



Mary Meets Jesus After the Resurrection by Peter Koenig

Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord

First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina

April 5, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord

April 5, 2026

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

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Karolyn Mangeot

PRELUDE

Air for Trumpet and Organ (Allegro)
David McPhail, trumpet

G. P. Telemann

INTROIT

This Is the Day

Anon, 16th century

This is the day that the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118:24

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Leader: Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus our Lord has conquered the grave.

People: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Leader: Sin and death shall reign no more.

People: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Let this place resound with joy.

All: **Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Friends, the candles which were once extinguished are now lit again, calling us to remember that in Christ is life, and that life is the light for all people. On this morning we see the lit evidence that the light of Christ has pierced the darkness of death, and the darkness can never overtake the light—the one true Light which is found in Jesus Christ. Let us, as Easter people, worship our loving God!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit
we have been raised from the waters of baptism
to share in your glorious resurrection.**

Yet we have not lived as Easter people.

**We are unsure of your promise,
confused about your will,**

and afraid in the face of danger.

Call us by name, risen Lord,

that we may know you with confidence.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

**Whenever we are tempted to fear death;
whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts;
whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil,
forgive us our sin
and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation
through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

John Weicher

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

I Danced in the Morning, v.5

Lord of the Dance

They cut me down and I leapt up high.

I am the life that will never, never die.

I'll live in you if you'll live in me,

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,

and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.

Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit

so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:1-6

(Pew Bible, OT Page 733)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jennie Alwood

People: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:1-4

(Pew Bible, NT Page 201)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jennie Alwood

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10

(Pew Bible, NT Page 33)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Easter Glory"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(From *A Declaration of Faith*)

Esther Hethcox

We declare that Jesus is Lord.

His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life.

His lordship is hidden.

The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule.

But his lordship is real.

It demands our loyalty

and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.

We maintain that ultimate sovereignty

now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.

Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

***HYMN NO. 242**

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

In Dir Ist Freude

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

*(In addition to regular tithes and offerings, the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** will be received at this time. **Please use the specially marked envelope for the OGHs offering.** Your generous gifts to this offering provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and help empower the poor and oppressed around the world.)*

Offertory Anthem

Alleluia

Elaine Hagenberg

Alleluia,

All shall be Amen and Alleluia.

We shall rest and we shall see.

We shall see and we shall know.

We shall know and we shall love.

Behold our end which is no end. Alleluia.

All shall be Amen! —St. Augustine (354-430)

*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: Thanks and praise fill our hearts, Almighty God, for you are the Lord of creation and new covenant. You brought your people out of slavery to freedom, and you brought your Son from the depth of death to the glory of resurrection life. And so, we gladly thank you, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of unending praise:

All (Sung): Hymn No. 552

Sanctus

Land of Rest



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho -



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

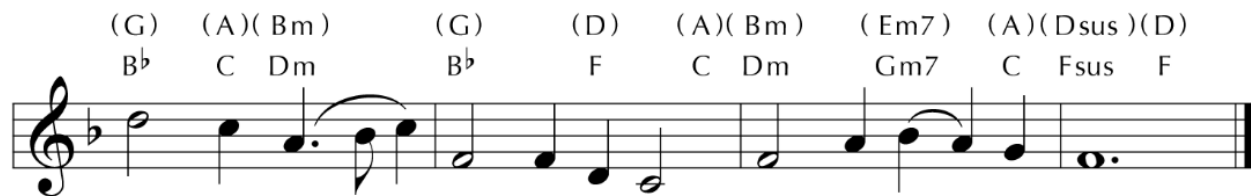
Leader: Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you. Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit, that your children may be blessed with power and grace, and that this bread and cup may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung): Hymn No. 553

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: Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God, for you have rolled away the stones of despair, oppression, lament, grief, death, sin, and fear. Come and stand among us and breathe on us your peace, that all who labor, all who stumble, all who hunger and thirst shall meet you in the breaking of the bread. Shape your church to be your risen body.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.)

Communion Anthem

O Sacrum Convivium (sung in Latin)

James Biery

*O sacred banquet,
in which Christ is received,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
our minds are filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory is given us.
Alleluia.*

***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: Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us and brought us into this Day of Resurrection. We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son and that he has conquered death and has risen to rule over all powers of this earth. We praise you that he summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness. By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair, and set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life, and all we have may show forth his love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 238**

Thine Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Air for Trumpet and Organ (Gigue)

G. P. Telemann



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.

THANKS to all who provided the majestic Easter lilies, presenting them as a glorious symbol of the Easter message, in memory or in honor of special ones. We are grateful to *Alice Raney, Jean Wilson, and Vernon Cooper* for ordering, arranging for their delivery and beautiful placement in the sanctuary.

If you contributed to the cost of the lilies, you may take a lily with you following worship today. If you desire for your lily to be taken to a homebound church member, please leave it in the sanctuary so it can be delivered by members of the Diaconate. We also thank those of you who brought flowers and greenery to flower the cross.

We thank *David McPhail* for his musical contribution to today's service. The special music is dedicated to the memory of *Martha Rimmer* and is made possible by a gift to the Restricted Music Fund of FPC.

This week we conclude our spiritual practice of extinguishing candles as we journey through the Lenten wilderness. Just as Christ has risen from the tomb and returned light to the world, so all the candles are relit in celebration of the resurrection. God has provided our hope and salvation for us! Today the wreath is covered in gold and white cloth and the chancel is adorned with Easter lilies. **This week we invite you to ponder the joy of Christ's present and active love in your life as Easter people.**

The *Paschal Banner* was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten and Easter symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of *Bess Bryant* and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

The paraments and communion tablecloth used in worship today were given by *Ruth and Russell Roberson* in memory of their mothers: *Zenobia Teresa Cox Haislip* and *Myrtle Taylor Roberson*, both of whom were quilters, for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of First Presbyterian Church of Durham, North Carolina December 31, 1871 - December 31, 2021. They were designed and sewn by *Beth Taylor*, a fabric artist and modern quilter. She created the unique communion cloth and paraments for First Presbyterian by including personal items of meaning and significance donated by members. Beth and her husband *Robert Parker* are former members of First Presbyterian Church and now live in the mountains of Virginia.

Our *paschal candle and stained red oak stand*, crafted by Marklin Candle Design of Contoocook, New Hampshire, is a visible sign of God's enduring presence in our beautiful century-old sanctuary. Rooted in Passover (Pesach) and adopted by early Christians, the lit candle represents the Risen Christ's triumph over darkness and death, his resurrection, to become the Light of the world. The beeswax

candle is inscribed with a Cross and an *alpha* and *omega*, symbols attesting to Christ's presence among us always. Traditionally, the candle, reminding us that we are preeminently an Easter People, is lit during worship services throughout the fifty days of Eastertide from Easter to Pentecost.

★ ***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: *Book of Common Worship, Eucharistic Prayers, Feasting on the Word, and Glory to God (hymnal)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926. Cover: Peter Koenig, *Mary Meets Jesus After the Resurrection*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

These Days devotional books for April-June are available in the foyer.

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.

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/>



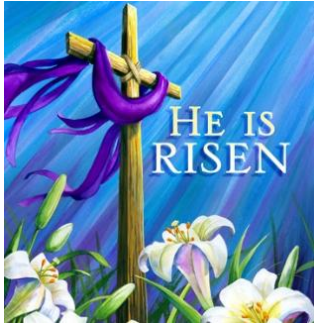
The FPC church office will be closed on Monday, April 6, in observance of the Easter Holiday.

“Wilmington on Fire,” a documentary about the 1898 Wilmington Massacre, will be screened at FPC next Sunday, **April 12** at 3:00-5:30pm. All are invited. Historians ***David and Vera Cecelski*** will attend and facilitate a discussion following the viewing. Racial Equity Task Force is sponsoring the event.

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 jane_wettach@gmail.com.

First Friends: Save the date for First Friends in April! Join us on **April 25** at the home of ***Jane Wettach*** and ***Paul Baldasare***. More details coming soon. First Friends is a community of 55+ individuals who gather monthly for fellowship.

First Acts - Playreading Group: All are welcome to join in to read Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" (or sit in and listen!) on **Saturday, May 16**, 9am-12pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Two guest facilitators will join us that morning, allowing us to explore the play more deeply and to think about what themes from this Pulitzer Prize winning play are still relevant to our lives today. Next week, a link will be provided to register and gather some additional information. For more information, please contact ***Mason Essif*** at masonessif@comcast.net or ***Chris Uithoven*** at chris.uithoven614@gmail.com.



In celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord this Easter Sunday morning, April 5, 2026, First Presbyterian Church members and friends have chosen to honor the memory or life of loved ones and friends by making gifts toward the purchase of our Easter lilies and for contributions to the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* which helps to feed the hungry, assist victims of disasters, and enable the poor to help themselves.

The names of those so honored and the donors of those gifts are as follows:

Given By...	In Loving Memory of ...
Brianna Bennett	Naomi Ruth Honea (grandma)
Robert and Jane Brawley	Sara Frances Brawley
Doug, Amanda, & Sam Brown	Charles Brown
Conrad & Linda Carter	Easter Vanhook
Mary Ann, Will, & Anna Compton	Webb McCracken
Drew Cummings	Miriam Zoet Cummings
Mindy Douglas	Marilyn Hedgpeth, Mitzi Lesher-Thomas & Amanda Briggs
Megan Dubiel	Jessica Milford
Susan Dunlap	Harold & Jean Dunlap
Mason Essif & Paul Lee	George & Dorothy Essif
Barbara & Peter Fish	Olga & John Maly (parents), Marion & Laurens Fish (parents)
Annie & George Gentithes	David Bowers
Joe Harvard & family	Carlisle Caughman Harvard, Rebecca & Sherwood Harvard, Elizabeth & James Caughman
Michael Honeycutt	Maxie Honeycutt, Tom Cotton
Mary-Jo Keenan	Edward & Ruthanne Keenan (parents)
Bet Lawson	Dewey Lawson
Marcia, David, Stephen & Anna Lorimer	William Lorimer
Jody & Julie Maxwell	Margaret, Betty Anne, Barbara, & Faith (grandmothers)

Tara McKibben	Kate Busa & service dog, Lucee McKibben
Ellie & Bruce Meade	Our parents
Elizabeth Sweezey Morrell	Elaine Farquhar
Beth & Vernon Neece	Alva & Eva Martin, Ralph Neece & Helen Neece Penwell
Izzy Allison Pleasants	Mitzi Leshner-Thomas
Alice Raney	Thomas Raney
Floalice Piper Reaves	Leonard & Edwina Piper
Steve Rimmer, Lyn & John Williams	Martha Rimmer, David Rimmer
Michael Roane	Debra Brundidge (sister)
Caroline Davis Rourk	Malcolm Henderson Rourk, Jr, Jane Davis Rourk, Malcolm Henderson Rourk III, Javan Davis, Christopher Michael Whitworth
Emily J. Schneider	Mary K. Turkington
Shane Stansbury	Glen Stansbury
Christine Uithoven	Thomas (father) & Tom (brother) Uithoven
Phyllis Verhey	Allen Verhey
John & Tate Weicher	Alice & John Weicher
Emily Wilkins	Carlisle Harvard, Renee Good, Alex Pretti
Jane Williams	Roger Kalthoff
Jean & Chuck Wilson	Charles & Martha Wilson (parents), Leon & Dorothy Jones (parents)
Given By...	In Honor of ...
The Abels	FPC clergy & church staff
Al and Judy Arrowood	Ben & John Causey
Robert and Jane Brawley	Anna Patrick Brawley
George Danser & Jean Cary	Harriett Mitchell, Joe Harvard
Esther Hethcox, Lori Pistor	In celebration of Mindy's 10 th anniversary as Senior Pastor
Becky Martin	All the service men and women currently serving our country

Elizabeth Sweezey Morrell	Dolores Oakley
Ed & Caroline Pritchett	Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
Caroline Davis Rourk	Elizabeth Davis
Phyllis Supple	Family & friends

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

Congratulations to **Mary Ann and Will Compton** who became grandparents for the first time last weekend! **Elliot Webb Compton** was born on March 28 to **James and Ginny Compton**.

We remember in prayer:

Tony Brown

John Fricks

Lee House

Vickie Luboff

Peggy Needham

Phyllis Verhey

Paul Cornsweet

Sue Fricks

Ann Huff

Elizabeth Manceras

Franzi Rokoske

Sam Crabtree

Joe Harvard

Kelli Hunnicut

Harriett Mitchell

Nora Tisdale

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Bob Lewis

Fred Moore

David Verner

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley, Elizabeth High,
Alfred Tisdale**

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

Ashley Alvord, colleague of Sharon Hirsch

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Sara Degand, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Gera Fleming, mother of Christyn Klinck

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Donna Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Anthony Ketcham, brother of Wil James

Marcia Magee, aunt of Kathryn Muchison

Marie Maly, sister of Barbara Fish

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman

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

Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Tanya Watkins, friend of Leigh Wynkoop

232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

242 Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

Day of de-light and beau-ty un-bound-ed, tell the news, the

gos-pel spread! Day of all won-der, day of all splen-dor, praise Christ

ris-en from the dead! 1 Sing of the sun from dark-ness ap-
2 Sing now of mourn-ing turned in-to

pear-ing; sing of the seed from bar-ren earth green-ing;
danc-ing; sing now the mys-tery, hope of our glo-ry;

sing of cre-a-tion, al-le-lu-ia! Sing of the
sing with thanks-giv-ing, al-le-lu-ia! Sing now of

stream from Je-sus' side flow-ing; sing of the saints in
fast-ing turned in-to feast-ing; sing the Lord's fa-vor

wa-ter made ho-ly; sing of sal-va-tion, al-le-lu-ia!
last-ing for-ev-er; sing, all things liv-ing, al-le-lu-ia!

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday • Newsletter Deadline

Following Worship

No Children's Music Today

Monday, April 6

Church Office Closed

4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

Tuesday, April 7

1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)

Wednesday, April 8

1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday, April 9

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

Friday, April 10

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Sunday, April 12

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching.

Following Worship

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)

3:00 PM Wilmington on Fire Screening (Wilson Parlor)

5:00 PM Youth Group: Guru Night and Senior Project (Youth Room)

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
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>.

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