



© ELLIE EVERETT, 10TH GRADER

## Youth Sunday

First Presbyterian Church  
Durham, North Carolina

February 8, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Youth Sunday

February 8, 2026

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moment for Adult Faith Formation

John Weicher

Paul Baldasare

Sibu Admay

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE**

*Canon in D (abridged)*

Johann Pachelbel

Leone Mbugua, cello

Logan Brown

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come before God with chatty voices and hearts ready to speak.

People: **God welcomes every word we bring.**

Leader: We come with jokes, laughter, and a playful spirit.

People: **God delights in our joy.**

Leader: We come with compassion, ready to care for one another.

People: **God teaches us to love more deeply.**

Leader: We come with curious and focused minds.

People: **God invites us to grow in wisdom.**

All: **Let us worship God together!**

**\*HYMN NO. 749**

*Come! Live in the Light!*

*We Are Called*

**\*CONFESSON OF SIN**

Call to Prayer

Alex Sanchez

Prayer of Confession

Karl Sims

**Dear God, forgive us for when we haven't done justice,  
when we have used you to justify unjust things,  
lied, cheated,  
committed violence, or failed to stop it.**

**Forgive us for when we haven't loved kindness,  
when we have been judgmental or disrespected others,  
disrespected ourselves,  
or ignored the needs of others.**

**Forgive us for when we haven't walked humbly with you,  
when we have been boastful or greedy,  
lost our faith,  
or put other things before our relationship with you.**

**Help us to remember what you require of us.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Noah Dillon

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 492

*You Belong to Christ*

*You Belong to Christ*



## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

James Dennis

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Dear God, dear God, we appeal  
for the power of Jesus  
to dwell in us this morning

in what we hear, and then sing.

Spirit please guide us to see  
our vulnerability. Amen.

## EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

(Pew Bible, NT Page 185)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

Madeline Romska

## SERMON

“Strength & Weakness”

Isa Cummings

## INTERLUDE

*Be Thou My Vision*

Irish folk tune,

Tate Weicher, tuba

arr. B.C. Docery

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:1-8

(Pew Bible, OT Page 866)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

Doran Cummings

## SERMON

“Do Justice”

Evelyn Walters

## SERMON

“Love Kindness”

Gretchen Sims

**SERMON***"Walk Humbly with God"*

Mary Ellis Merritt

*(silent reflection)***\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***The Rockfish Confession of 2022*

Giselle Cowden

**Christianity is a complicated religion,  
and we, as Christians, strive to reflect on our mistakes  
to create a better future.**

**Our Christian life fosters a sense of community within the church.  
We try to focus on using our Spiritual gifts, resources and privileges,  
to help others and the world,  
following in the example of Jesus.**

**We believe that people who don't follow Jesus can do so as well.**

**We believe that God is Almighty, loving and powerful.**

**God created everything with unique purposes.**

**God is beyond our comprehension,  
so we don't always understand God's plans for us.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit is mysteriously powerful.**

**The Spirit is the Word of the Lord in movement.**

**When we pray, the Lord hears us,  
but it is the Spirit who goes into effect.**

**The Trinity is three-in-one,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

**They are distinct but not separate.**

**We believe that Jesus cared for others, no matter who they were,  
and taught them to spread that kindness, as well.**

**Jesus was a humble and caring Jewish, Middle-Eastern man,  
who let his toes shine.**

**His miraculous actions and life were told through stories,  
which we know as the Bible.**

**Jesus died for our sins,  
so we could have joy!**

**\*HYMN NO. 463***How Firm a Foundation**Foundation***TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Izzy Allison-Pleasants

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Claire Daniels

Offertory Music

*Go Down, Moses*

Traditional Spiritual,

Art Kelley, trombone & Henry Kelley, trumpet

arr. DeCesare

\*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!*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rory Dillon

*The people of God, they do justice, do justice, do justice.  
The people of God, they do justice, all through the town.  
The people of God, they love kindness, love kindness, love kindness.  
The people of God, they love kindness, all through the world.  
The people of God, they walk humbly, walk humbly, walk humbly.  
The people of God, they walk humbly, all through our lives.*

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

Ellie Everett

Leader: The Lord 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. 757

*Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples*

*Kingsfold*

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Isa Cummings, Evelyn Walters  
Gretchen Sims, Mary Ellis Merritt

## \*POSTLUDE

*Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

B. Marcello

## *Happening Today*

**Children's Choir** will meet following worship in the Christian Education building.

You are invited to join us for the **All-Church Luncheon** following worship today.



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 ***Bet Lawson*** to the glory of God and in loving memory of ***Dewey Lawson***.

**Today's bulletin cover** was hand drawn by **Ellie Everett**. Inspired by Micah 6:8, the key verse in one of today's texts, she has imagined scenes of what that might look like in the world.

As happens every Youth Sunday, the 6th-12th graders of First Presbyterian have crafted this service from the ground up. Over the last 5 weeks, they have selected the texts, studied them, written liturgy, chosen hymns, prepared instrumental pieces, trained as ushers, drawn the bulletin cover, and written sermons. Today's Affirmation of Faith comes from the 2021-2022 confirmation cohort, of which seniors **Giselle Cowden, Isa Cummings, Mary Ellis Merritt, Gretchen Sims**, and **Evelyn Walters** were members.

Throughout the Youth Sunday process, 30 of our youth have contributed to the service. In addition to the preachers, musicians, liturgists, and artist listed in the bulletin, that includes ushers **Nora Allison-Pleasants, David Armstrong, Michael Baker, Dayton Meade, Cordi Ramont, Anna Short, and Cecilia Triche-Rowe**.

The youth are thankful for the adults who have supported them in this process: their parents and stepparents, youth advisors **Brent Curtis, Mimi Dunn, Kati Ruark, Parker Stiles, and John Weicher**, usher trainer **Wil James**, and today's A/V crew.

**Childcare:** A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. **Activity bags and baskets** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them 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.

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/>*



**Yoga** is offered at FPC on Mondays at 4:30pm (vinyasa flow class), and Fridays at 10:30am (chair yoga class). Contact **Jane Wettach** for more information at [janewettach@gmail.com](mailto:janewettach@gmail.com).

**Presbyterian Women Circle** will meet on Monday at 10:30am in the Robert Daye Meeting Room.

**Things That Matter Book Club** is on Tuesday, February 10 at 6pm in Watts-Hill Hall. We will have a potluck and delve into the lyrics of Bob Dylan.

**Liturgist Training Session** will be held on Saturday, February 14, from 9:30am - 12:30pm. We will be using the NRSV as our main study guide and you are encouraged to bring your own personal Bible. Refreshments will be provided. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve in a very important role of our Sunday morning worship. Please contact Steve Rimmer at [csrimmer@nc.rr.com](mailto:csrimmer@nc.rr.com).

**Durham Women Unite:** Gather with a local, interfaith, intergenerational, and culturally diverse group of powerful women to seek God's path of justice and repair for the female leadership in Durham. Please come and bring some good women with you to Re-City (112 Broadway St. Durham) on Saturday, February 21st from 1-3pm. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Ray 919-636-1827.

## *~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation~*

**Condolences:** We extend our love and concern to:

**Judy Wood**, the mother of **Sharon Hirsch** and grandmother of **Katie Agnew** and **Matthew Hirsch**, upon the death of her husband, **Christopher Wren Wood**. He lived in New Jersey and died suddenly on January 20.

**Jan Paul** upon the death of her husband **Robert (Bob) Paul** on January 23.

**Lizzie Apple** who's uncle **Bill Wilson** passed away following a long journey with leukemia. He is survived by his wife **Eleanor** and sons **Mark** and **Sam**.

**Al and Judy Arrowood** upon the death today of Al's sister, **Mary Lou King**, on January 27, 2026.

**We remember in prayer:**

**Fred Moore**, as he recovers from hip surgery.

**Joe Harvard**, having foot surgery on February 18.

**Tony Brown**

**Kerry Holbrook**

**Harriett Mitchell**

**Paul Cornsweet**

**Lee House**

**Franzi Rokoske**

**Sam Crabtree**

**Dan Hudgins**

**Alfred Tisdale**

**Susan Cyr**

**Ann Huff**

**David Verner**

**Care Communities:**

Croasdale Pavilion: **Dub Golley**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Pruitt Health - Durham: **Fred Callaway**

Southpoint Atria: **Ginny Widmark**

**Madge McKeithen**

**Family and Friends of the Congregation**

**Julia Allen**, grandmother of Amy Wilson

**Becky Birchfield**, mother of Wil James

**Amanda Briggs**, friend of Mindy Douglas

**John Carter**, brother of Conrad Carter

**Francisca Cristobal**, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

**Kim Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings

**Denise Duffy**, sister of Andy Henry

**Gera Fleming**, mother of Christyn Klinck

**Linda Foster-Momsen**, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

**Cheryl Fowler**, friend of Cheri Reece

**Bill Prochaska**, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

**Jennifer Hervey**, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

**Wu-Chou Su**, father of Claire Su

**Donna Holladay**, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

**Tanya Watkins**, friend of Leigh Wynkoop

**Katie Jackson**, wife of Matthew Hirsch

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss

**Donna Johnson**, mother of Ann Huff

**Marie Maly**, sister of Barbara Fish

**Mary Lou Mikush**, grandmother of Katie Fogleman

**Sandra Mikush**, mother of Katie Fogleman

**Martha Neece**, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece

**Ana Sofia Ochoa**, family member of Becky Martin

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

## 749 Come! Live in the Light!

## We Are Called

G C D G

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

C D Em

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

Em7 C G Am7

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

G C Dsus D

free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain*

G C D C D G C

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to

D Em Em7 C D

love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -

C D G C D C G

oth-er, to walk hum - bly with God.

757 Today We All Are Called  
to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the  
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man  
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y  
4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make  
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -  
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to  
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their  
spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly  
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -  
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

## This Week at a Glance!

**Later Today**  
Newsletter Deadline

### Following Worship

Congregational Luncheon (Watts-Hill Hall)

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)

### Monday, February 9

**10:30 AM**

Presbyterian Women (Daye Meeting Room)

**1:30 PM**

Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)

**4:30 PM**

Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

**6:00 PM**

Property Committee (room 205)

Christian Education Committee (Zoom)

**6:30 PM**

Service & Mission (Watts-Hill Hall)

**7:00 PM**

Worship and the Arts (Zoom)

Welcome & Belonging

### Tuesday, February 10

Newsletter Release

**6:00 PM**

Things That Matter Book Group (Watts-Hill Hall)

**7:00 PM**

Something's Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, February 11

**1:00 PM**

Program Staff (Pastor's office)

**6:00 PM**

Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

**7:00 PM**

Chancel Choir (choir room)

### Thursday, February 12

### Friday, February 13

**10:30 AM**

Yoga (Room 201)

### Saturday, February 14

### Sunday, February 15

*Transfiguration of the Lord*

**9:45 AM**

Faith Formation

(Classes available for adults, youth and children)

**11:00 AM**

Worship with Communion: Mindy Douglas, preaching

### Following Worship

Children's Music:

ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)

**12:15 PM**

Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor)

Gun Violence in Durham (Watts-Hill Hall)

**5:00 PM**

Youth Group (parking lot)

**6:00 PM**

Something to Love (offsite)

## 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:

*office@firstpres-durham.org* or visit our website: *https://firstpres-durham.org*.