



First Presbyterian Church

of Raleigh, North Carolina

Serving Christ from the Heart of the City to the Ends of the Earth with Love, Faith and Action.

September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Introit

DUNLAP'S CREEK

arr. James Biery

Call to Worship

Make us to know your ways, O Lord; and teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. Let us worship God!

*Hymn 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Forgive us, Gracious God, for we are quick to choose fear over faith, control over trust, and skepticism over prayer. Remind us instead of your steadfast love and abundant mercy. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

(Let us continue our confession in silence)

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

*Response of Gratitude | Hymn 63 stanza 1

AZMON

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

Welcome to Worship!
Some notes about the service:

*An asterisk denotes standing, in body or spirit.

Words in bold are read aloud by the congregation.

The Chiming of the Trinity at the beginning and ending of worship reminds us that the entire service, in fact, our entire lives, are held within the love of God.

When we confess our sin, it is not just a reminder of our humanity, but an act of trust in God's mercy and grace.

We Listen and Respond to God's Word

In the pattern of Jesus,
we welcome children
with open arms. This
is a place where they
can hear the story of
God and know that
they belong.

Children's Moment | 11:00

Beth Thaxton

Hymn 399 *God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

After the Baptism and Welcoming of New Members, children ages 4 - 2nd gr. are invited to the Library for Children's Church and will return following the sermon.

Sacrament of Baptism | 11:00

Today, Heather, Trevor, and Vivian Lawson, and Brooks and Garson Smith, children of Bonnie Burns and Ben Smith, will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.

Welcoming New Members | 11:00

Heather and Trevor Lawson (Vivian) join by Profession of Faith. Bonnie Burns and Ben Smith (Brooks and Garson), and Kristen and Keith Whitlock (Scottie and Will) join by Reaffirmation of Faith. Sharon McRee, William Gaither, and Katie Ray and Kody Pratson (Lincoln and Ella Cate) join by Letter of Transfer.

Prayer for Illumination

Dan Roebuck (8:30) | Jenifer Bean (11:00)

Scripture Reading

Psalm 25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

I Believe in Christ

arr. Mack Wilberg

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:18-22

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Greek 101: Pistis

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

*Affirmation of Faith:

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

In the very early church, candidates for baptism were asked, "what do you believe?" They would answer with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The 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.

Response to Prayer | Hymn 601

DANISH AMEN



An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me and
Lord, to You My Soul is Lifted*

See Hymns 417
and 420

*Doxology | Hymn 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response | Hymn 543 stanza 1

**God, be the love to search and guide me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.**

Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

Sinfonia

Henry Purcell

We end the Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession by saying the Lord's Prayer all together as the family of faith.

Scan here to give an offering online:



As our time of worship comes to an end, our lives of service begin again.

Anthem

I believe in Christ; he is my King!
With all my heart to him I'll sing;
I'll raise my voice in praise and joy,
In grand amens my tongue employ.

I believe in Christ; he ransoms me.
From Satan's grasp he sets me free,
And I shall live with joy and love
In his eternal courts above.

I believe in Christ; he is God's Son.
On earth to dwell his soul did come.
He healed the sick; the dead he raised.
Good works were his; his name be praised

I believe in Christ; he stands supremel
From him I'll gain my fondest dream;
And while I strive through grief and pain,
His voice is heard: "Ye shall obtain."

I believe in Christ my Lord, my God!
My feet he plants on gospel sod.
I'll worship him with all my might;
He is the source of truth and light.

I believe in Christ; so come what may,
With him I'll stand in that great day
When on this earth he comes again
To rule among the sons of men.

We are grateful to our FPC Choral Scholar, Cait Belington, for sharing her musical gifts in worship today.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given by Karen Johnson in honor of the Chancel Choir for their leadership in our worship.

Staff Directory | 919-821-5750

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger
The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher
The Rev. Dr. Ernie Thompson
The Rev. Judy Pidcock
Beth Thaxton
David Poisson
Kathy Johnson
Rita Harris
Mark Woodcock
Lindsay Anne McCall
Dr. Karl Zinsmeister
Gail Barrett
Jean Suber
Melani Harrison
Russell Clark
Brooke Barrett
Tyler Elrod
Valerie Chassereau

Senior Pastor (Ext. 2206)
Associate Pastor (Ext. 2208)
Parish Associate
Parish Associate
Director of Family Ministries & Christian Education
Interim Director of Youth Ministries
Director of Community Outreach
Outreach Assistant
Director of Music
Director of Children & Youth Music
Organist
Church Administrator
Director of Communications
Finance Assistant/Office Manager
Facilities Manager
Sexton
Audio Visual Lead Tech
Director of Child Development Center

Scan the QR code
for ways to become
connected to our
ministries.



On the Calendar This Week, September 27 – October 3

Today– Early Worship 8:30 a.m. | Sunday School 9:45 a.m. | Late Worship 11:00 a.m. | Communion Workshop 4:00 p.m. | Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group 5:30 p.m. | Youth Music Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 28 – Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. | Pickle Ball 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00 a.m. | CDC Chapel 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 30 – Early Birds 6:30 a.m. | Midweek Bible Study 12:00 p.m. | Pickle Ball 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 1 – Knitting Group 10:00 a.m. | Shower Ministry 11:30 a.m. | Bible Study at Glenaire 2:30 p.m. | Personnel Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 2 – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

Saturday, October 3 – Historic Downtown Church Walk 8:00 a.m. | PW Parking Lot Fundraiser 11:30 a.m.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Midweek Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday at noon in the Phoenix room (3rd floor) for a Bible study on the book of Isaiah. Even if you missed the first few, you're still welcome to join. Or make plans to join in November when we explore Amos.

Communion Workshop

Today at 4:00 p.m., kindergartners and first graders are invited to learn all about Communion together as we explore the Sacraments! Please register at fpcraleigh.org/events or sign up in the events registration book located at the desk in the Edge lobby. Contact Beth Thaxton at bthaxton@fpcraleigh.org for more information.

LGBTQ+ Support Group

Monday, September 28 - LGBTQ+ Support Group 7:00 p.m. The All Are Welcome group for LGBTQ+ adults meets the fourth Monday of each month at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Davidson Chapel, 2000 McDonald Lane. All Are Welcome is a faith-based small group offering a safe space for fellowship and emotional/spiritual support. For more information, contact Kathy Hart at hartmusic1@gmail.com or 401-837-8873.

Pig Pickin' N Chicken Stewardship Kickoff

Join us Sunday, October 11, after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for a celebration of fellowship, food, and faithful giving at our Pig Pickin' N Chicken Stewardship Kickoff! This church-wide event marks the start of our fall Stewardship season, a time when we come together to reflect on God's abundant blessings and how we're called to share them with joy. Bring your appetite, your friends, and your open hearts!

Adult Fellowship

Come grab a cup of coffee, enjoy a donut (or two!), and spend some time connecting with friends on Tuesday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. Bring a friend and stay for the conversation! We hope to see you there!

FPC All-Church Retreat at Montreat Conference Center

We're headed back to Montreat! Save the date: February 12-14, 2027. All ages are welcome! Go to fpcraleigh.org/events or the events book at the desk in the Edge Lobby for more information and to register. Contact Beth Thaxton with questions or for help with registration.

FPC Shares Item for October

October's FPC Shares item is Canned Meat! Bring this item and/or your favorite non-perishable food donations to the church. There are FPC Shares receptacles on both sides of the Edge Lobby and in two places in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

Mission Spotlights

The Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen

Housed on the campus of the Church of the Good Shepherd, across from the FPC parking lot's Morgan Street entrance, The Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen was started in 1980 by six individuals who saw a need to help and decided to act. Watching people beg for food and dig out of trash cans just wasn't something they could stand by and watch happen without trying to help their fellow man. Those individuals went home, got a plan together, and started cooking. They made soup and sandwiches in their homes, brought them down in their cars, and started handing them out. The first day they did this, they served 27 hungry and very grateful people. Today, the soup kitchen serves approximately 90,000 individuals annually. They serve a free, hot, and nutritious meal to over 250 men, women, and children every Monday through Friday from 11 am to noon, 364 days a year. Their mission is to provide a mutual ministry between the people of the Raleigh area – those who have and those who have not – by providing food obtained by donation and served by volunteers. In this manner, the true spirit of communion, that of sharing God's gifts with God's people, can be carried out in a caring and non-judgmental atmosphere.

The money provided by FPC's Mission Budget is used to purchase food and the essentials it takes for The Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen to open its doors to those in need. In 2023, the FPC Foundation helped the Shepherd's Table purchase a new refrigerator, and their 2021 donation helped them survive the pandemic.

Ship Community Outreach

Founded in 2010 by Pastors Chris and Jacqueline Jones, Ship Community Outreach began with a simple desire to give away socks and hotdogs in 2002. What started as small acts of kindness has grown into a comprehensive community center serving downtown Raleigh and surrounding areas.

The writer of Proverbs says that a good man may fall seven times, but he gets back up again. This is what they do at Ship Community Outreach – they help people get up again through proven and effective programs that address immediate needs while building long-term stability. They believe that those who are caught up in unfortunate circumstances deserve a second, third, and fourth chance just as we all do. They believe good people that may have stumbled in life need a place like Ship Outreach to lend a hand.

Ship Outreach's mission is rooted in the belief that every person deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive. Their programs focus on food insecurity, poverty alleviation, crime prevention, healthy living, employment readiness, life skills training, and human trafficking intervention. Ship's vision is to create healthy and safe communities free of dependencies and capable of producing strong families who in turn give back to the community. They don't just provide services; they build relationships and develop trust that transforms lives.

Currently located just minutes from Downtown Raleigh on South Saunders Street, Ship Community Outreach is a new mission partner of FPC. Jim Nichols is their member sponsor. Earlier this year, The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, Jim and Kathy Johnson visited with Chris Jones at Ship Outreach to take a tour and learn more about their amazing work.

They address the needs of Raleigh's most vulnerable and under-resourced through community programs and outreach. From food assistance to job training, from safe housing to youth development, Ship Outreach's programs address both immediate needs and long-term empowerment. They believe that when neighbors come together, no one goes without.