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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

MARCH 3, 2024

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A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian in My Heart

Spiritual,

arr. Roy Belfield (b.1968)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 55:1; Psalm 63:4–5)

Mindy Douglas

Leader:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

People:

let those who have no money come and eat.

Leader:

God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast,

People:

and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.

All:

Let us worship God.

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

*HYMN No. 504

We Come as Guests Invited

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, we are often afraid of our calling to community.

We would prefer to travel without responsibility.

We would rather not risk being hurt.

We find it more comfortable to have structures of power.

We sometimes choose to stay with our guilt

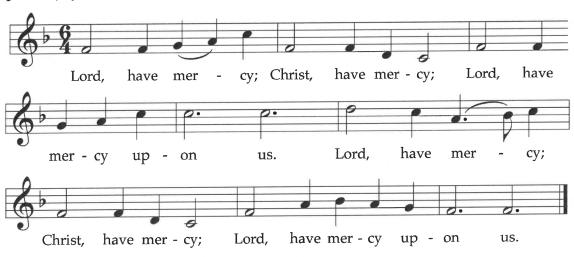
and separate ourselves from your community.

Forgive us, O God, and help us to remember that we are your body.

Silent Confession

Response (Hymn No. 551, sung by all)

Land of Rest



Esther Hethcox *THE PEACE

*RESPONSE (Hymn No. 71, refrain only)

First Song



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kirbey Blackwood

The Lord be with you. Leader: And also with you. All:

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, who is our way in the wilderness,

guide us, by your Word, through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16:13-21

(Pew Bible, OT page 63) Kirbey Blackwood

The Word of the Lord. Leader:

Thanks be to God! People:

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 **EPISTLE READING**

The Word of the Lord

(Pew Bible, NT page 183)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Thanks be to God! People:

SERMON

"A New Economics of Abundance"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

Esther Hethcox

The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

Panis Angelicus—Bread of the Angels Thomas Pavlecho (2009) Amy Wilson, soloist

Bread of the angels becomes the bread of all; heavenly sustenance given our earthy form:

O wondrous mystery! Food for humanity. Pauper, servant, the humble, small.

O everlasting Love, God ever Three in One, visit us as we pray, enter our grateful hearts; lead us in righteousness, guide us along the path into the light in which you dwell.

Bread of angels.

Old Hundredth *Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

The Lord be with you. Leader: And also with you. People: Lift up your hearts. Leader:

We lift them to the Lord. People:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Leader: It is right to give our thanks and praise. People: Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise Leader:

for the life you lived among us,

speaking our language,

learning our ways,

sitting at our tables,

listening to our complaints and never giving up on us.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise

for never compromising the truth by which you lived,

for refusing to be swayed by popular opinion,

for identifying the seductions of power,

for confronting institutionalized prejudice

and never selling your soul.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise

for loving the unlovable,

touching the untouchable,

forgiving the unforgiveable,

recognizing the gold beneath the dross,

the potential beneath the pain,

and never taking an easier path.

Leader: Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise

for in the face of our small-mindedness, you, Jesus,

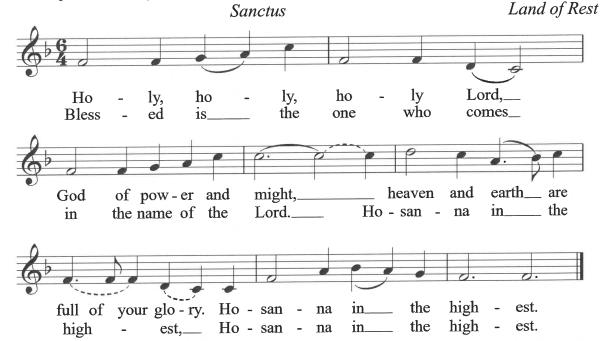
have shown us God and God's kingdom in fascinating beauty and converting power:

so, we gladly celebrate your life

in concert with the church in heaven and earth,

as we join the song of unending praise.

All (sung):



Leader: O Holy Jesus, it is not by virtue that we are here,

but by your gracious invitation.

It is not to continue an ancient tradition but to be nourished by our living Lord.

It is not only to celebrate your presence among us

but to catch a glimpse of heaven,

because in this sacrament,

you give us a foretaste of that heavenly banquet

where we shall see you face to face

and enjoy the freedom of eternity

when the limitations of earth are no more.

Great is the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: God our Maker:

as you gave your people water from a rock in the desert

and fed them with bread in the wilderness,

let your Holy Spirit fill this bread and this wine with the fullness of Jesus so that we, in stretching out our hands,

receive, through faith, food for our souls.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

Leader:

In the intimacy of this sacrament, as heaven and earth become one,

enable us to know you more deeply

and resolve to love, honor and serve you

more faithfully in this world, until your kingdom comes.

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

Esther Hethcox, John Weicher

*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The bread is gluten free, and the elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. If you are able, come forward to receive communion. The bread server will dip a pre-cut piece of bread in the common cup for you and then pass it to you. 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 Voluntary Trio on "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness"

Gottfried Homilius

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

John Weicher

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

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

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn No. 774

There Is Now a New Creation

Stuttgart

(If you do not plan to stay for the church meeting, you may leave during the last verse of the hymn.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH

(† Handout available.)

†Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of officers and Nominating Committee members

Pastor's State of the Church Report

†Approval of revised by-laws

†Stewardship/Finance Report

†Approval of changes to Terms of Call for the pastors

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE Toccata in a J.P. Sweelinck



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. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in 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.

Today's sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Aubrey and Naomi Honea, grandparents of Brianna Bennett.

Special thanks to members of this year's Confirmation Class who will be serving as lay liturgists in worship throughout Lent. Today, *Kirbey Blackwood* is our reader.

The *Lenten Banner* was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of *Bess Bryant* and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

The *Pulpit Paraments*: In 2012 First Presbyterian Church commissioned Laurie Wohl to design and create paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. Her liturgical projects emphasize the "threads that bind" and the unity of the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful that the bequest of *Anne 'St. Clair' Williams* made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

*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—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.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to the audio/video console at the rear of the sanctuary. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. *Activity bags* are available in the foyer for children. Please return bags 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 second floor 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 bulletin cover is a drawing of FPC's sanctuary. Frequent worshipper, Adam, is the artist and gave permission for this drawing to be used as a worship bulletin cover.

Today's worship texts are from Book of Common Worship (2018), Liturgies for the Journey of Life, and A Wee Worship Book. Music reprinted under Onelicense.net A.713926.

FPC seeks one additional childcare worker (\$15 hourly pay) for Sunday mornings, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Use this link to apply: http://bit.ly/3ufkPjc.

Lenten Sermon Series

Practicing Our Faith

Sunday, March 10 - Hospitality/Jesus and the Displaced

Willie Jennings, McPherson lecturer, preaching

Sunday, March 17 - Forgiveness

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Sunday, March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday

A Service of readings and musical responses

Sunday, March 31 - Easter

Mindy Douglas, preaching

~ Concerns ~

- *Troy Evans*, nephew of Vernon Neece surgery has been postponed.
- Jasper Gunn, child of Wilson and Pam Gunn surgery has been postponed.
- Maxie Honeycutt is now in room 1417 at Hillcrest (no telephone).

Barbara Fish Barbara Gerwe Paul Cornsweet Susan Cyr Tony Chavez Jenni James Mal King Dan Huff Lee House Kerry Holbrook Jim Seitzer Franzi Rokoske Mary Ann Ruegg Mitzi Lesher-Thomas Alice Raney Alfred Tisdale

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: Harvey Estes, Dub Gulley Durham Ridge Assisted Living: Phillip Herndon

Hillcrest Convalescent: Julian Boswell, Carol Wills, Jim Wolfe

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Margaret & Mike Berton and son, Sam. Margaret is the sister of Sarah Wright.

Jennie Bodkin, sister of Mindy Douglas

Karla Brown & family, friends of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings Andrew Holbrook, nephew of Kerry Holbrook

John Keller, son of Margaret & Tom Keller

Gabe Lamazares, assoc. rector, St. Philip's EC

Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer

Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Paul Dunlap, brother of Susan Dunlap Ford Holbrook, brother Kerry Holbrook Brian Knowles, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James Joe Robinson, former member of FPC

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Denisha Williams, daughter of Sybil King

Emily Wilson, wife of Mike Wilson and daughter-in-law of Jean and Chuck Wilson



First Presbyterian Church Durham

2024 McPherson Lecturer Willie James Jennings, PhD

Please join us when Dr. Jennings, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University, visits First Presbyterian Church as the 2024 McPherson Lecturer.

3/10 9:45 am Faith & Community Class 11:00 am Worship Service 3:30 pm Community Conversation

3/11 9:00 am Clergy Breakfast (please RSVP)

v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org or (919) 682-5511

About the Lecturer

Willie James Jennings is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale Divinity School. He is a graduate of Calvin College, later earning the M. Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and the Ph.D. in Religion and Ethics from Duke University. Jennings is an ordained Baptist minister who is widely recognized for his writing in the areas of liberation theologies, cultural identities, and anthropology. He is the author of *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (Yale, 2010), *Acts: A Commentary, The Revolution of the Intimate* (Westminster/John Knox, 2017), and *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging* (Eerdmans, 2020).

If you would like to order copies of Dr. Jennings' books in advance from Rofhiwa Books, please use this link: https://rofhiwabooks.com/collections/willie-jennings-lecture.

About the Lectureship

The McPherson Lectureship is dedicated to enriching the faith and life of First Presbyterian Church as well as the Durham, NC community. This lectureship is made possible through an endowment initially given to FPC by the McPherson family in memory of lifelong members Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. McPherson, Sr., and Dr. Samuel D. McPherson, Jr. It was established in 1999 by Mrs. Margaret "Peaches" McPherson (wife of Dr. McPherson, Jr.) and her family. Following Mrs. McPherson's passing in 2018, the lectureship now also honors her life of service and generosity.



The FPC Creation Care Team invites you to join

in these earth care practices this Lent!

- 1) A calendar (https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent) to help you tread lightly for Lent. These actions are intended to create more mindful behaviors throughout the year.
- 2) Several members are practicing a greener Lent (https://greenerlent.org/fast.html), a Laudato Si-inspired Lenten Program focused on care for our earth and the poor. This entails 40 days of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving for the poor disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

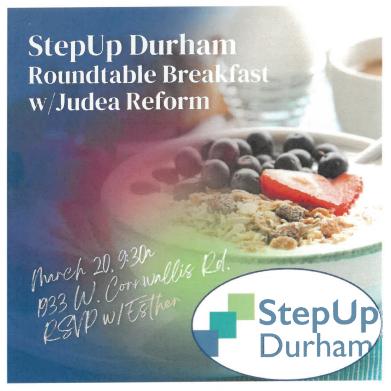


churchlife phone app maintenance

Beginning Thursday, March 7, at 4:00 p.m., the churchlife membership directory phone app will be <u>down for 24 hours</u> for scheduled maintenance. This means the phone app, which allows you to see members' contact info will not be accessible. The app will become available again on Friday, March 8 after 4:00 p.m. Don't have the app on your phone? Members can contact Tom Bloom or Valerie McMillian in the church office for instruction on how to add this app to your smart phone.

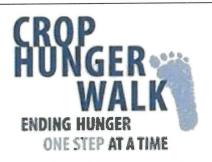
Holocaust Exhibit Coming to FPC

First Presbyterian Church will host the "Some Were Neighbors: Choice, Human Behavior and the Holocaust" exhibit provided by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum from March 12 - 22 in Watts-Hill Hall. Come learn more about religious hate, the consequences of racism and bias, genocide, and how we can resist harm together. The exhibit will be open for the public to view, Monday-Friday (1:00-5:00 p.m.), and on Sunday, March 17 before faith formation classes and after worship.



Get to know our friends at Judea Reform Congregation and the clients of StepUp Durham at this roundtable breakfast event on Wednesday, March 20. FPC is co-hosting with Judea Reform Congregation.

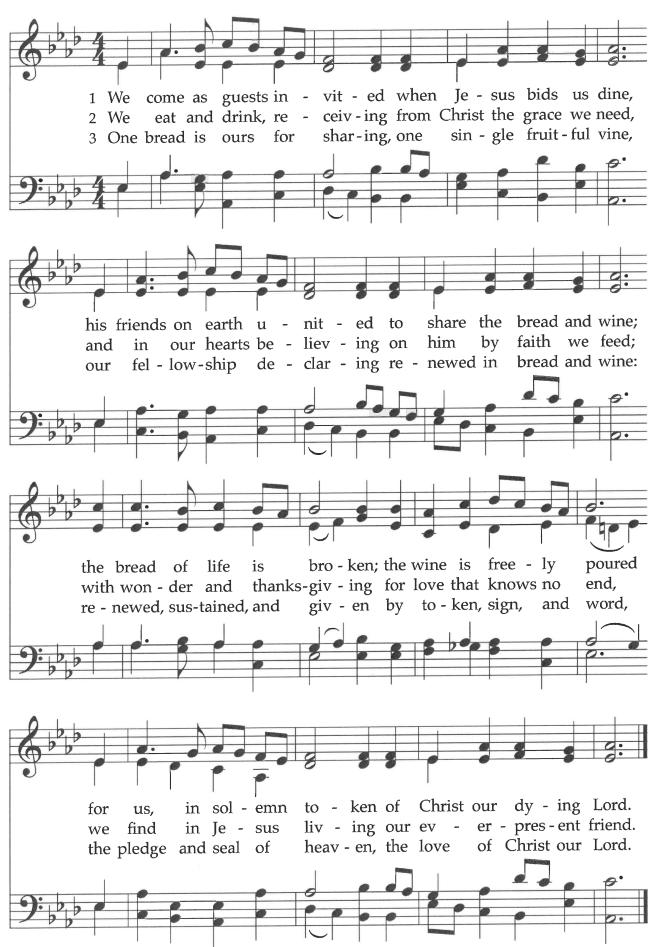
RSVP to Esther (e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org) if you will attend.



Durham CROP Hunger Walk

This year's Durham CROP Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday afternoon**, **March 24**, and FPC will have a team of walkers participating. The CROP Walk raises money to alleviate hunger here in Durham and around the globe. Durham's CROP Walk is the second largest in the country, and this year marks the 50th Anniversary of Durham's participation. As always, 25% of what is raised remains in Durham and supports many of our partner nonprofits working to alleviate hunger, including the Iglesia Food Pantry, Urban Ministries, Meals on Wheels, and many others. **We need your help in reaching the goal we have set to raise \$6,000 this year**. Go to the link below and sign up to walk or support one of the people who is walking. We'd love to have you participate. https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/first-presbyterian-church-durham

We Come as Guests Invited



Come! Live in the Light!



774 There Is Now a New Creation



- 1 There is now a new cre a-tion through the grace of Je sus Christ,
- 2 Call the lost and found to-geth-er; tell the news to ev ery one:
- 3 Wrap the prod-i gal in wel-come; run to greet the way-ward child.
- 4 Come and join the cel e bra-tion; come and join this hap py feast;
- 5 There is now a new cre a-tion through the grace of Je sus Christ.





peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life All is fin-ished and for - giv - en; let us now be Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of

end-less life. has be-gun. rec-on-ciled. and the least. end-less life!



~ Palm/Passion Sunday - March 24 ~

Easter Egg Hunt - Time TBA

(FPC's playground; for young children)

9:45 a.m. Refreshments and Coffee (in Watts-Hill Hall)

No Faith Formation Classes for children and youth

Adult classes - TBA

Palm Parade - Time TBA

We will parade with our neighbor congregations, waving palms, and blessing each congregation's ministries, then return to our sanctuaries for worship.

11:00 a.m. Worship

Remember Christ's passion through lessons and songs.

2:30 PM Durham's CROP Hunger Walk

(meet at 2:00 p.m. in front of Duke Chapel.)



~ Maundy Thursday - March 28 ~

Evening Worship

7:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

A worship service with Holy Communion to commemorate Jesus' last supper.

~ Good Friday - March 29 ~

Stations of the Cross

12 Noon around Downtown Durham

A spiritual pilgrimage of the Holy Week texts in Durham's downtown context, beginning at St. Phillips Episcopal Church and ending at FPC.

The Tenebrae

7:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

An ancient service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

~ Easter Sunday - March 31 ~

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion in the FPC sanctuary

Mindy Douglas, preaching

The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be received to provide relief to the hungry, poor and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters. **Easter lilies** will grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Remember/honor someone on Easter Sunday by donating toward the lilies' cost. Donor cards will be available beginning March 10.

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 1 in observance of the Easter holiday.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today

4:00-6:00 PM Middle School Youth Service Night (Camp New Hope)

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

Monday, March 4

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews

10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)

1:30 PM Worship Planning

7:00 PM Welcome & Belonging Committee (via Zoom)

7:00 PM Youth Ministry Committee (via Zoom)

Tuesday, March 5



5:15 PM McPherson Lectureship Committee (via Zoom)

Wednesday, March 6

1:00 PM Program Staff

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 7

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews

11:30 AM Legacy Society Luncheon (Croasdaile Country Club)

Thursday, March 7 at 4:00 PM to Friday, March 8 at 4:00 PM The churchlife phone app is down for maintenance.

Friday, March 8

7:00 PM First Friends Movie Night (AMC Theater, Southpoint Mall – RSVP via the EVITE)

Saturday, March 9



SPRING FORWARD

Remember to set manual clocks

<u>forward one hour</u>

before going to bed.

Sunday, March 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent McPherson Lectureship

Daylight Saving time begins 2:00 AM.

9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation (Adult classes are combined in Watts-Hill Hall to hear Dr. Willie Jennings)

11:00 AM Worship
(Dr. Willie Jennings, preaching)

3:30 PM Lectureship Community Conversation (Watts-Hill Hall)

5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group: Dinner Church

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: https://firstpres-durham.org.

CHURCH STAFF

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, Sunday Morning Sexton Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor