

FPC FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church

Volume XXX, Issue 8 Feb 22, 2026 - Mar 1, 2026

Dear Church,

Today is Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

In the earliest days of the Christian church, all new converts to the faith were baptized and received into membership on Easter Sunday. The weeks before Easter were spent preparing the convert for their baptism. They learned scripture, creeds, and the doctrines of the faith. This prepared them to make their confessions of faith.

In our current church context, Lent is now a time for growth in our lives of faith. Through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and self-examination, we spend the forty days of Lent consciously reflecting on our baptismal promises and our discipleship. We hope, at the end of Lent, to greet Easter morning with our spiritual lives renewed.

We will mark the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday services today at 12 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday gives us a chance to begin our time of growth by turning first toward confession and repentance. We can then begin our Lenten journey with clean hearts.

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



Sunday Worship Times

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

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Lectionary

February 22:

Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Ps. 32

Rom. 5:12-19

Matt. 4:1-11

March 1:

Gen. 12:1-4

Ps. 121

Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

The Pastor on Call

Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

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Church Office

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What's in a name? Quite a lot, actually. The Generosity Committee has changed its name to Stewardship. While "generosity" embodies a spirit of joyful giving, "stewardship" means much more. As a church, we exist for the greater glory of God. Our church belongs to Christ and we are entrusted to be its stewards. All resources of the church, including gifts of time, talent and treasure, and all our mission and outreach work are dedicated to God and His purpose for us all. It is your collective efforts that make it possible. So, whenever you hear about Stewardship, know that it is YOU being Christ's hands and feet on Earth. To God be the Glory!



With Gratitude,
Stewardship Committee
February 2026

**FPC GROUNDS
WORKDAY**

Saturday | Feb. 21 | 9:00 a.m.

Roll up your sleeves and join us!

Tackle cleanup projects and general campus beautification.

Email Russell Clark at rclark@fpcraleigh.org for more information

“Meeting Jesus at the Table”

Lenten Small Group Discussions
Led by Beth Thaxton

Join us for a Lenten Small Group on the Tuesdays during Lent. Bring your own lunch while we discuss "Meeting Jesus at the Table" led by Beth Thaxton. We will meet on the Third Floor in the Edge Lobby from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. All are welcome

- DATES:**
- Tuesday, February 24
 - Tuesday, March 3
 - Tuesday, March 10
 - Tuesday, March 17
 - Tuesday, March 24
 - Tuesday, March 31

FPC TAKES A Hike



SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 21 | 9:00 AM

Come join our pilgrims walking the Camino as they begin their training! We'll meet at the Visitors Center at Umstead State Park

Visit fpcraleigh.org/events for more information

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. Hope you can join us.



Come see high school musicians play arrangements of rock and pop songs on February 21st. Students come from schools around Wake County, including Enloe, Leesville, Athens Drive, and more! Program highlights include *I Want It That Way* by The Backstreet Boys, *Livin' on a Prayer* by Bon Jovi, and *Sweet Caroline* by Neil Diamond among others. A portion of the profits goes to support the Raleigh Music Collective, a local non-profit dedicated to promoting music education.

Tickets are \$12 through February 20th, and \$18 day of. Learn more about Chamber Pops at chamberpops.com, and the Raleigh Music Collective at theraleighmusiccollective.org. Concessions available in the lobby!



LUNCH & LEARN:

Legal and Financial Steps to Good Aging



Lenten Reflections: Messages of Faith

Join us on Sunday, March 1 at 12:00pm in Memorial Hall for lunch and a practical program led by church member and elder lawyer, Bill Alexander. He'll cover some of the financial and legal things you can do now to protect you and your loved ones as you age.

There is no cost for lunch, but we do need you to register. Please call Jean Suber at 919-821-5750 to register today!

Join us on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 7:15pm for a service of exploring themes of prayer, pronouncements, and promises for the Lenten season, with an emphasis on our united voices in song and praise. A variety of readings and poems will reflect the messages of the hymns. All ages are welcome.



ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Coffee & Donuts



Tuesday, March 17
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
All are welcome!
Bring a friend!



Presbyterian Women's Annual

Honorary Lifetime Membership Reception

MARCH
15
2026

After 11:00 a.m.
Worship Service
Lisa Ham Gathering Space

The congregation is invited to join PW as they recognize two church members for their faithful service to FPC Raleigh and our community at large.



MARTHA MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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

The ministers received a note from Doug Redford letting them know of his dad's passing. Following is a portion of Doug's email. "just wanted to let you know that my Dad passed away peacefully yesterday [February 9]. He never really recovered from the stroke he suffered December 22nd during my last visit. My sister and I spent a lot of time with him on Sunday and Monday. My brother from California/Hawaii was here the week before and my sister from Dallas before him. So almost everyone in the family got a chance to say goodbye."

We mourn with Doug, Liz and Mr. Redford's family while we pray for the peace that comes with their memories of their lives together.

Carole Baxter underwent hip replacement surgery on Saturday, February 7, and will be going to rehab after recuperating at UNC Rex. As we pray for our friend, we rejoice her joyful spirit as she inspires us with her strength.

Heyward Armstrong suffered a fall from a ladder, breaking his ankle. He had surgery on Wednesday. Heyward anticipates a four-week recovery time and he and Linda have asked for our prayers. We do pray for our friends and wish Heyward a smooth and speedy path to being back on his two legs soon!

David Slook remains in rehab as his broken hip continues to heal. As we recall, David broke his hip on December 17th and since that time has been at Hillcrest Raleigh Crabtree Care Center. David would enjoy cards, phone calls and visits and we at FPC are very good at all those opportunities. As a congregation, we yearn for his healing. We also learned that Kathy has moved into WaltonWood on Lead Mine Road. We are grateful that she is receiving great care and we send our heartfelt prayers to her.

Our own Jim Peterson is in Malawi for five weeks working with physicians in the area. We wish him great success as we look forward to seeing him back in the sanctuary soon.

We learned that Pat Stevick is scheduled to have shoulder surgery on Monday, February 16. As her surgery draws near, our hearts are full of caring and prayers for our friend.

Dave Parnell has been visiting with us for worship for several months and he let us know that he had a mishap on the ice during our recent weather event. He required surgery to repair his quadriceps tendon. Our best wishes and mighty prayers surround Dave in the coming days.

Joyously We Celebrate Our Confirmands
Hattie Dryden | Hailey Jennings | May Macolly

Celebrating Our New Members

Beth and Randy Curtiss | Katherine Richeson and Ryan Gough | Hayes, Ellie and Henry Gough | Gavin Litchfield
Collier Maxwell | Leslie McLeod | Kelly and Charlotte Olsen | Charlotte Olsen

First Presbyterian is blessed by having these new members and wish them many wonderful years Serving Christ from the Heart of the City to the Ends of the Earth with Love, Faith and Action.