**Newsletter Article | May 20, 2025**

**Dear Friends,**

At the installation service for Esther Hethcox on May 4, 2025, one of our colleagues from the Presbytery of New Hope, the Rev. Antonio Lawrence, issued a charge to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. This charge relates to our relationship with Esther Hethcox as she serves as our Associate Pastor. Below you will find that charge, as well as a link to the recorded service. I hope you will take the time to read it, watch it, and absorb his words.

Grace & Peace,
Mindy

---

## Charge to the congregation for Rev. Esther Hethcox
## First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our creator, sustainer, and our redeemer. It is with great joy that I stand here today to give this charge to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church Durham. I was talking to our Moderator, and we laughed that we are no longer the young voices of our presbytery, but the voices that guide the direction of who we are becoming as a church. I am reminded that the call of the pastor dances between a few partners. The Church, the Pastor, and the Presbytery. I am offering these words to you as you all journey together as Pastor and People.

- Equip her on the Journey
    - Prayers
    - Presence
    - Participation
- Embrace her on the Journey
    - Humanity
    - Heritage
    - Hope
- Empower her on the Journey
    - Person
    - Pastor
    - Prophet
- Equity on the Journey with her
    - Please live into your congregational commitment as a community.
- Encourage her
    - The community is your pulpit and the public square remains your parish

Serve well my friend.
The worship service can be found **here**. The charge to the congregation begins at minute 55:27.

*Written by the Rev. Antonio Lawrence, pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, NC, for the occasion of the Rev. Esther Hethcox's installation as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC on May 4, 2025.*