that lives, all that has breath, sing the praise of God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Evelyn Walters

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray.

All: **God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with compassionate and faithful lives,
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 201)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Evelyn Walters

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5:17-39

(Pew Bible, NT Page 62)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Clothed in Compassion"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Declaration of Faith

Esther Hethcox

Jesus Christ is the living Word of God. The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: By grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

***HYMN NO. 734**

Hope of the World

Donne Secours

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

A Song of Praise (Benedictus es, Domine)

John Rutter

Glory to you, Lord God of our parents; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will highly exalt you forever.

*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

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Leader: All creation sings your praises,

God of stunning imagination.

You created us in your image:

All of us, of every age and gender,

of every race and culture,

together have life from you.

But we choose to wander from you,

following sin and death

into the temples of temptation.

Your prophets came to minister to us,

their searching eyes, their longing words

calling us back to you;

but we refused to listen.

So, you came searching for us,

sending Jesus among us,

that the peace of Christ

might rule in our hearts.

So, with all God's chosen ones,

the holy and the hungry,

the peaceful and the persistent,

we join our voices in praise to you:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Holy are you, Creator of peace and beauty,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, Joyous Love.
 He came, to listen to our hearts,
 so we might see your broken one;
 he came, asking those questions
 that reveal our true longings.
 Clothed in compassion and humility,
 he was stripped, beaten, crucified, buried.
 He went down into death,
 so we might have life,
 so we could know your grace and peace.
 Great is the mystery of faith:



Leader: God of love, you welcome us at this table as siblings in a new family.
 Shape our life together by the way we belong to one another in you.
 Send your Holy Spirit upon your church
 to make us faithful witnesses to your beloved community.
 Sanctify this bread and cup
 that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son.
 Bring us at last to the blessed day
 when we are one with the family of saints
 gathered around your throne, in the company of the Holy Spirit,
 in union with Christ, our most holy Parent God, now and always.

All (Sung) Hymn No. 568

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

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, John Weicher

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The bread and the elements are gluten free and were prepared in a gluten-free area. We use grape juice in the cup. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. **The server will give you a piece of bread, which you dip in the cup.** 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.)*

Taste and see the Lord is good. Blessed is he who trusts in Him.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

John Weicher

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

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

All: Gracious God,

how can we thank you for such a gift?

For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you,

and bound us to one another.

Now send us out to share your love and proclaim our hope
until Christ comes again. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

Healey Willan

Happening Today

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 after worship in the Wilson Parlor.

Youth Group Kickoff: All youth, 6th – 12th grades, are invited to join us from 5:00-7:00pm. We will reconnect, run the obstacle course, create, and eat together. There is an important parents meeting at 5:45pm. Dinner is potluck, please bring a dish to share.



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 to the glory of God and in celebration of the wedding of ***Emily Turkington*** and ***Josh Schneider*** on September 6, 2025 by ***Tim & Shelley Turkington***.

Today, we begin a six-week ***sermon series*** based on Colossians 3:12-14. In this passage, Christians are invited, through their baptisms, to put on a new metaphorical garment that sets them apart in the way they live. It is a garment of love that shows itself through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness,

patience and love. Each week, we will explore stories that open our hearts to recognize the ways we are to follow Jesus by exhibiting these traits as we live our lives together in the world. From youngest to oldest, we are the whole people of God, the Body of Christ, called to put on love in all its beauty and grace, as we worship and serve God in the world.

We thank **Gordon Campbell**, organist and **Leigh Joyner Wynkoop**, conductor, for sharing their musical gifts with us while Kathy is on vacation.

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.

★ **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.

Portions of today’s worship resources were reprinted from: *Lectionary Liturgies*, and *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926. Bulletin cover logo created by Lauren Wright-Pittman and used for the 2025 PAM Worship & Music Conference. Used with permission.

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/>



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.

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 13 inch M4 will also be available for purchase. Reasonable prices. Highest bidder wins! Viewing has begun and bidding commences September 14 - September 28. All proceeds support the ministries of FPC. 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** hosted by Amy & Dan Mapel and **Saturday, November 22** hosted by Carl Rist.

Duke Chorale and SONAM

September 13 at 4:00 pm

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.



SONAM Chorus
Singers of New And Ancient Music

with the Duke Chorale

Invites everyone to our
Season Kick off Concert

9-13^{at} 4:00

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 305 EAST MAIN ST. DURHAM

**MUSIC ABOUT
RISING UP**



Donations at the concert in lieu of tickets will support the First Presbyterian Walk-In Ministry to assist our neighbors with immediate needs.



FPC Youth Ministry Fall '25 Calendar Carried by Faith

Youth Group Event	Day & Time
Kickoff & Parent Meeting	9/7, 5-7p
Carried by Faith: Jesus' Story	9/14, 5-7p
MSers vs. HSers vs. Advisors	9/21, 5-7p
Farm Church	9/28, 5-7p
Carried by Faith: Our Story	10/5, 5-7p
Acts of Random Kindness	10/12, 5-7p
Mini Golf Tournament w/TAPC	10/19, 4-6p
Asheville Youth Mission w/TAPC	10/24-26
Carried by Faith: The Friends	11/2, 5-7p
Learning from Our Elders	11/9, 5-7p
Friendsgiving	11/16, 4-6p
Keep Awake High School Retreat	11/21-23
Cookies & Care Packages (MS)	11/23, 5-7p
Carried by Faith: Healing Issues	12/7, 5-7p
Christmas Pageant & Carol Sing	12/14, 5-7p
Christmas Fun	12/21, 5-7p

Friends Welcome - Jesus Loves You - Carried by Faith

Children's Choir Begins September 21

CHILDREN age 6-11 are invited to sing in Children's Choir which begins, September 21 immediately following church upstairs in the choir room. We'll gather for a small snack and about 20 minutes of fun, singing, and learning about church traditions. For more information, please feel free to email Kathy Parkins at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org.



Sign up now for FPC's Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope

FPC's free participation in the October 10-12 Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope is still open and we hope you'll set aside this important weekend and sign up for this once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the history of Durham woven together with God's story. Share with your friends and fellow FPC members everything from Stagville plantation to Black Wall Street to a special visit to the Carolina Theater to hear a piece of the story of Durham's Civil Rights movement. Over a weekend of visiting important sites, hearing the stories of leaders who have shaped the city, and engaging in discussion with fellow pilgrims over meals and fellowship time, you will get to reckon with the challenges Durham has faced and witness the hope in our community and in our church. FPC's pilgrimage will be on Friday 10/10 - 4pm-9pm; Saturday 10/11 - 8am-8pm, and Sunday 10/12 10am-7pm. Registration is limited to 20 people and the registration deadline is Friday, September 26th. To register, and for more information, visit www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage. Please join this very special opportunity!

Memorial Services

We gather in faith and remembrance to honor those who have passed. The memorial service provides 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.

- 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.**

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Susan Cyr is recovering from a hospital stay.

Kathy Krahenbuhl received stitches after a fall and is recovering at home.

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas is now bedbound at 2460 Northwick Dr. Apt. 107, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

Mickey Velkey is recovering from a hospital stay.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Mal King

Jen McGonigle

Madge McKeithen

Harriett Mitchell

Jim Rogers

Franzi Rokoske

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

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un-ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.
 her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
 she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:
 and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride.
 One ho-ly name she bless-es, par-takes one ho-ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi-sion glo-rious her long-ing eyes are blest,
 O hap-py ones and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press-es, with ev-ery grace en-dued.
 And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.

Hope of the World

734



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
 4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:
 from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:
 who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:

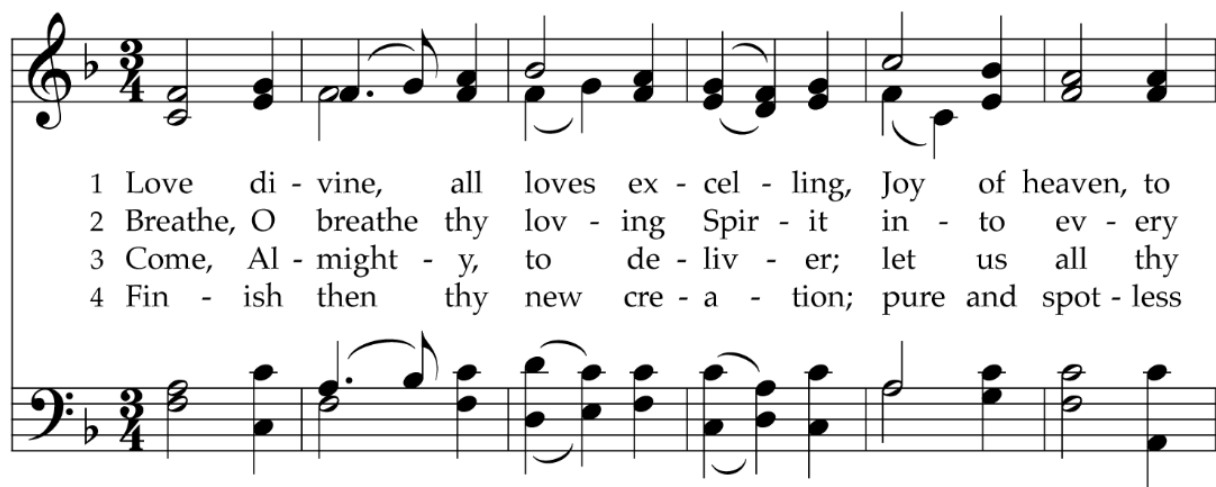


save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
 we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;
 we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;




who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.
 take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.
 thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

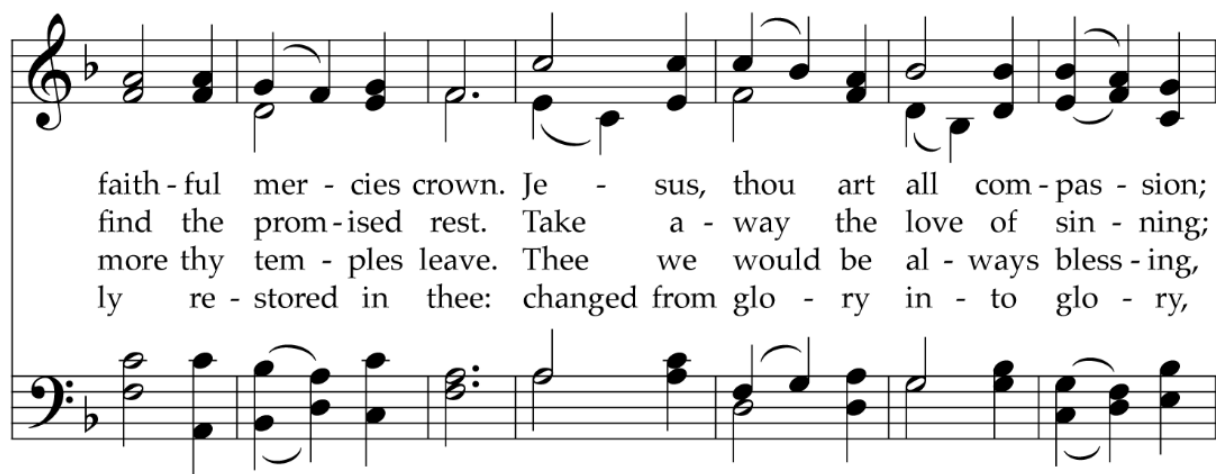
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling




1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>12:15 PM Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Group Kickoff (back lawn)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, September 8</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>6:00 PM Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room) Property Committee (room 205) Christian Education Committee (Zoom)</p> <p>6:30 PM Service & Mission (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship & The Arts Committee (Zoom) Welcome & Belonging Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, September 9 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p>4:00 PM Things That Matter Book Club (offsite)</p> <p>7:00 PM The Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, September 10</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir (choir room)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, September 11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, September 14 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Western NC Hurricane Recovery Mission Begins</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; Esther Hethcox, Preaching Baptism of Claire Su, Commissioning of Mission Team</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Groups - Carried by Faith: Jesus' Story (youth room)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, September 12</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, September 13</p> <p>4:00 PM SONAM & Duke Choral Concert (Sanctuary)</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>.

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