

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026



— GALATIANS 6:9-10 —

Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

2027 Stewardship Campaign

First Presbyterian Church
508 West Davis Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215
www.fpcburlington.org
336-228-1703

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music

Liza Southard

Prelude: Prelude in B Minor

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Welcome

Please take a moment to register your attendance by signing the friendship register.

*Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song! Everyone, even the rocks and trees, sing!

Let us shout out in praise!

God does great things for us. See God's amazing works all around us.

Great is the Lord!

Tell of God's wonders! Share stories of God's glory.

Let us worship the Lord!

***Processional Hymn — No. 35:** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Call to Confession

*Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be.

We have not remembered who we are.

We are distracted by glittering gold.

We are mesmerized by fame and fortune.

We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice.

We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens.

We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness.

Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the kingdom of God.

Give us courage to be kingdom builders here and now,

showing mercy and grace in a world in deep need.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

When this symbol () precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

***Congregational Response: Lord, Have Mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)**

LAND OF REST

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B $\flat$ C F

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy;
Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

(A) (D/F $\sharp$) (F $\sharp$ m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B $\flat$ C Dm

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B $\flat$ F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response: Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

GLORY TO GOD

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F Gm F

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.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Gm7 C7

(A7) (D) (F $\sharp$) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm) (A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

***Passing the Peace, Love and Joy of Christ to Others**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Listening for the Word

Story Telling

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Psalm 99

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: What Does the Lord Require?

Eric Nelson (b. 1959)

Chancel Choir

Jane Kolarich, conductor

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?
To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?
Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow?
Then do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so high?
Let Christ endue our will with grace.
What does the Lord require?

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring?
To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.
-Albert G. Bayly, alt. (1901-1984)

Second Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Seeing God

Dr. Dari Rowen

Responding to the Word

***Hymn of Response — No. 300:** We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

***Affirmation of Faith**

from *The Confession of 1967*

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.
His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.
His service to men and women commits the church
to work for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment**

on the inhumanity that marks human relations,
and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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.

Moment for Stewardship

Margaret Beatty

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Music at the Offertory: Biblical Songs, Op. 99
X. Sing Ye a Joyful Song
Nan Wooten, mezzo soprano

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Sing ye a joyful song unto the Lord,
Who hath done marvelous things.
Praise the Lord all the earth!
Sing praises, shout and be joyful.
Let the sea roar and all that is therein,
The round world and all they that dwell there.
Lift your voices, floods and tempests.
Mountains, clap your hands for joy.
Let the fields laugh and sing with waving corn,
And let all the trees of the forest be joyful!
Psalm 98:1-8

*Scan this QR code (using your phone's camera) to make a secure online donation.
Thank you for your generosity.*



***Congregational Response:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN



***Prayer of Dedication**

Bearing the Word into the World

***Closing Hymn — No. 306:** Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: Fugue in B Minor

Healey Willan

Dari Rowen, D. Min., Associate Pastor
John W. Johnson, M. Div., Parish Associate for Communications
W. Matt Brittain, D.M.A., Director of Music and Organist
Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A, C.C.E., Director of Faith Formation

In Memoriam

Blanche Cook McClure

April 10, 1924 - October 8, 2026

*"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord."
John 11:25*

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all who worship with us this Sunday. We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring family of faith. If you are visiting with us and in search of a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church. Please let us know of your interest by speaking to one of our ministers. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to contact the church office at 336-228-1703 to be added to the weekly email list.

LITURGY TODAY is from by Rae Watson via *Presbyterian Outlook*.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Tom Dexter Collins by the family.

NARTHEX FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory by families of Janice Henry and Jeanie Sutton.

FISHIN (FAITH IN SMALL HEARTS): After Story Telling, children who are 1st grade and younger have an opportunity to go to a special time for faith formation and friendship building. They will return to the worship space during "Responding to the Word" to continue learning the how-to and why of worship alongside their church family.

PASTOR ON-CALL INFORMATION: If you have a personal emergency, hospitalization, or pastoral care need, please call the church office. If it is after office hours or on the weekend, you may contact the pastor on call by calling the church at 336-228-1703 and pressing 9. You will then be connected to the pastor on call.

PIANO RECITAL AT FPCB: Please join us on Friday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary for a piano recital given by pianist Dr. Kirsten Homdrom. Kirsten is the music director at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh. Her program will include works by Bach, Price, Poulenc, and others. After the recital, attendees are welcome to attend a reception at the home of Bob and Ami Hill.

MEMORIAL PW SERVICE AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

Presbyterian Women would like to extend an invitation to the congregation, our families, and friends to attend our annual Memorial Service and Life Membership Ceremony. The ceremony will be held on **Monday, October 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary**, and will be live streamed for those unable to attend in person. This annual service is an opportunity to recognize and honor the ladies in our church who have passed away during the past year. The PW will also recognize two women who have served our congregation faithfully with PW Honorary Life Memberships. Following the service and ceremony, Presbyterian Women will gather in the Witherspoon Room for a potluck supper. Come join us for this beautiful service and opportunity for fellowship.

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: We are trying something new. We will be creating the pictorial directory in-house using the photographic talents of Rev. John W. Johnson and our new Realm database. This will be an opportunity to get your photo taken and update your personal information in the Realm database. This will allow us to have an updated printed directory as well as an updated online directory with only having to have one photo taken!

Please do your part by coming to the church to get your photograph taken! Rev. Johnson will be taking photos on Sundays October 25, November 15 and November 22 before and after worship. He will be set up in the Witherspoon Room. Use the link below or scan the QR code in the weekly eblast or call the Church Office at 336-228-1703 to make your appointment.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP: In following our mission statement, the youth are exploring different worship styles to deepen their understanding of what worship can look like. For the month of November, you are invited to join the youth group in an evening of Taizé worship.

Taizé is a monastic community in France with a distinct worship style. People around the world come to Taizé for the simplicity of living, connection with other spiritual seekers, and intense periods of prayer and devotion. Services occur three times a day, led by the brothers, denoted by simple meditative chants in a variety of languages and a period of silent prayer. Led by Eleanor Hill, church intern and youth advisor, we will be having our own Taizé service in Williams Chapel on Sunday, November 1st at 5:00 p.m.

More information can be found about the community here, <https://www.taize.fr/en/>. For questions about the service, please email youth@fpcburlington.org.

DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP: We will hold a Days for Girls Workshop on November 15th in Room 122 from 2 – 5 p.m. A lot of help is needed to put ribbon in bags, mark serging lines on liners, mark shield patterns on fabric, serge flannel and prepare kits.

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - The Gratitude and Generosity Team's formal 2027 Stewardship Campaign - ***Together We Love, Together We Serve*** (inspired by Galatians 6: 9-10) - continues through Dedication Sunday, October 25, 2027. Each member (or member family) should have received a campaign letter together with a 2027 pledge card. Additional pledge cards are available in the narthex.

Through October 12, we have received \$407,442 toward our 2027 pledge goal of \$1,250,000. Confidential pledges may be submitted by mail to FPC-B's Financial Administrator, Tori Stadler, or electronically through the "Pledge Online" application of the church website's home page, or by utilizing the QR code below. Those who prefer may present an in-person pledge during worship on Dedication Sunday (October 27).



NOTE: As you begin to consider your calendar year-end giving, keep in mind that you may make gifts through donations of appreciated stock, and for those who qualify, you may utilize your IRA assets to make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD), which might also help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You are encouraged to seek advice from your financial planner as you ponder these decisions. We sincerely appreciate for your generous commitment to the continuation of God's work.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR: To access the activities calendar, please visit the website at www.fpcburlington.org or scan this QR code.



Moment's Meditation

Before prayer changes others, it first changes us.

Billy Graham