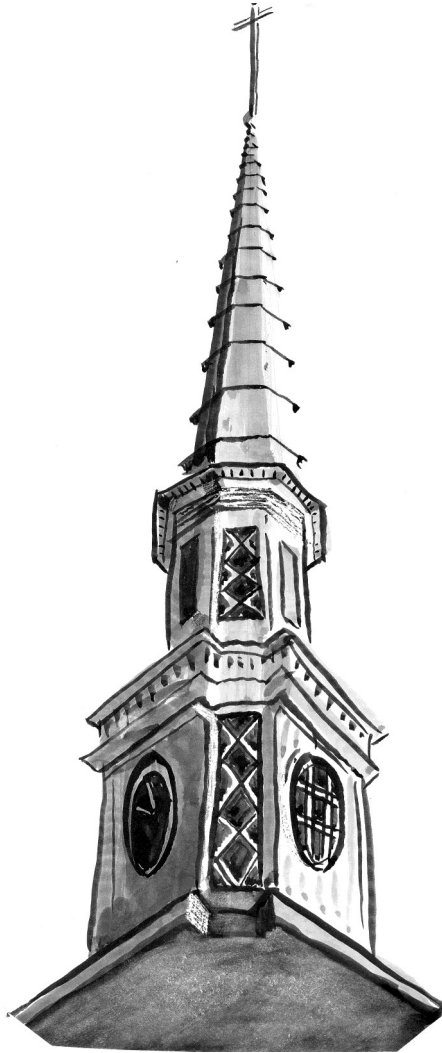


FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 30, 2026



FPCB Steeple, Pat Scheible

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
508 WEST DAVIS STREET
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27215
www.fpcburlington.org
336-228-1703

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

Nan Wooten

PRELUDE: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

WELCOME

*Please join in reading aloud those parts of the service printed in **bold**.*

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

We lay before God our own sins, the sins and brokenness of our fellow worshipers, the church universal, and the world.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- John 8:12

When the world feels too dark,
God's light shines brighter.
When the fog blocks the path right before us,
Jesus shows us the promise at the end.
With steady hearts and open spirits,
We worship the one who guides us on.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN — NO. 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

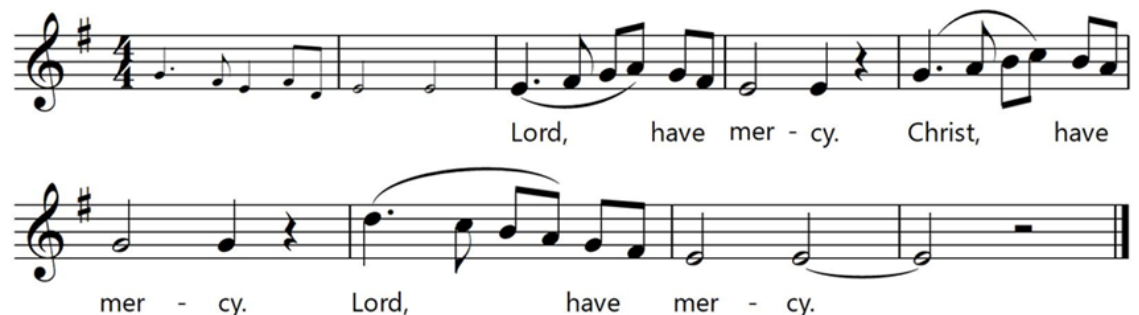
Merciful God, forgive us when we fail to trust in you.
Our desire for control prevents us from seeing all the ways you work,
in large and small acts.
We cling so tightly to the dreams that we have,
that we cannot deviate when you ask us to.
We try to have faith all while searching for signs, answers, or evidence.
We forget that in your endless power, you know what is best for us.
Help us to turn our lives over to you, and trust that you will never lead us astray.
Amen.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)

John Weaver (1937-2021)

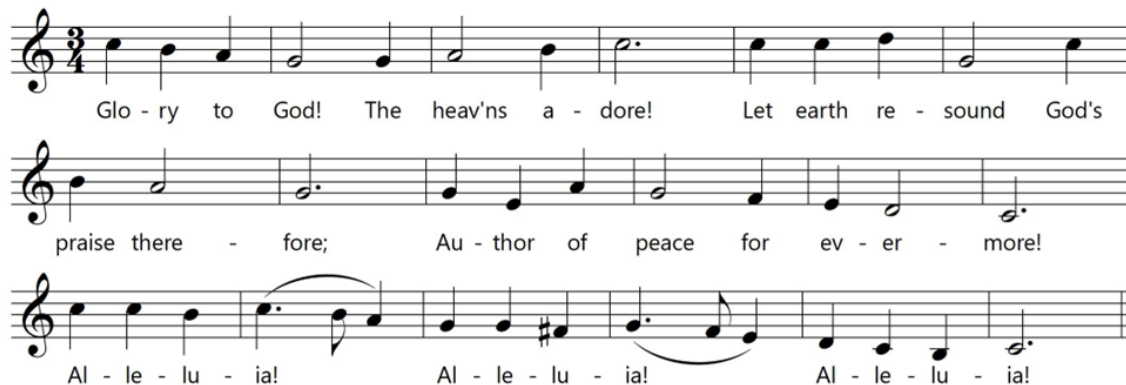


*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Glory to God

GELOBT SEI GOTT



Text: Michael Morgan

*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: John 8:28-32

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) Summer Choir

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all, and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind, and love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We mark Your saints, how they became in hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear Your name,
And by our faults obscure Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us Lord, to do, together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to You,
The cross You hung upon, all You endeavored done.
-Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The astoundingly good news of our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ frees our tongues to sing mighty praise to God.

We exchange reconciling words and gestures among the people of God.

After Story Telling, PreK-1st Grade children are invited to go FISHin for faith and friendship building.

We listen for what God is saying to God's people through scripture, song, and sermon.

SECOND READING: John 14:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Seeking Truth in an Age of AI

Dr. Jim Lunde

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN OF RESPONSE — No. 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the *Theological Declaration of Barmen*

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation.

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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY: Gnossienne No. 3

Erik Satie (1866-1925)

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



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a-bove, ye heaven-ly
host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN — NO. 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*God blesses and
sends us in mission
to the world.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Rondo

Wayne L. Wold

James Lunde, D. Min., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Dari Rowen, D. Min., Associate Pastor

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

JANICE VEALE HENRY

November 6, 1933 – August 19, 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. Please take a moment to sign our friendship register when it is passed to you. 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 way of the friendship register, or by speaking to one of our ministers. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to pick up a copy today in the narthex and then contact the church office at 336-228-1703 to be added to the weekly email list.

A PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD

In the warm embrace of our church community, there should be a place for every soul, a seat for every heart, and a space for every child to flourish. In the eyes of our Creator, every child is a masterpiece — deserving of love, acceptance, and a place to call home.

In a world that often measures success by achievements and milestones, it's easy to overlook the quiet strength and resilience that children with special needs bring into our lives. In their own way, they teach us the deeper meaning of unconditional love, patience, and simplicity. As a church family, it is our privilege to offer these children — and their families — a haven of love and understanding where they can truly flourish.

Please know that we are here for you. In your concerns, prayers, or needs, reach out to a pastor or the Director of Faith Formation in whatever way feels comfortable.

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE: *Boxcast* will stream to our website and Facebook page each Sunday morning. Click here to view: [on our website](#) and on [the FPC Facebook page](#).

PHONESTREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP BY YOUR TELEPHONE: First Presbyterian-Burlington is offering another option for you to use to participate in our 10:00 a.m. weekly worship service. PhoneLiveStreaming automatically connects you to the church's live stream using your traditional telephone. You will hear exactly the same thing that is currently being broadcast online with a computer. To listen to the worship service, simply call 888-969-5508. You will also be given an option of receiving a weekly call prior to each worship service.

Please help us and pass this information along to any church member or community member who would benefit from this opportunity.

HEARING LOOP: The Sanctuary is fitted with a Hearing Loop system. Please switch your hearing device to T-coil. If you need a listening device, please contact one of our ushers.



LITURGY TODAY IS written by Eleanor Hill.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Vance Hendrick by Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Kernodle, Jr.

LARGE PRINT HYMNS: Copies of today's hymns are available in the Narthex.

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 sanctuary during "Responding to the Word" to continue learning the how-to and why of worship alongside their church family.

OFFERING RITUAL CARDS are currently under construction. Once available, they will be returned to the pew racks.

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: FPCB facilities will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observation of the Labor Day Holiday.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND YOUTH CHOIR begins on Sunday, September 13 at 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir will meet in Room 220 and Youth Choir will meet in Room 225.

CARILLON CHOIR begins Tuesday, September 1 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 203.

CHANCEL CHOIR begins Wednesday, September 2 at 6:45 p.m. in Room 225.

YOUTH GROUP begins on Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m. in Shive Hall. Participate in “Dessert First” Open House by bringing a dessert to share. Information, games, theme and more will be shared! Parents AND youth should attend.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the 2027 Church Retreat - "Naturally Wonder-full" - Inspired by Psalm 104:1-30 and God's beautiful creation. March 13 & 14, 2027 at the Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, NC. Hotel-style accommodations, three meals, and intergenerational fun! More info to come in September 2026. Save your spot now with your \$50 per person non-refundable deposit. Cash or Check preferred. Send to First Presbyterian Church, ATTN: Church Retreat, 508 W Davis St, Burlington, NC 27215. Retreat contact: Director of Faith Formation callbright@fpcburlington.org / 336-228-1703 x 223

LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB : All are invited to Room 122 on Tuesday, September 8 to a discussion of *Love Big, Be Well: Letters to a Small-Town Church* by Winn Collier. The discussion will be led by Rev. Dr. Jim Lunde. This is the story of a weary pastor without a congregation and a weary congregation without a pastor and the letters that define a life-giving relationship both to the pastor and to the church. This story will share with readers what it means for a pastor and a church to do the slow work of ministry in community, to be anchored by a common place and a life of faith. (Amazon.com)

FAITH FORMATION YEAR KICK – OFF: Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 a.m. in Shive Hall. Purchase a specialty drink and learn more about faith formation opportunities for all ages. The first 60 people in attendance will receive a free handcrafted specialty drink.

JOHN KNOX FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Fall/Winter 2026

9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the John Knox Room

Roots of Wisdom: Our faith is rooted in Christ's words of wisdom, from which we hope to grow in understanding God's will for our lives.

September

Teacher

6 Labor Day

13 All-Church Sunday School—Shive Hall

20 The Sower and the Soil (Matt. 13:1-23)

Rev Dr Dari Rowen

27 Mustard Seed and Yeast (Matt. 13:31-33)

Gail McGowen

ENRICHMENT CLASS meets in Room 228 each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for lively discussions that are the hallmark of the Enrichment class as we strengthen our spiritual journeys. September 20 and 27 will focus on *Passionate Visionary: Leadership Lessons from the Apostle Paul* by Richard S. Ascough and Charles A. Cotton.

TAKE ROOT meets in Room 227 each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. This fall, the focus will be on “Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit” by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Drop off children and youth in their classes, grab a cup of coffee, and join the conversation. PreK in Room 223, K-2 in Room 224, and Jr. Youth (3rd-6th grade) in Room 229.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES will resume the week of September 15-17. The focus will be on the parables of Jesus. These three Bible studies meet in the Witherspoon Room and are led by Rev. Dr. Jim Lunde. Men's Study begins each Tuesday at 6:45 a.m. Wednesday Study begins each week at 10:00 a.m. Women's Study begins each Thursday at 6:45 a.m.

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





Moment's Meditation

Listen to the long stillness. New life is stirring; New dreams are on the wing; New hopes are being readied; Humankind is fashioning a new heart; Humankind is forging a new mind; God is at work. This is the season of Promise.

Howard Thurman