

FPC FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church | Volume XXX, Issue 5 Feb 1, 2026 - Feb 8, 2026

Dear Church,

As I write this, I have spent the last few days at home due to the weather. I have been warm and safe with much to eat and the good company of my husband. For many, the poor weather brings a host of worries: being out of work when rent and utilities are due, and having enough heat and food. This is to say nothing about those who are unhoused on these cold, cold days. I often struggle with my privilege in the face of so much difficulty in the world.

And then I think of Mr. Rogers. Yes, Mr. Rogers. When Mr. Rogers was a child, his mother told him that whenever something bad happened or whenever he was troubled by the world, he should always look for the helpers. In the midst of whatever the bad thing or difficulty was, there were always people there to help. He learned to focus on the helpers.

Our church does a lot to help in this world. We support mission partners, and the ongoing work of the Friendship Fund is invaluable for many people. If you can give to the Friendship Fund, please do, as I imagine requests for assistance will increase after this weather. ([You can click here to give online](#). Just choose Friendship Fund from the dropdown menu. If you'd like to give your gift in honor or memory of someone, just let Kathy Johnson know at kjohnson@fpcraleigh.org). If you have another favorite mission that assists people in need, please do that as well.

But more than that, call and check on your friends and neighbors. Think of yourself as a helper, as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Share what you can, when you can. Let us all try to share the love of Christ with a hurting world.

In faith, hope, and love,
Tara



Sunday Worship Times

Early Service 8:30 a.m.
Late Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Lectionary

February 1:

Mic. 6:1-8

Ps. 15

1 Cor. 1:18-31

Matt. 5:1-12

February 8:

Isa. 58:1-9

Ps. 112:1-9 (10)

1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matt. 5:13-20

The Pastor on Call

Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger
919-714-7206

tbulger@fpcraleigh.org

Church Office

919-821-5750

fpcraleigh.org





FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS



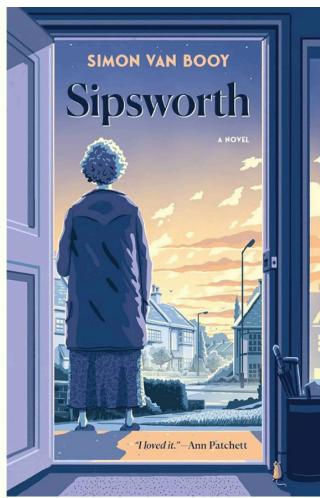
- Circle 4 meets Monday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m. in FPC's Memorial Hall & via Zoom (Hostess: Sandra Joyce)
- Circle 6 meets Tuesday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Glenaire (6000 Building, 5th Floor Lounge, West Side)
- Circle 8 meets Monday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Circle 9 meets Sunday, February 8 at 5 p.m. in FPC's Lisa Ham Gathering Space (Hostesses: Catherine Ahmad and Elizabeth Sparrow)
- Circle 10 meets Saturday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m. at 4000 Glenaire Circle, Cary (Hosts: Judy Rogers, Bill Miller, Laura Miller)
- If you're not yet connected to a Circle and would like more information, please email Anne Swaim at bamswaim@att.net



As we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, let us reflect and draw closer to God. Traditionally, people of faith have marked this beginning with the imposition of ashes.

We invite you to receive the ashes and blessing at one of our worship services on Wednesday, February 18. There will be a midday service at 12:00 P.M. and an evening service at 6:00 P.M.





BOOK CLUB

Our next read for anyone who wants to join will be *Sipsworth* by Simon Van Booy. This lovely novel tells the story of Helen Cartwright, whose life is unexpectedly upended by a little something she finds.

We'll discuss the book in person on Tuesday, February 24 at noon (bring your own lunch).

We will also meet at 7:00 P.M. on the 24th over Zoom for those who prefer to meet in the evening. Contact Jean Suber at 919-821-5750 if you would like to sign up for the zoom meeting.



First Presbyterian Church Presents



GRANDPARENT CAMP

AUGUST 10-14, 2026 | 9AM-12PM

Grandparents and Grandchildren (3 years old - 5th grade) will come TOGETHER!

Designed for:

FPC members who are grandparents & have grandchildren (members or not, in town or not)
FPC children who have grandparents (members or not, in town or not)

Grandparents & Grandchildren will stay together throughout the morning, traveling to different stations together.

There will be crafts, recreation, snacks, Bible stories, and more!

COST: \$25 per family, which helps cover the cost of supplies; scholarships available.

For questions, contact Beth Thaxton at
bthaxton@fpcraleigh.org or 919-714-7212



January 23, 2026

There they made him (Jesus) a supper; and Martha served...John 12:2

Martha Ministry Newsletter

Ernie Thompson let us know that Elaine's mother, Sigrid Childers Hyman, passed away peacefully at home on January 16th in Columbia, South Carolina, after a long journey with colon cancer. Elaine was with her when she passed. Our hearts and prayers for peace and comfort go to Elaine, Ernie and the family.

We also learned that our friend Tyler Elrod's grandmother has passed away. Our hearts go out to Tyler and his family. And pray their memories sustain them.

Ernie had a good visit on Tuesday with Bert Stevick who is in the hospital. Bert is at WakeMed north, but will be transferred to rehab soon. He is recovering from a bacterial infection. We are circling Bert with our prayers and love during this time.

We are all grateful to our friend Jeff Cates for his recent post on CaringBridge letting us catch up with sweet Marla. We rejoice in her progress and cheer her every achievement.

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is staying warm in this frigid weather!

And, I'm so excited to announce that FPC Raleigh is going to have a Mahjong group starting up soon. Hope Carmichael, Anne Otersen, and I have been discussing this for a bit, and we are finally going to give this a whirl and catch onto the Mahjong craze. Our first session will be after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, February 15th. Lunch will be provided, and we will meet in Memorial Hall to eat and then play from 1-3 pm at the tables in the Edge Lobby. All skill levels are welcome! I have never played, but I love games. Hope and Anne are experts, and they will teach beginners how to play. 2025 cards will be provided as we learn. But, if you think you're going to become a serious player, you can order your 2026 card here. There is no cost to play or eat, but please register at the link further down in this newsletter so that we have an idea of numbers.

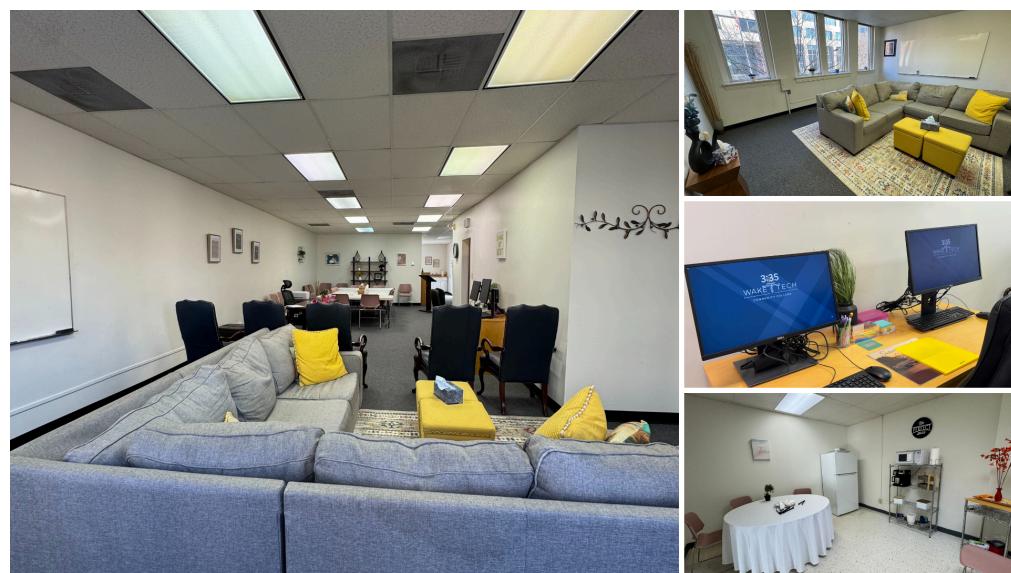
JobStart has officially started back! Woohoo!! Last week was their first week of this inaugural session, since it shut down during the pandemic, and it will last 8 weeks. Once some of our staff and church members are cleared and trained, we will be hosting them on Wednesdays for a short worship service. Again, many thanks to all of the people who worked hard to get the upstairs at 124 S. Salisbury St. emptied and cleaned for this new group. Jean Suber snapped some pictures of the new space for me last week. They are at the bottom of this article. Please pray for this first session as we work out any kinks and get this amazing program rolling again. If you'll remember, Marla Cates and Carol O'Briant Shackelford got this ministry going more than twenty-five years ago.

Finally, I hope you enjoyed hearing from Pete Tannebaum during last Sunday's worship services. Pete is the Executive Director at Alliance Medical Ministry and delivered a moment for mission about the great work that their ministry is doing to help the uninsured and underinsured in our community. Alliance Medical Ministry is a longtime Mission partner of FPC Raleigh. Pete quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday when he said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane". Many thanks to Alliance Medical Ministry for helping to ensure that basic healthcare is a human right. To learn more about this ministry or to find out how you might volunteer with their organization, please read the Mission Spotlight in this newsletter.

Many thanks for all you do to support Outreach and Missions at First Presbyterian – I am grateful for every one of you.

With gratitude and rejoicing!

Kathy



Welcome to Friendship Fund Giving

What is the Friendship Fund? The Friendship Fund is a crisis ministry that serves the working and retired poor & middle class of Wake County by providing emergency financial assistance primarily for rent, mortgages, and household utilities. Our aim is to prevent homelessness and critical utility shut offs, like water, electricity and household gas. Recipients must provide proof of income. Financial assistance is provided directly to utility companies, landlords, and property managers across Wake County.



I am constantly humbled and amazed by your donations to both the Friendship Fund and Outreach ministries. The Friendship Fund is proudly in its 6th decade of operation thanks to the vision of Dr. Al Edwards, and my notable predecessors, Carol Shackelford and Carol Anne Moehring.

I feel that it is equally important for church members to witness the incredible impact of their giving. Therefore, the newsletter will also include a monthly summary of how the Friendship Fund has helped our neighbors in need. If you prefer your gifts to remain anonymous, please email me directly at kjohnson@fpcraleigh.org to let me know your preference.

December 2025 Gifts to Friendship Fund

General Gifts

Anonymous *
 Mike and Nancy Austin
 Catherine Banks
 David and Anne Blake
 Mark and Becky Brown
 Brian and Tara Bulger
 Kathie Cheatham
 Priscilla Chappell
 Nita Cleland
 Betty Crawford
 Ralph and Jerrie Dearborn
 James and Katie di Carlo
 Betsy Douglass
 Early Birds *
 Justin and Lori Eckard
 Matt Ferraguto & Sallie Permar
 Laura Gnewuch
 Sally Greaser
 Fred and Arlene Hires
 Carol Jones
 Ed Koonce
 Todd and Jill Lang
 Loose Offering – Communion
 Valerie McHugh
 Ed and Jenny McLeod *
 Chris and Sue Moore
 Fred Morrison

Jim and Babs Nichols
 Chris and Amy Northup
 Billy Parker
 David and Anne Poisson
 Michael and Amy Propst
 Duncan and Mary Ray
 Jim and Joanne Riegel
 Kelly Riegel
 Will Robertson and Virginia Riel
 Tim Roney
 Brooks Smith
 Richard Specht
 James Taylor
 Olive Taylor
 Daniel Topal
 John and Laurie Weicher
 Bill and Barbara Williams *
 Megan Yohman
 Diane Young

* Multiple Gifts

Memorials (IMO = In Memory of)

IMO Donald "Don" L. Anderson *IMO Charles M Hensey* *IMO Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Railey*
 Jan Anderson Barwick Edna Hensey Edna Hensey
IMO Bill and Sylvia Bridge *IMO Eleanor Howell* *IMO Walter Gerard "Gerry" Rogers*
 Chuck and Nancy Crew Jennifer Ingram and Mike Woody Mike and Nancy Austin
IMO Bob Bristol *IMO Laurice and Zula Hubbard* *IMO Albert Smith*
 Ed and Jane Bristol Ed and Jane Bristol Betsy Cox
IMO Lewis, Pauline, & Bragg Cox *IMO Susan Hubbard* *IMO Blake Tolley*
 Betsy Cox Ed and Jane Bristol John and Julia Thomas
IMO Robert and Alma Bristol *IMO Mitzie Lesser-Thomas* *IMO Leonard Alfred "Al" Willson*
 Ed and Jane Bristol Mike and Nancy Austin Scott and Alicia Jacobson
IMO Lewis and Alice Crew *IMO J.C. Knowles* *IMO Marie Willson*
 Chuck and Nancy Crew Michael Yarborough David and Kathy Kesterson
IMO Joe and Toni D'Alessandris *IMO Ruby McKinnon* *Lillian Poole*
 John and Julia Thomas Edna Hensey Marion Wray
IMO Karen White Dunn *IMO Sarah McKinnon* *IMO Ray and Melba Wyche*
 Karol Jones Edna Hensey Scott and Alicia Jacobson Joe and Yvonne Wyche
IMO Betty Moore Fox *IMO Donald "Don" Ikerd McRee* *IMO Robert Wyche*
 Anne Ferebee-Gavaghan Boyd and Karen DeVane Joe and Yvonne Wyche
 Kathy Johnson Jim and LuAnn Little
 Jim and LuAnn Little *IMO Gerald "Gerry" Clark Page* *IMO Dylan Patterson*
 Sheri Lyons Dick and Elaine Carver Hilda Patterson
 Naveen Nallappa *IMO John Patterson* Hilda Patterson
 Patricia O'Quinn
 Sandra Romanac
 Diana Ryan
 Sandra Stephenson

December 2025 Gifts to Outreach

FPC Shares/Water Ministry McDonald's, Grocery and Gas Gift Cards
 Joe and Yvonne Wyche Ray and Jan Denny

Honorariums (IHO = In Honor of)

<i>IHO FPC Staff</i> Jeff and JJ Bullock Kathy Johnson Ed and Jenny McLeod Dick and Carol Anne Moehring Chris and Amy Northup Marion Wray	<i>IHO Vicky Bowes</i> Chuck and Nancy Crew	<i>IHO Tim Duffie</i> Priscilla McRee	<i>IHO The Matthews Family</i> McLeod/Clark Realty Team	<i>IHO Scott and Kathy Sommerfeld</i> Dick and Carol Anne Moehring
<i>IHO FPC Weekday Front Desk Receptionists</i> Brian and Tara Bulger	<i>IHO Gail Brenner</i> George Peters	<i>IHO Bill Dunn</i> Karol Jones	<i>IHO Ron Matthes</i> Wes and Kelly Thompson	<i>IHO Jean Suber</i> Elaine Goodwin
<i>IHO FPC Mission Committee</i> Kathy Johnson	<i>IHO Molly Britt</i> Jeff and JJ Bullock	<i>IHO Johnnie and Sue Evans</i> Ed and Jane Bristol	<i>IHO Charlotte Maxon</i> Chuck and Nancy Crew	<i>IHO Mark and Martha Sumner</i> Priscilla McRee
<i>IHO FPC Friendship Fund Volunteers</i> Kathy Johnson	<i>IHO Randy and Judy Bryson</i> Ed and Jane Bristol	<i>IHO Zach, Brenda, & Duke Fentress</i> Jeff and JJ Bullock	<i>IHO Jane McMillan</i> Kathy Johnson	<i>IHO John Thomas</i> John and Barbara Gilligan
<i>IHO Nancy Appleby</i> George Peters	<i>IHO Joan Cassily</i> Jeff and JJ Bullock	<i>IHO Landis and Becky Ferrell</i> Priscilla McRee	<i>IHO Priscilla McRee</i> Dick and Carol Anne Moehring	<i>IHO John and Julia Thomas</i> Their grandchildren
<i>IHO Mike and Nancy Austin</i> Dick and Carol Anne Moehring	<i>IHO Len and Renee Clark</i> Priscilla McRee	<i>IHO Hilliard Greene</i> John and Julia Thomas	<i>IHO Beulah Minor</i> Jennifer Ingram and Mike Woody	<i>IHO Kathy Johnson</i> Candy Parks
<i>IHO Eric and Cathy Babineaux</i> Ed and Jane Bristol	<i>IHO Rita Clark</i> Betsy Cox	<i>IHO Billy and Fay Horne</i> Ed and Jane Bristol	<i>IHO Carol Anne Moehring</i> Mike & Nancy Austin	<i>IHO Ernie Thompson</i> Brian and Tara Bulger
<i>IHO Bob and Betsy Barham</i> Mike and Nancy Austin	<i>IHO Mitch Crisp</i> Dick and Carol Anne Moehring	<i>IHO Kathy Johnson</i> John and Julia Thomas	<i>IHO Candy Parks</i> John and Julia Thomas	<i>IHO Laurie Taylor Weicher</i> Elaine Goodwin
<i>IHO Beverly and Judy Beal</i> Andrew, Alison, and Owen Beal	<i>IHO Ralph and Jerrie Dearborn</i> Priscilla McRee	<i>IHO Maryanna Johnson</i> Douglas and Jane Macleod	<i>IHO Marian Phillips</i> Mike and Nancy Austin	<i>IHO Ed and Fran Yohman</i> James Taylor
<i>IHO Cherrie Berry</i> Jeff and JJ Bullock	<i>IHO Boyd and Karen DeVane</i> Candy Parks	<i>IHO Susan Johnson</i> Elaine Goodwin	<i>IHO Judy Pidcock</i> Elaine Goodwin	<i>IHO Ed Yohman</i> Mike and Nancy Austin
		<i>IHO David and Kathy Kesterson</i> Candy Parks	<i>IHO Duncan and Mary Ray</i> Dick and Carol Anne Moehring	<i>IHO Ed and Fran Yohman</i> Dick and Carol Anne Moehring
		<i>IHO Mary Jo Littlewood</i> Elaine Goodwin	<i>IHO Temple and Carolyn Sloan</i> Ed and Jenny McLeod	<i>IHO Karl and Lora Zinsmeister</i> Brian and Tara Bulger

Ann Poisson and her family, on a whim, decided to register for Note in the Pocket's 13th Annual Socks and Undie 5K Rundie on Saturday, April 25th at 9:30 am. Ann invited her Journey Sunday School Class to join the Poisson family in raising awareness for this clothing ministry, and ultimately, she created an FPC Raleigh team. If you would like to get in on this fun, you can register [here](#). They would love to have you join them. And, there are prizes for the biggest team. The run will take place at the Crossroads Fellowship campus at 4730 Hargrove Road – Raleigh, NC 27616.

Note in the Pocket's mission is to provide quality clothing to homeless and impoverished children and families with dignity and love. It was started by a teacher who noticed many of the children in her classroom lacked seasonally appropriate clothing. It started with a coat and a loving and supportive note placed in the coat pocket and has blossomed into so much more. To learn more, click [here](#).



Alliance Medical Ministry (AMM) provides access to compassionate whole-person primary care for working, uninsured adults to help reduce health disparities in Wake County. They believe that all residents of Wake County have access to quality health care and the self-determination to improve their health and well-being.



In 2022, Alliance Medical Ministry celebrated 20 years of existence as a source of health and hope here in Raleigh. As an organization, AMM seeks to provide primary care to uninsured households, enabling individuals to not only improve their health outcomes but also enhance their understanding, confidence, and ability to manage chronic illnesses, including the prevention of future acute exacerbations. Not only is Alliance Medical Ministry meeting current medical needs for uninsured individuals, but they are promoting future positive health outcomes and helping to prevent future health setbacks or challenges. AMM seeks to provide patients with the diverse support necessary to ensure their ongoing health and well-being.

For the past 22 years, Alliance Medical Ministry has addressed two of the top health needs in Wake County: access to healthcare and mental health services. AMM is committed to closing the healthcare gap between healthcare services and those who do not have access to them.

Wake County has continued to be one of the fastest-growing counties in the country. Yet, more than 70,000 Wake County residents remain uninsured today, even after North Carolina's 2023 Medicaid expansion. For adults who fall through the cracks – those who don't qualify for Medicaid and can't afford private insurance – AMM is a lifeline. 61% of their patient population has two or more chronic diseases. Last year, AMM had 11,266 holistic patient encounters, providing either primary care appointments, social work or counseling sessions, or conducting nutrition and wellness programs.

AMM provides holistic primary care as well as counseling sessions that aim to provide mental and spiritual health support. Each year, Alliance Medical Ministry distributes millions of dollars in life-changing and life-saving prescription medications at little to no cost. There is a garden on site that grows produce, which is dispensed to patients who come to seek medical attention. Last year, they grew over 2,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables. In addition to the garden, AMM hosts wellness programs that seek to educate and promote healthy eating and exercise lifestyles.

First Presbyterian Raleigh has made dental kits, feminine hygiene kits, and flu kits to donate to AMM. These kits are available in the clinic to patients in need. The FPC Mission budget annually supports the work and mission of Alliance Medical Ministry. In 2022 and 2025, AMM received grants from the FPC Foundation to help with technology upgrades. These technology upgrades have allowed AMM to stay current in the office, as well as to be able to communicate with wearable glucometer devices so that their patients are better equipped to manage their diabetes.

Last Sunday in worship, we welcomed their Executive Director, Pete Tannenbaum, to deliver a moment for mission.

To learn more about Alliance Medical Ministry, please visit <https://www.alliancemedicalministry.org/>.

Interested in hosting a build kit for your PW Circle, Sunday School class, or team at work? This [link](#) provides kit information and ingredients.



Let's MAHJONG!

Do you love to play Mahjong or have you ever wanted to learn? Hope Carmichael, Anne Otersen, and Kathy Johnson are starting an FPC Mahjong Group. Our first session will be on Sunday, February 15th, after worship. Lunch will be provided in Memorial Hall immediately following worship for those playing. We will play at the Edge Lobby tables from 1-3 pm. 2025 Mahjong cards will be provided to those who don't have one. 2026 cards are not yet available. Hope to see you there! Call the church at 919-821-5750 to register



First Baptist Church at 99 N. Salisbury Street is currently taking donations at their back door, off the Edenton Street parking lot. Ring the bell and place clothing in the bins located just inside the double doors. They request that donated items be sorted and labeled as "Women", "Men", or "Children". There is a big need for children's clothing.

First Baptist Church Clothing Ministry
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
For questions, call FBC at 919-832-4485



HELP US END HUNGER

December Soup



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 the Lisa Ham Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

Thank you!



Did you know that it takes about 100 volunteers each day to deliver meals to the homebound seniors Meals on Wheels serves? They have 11 home delivered meal sites to volunteer from across Wake County. Whether it's North Raleigh, Wake Forest or Zebulon, they are looking to add to their team of volunteers! You can deliver every week or once a month - whatever suits your schedule. Meal delivery takes about 60-90 minutes and brings so much joy to homebound seniors, as well as provides a nourishing meal and wellness check. [Click here to volunteer today!](#)