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.

November 8, 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements — The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Introit — *How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions: Psalm 32* — William Lloyd

Call to Worship

In the morning, O Lord, you hear our prayers.
In the light of this day, we praise your name.
Through the abundance of your steadfast love, you have gathered us into your house.
In the holiness of your presence, we gather to worship you.

*Hymn 39 — *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* — FAITHFULNESS

Prayer of Confession — The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

God of justice and mercy, we confess that we disobey your will. We show neither justice nor mercy to others. Christ our Savior, love incarnate, we confess that we take your love for granted. We do not give of ourselves, nor do we rejoice in all the blessings we receive. Holy Spirit, power and breath, we confess that we block your movement. We do not live holy lives of sacrificial love. Gracious Trinity, forgive us and grant us your peace. Help us to turn from our sins so that we may love you by joyfully caring for others.

(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.

We gather in worship to attend to the presence of God in our lives. In worship we see the world in light of God's grace, and go forth with a vision and power for living in the world as God's people. The rhythm of the life of the believer moves from worship to ministry, from ministry to worship.

Our Response to Pardon reminds us to take the gratitude we find in the Assurance of Pardon and to apply it to our daily lives by ever more committing ourselves to the way of Jesus.

*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.

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.

We pray the Prayer for Illumination before reading scripture because we recognize that, without the work of the Spirit, it's impossible for us to truly hear the good news, especially when that good news includes a challenging word.

Prayer for Illumination — Barger Jeutter (8:30) Jenifer Bean (11:00)

Scripture Reading — Psalm 32

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

Anthem — *Be Thou My Vision* — arr. Graham Godfrey

Scripture Reading — Galatians 2:15-21

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

Sermon — *Theology 101: The Doctrine of Justification* — The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

The Westminster Confession of Faith was written in the 17th century and was a foundational confessional document in the early American colonies.

*Affirmation of Faith from *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth: not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and resting on him and his righteousness by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God. Amen.

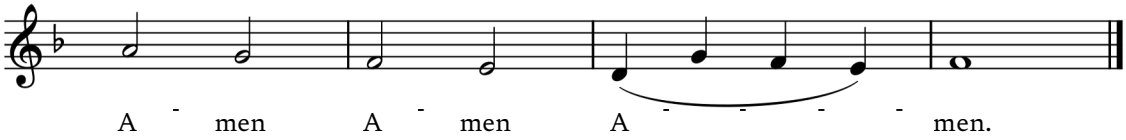
Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

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.

In response to God's Word we offer our prayers. Across the ages, the church in its worship has prayed for the church universal, the world, and all those in need to distress. We pray for the world because God loves the world.

Response to Prayer | Hymn 601 DANISH AMEN



An Invitation to Give An Offering

In grateful response for the abundance of God's grace, we offer ourselves to be instruments of God's peace, love, and justice.

Scan here to give an offering online:

Offertory *Prayer* Leon Boëllmann

*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 361 *O Christ, the Great Foundation* AURELIA

*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.

We go forth into the world to serve God in our daily lives as a continuation of our worship, so that our work is our worship until we gather again.

Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude *Vivace* Maurice Greene

Anthem

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, O Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee, Thou with me Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I in Thee one.

High King of Heaven, the victory won,
May I reach heavn's joys O bright heavn's Sun;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

We are grateful to FPC Choral Scholar Cait Belingon for sharing her musical gifts in today's worship services.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in honor of the church staff, by Jim and Patty Holloway.

Staff Directory | 919-821-5750

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger	Senior Pastor (Ext. 2206)
The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher	Associate Pastor (Ext. 2208)
The Rev. Dr. Ernie Thompson	Parish Associate
The Rev. Judy Pidcock	Parish Associate
Beth Thaxton	Director of Family Ministries & Christian Education
David Poisson	Interim Director of Youth Ministries
Kathy Johnson	Director of Community Outreach
Rita Harris	Outreach Assistant
Mark Woodcock	Director of Music
Lindsay Anne McCall	Director of Children & Youth Music
Dr. Karl Zinsmeister	Organist
Gail Barrett	Church Administrator
Jean Suber	Director of Communications
Melani Harrison	Finance Assistant/Office Manager
Russell Clark	Facilities Manager
Brooke Barrett	Sexton
Tyler Elrod	Audio Visual Lead Tech
Valerie Chassereau	Director of Child Development Center

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

On the Calendar This Week, November 8 – November 14

Today– Early Worship 8:30 a.m. | Sunday School 9:45 a.m. | Late Worship 11:00 a.m. | Lunch & Learn 12:00 p.m. | Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00 p.m. | Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

Monday, November 9 – Circle 4 10:30 a.m. | Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. | Pickleball 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00 a.m. | CDC Chapel 10:30 a.m. | Book Club In-Person 12:00 p.m. | Book Club via Zoom 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11 – Early Birds 6:30 a.m. | Midweek Bible Study 12:00 p.m. | Pickleball 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 12 – Bible Study at Glenaire 2:30 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 13 – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

Saturday, November 14 – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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.

Adult Fellowship Outing to Southern Supreme

Join us Thursday, November 12, for a favorite FPC outing to Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory in Bear Creek! We'll enjoy lunch along the way before browsing delicious treats, holiday gifts, and their famous fruitcakes. It's the perfect chance to get a head start on Christmas shopping while enjoying fellowship and holiday cheer! Transportation provided. The bus departs from the FPC parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Please RSVP by Monday, November 9. Register at fpcraleigh.org/events, by calling the church office at 919 821-5750, or by signing up in the reservation book at the Edge Lobby Desk. Bring a friend and join us for a sweet day of fun!

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us Wednesdays in November as we take a look at Galatians. We'll meet from 12-1pm in the Phoenix room. All are welcome!

FPC Christmas Gifts & Stocking Stuffers

The Presbyterian Women will hold the FPC Gifts & Stocking Stuffers sale again this year. You will find their table in the Edge Lobby on November 15, November 22, December 6, and December 13.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event

In the continued spirit of gratitude for our abundance of many blessing, we invite you to take part in a different type of Thanksgiving Worship this year. Tuesday, November 24, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. We will begin with Worship in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm and end with a Rise Against Hunger meal packing event in Memorial Hall. Please register at fpcraleigh.org or go to riseagainsthunger.org

Next Inquirer's Class

If you've been visiting with us, we hope you'll make plans to attend our next Inquirer's class on Sunday, January 3 and 10, with a tour of the church campus on January 24th. Class will be at 9:45am in the Parlor (located near the sanctuary). If you have questions about the church, email Laurie Taylor Weicher at lweicher@fpcraleigh.org.

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 November
November's FPC Shares item is Canned Vegetables! 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

Raleigh Area Land Trust -A New Model for Affordable Housing in Raleigh
In 2018, a dynamic coalition of community activists, nonprofit leaders, philanthropists, foundations, and faith leaders united to form the steering committee that laid the foundation for what would become the Raleigh Area Land Trust (RALT). By 2019, RALT secured its nonprofit status, and over the next three years, crafted its model and programs tailored for Wake County. During this time, RALT forged strategic alliances with influential nonprofit partners while simultaneously building essential relationships with government officials to ensure long-term success.

In 2021-2022, RALT transitioned from planning to action. They acquired their first properties and finalized their innovative homeownership program. RALT purchased its inaugural two homes on Southgate Drive in Southeast Raleigh to pilot the model, transforming them over the course of a year. That same year, RALT was awarded a transformative project: 1.2 acres of vacant land in downtown Raleigh to develop into the Cottages of Idlewild in partnership with their collaborators. By the fall of 2022, they officially launched a homeownership program, offering education, counseling, and affordable homeownership opportunities to low-income families across Wake County.

In 2023, RALT reached a pivotal milestone—selling its first two homes to income-eligible buyers, propelling them toward an ambitious goal of creating 100 affordable homes by 2028. While they have much more to accomplish, the momentum is undeniable as they continue to expand across Wake County. For the first few years, RALT was powered by a dedicated team of volunteer board and committee members, along with a group of consultants.

By 2024, recognizing the increasing demand for permanent affordable housing in Wake County, they hired their first full-time Executive Director, Kevin Campbell, and are rapidly scaling staff to meet the growing need. Their mission is to increase affordable housing opportunities in Raleigh and Wake County and expand affordable homeownership opportunities for families with low to moderate incomes so that they are able to live or remain in the communities of their choice.

Their vision is to protect neighborhoods from the affordable housing crisis by ensuring working families can afford to live in their community and by keeping homes in their community affordable for generations to come. Earlier this year, RALT gave a presentation to the Mission Committee about their transformative work. They are now an official Mission Partner of FPC. Their member sponsor is Edward Finley. The FPC Foundation also awarded RALT a $25K grant to support their work in the affordable housing arena.

To learn more about their great work, visit their website at RALT.