

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

New Member Service

September 20, 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

Sicilienne

comp. Robert Jones

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Come, friends. Come near to the Lord.

People: Lord, be with us this day.

Leader: Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.

Leader: Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.

People: Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in your name.

***HYMN NO. 694**

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

in your gracious presence

we confess our sin and the sin of the world.

Although Christ is among us as our peace,

we are a people divided against ourselves

as we cling to the values of a broken world.

The profit and pleasures we pursue

lay waste the land and pollute the seas.

The fears and jealousies that we harbor

set neighbor against neighbor

and nation against nation.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world

as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 582

Glory to God

GLORY TO GOD

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

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

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

Chris Uithoven

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, your Word surprises,
challenges, upsets

and overturns our way of seeing and thinking.

Come and find us today

wherever we are, however we are.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

cause that which is withering in us to blossom

and that which is exacting in us to broaden

until we see as you see,

and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 1:21-30

(Pew Bible, NT Page 196)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Chris Uithoven

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

(Pew Bible, NT Page 21)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Is It Fair or Is It Grace?"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

*HYMN NO. 773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Earth Song

John Weicher
comp. Frank Ticheli*Sing, Be, Live, See...**This dark stormy hour, the wind, it stirs.**The scorched earth cries out in vain:**O war and power, you blind and blur.**The torn heart cries out in pain.**But music and singing have been my refuge.**And music and singing shall be my light.**A light of song shining strong: Alleluia!**Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll**Sing, Be, Live, See, Peace, Peace.**(silent reflection)*

*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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mindy Douglas

Words of Welcome and Introduction

*Affirmation of Faith (in unison) The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

John Weicher

Leader: 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)

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. 852**

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

I'LL FLY AWAY

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Agincourt Hymn

comp. John Dunstable

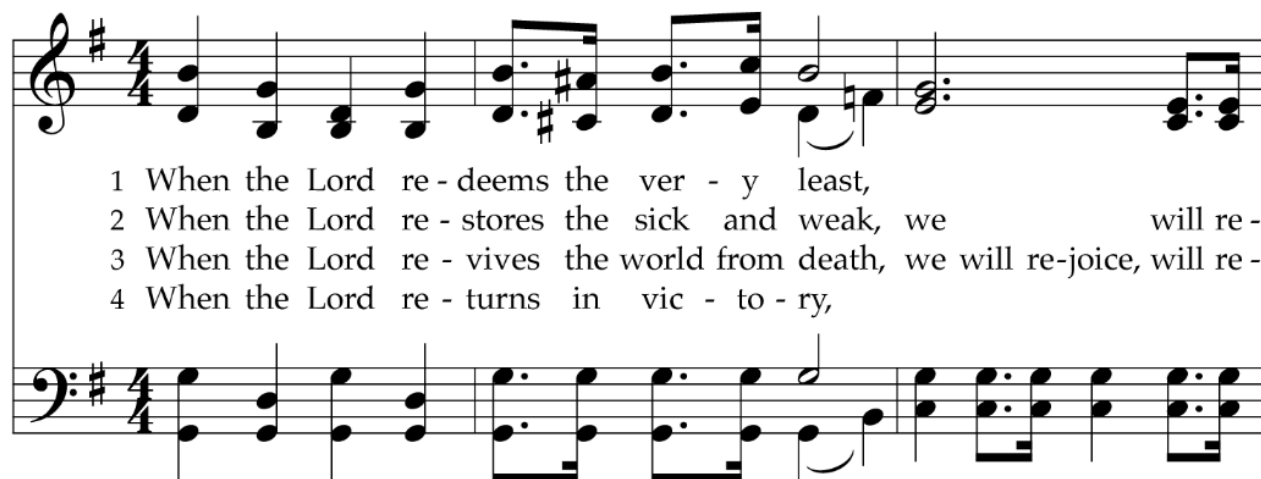
Following worship, please join us in Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall for a reception welcoming our new Minister for Music, ***Matthew Moore***.

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

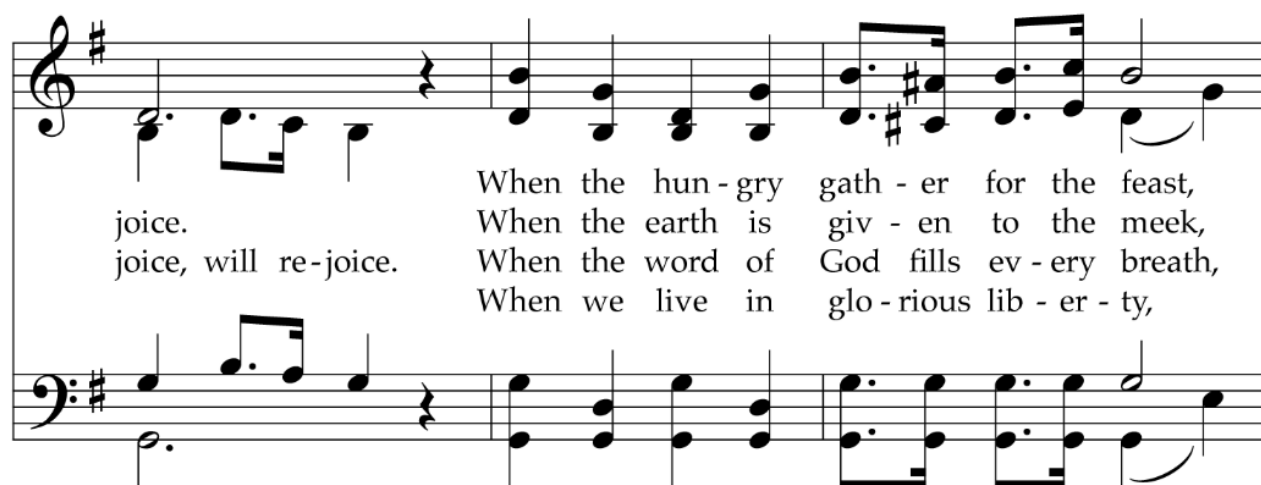
you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.



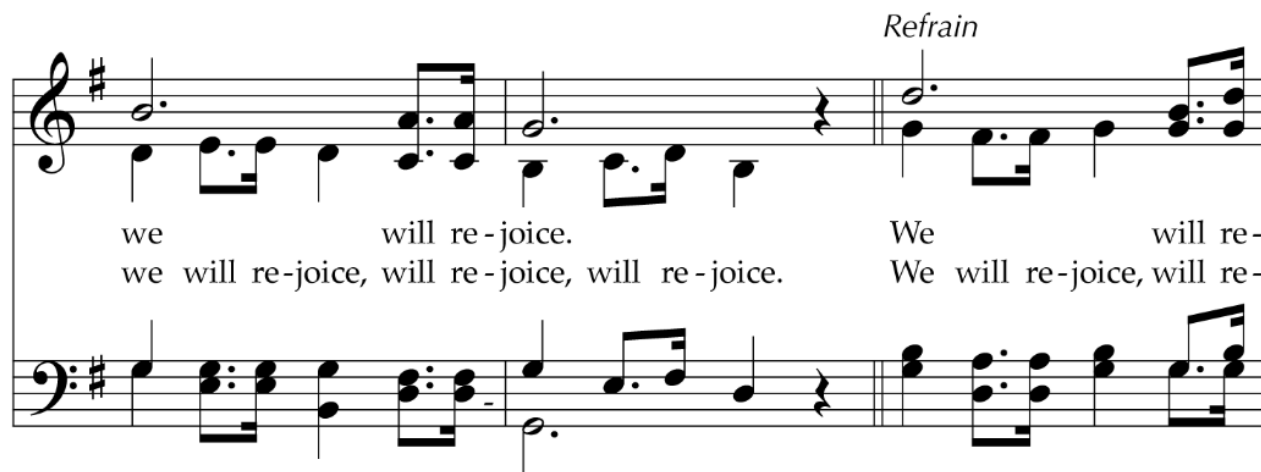
1 When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least,
 2 When the Lord re - stores the sick and weak, we will re -
 3 When the Lord re - vives the world from death, we will re-joyce, will re -
 4 When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry,



joyce.
 joyce, will re-joyce.

When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast,
 When the earth is giv - en to the meek,
 When the word of God fills ev - ery breath,
 When we live in glo - rious lib - er - ty,

Refrain



we will re-joyce. We will re-
 we will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-

joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce.
 joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce with glad-ness. All our

We will re-joyce!
 days we'll sing to God in praise. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce!



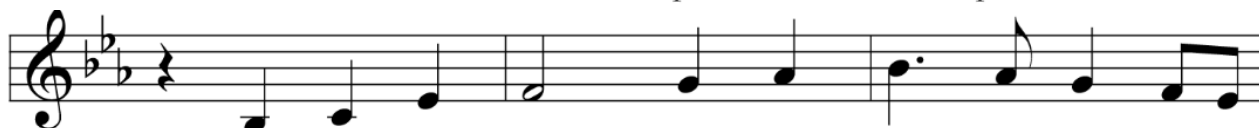
1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
 2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
 3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i-de-as,
 4 Heaven shall not wait for tri-um-phant Hal-le-lu-jahs,



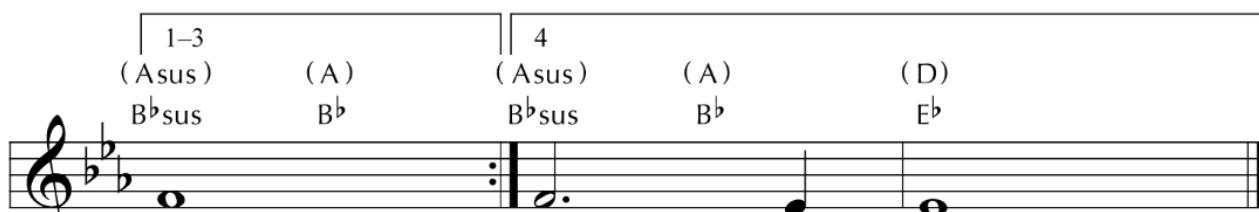
the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
 the proud to fall, the e-lite to tend the least:
 thoughts of com-pas-sion di-vorced from cries of pain:
 when earth has passed and we reach an-oth-er shore:



Je-sus is Lord; he has cham-pioned the un-want-ed;
 Je-sus is Lord; he has shown the mas-ter's priv-ilege:
 Je-sus is Lord; he has mar-ried word and ac-tion;
 Je-sus is Lord in our pres-ent im-per-fec-tion;



in him in-jus-tice con-fronts its time-ly
 to kneel and wash ser-vants' feet be-fore they
 his cross and com-pa-ny make his pur-pose
 his power and love are for now and then for



end.
 feast.
 plain.

ev - er - more.

Worship Notes



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 memory of their mothers, ***Ruth*** and ***Dorothy***, by ***Jim and Patti Rogers***.

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

Portions of today's worship resources come from the *Book of Common Worship* and *Feasting on the Word*. ***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.

New Members: The following people were received into membership by the Session earlier today:

Matthew Moore (he/him): Matthew was born and raised in Kentucky, studied music at the University of Michigan, and is the new Minister of Music at First Presbyterian Church. Outside the organ bench, he's an avid reader, genealogy buff, and baker with a love of Irish and British culture.

Sharon Jones (she/her): Sharon was raised in Rocky Mount, NC, graduated from Western Carolina University, and lived in Shanghai, China for 12 years. She is officially retired, but has a small handy person business focused mostly on small electrical projects. Sharon enjoys hiking, cycling, basketball, reading, and visiting her sister in Arizona.

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/>



All Church Potluck: The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to a potluck on **this afternoon 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 us for good food, intergenerational fellowship, and some beautiful weather! You enter through the main gate. There will be a “gatekeeper.” Let him know you are going to the First Presbyterian Church picnic at Sparks Park, which is on your right after you pass two streets. Parking is on the left across from the park.

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.

Blessing of the Animals: Mark your calendars for our annual Blessing of the Animals, taking place on **September 27 at 2:00 p.m.** on the back lawn. We look forward to seeing your furry (and feathered!) friends!

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 **in early October**. 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. Questions? Email office@firstpres-durham.org.

FPC Durham at Durham Pride: Join us as First Presbyterian Church marches in the Durham Pride parade on **Saturday, October 3**, stepping off at noon. Come walk with your church family and show up for our LGBTQ+ neighbors, friends, and members. All are welcome to join the group, watch from the sidelines, or just wear your pride gear in support. More info is coming soon, so mark your calendars and keep an eye on your inbox.

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We celebrate with:

Art Baker and Lara Duffney on the birth of their daughter **Lydia Jean Baker** who was born Monday, September 14, 2026.

We offer our condolences to:

Celia Dickerson and her sister **Janet Ouzts**, upon the death of Janet's husband, **James Ouzts**.

We remember in prayer:

Esther Hethcox as she leads *Ends of the Earth*, a contemplative retreat grounded in Celtic Christian traditions this weekend.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Sue Fricks

Joe Harvard

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Harriett Mitchell

Fred Moore

Franzi Rokoske

Care Communities:

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

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

Chatham Ridge Assisted Living: **John Fricks**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Pruitt Health - Durham: **Fred Callaway**

Southpoint Atria: **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

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 Ouzts, sister 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

Ann Tidwell, mother of Brandi Kirkland

Vivian Turner, mother of Donald Turner

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; New Member Service

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

12:15 PM Welcome Reception Honoring Matthew Moore (Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall)

12:15 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

Monday, September 21

9:00 – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

1:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting (Pastor's Study)

4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall)

6:00 PM Leadership Team (Zoom)

6:30 PM Fellowship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

6:30 PM Welcome & Belonging Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 23

1:00 PM Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

7:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force Book Club (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 22

11:30 AM Daytimers' Luncheon (Thai Café - 2501 University Dr, Durham, NC 27707)

5:00 PM Finance & Investment Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

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

Friday, September 25

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Saturday, September 26

Sunday, September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: John Weicher, preaching

12:15 PM Diaconate Meeting

2:00 – 3:00 PM Blessing of the Animals (Back Lawn)

5:00 – 7:00 PM Youth Group at Farm Church (Watts & Green St.)

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 or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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