



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.

October 18, 2026

21st Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Introit

Give Thanks

arr. James Biery

Call to Worship

We come before God offering our true selves, all that we have and all that we are.

For God calls us to see our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.

We come before God offering our gifts, trusting that everything is a gift from God.

For God calls us together as one body. We have different gifts, but are united by the love of Jesus Christ. Let us worship God.

*Hymn 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Judy Pidcock

We have withheld from you, O God, our deepest selves, choosing only to offer that which we see as marketable or usable, when we know you desire the fullness of our beings. We fail to honor you and the unique gifts you have given us by insisting that one is better than the other. Grant us grace that we may accept one another and give freely of ourselves to the glory of your kingdom. Renew our minds, and change our ways, that they become your ways in the fullness of your wisdom.

(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!

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.

Worship is at the heart of who we are as God's people. We enter this time ready to encounter God and God's word to us; offering our time and attention as a form of worship.

Having confessed our sin, we remember the promises of God's redemption, and the claim God has on all human life. God's forgiveness is absolute and God's grace is abundant.

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

We Listen and Respond to God's Word

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 Children's Moment, children ages 4 - 2nd gr. are invited to the Library for Children's Church and will return following the sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Cindy Elderkin (8:30)
Kathy Hopkins (11:00)

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 16:13-17

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

*Lord, Here Am I (8:30)
God Calls (11:00)*

John Ness Beck
Karl Zinsmeister

Scripture Reading Romans 12:1-18

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Living Sacrifice

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 711

Lord of All Good

TOULON

*Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Commissioning of Jim Peterson for Service in Malawi (11:00)

We pray for illumination trusting that every time we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit is at work transforming ordinary words into God's living and authoritative word for God's people.

A Brief Statement of Faith was written to celebrate the reunification of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches in 1983.

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



A Moment for Stewardship

Lee Corbett

An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory

For the Fruit of All Creation

arr. Frank Soldt

*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 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH
SPRING

*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

All Glory Be to God on High

Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

The offering is a vital part of our response to God and God's Word. It helps us connect our adoration for God with our life of discipleship. The money given at the offering is a sign of our desire to devote our whole selves to God's service in response to God's loving faithfulness in us.

Scan here to give an offering online:



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

Anthem 8:30

Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey;
Only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me,
What is my labor, and where it shall be.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross;
Willing to suffer reproaches and loss;
Willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead;
Only support me with grace in my need.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

Living or dying, I still would be Thine,
Yet I am mortal while Thou art divine.
Pardon, whenever I turn from the right;
Pity, and bring me again to the light.
Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

Anthem 11:00

God calls disciples still
to pitch tall tents inside a native land
and gives the people back their heart.
Goodness spans the earth like dawn.
God's tent ropes are long, the stakes are deep;
both house and heart are high.

New Zions and new scrolls
cannot contain all of the native words;
God gives the people back their soul.
Goodness spans the earth like dawn.
God's tent ropes are long, the stakes are deep;
both house and heart are high.

New prophets walk the streets like lamplighters,
and in a native reborn heart
God gives the people back their song.
Goodness spans the earth like dawn.
God's tent ropes are long, the stakes are deep;
both house and heart are high.

We are grateful to our FPC Choral Scholar, Cait Belington, for sharing her musical gifts in the 8:30 worship service today.

The Chancel flowers are given by Anne and Bucky Carter to the glory of God and in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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, October 18 – October 24

Today– Early Worship 8:30 a.m. | Sunday School 9:45 a.m. | Called Congregational Meeting 10:50 a.m. | Late Worship 11:00 a.m. | Mahjong 12:00 p.m. | Reception for Edna Hensey 12:00 p.m. | Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

Monday, October 19 – Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. | Pickleball 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00 a.m. | Adult Fellowship 10:00 a.m. | CDC Chapel 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 21 – Early Birds 6:30 a.m. | Midweek Bible Study 12:00 p.m. | Pickleball 1:00 p.m. | Diaconate Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 22 – Bible Study at Glenaire 2:30 p.m.

Friday, October 23 – Choir Retreat at Trinity Center.

Saturday, October 24 – Choir Retreat at Trinity Center.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting this morning, at 10:50 a.m. for the purposes of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee.

Reception Honoring Edna Hensey

Please join us after the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Edge Lobby for a reception honoring Edna Hensey for her 45+ years of service to the FPC Library!

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!

Trunk or Treat

Join us in the FPC parking lot on Sunday, October 25, at 5:00 p.m. for our fun-filled evening of decorated trunks, sweet treats, and community! We will also have hotdogs and drinks! To help us prepare enough food please register at fpcraleigh.org/events or sign up in the reservation book at the Edge Lobby desk.

Lunch and Learn: Where to live as you age

We are delighted to welcome Liisa Ogburn to FPC on Sunday, November 8, at noon for a lunch and learn about living options as you age. Liisa works with seniors and families around Raleigh, providing insight into the local retirement communities and care facilities, as well as the option of how to age in your own home. Sign up at fpcraleigh.org/events or in the reservation book at the Edge Lobby desk.

FPC Book Club

Check out Clear, by Carys Davies from the church library or your local public library and start reading this tale that takes place on a remote Scottish Island. Then make plans to join us Tuesday, November 10, either at noon in person in the Edge Lobby, or at 7pm on zoom. Please sign up at fpcraleigh.org/events or in the reservation book at the Edge Lobby desk.

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.

Thank you!

Thank you to all of those who prayed for our FPC Pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago. It was a wonderful experience and we certainly felt your prayers. We look forward to sharing the experience with you soon!

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 Spotlight

Wheels 4 Hope (W4H) is a local non-profit whose aim is to provide safe, reliable, affordable vehicles to people in the community without affordable transportation to work and/or school. Turning donated, used cars into safe, reliable transportation has the power to turn a family's life around. Over the past 26 years, over 5,600 lives have been changed due to Wheels 4 Hope.

When a person donates their car, one of Wheels 4 Hope's partner garages makes all repairs and performs all maintenance required to make it a safe and reliable vehicle. If a donated vehicle is a higher-value vehicle that is not practical for lower-income families (e.g., Mercedes, BMW), W4H will sell it and use the proceeds to buy two or more less expensive cars.

Finally, W4H selects a recipient from a waitlist of individuals referred by area non-profit partner organizations. To be eligible for a referral, individuals must be in long-term case management with the referring agency. Vehicles are sold to the recipient for \$500 plus tax, title fees, and tags. Each car comes with a six-month warranty. The recipient takes possession at a Car Blessing event, and the community that donated the vehicle is invited to attend. This way, neighbors can witness the transformative power of paying it forward to other neighbors in need.

First Presbyterian Church had the profound opportunity to witness a Car Blessing event at our 2024 and 2025 Mission Fairs. Wheels for Hope is in our annual FPC Mission Budget. And in 2023, the FPC Foundation awarded Wheels 4 Hope a \$15,000 grant to purchase diagnostic equipment, which enables them to accept cars made within the last 10 years.

The next time you're in the market for a new car, consider making a tax-deductible donation of your old car to Wheels for Hope.

For more information on Wheels 4 Hope, visit <https://wheels4hope.org/>