



*"Forgiving"* by Jan Richardson

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

September 13, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

**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

**PRELUDE**

Fughetta in C

comp. Dietrich Buxtehude

**INTROIT**

Zion's Walls

comp. Aaron Copland

*Come fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, come join us in singing the praises of Zion*

*O fathers, don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion?*

*We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: People of God, bless the Lord.

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**People: so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN No. 81**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in  
harmony with one another.**

**We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,  
closed-minded in our beliefs, and  
judgemental in our opinions.**

**We have shunned those whose ways we do not  
understand, and we have despised those who  
do not endorse our convictions.**

**Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, and  
heal our divisiveness and quarreling.  
Help us to be charitable in our regard for others  
that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is  
Lord of all.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*REGATHERING HYMN No. 582**

Glory to God,  
Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Amy Dillon

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Holy One, in this moment of our worship, open  
our understanding that we may receive the Word of  
life.**

**Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 18:21-35

(Pew Bible, NT Page 20)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Amy Dillon

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE READING**

Romans 14:1-12

(Pew Bible, NT Page 163)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"We Live to the Lord"*

Mindy Douglas

*(silent reflection)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Esther Hethcox

**The church is founded on Jesus Christ.**

**Gathered around the Word and sacraments, those who  
confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, together with  
their children,**

**have formed a corporate, visible body in  
pilgrimage with God across the centuries.**

**We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world  
through this community of ordinary people, therefore we dare  
not despise or abandon the church.**

**Christ is the foundation of the church, therefore it  
will not fall despite our weakness.**

**We are confident that the Lord of the church will judge and  
defeat our sinful intentions and actions, help us in our  
weakness and blindness, and use the church to accomplish  
his purposes.**

**\*HYMN NO. 769**

For Everyone Born (verses 1-3, 5)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

John Weicher

**DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory

All Things Bright and Beautiful

comp. John Rutter

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.  
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God  
made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. The  
purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset  
and the morning that brightens up the sky. The cold wind in  
the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the  
garden, God made them every one. God gave us eyes to see  
them and lips that we might tell, how great is God almighty  
who has made all things well.*

## \*DOXOLOGY

HOPSON

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all  
peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -  
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

Chord symbols: G, C, Am7, Dsus, D, G, D, Am7, Dsus, D, Am7, D, G, Am7, G, Am7, D, G.

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

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Lord, satisfy us with your love in the morning,

**People: and we will live this day with joy and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray.

*(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)*

**People: 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. 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

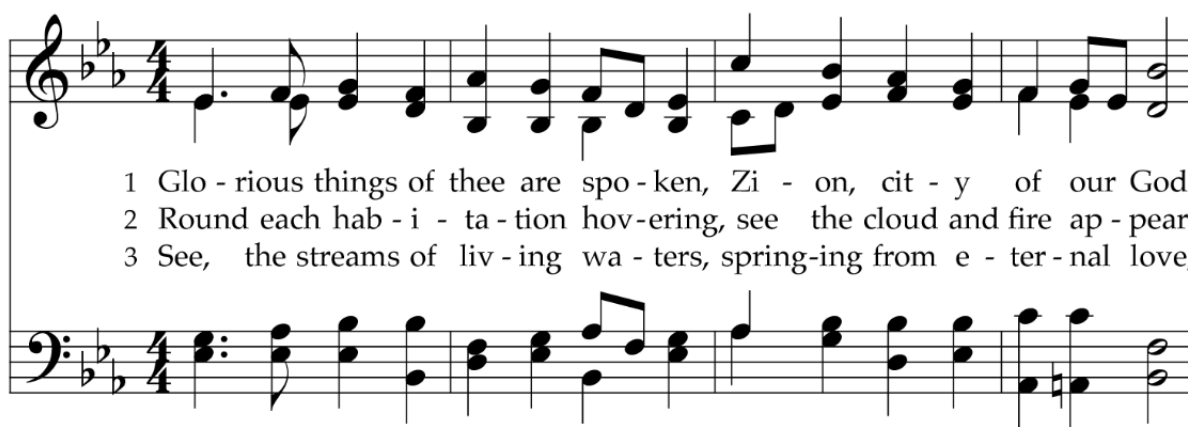
## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

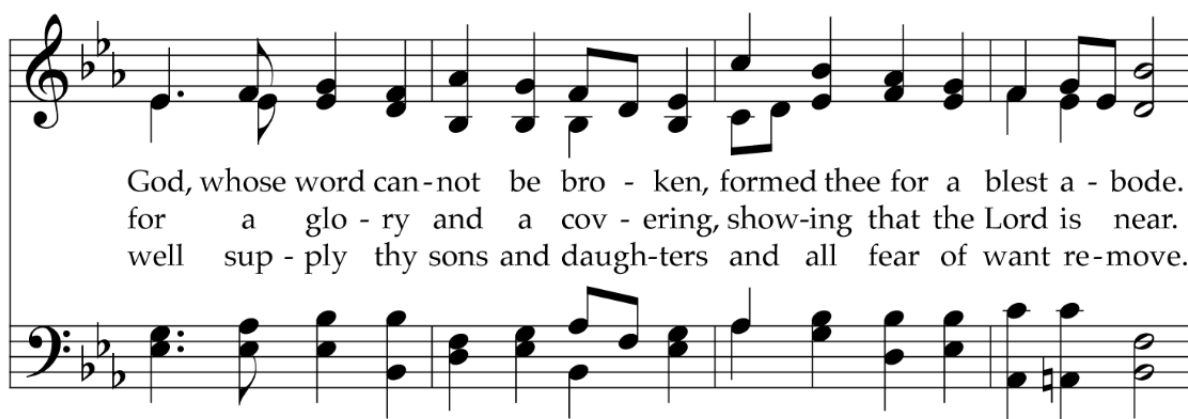
## \*POSTLUDE

Toccata in G

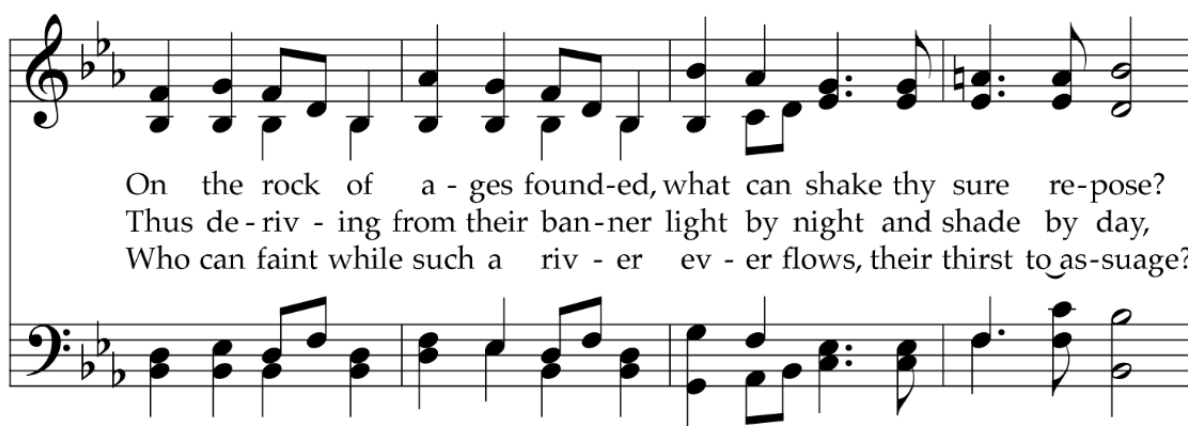
comp. Théodore Dubois



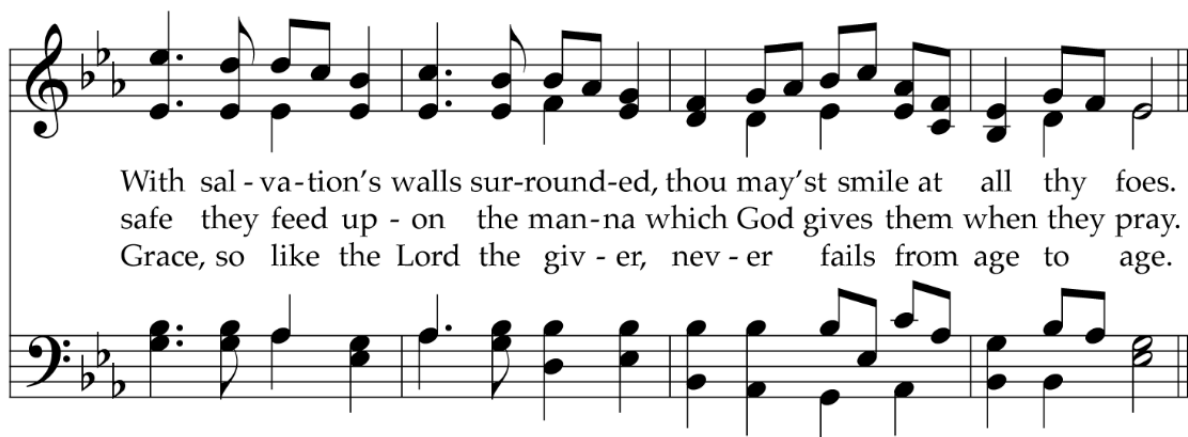
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.  
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.  
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?  
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.  
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

*E Leader or All* *A2*

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,  
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

*E* *A2* *Bsus* *B*

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,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

*F#m7* *E/G#* *A2* *Bsus*

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,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

*E* *Bsus* *E* *Bsus*

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 ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

*Refrain* *B All* *E* *E/G#* *A2* *Bsus* *B*

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

*E* *E/G#* *A2* *Bsus* *B*

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

*C#m* *C#m/B* *A2*

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

*Bsus* *B* *(E)* *Fine* *A2* *E* *Bsus* *B*

jus - tice and joy!

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."

## Worship Notes

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Sign In

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.



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 honor of his first Sunday with the Chancel Choir by *Matthew Moore, Minister of Music*.

Today we welcome *Deborah Coclanis* as she accompanies the Chancel Choir. Deborah has played here many times before and we are grateful she is sharing her gifts with us again today.

***Flower Donation Opportunities Available:*** There are open dates for worship flower donors in November. To sign up, visit [bit.ly/FPCflowers26](https://bit.ly/FPCflowers26) or click on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter.

***Portions of today's worship resources*** come from *Feasting on the Word* and *A Declaration of Faith* (section I). ***Music*** is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

***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.

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## Upcoming 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/>



***Youth Group Kickoff:*** That giant inflatable slide from faith formation kickoff? Yeah, we're not letting that go to waste. We'll turn on the hose to make it a waterslide at our youth group kickoff, **this afternoon, 5-7 p.m.** We'll meet our new advisors (Alexis, Caroline & George), reconnect with familiar friends (including Mimi & John), decorate onesies for advisor Kati's new baby, and learn about our theme for the year, *We Can Do Hard Things*. Friends are always welcome, and it's a great time to join us, even if it has been a minute.

***Meeting for Parents, Stepparents, & Caregivers of Youth:*** Join us **this afternoon at 5:45 p.m. in the Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall** for a potluck dinner with our 6-12th graders (please bring a dish to share.) Afterwards, we're meeting to talk about the year, a few key details, and why youth ministry really matters. This is for all youth parents, from first timers to grizzled veterans, at least one per family.

***Reception for Matthew Moore:*** Please join us **after worship on September 20** for a reception to welcome our new Minister of Music, Matthew Moore. We are delighted to have him aboard!

***All Church Potluck:*** The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to a potluck on **September 20th at 4:00 p.m.** at Sparks Pavillion at Croasdaile Village. Please bring a dish to share, your own drink, and a chair. Come join for good food, intergenerational fellowship, and some beautiful weather!

***Fall Book Club: How the Word Is Passed:*** Join FPC's Racial Equity Task Force this fall for a book club tour by Zoom, from Monticello to the African American History Museum in DC, reading Clint Smith's *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, one of the *New York Times*' top ten books of 2021. Six sessions run every other **Thursday, 7–8 p.m., September 10 through November 19**; please have your book ready before the first meeting. To get the Zoom link or sign up to lead a discussion, RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/retf-book-club-2026>

***The Somethings Book Group:*** Join us **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** in *Esther's office* for a laid-back book discussion group. This fall we're reading through *Shameless* by Nadia Bolz-Weber (September), *The Women of Wild Hill* by Kirsten Miller (October), and *Rap and Redemption on Death Row* by Alim Braxton (November), with *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor carrying us into Advent (December). All are welcome to jump in at any point.

***Save the Date: First Acts Reads The Crucible:*** Join us **Saturday, October 3, from 9 a.m.–noon** in the Daye Meeting Room for a reading of Arthur Miller's award-winning drama about the Salem Witch Trials. The play's themes of community and family torn apart by ideology, theology, and mass hysteria in 1600s New England still offer valuable insight into our world today. No theater experience needed, all are welcome, and roles will be assigned that morning. Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/first-acts-crucible>

***Building Update: Rebuilding Together:*** Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins **October 1, 2026**. Funded by the 2022 Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign, the project will improve accessibility, renovate the Fellowship Hall, add an elevator, reconfigure volunteer/Walk-In Ministry offices, add a columbarium and basement showers, plus several other additional renovations. Once construction begins, the Fellowship Hall will close and volunteer offices will move, the kitchen stays open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. **Join us for an information session and renovation update on September 20, 2026 at 9:45 a.m. in the Watts Hill Fellowship Hall.** Questions? Email [office@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:office@firstpres-durham.org).

## ~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

### We offer our condolences to:

**Donald Turner**, FPC's Facilities Associate, upon the death of his mother-in-law, **Eaddie Cheatham** this week.

### We remember in prayer:

**Ann Tidwell**, hospitalized in Florida. Ann is the mother of our Communications Associate, **Brandi Kirkland**.

**Tony Brown**

**Paul Cornsweet**

**Sam Crabtree**

**Susan Cyr**

**Sue Fricks**

**Joe Harvard**

**Elizabeth High**

**Kerry Holbrook**

**Lee House**

**Ann Huff**

**Jenni James**

**Harriett Mitchell**

**Fred Moore**

**Franzi Rokoske**

### Care Communities:

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

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

Pruitt Health - Durham: **Fred Callaway**

Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

Southpoint Atria: **Madge McKeithen**

Chatham Ridge Assisted Living: **John Fricks**

### 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

**Minnie Sue Douglas**, mother of Mindy Douglas

**Rosalynn Farrell**, mother of Rachel Bethune

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

**Cheryl Fowler**, friend of Cheri Reece

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

**Larry Hethcox**, father of Esther Hethcox

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

**Lydia Still and Emory Grace**, daughter and granddaughter of Kelli Hunnicutt

**Katie Jackson**, wife of Matthew Hirsch

**Donna Johnson**, mother of Ann Huff

**Anthony Ketcham**, brother-in-law of Wil James

**Elizabeth Manceras**, mother of Julio Manceras

**Sandra Mikush**, mother of Katie Fogleman

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

**Patrick O'Neill**, father of Brianna Bennett

**Janet and James Ouzts**, sister and brother-in-law of Celia Dickerson

**Rebecca Todd ("Toddie") Peters**, mother of Sophie Peters

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

**Joe Quirk**, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

**Annie Reaves**, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

**Vivian Turner**, mother of Donald Turner

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chamblis

## This Week at a Glance!

**Sunday, September 13, 2026**

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Kickoff Sunday*

- 9 **45 AM** Faith Formation Kick-off (Back Lawn)
- 1 **00 AM** Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching
- 5 **00 PM** Youth Group Kick-off (Back Lawn)

### Monday, September 14

- 9 **00 AM – 12:00 PM** Walk-In Ministry
- 1 **30 AM** Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study
- 1 **30 PM** Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 6 **00 PM** Property Committee (Room 205)
- 6 **00 PM** Christian Education Committee (Zoom)
- 6 **00 PM** Personnel Committee (Room 209)
- 6 **30 PM** Service & Mission Committee (Fellowship Hall)
- 7 **00 PM** Worship and The Arts Committee

### Thursday, September 17

- 9:00 **AM – 12:00 PM** Walk-In Ministry

### Tuesday, September 15

- 7:00 **PM** The Somethings Book Group (Associate Pastor's Study)

### Friday, September 18

### Wednesday, September 16

- 7:00 **PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### Saturday, September 19

### Sunday, September 20

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

- 9 **45 AM** Faith Formation for All Ages
- 1 **00 AM** Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching
- 1 **15 PM** Welcome Reception Honoring Matthew Moore (Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall)
- 1 **15 PM** MnM Gathering (Room 205 + Room 209)
- 4 **00 PM** All Church Potluck (Sparks Park at Croasdaile Village)
- 5 **00 – 7:00 PM** Youth Group

## CHURCH STAFF

*Janet Askew, Business Associate*  
*Lenore Champion, Director of Children's Ministry*  
*Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff*  
*Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate*  
*Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton*  
*Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus*



*Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor*  
*Brandi Kirkland, Communications Associate*  
*Matthew Moore, Minister of Music*  
*Donald Turner, Facilities Associate*  
*John Weicher, Associate Pastor*  
*Betsy Williams, Church Administrator*

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[office@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:office@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.