



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh

FIRST PRESS

October 11 - October 18, 2026

Worship this Sunday

October 11, 2026

Join us for Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Where Your Heart Is

Scripture: Proverbs 11:24-28 | Matthew 6:19-24

[Click here for our live stream and worship resources](#)

[Click here for our YouTube Channel](#)

The pastor on call for the month of October is The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger. She can be reached at 919 714-7206 or at tbulger@fpcraleigh.org.

From Tara's Desk

Dear Church,

This Sunday, we will begin a new sermon series based on our Stewardship 2026 theme: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*.

Stewardship is more than a time of year or a process we go through to budget for the church in the coming year. Stewardship is, first and

foremost, a spiritual practice. Stewardship recognizes that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. As such, we are called to use our gifts, talents, time, and treasure in ways that honor God. We give of what we have not just in ways that are easy or convenient, but in ways that show sacrifice. Through the sacrifice of giving, we also grow spiritually.

I consider one of the spiritually richest times of my life to be when Brian and I joined our first church and were learning about stewardship. We didn't have much then, certainly not in material resources, but we had a deep and abiding faith in God and wanted that to be reflected in our giving. God felt very near as we prayed and discussed what we could give to the church.

I want to invite you into the same practice in the days ahead. Sunday, October 25, 2026, will be Consecration Sunday, and we will each be asked to bring our pledges of support to the church and offer them in worship. Until that time, I invite you to pray for God's guidance in your giving. Discuss it with those close to you. Ask God to show you how you can support God's work in the world in the year ahead. I'm confident that through your prayers and discernment, you too will grow in faith and gratitude. I will also be praying for you in the days ahead.

In faith, hope, and love,
The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger
Senior Pastor

Friends,

It was my joy last week to gather with some of our youngest Presbyterians for a Communion Workshop!

Together, we explored the Sacrament of Communion by:

- Looking at the story of the Last Supper in various children's Bibles.
- Learning about Passover and why Jesus was gathered around the Table with the Disciples.
- Connecting the story of the Last Supper to Jesus' death and Resurrection.

- Reminding ourselves of why Communion helps us give thanks for Jesus' great gift for each of us.

We also explored the Sacristy to appreciate all the work that goes into hosting Communion for the congregation.

Each child was able to take home a packet of information to remind them of all we talked about, along with their very own loaf of "squishy" bread to remind them of this holy Sacrament.



These children are curious and eager to learn! One of our parents shared with me this week that, in anticipation of World Communion Sunday, their child jumped out of bed so quickly to get to church because they were so excited to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

May their enthusiasm, joy, and love of God be an inspiration to us all -- I know it is to me!

Gratefully,
Beth Thaxton
Director of Family Ministries & Christian Education

Coming Up

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting on Sunday, October 18, at 10:50 a.m. for the purposes of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee.



**Please Join Us for a
Reception Honoring Edna Hensey
for her 45+ Years of Service to the
FPC Library!**

Sunday October 18th in the Edge
Lobby and Library following the
11:00 a.m. Service

Refreshments Will be Served

We Honor our beloved Edna for her
tireless and dedicated years of
service to our Congregation, and in
particular to our Children. Her gentle
warmth, humor, and enthusiasm for
the joys of Books, Learning, and
Spiritual Growth have enriched us
all.

Making Room: A Collaborative Advent Devotional

This Advent, we're creating something special together, and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Instead of ordering a preprinted devotional this year, we're inviting members of our church family to help write our very own Advent devotional. We're looking for people willing to share a short reflection on Scripture.

You don't have to be a professional writer or theologian. You simply need a willingness to share a bit of your faith and help encourage others during this season of waiting and wonder.

If you'd like to contribute a devotion, [sign up today!](#) More information and writing guidelines will be provided to everyone who signs up.



October Circle Meetings

- Circle 4 meets Monday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m. in FPC's Memorial Hall & via Zoom (Hostesses: Sandra Joyce and Tracey Pleasant)
- Circle 6 meets Tuesday, October 13 at 3:00 p.m. at Glenaire (6000 Building, 5th Floor Lounge, West Side)
- Circle 8 meets Monday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Susan Hodge
- Circle 9 meets Sunday, October 11 at 5 p.m. in FPC's Lisa Ham Gathering Space
- Circle 10 meets Saturday, October 10 at 6 p.m. at the home of Carl and Alice Moore



Join us Sunday, October 11 for a celebration of fellowship, food, and faithful giving at our Pig Pickin' 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. After worship, we'll head to Memorial Hall to enjoy a traditional Southern Pig Pickin' complete with pulled pork, BBQ chicken, delicious sides, tea and lemonade, and banana pudding. Bring your appetite, your friends, and your open hearts! This is more than just a meal, it's the beginning of a season where we'll explore how our generosity helps support the mission and ministries of

our congregation, both locally and globally.



Come grab a cup of coffee, enjoy a donut (or two!), and spend some time connecting with friends.

Adult Fellowship is a chance to slow down, catch up, share a few laughs, and enjoy the gift of community.

Come for the coffee. Stay for the conversation. Leave with a full heart!

All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Tuesday | October 20 | 10:00 A.M.
Edge Lobby | FPC



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 here](#) or sign up in the reservation book at the Edge Lobby desk.



**Where to live as you age
A special Lunch and Learn with
Liisa Ogburn**

We're delighted to have Liisa Ogburn join us on Sunday, November 8 at 12:15 for a Lunch and Learn. Liisa will share information about CCRCs in the Raleigh area, as well as information about home health care. Liisa is widely respected and has led presentations around Raleigh and helped individual clients. Come learn about options for thoughtful aging for yourself, your parents, or other loved ones. Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

You can [register here](#) or go to fpcraleigh.org/events. You may also add your name to the Event Registration Book located at the desk in the Edge Lobby.



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, or at 7pm on zoom.

You can [register here](#) or go to fpcraleigh.org/events. You may also add your name to the Event Registration Book located at the desk in the Edge Lobby.



The FPC Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Committee is currently seeking nominations for Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women PC (USA). Nominations are due by November 25th. There will be hard copies of the nomination form located in Sunday School classes as well as the Lisa Ham Gathering Space. The nomination form includes a list of past recipients for reference. Please contact [Becky Glendy](#), HLM Committee Moderator with any questions.

Nomination Form



Join us for a long-held tradition at FPC, the All Church Retreat at Montreat! February 12-14, 2027

This event has been held for over 30 years, but after a hiatus due to the pandemic & Hurricane Helene, we're thrilled to be BACK!

The Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger will be our keynote speaker!

Our theme is "To be a Christian" and will explore 4 different themes throughout the weekend.

Activities include:

- Keynotes
- Small groups
- Free time in Montreat
- Talent show
- Worship
- and more!

Register by November 10.

[Click to learn more and to register!](#)



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