



Moses, by John August Swanson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

September 27, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hunger for Change

September 27, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Caroline Means

World Communion Offering

PRELUDE

Pastorale

comp. Charles Wesley

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Weicher

Leader: Listen, people of God!

People: Hear the wonders of our Creator!

Leader: God split the sea;

People: walls of water towered above.

Leader: God guided our ancestors in faith:

People: clouds by day, lightning by night.

Leader: God split open the rock;

People: water flowed like rivers.

Leader: God split open the heavens and met earth.

People: God meets us still.

***HYMN NO. 386**

Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

**we have been wandering in the
wilderness of sin.**

We have complained in the face of your mercy.

**We have been selfish and conceited in the
face of your sacrifice.**

We have not done your will.

Teach us humility.

Teach us gratitude.

**Infuse your spirit into our beings,
so that we might be reconciled to you.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*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, 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

Ben Gunn

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God,

we do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from your mouth.

Make us hungry for this heavenly food,

that it may nourish us today

in the ways of eternal life;

through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

PSALTER

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

(Pew Bible, OT Page 537)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Ben Gunn

People: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

(Pew Bible, OT Page 64)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Candy Bars from Heaven"

John Weicher

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Adapted from *The Heidelberg Catechism*)

Esther Hethcox

Leader: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

**People: We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have good confidence
in our faithful God and Parent
that nothing in creation will separate us from God's love.
For all creatures are so completely in God's hand
that without God's will
they can neither move nor be moved.**

***HYMN NO. 453**

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

YISRAEL V'ORAITA

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

A New Commandment

comp. Thomas Tallis

*A new commandment give I unto you, saith the Lord,
that ye love together as I have loved you,
that e'en so ye love one another.
By this shall everyone know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another.*

(The *Hunger for Change Offering* will be received following the anthem.)

**Doxology*

HOPSON

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

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

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Satisfy us with your love in the morning,

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

Leader: Let us pray.

**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 today our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

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. 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

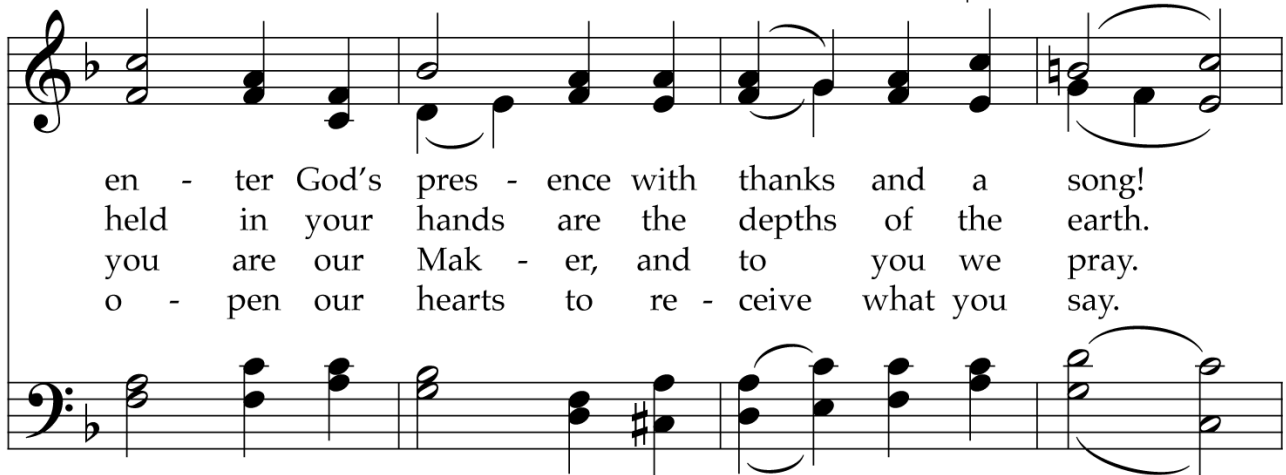
***POSTLUDE**

Musique Royale

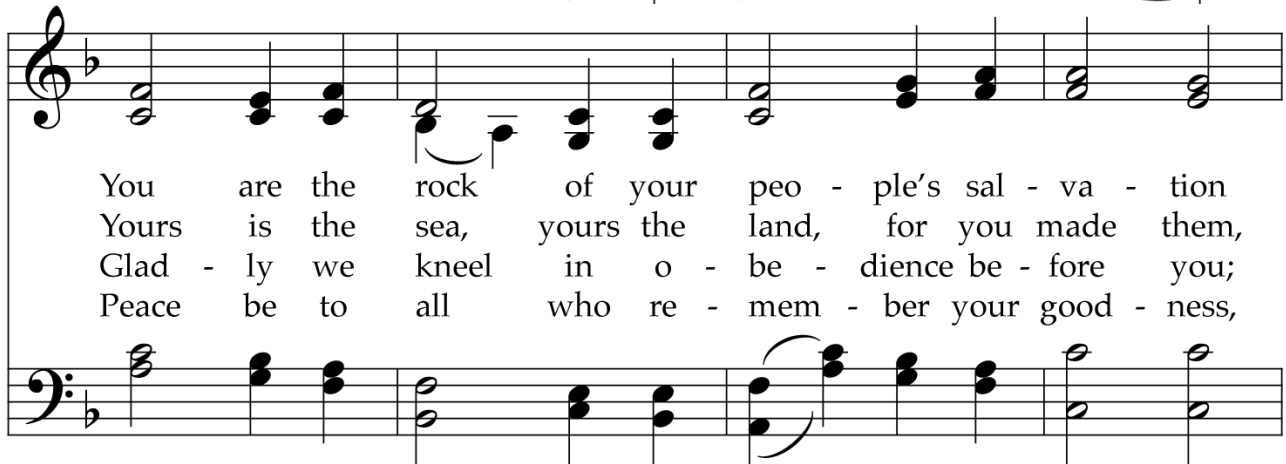
comp. Michel-Richard Delalande



1 Come, wor - ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;



en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.



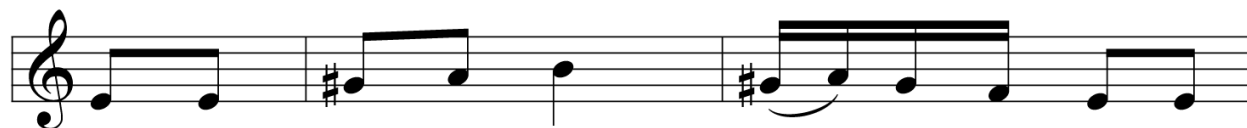
You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,



to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!



1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple; o - pen your
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have



ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O
 ears, now let them hear; they who would learn the



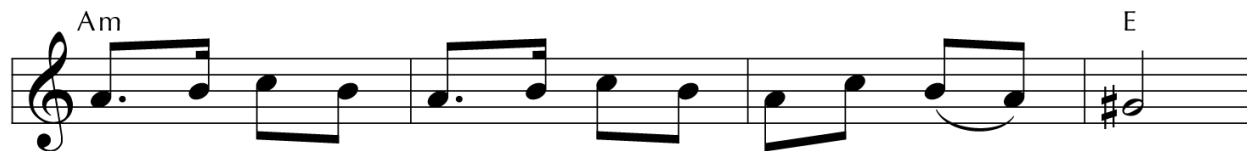
roy - al priest - hood; God has come to you.
 way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain

God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



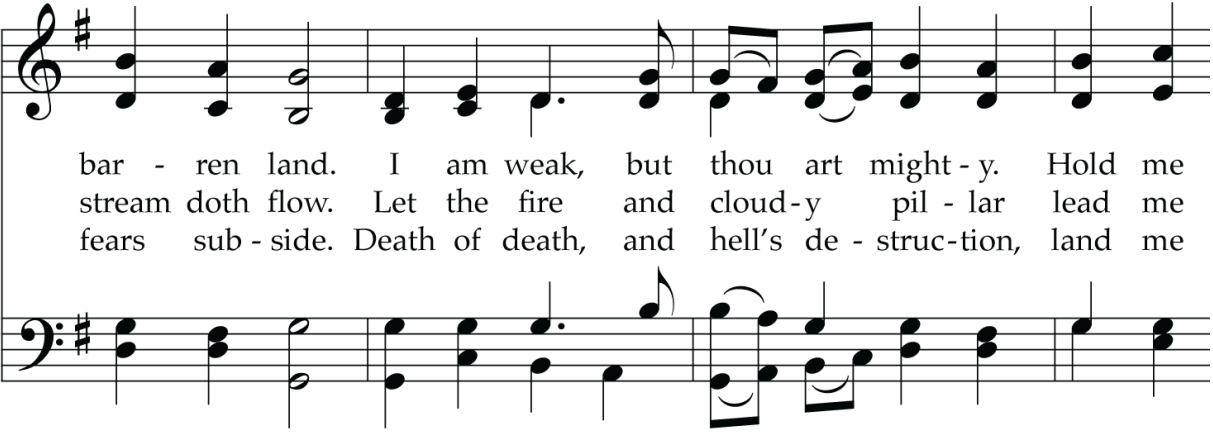
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
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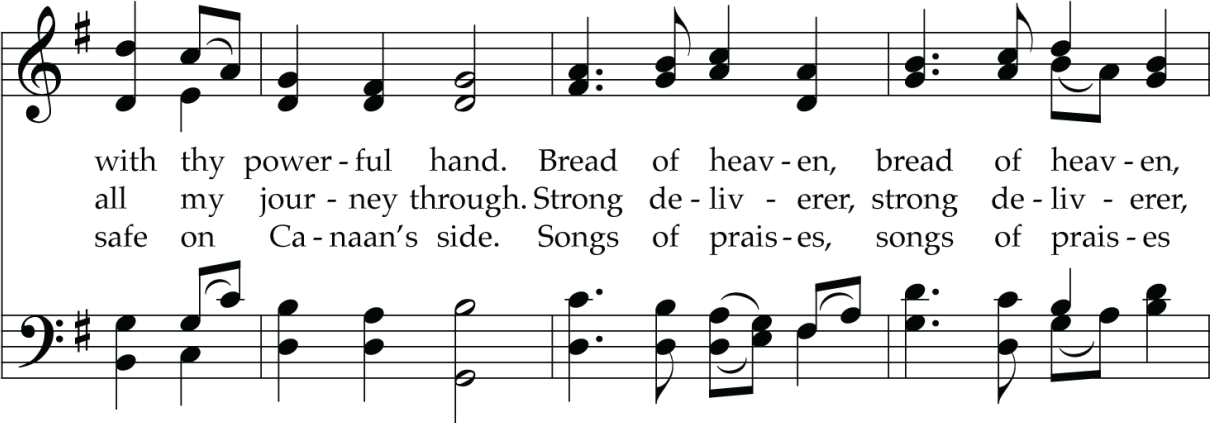
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

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 *Alice & John C. Weicher* by *Rev. John V. Weicher*, on the occasion of what would have been their 54th wedding anniversary.

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.

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/>



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 **today, September 27 at 2 p.m.** on the back lawn. We look forward to seeing your furry (and feathered!) friends!

Men of Faith: The First Presbyterian Men of Faith will meet at Mad Hatters Bakery on **Friday, October 2, 8 a.m.**, for breakfast, coffee and fellowship. All are welcome.

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.

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.

Registration deadline is **today, September 27**: <https://tinyurl.com/first-acts-crucible>

The Somethings Annual Retreat 2026: It's time for our annual fall retreat! Join the FPC Somethings (our 20s and 30s ministry) **October 16-18** for a weekend of connection, spirituality, and rest at Ocean Isle, NC. We'll be staying at a beautiful house right on the water, and worship will include a newly commissioned communion set, plus more surprises to come. Please reach out to Pastor Esther (e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org) for more information.

Support Group for People Affected with Mental Health Challenges and their Loved Ones:

If you or a family member is living with mental health challenges, you are invited to gather with others with similar experiences to discuss ways to share mutual support. This may mean forming one group that includes both families and people living with a mental illness, or it may mean forming two separate groups. The group is meant to be a place to find community and encouragement. It will not include counseling or therapy. We are hoping to create a space for conversation and a chance to explore spiritual resources for strength and hope. If you are interested in attending an initial meeting, email communications@firstpres-durham.org for more information.

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.

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We celebrate with:

Kati Ruark, husband **Daniel Dziuban**, and son **Sam** welcomed baby **Nell** to their family on September 18.

We offer our condolences to:

Sara Radtke upon the death of her father, **Joe Hushion**, at the age of 96.

We remember in prayer:

Peggy Hammond who is recovering at home following a brief stay at Duke hospital last Sunday.

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 27

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
Hunger for Change*

9:30 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal

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 (Watts & Green Sts.)

Monday, September 28

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)

7:00 PM Session Meeting (Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, October 1

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

Friday, October 2

4:30 PM Youth Beach Retreat (HS)

6:00 PM Open Play Mah Jongg

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

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

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 3

9:00 AM Youth Beach Retreat (MS)

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM First Acts – FPC's Play Reading Group

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Property Committee Campus Workday

12:00 – 2:00 PM FPC Marches in Durham Pride!

Sunday, October 4

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
World Communion Sunday*

9:45 AM Adult and Children's Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Nora Tubbs Tisdale, preaching

12:00 PM Youth Beach Retreat Returns

7:00 PM Slide Show on the Birds of the Peruvian Rainforest

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