



© ISA CUMMINGS, 12TH GRADE

First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina

November 23, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 23, 2025

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

PRELUDE

Ornamented Chorale on Lobe den Herren

Larry Visser

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!
People: Christ will reign forever and ever.
Leader: God has established the world and God's realm will never be shaken.
People: Christ will reign forever and ever.
Leader: The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord.
All: Christ will reign forever and ever.
Let us worship God.

***HYMN NO. 263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Coronation

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Righteous God,

you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him,
and are slow to acknowledge his rule.

We give allegiance to the powers of this world,
and fail to be governed by justice and love.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,

that we may be loyal ambassadors,

obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Franzi Rokoske

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray.

All: **Sovereign God,
let your Word rule in our hearts
and your Spirit govern our lives
until at last we see the fulfillment
of your realm of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

(Pew Bible, OT Page 725)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Franzi Rokoske

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 1:11-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 200)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“The King of Love”

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From Colossians 1:15-20

Esther Hethcox

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.**

**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 270**

O Lord, You Are My God and King

Jerusalem

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

Gift of Bibles to 3rd Graders

Presentation

Congregational Response: As you read this Bible,
may you find God's love for you and the world
embedded in every word.
May you find grace, peace, truth, and hope in the stories of God
and God's son Jesus Christ.
As you read, bring your faith
as well as your questions and doubts.
We look forward to growing together in our lives of faith.

Prayer and Blessing

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

Through Every Age, Eternal God

Stratfield, arr. Alice Parker

Through every age, eternal God, you are our rest, our safe abode.

High was thy throne ere heaven was made, or earth thy humble footstool laid.

Long hadst thou reigned ere time began, or dust was fashioned into man;

And long thy Kingdom shall endure, when earth and time shall be no more.

Forever shall thy throne endure; thy promise stands forever sure,

And everlasting holiness becomes the dwelling of thy grace.

*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

Mindy Douglas

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: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.
You fashioned this world in love,
and govern all the earth with grace and peace.
Nations and monarchs rise and fall,
but your reign is for all time,
and your mercy is without end.
In love you made us to love and serve you.
When we turned from you
and bent our knees to gods of our own making,
you spoke through prophets
to bring us back to your ways.
You gave us a vision of your holy kingdom
that we might hunger after righteousness
and thirst for justice,
and long for the day when peace will triumph
over the pride and greed of nations.
Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with the servants around heaven's throne
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

(All Sung) Hymn No 565

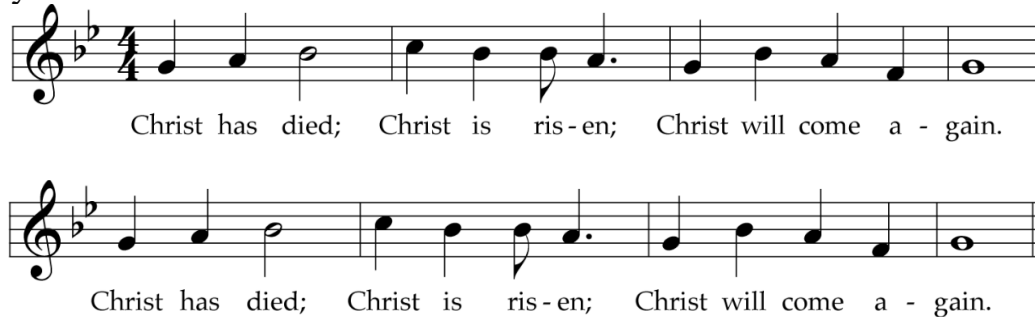
Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and
earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na in the high- est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high- est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 Born as king in David's line,
 he lived with the lowly
 and cared for the least of your children.
 His power was revealed in weakness,
 his majesty in mercy.
 His captors knelt to mock him,
 giving him bruises instead of praise,
 and piercing thorns for a crown.
 His only earthly throne was a cross on which to die.
 Even there his arms stretched out
 to embrace friends and foes in love.
 From the grave you raised him to your right hand
 where he rules again from heaven,
 and commands true loyalty from peoples and nations.
 Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
 we take from your creation this bread and this wine
 and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising
 as we await the day of his coming.
 With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
 to be a living and holy sacrifice
 dedicated to your service.

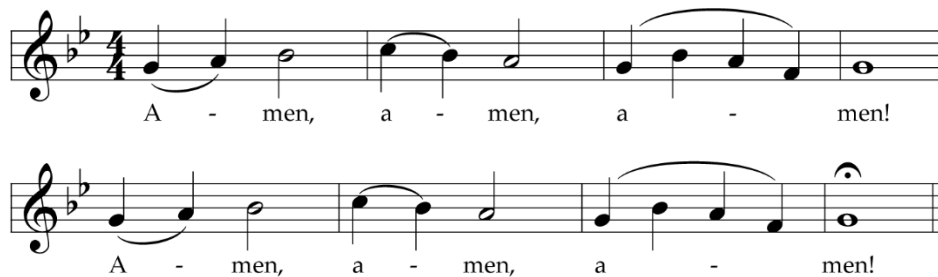
All (Sung) Hymn No. 566

Memorial Acclamation 1



Leader: Gracious God,
 pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
 that the bread we break
 and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
 By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ
 and with all who are baptized in his name,
 that we may be one in ministry in every place.
 As this bread is Christ's body for us,
 send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.
 Lead us, O God, to conform this world
 to your kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

Help us to live as the Lord requires:
 to do justice,
 to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with you, our God.
 Keep us faithful in your service
 until Christ comes in final victory
 and we shall feast with all your saints
 in the joy of your eternal realm.
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
 now and forever.



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

Mindy Douglas & Esther Hethcox

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. Parents, please assist children as they take bread and lightly dip it into 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 Hymn No. 274

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Picardy

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
 creator and ruler of the universe,

for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace.

Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes;
 through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



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.

The flowers today are given by ***Phyllis Supple*** to the glory of God and with love for her family.

Our thanks to ***Andy Lang*** for serving as organist this morning and ***Dan Huff*** for conducting the choir while Kathy Parkins is on vacation.

Today's bulletin cover was created by ***Isa Cummings***, one of our 12th graders, for Christ the King Sunday. She writes, "It's impossible to draw Jesus being the king of everything, so I drew him reaching out at all times, night and day."

Our 3rd graders receiving their Bibles today include ***Josie Bacon, Evelyn Brown, Clare Dennis, Colin Ellison, Lila Fogleman, and Tom Morrell***.

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.

★***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 or 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. Of course, you may always choose to pray in the words closest to your heart, be those words debts or trespasses.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from the *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Signups for ***2026 sanctuary flower donations*** have begun. You may use the following link to donate flowers today. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-59655490-2026#/>

John Weicher is away with our high school youth at the Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center (Harrisonburg, VA) for the Keep Awake Retreat. Based on the text of Matthew 25, this event is about social justice and church leadership for high schoolers.

Happening Today

Diaconate meets following worship in the Daye Meeting Room.

Children's Choir will meet in the Christian Education building immediately following service for about 20 minutes.

The Renovations Information Session will be in Watts-Hill Hall following worship.

Youth Group: Middle School Youth Group: Cookies and Care Packages (Brent's House)

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/>



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 janewettach@gmail.com.

Daytimers' Christmas Luncheon is December 9th at 12pm in Watts-Hill Hall.

First Friends Advent Gathering: Mark your calendars for the evening of December 13, when we'll gather at the home of Melinda Ruley and Stewart Fisher. Watch your inbox for an Evite to be sent soon. See y'all there!

Kick off the holiday season in the heart of downtown Durham at our annual ***Holiday Tree Lighting*** on Saturday, December 6th from 4-7 p.m. Read more here:

<https://downtowndurham.com/event/downtown-durham-holiday-tree-lighting-3/>



Youth Group

Today from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Care Package season is coming a little early this year!

Middle schoolers (and any HSers not going to the Keep Awake retreat) are meeting at Brent's house to bake cookies and assemble care packages for our collegians as they begin to stare down their winter exams. Friends welcome & dinner provided.

As always, friends are welcome.

The Season of Advent begins Sunday, November 30!



Join us for the Advent Festival on the First Sunday in Advent, November 30th with crafts for all ages and a light meal. Children will go straight to the Fellowship Hall during Faith Formation and crafting will continue after church while refreshments are served. Join us to make ornaments and gifts, pick up Advent candles and wreaths, and visit with friends over a light lunch! Helpers? We will have all crafts ready to go and will need helpers to stand at the tables before and after church. We also will need help putting out the food. We welcome all who love crafts or food! Do you have old Christmas cards? Greenery in your yard? We can use both!

Please email or text Katharine Whitmore.



~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

We celebrate the marriage of **Katie Hirsch**, daughter of **Sharon and Steve Hirsch**, to **Nate Agnew** on November 22, 2025.

We remember in prayer:

Jean Cary, following knee replacement surgery.

Jean Estes and her family following the memorial service for her husband Harvey Estes at Croasdaile Village yesterday.

Joe Harvard, upcoming foot surgery.

Marcia Lorimer, following a heart procedure.

Steve Blackwood, Jeff Blackwood's father, in ICU following surgery.

Elik Essif, Mason Essif's brother, is recovering from multiple surgeries.

Adrienne Allison

Chris Brown

Tony Brown

Jean Cary

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Barbara Gerwe

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Harriett Mitchell

Franzi Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Mickey Velkey

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

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

Julia Allen, grandmother of Amy Wilson

Evan Breyer, grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Denise Duffy, sister of Andy Henry

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman.

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

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin-dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res-trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

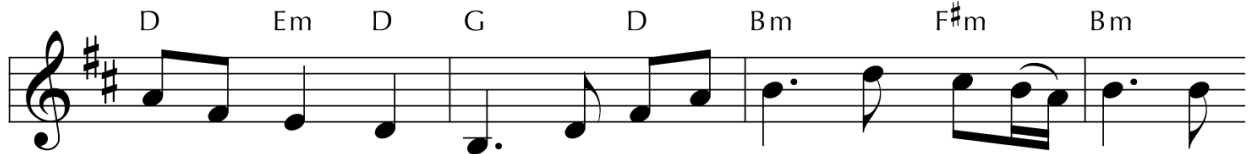
Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

O Lord, You Are My God and King 270

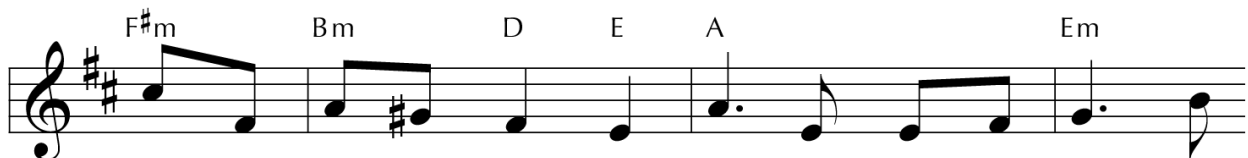
(Psalm 145)



1 O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will
2 How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com -
3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your



ev - er bless your name; I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and
pas - sion, mer - ci - ful, your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your
might-y acts will show, till all the peo - ples of the earth your



ev - er - more your praise pro - claim. You, Lord, are great - ly
stead - fast love you show to all, for you are good in
king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry know. E - ter - nal is your



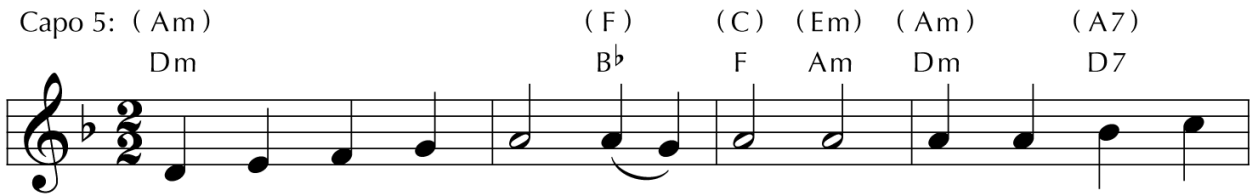
to be praised; your great-ness is be - yond our thought; all
all your ways; your crea - tures know your con - stant care. To
king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er sure; while



gen - er - a - tions shall tell forth the might-y won - ders you have wrought.
all your works your love ex - tends; all souls your ten - der mer - cies share.
gen - er - a - tions rise and die, your high do - min - ion will en - dure.

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd 274

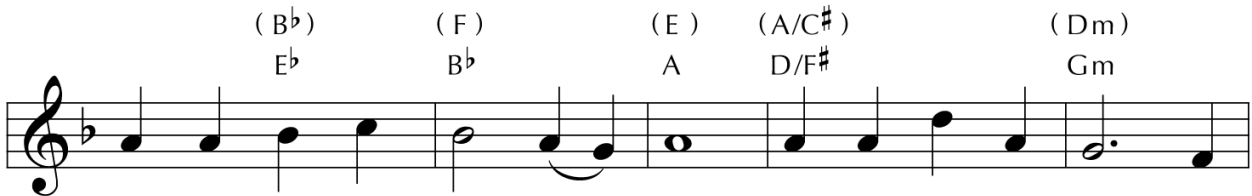
Capo 5: (Am)



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our



prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword-bring - er
on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;



of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing



in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.
in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



This Week at a Glance!

Later Today

Following Worship
 Diaconate (Daye Meeting Room)
 Renovation Meeting (Watts-Hill Hall)
 Children's Music:
 ages 3-5 (room 205)
 ages 6-11 (choir room)

4:00 PM
 High Schoolers return (parking lot)

5:00 PM
 Middle School Youth Group: Cookies and Care Packages
 (Brent's Home)

Monday, November 24

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

4:30 PM
 Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

Tuesday, November 25

10:00 AM
 You Are Not Alone (Wilson Parlor)

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

7:00 PM
 Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 26

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (choir room)

Thursday, November 27

FPC Office Closed



Friday, November 28

FPC Office Closed

Saturday, November 29

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent, Newsletter Deadline

9:45 AM

Faith Formation (Classes available for adults.)
 Advent Festival (Watts-Hill Hall)

11:00 AM Worship; John Weicher, Preaching

12:15 PM

Advent Festival (Watts-Hill Hall)
 Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)



CHURCH STAFF

Shakira Bethea, Church Administrator
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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