

# FPC FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church

Volume XXX, Issue 9 | Mar 1, 2026 - Mar 8, 2026

Dear Church,

During the forty days of Lent, the faithful often give up something or take on a new spiritual discipline. In the sacrifice of something we give up or in the practice of a new spiritual discipline, we find ourselves connecting to God in new and deeper ways.

This Lent, I will practice praying a different Psalm each day. Psalms have been used in worship and prayer for generations. In the Psalms, we find a wide range of human emotions and experiences of God. Psalms are, if nothing else, deeply honest. They give voice to the human experience of trying to be faithful to God, and even in failing to be faithful. In praying a Psalm a day, I like to think I am connecting with all the faithful who have gone before. And when words for my own prayers fail me, the Psalms are always there. The Psalms I will be praying this Lenten season are Psalms 1, 23, 46, 100, 121, and 139. If you are looking for a new discipline for Lent, I invite you to join me.

Whatever you are doing this Lenten season, I hope you find yourself more deeply connected to the God who so loves the world.

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

March 1:

Gen. 12:1-4

Ps. 121

Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 8:

Ex. 17:1-7

Ps. 95

Rom. 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

## The Pastor on Call

Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher  
919-714-7206  
[lweicher@fpcraleigh.org](mailto:lweicher@fpcraleigh.org)

## Church Office

919-821-5750

[fpcraleigh.org](http://fpcraleigh.org)



# FPC HAS A NEW LOOK



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
Raleigh

Over the past several months, the Communications Committee and our Senior Pastor have been reflecting on who we are and who God is calling us to be as a church family. Through thoughtful conversation and discernment, we have worked to more clearly define our identity, our character, and the welcoming spirit that has long been at the heart of First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh. As a result of this process, you will begin to see some visual updates throughout our church life. We are starting with a refreshed logo and brand identity that more fully reflects the grounded worship, dependable relationships, and deep-rooted faith of our congregation. These updates will roll out gradually over the coming months, so you may notice changes appearing at different times across our communications, signage, and materials.

While some things may look new, our mission remains the same: Serving Christ from the Heart of the City to the Ends of the Earth with Love, Faith and Action. We are grateful for the strong foundation God has given us and look forward with excitement to this next chapter together.

## SAVE *the* DATE

### 2026 FPC WOMEN'S RETREAT

Where: Trinity Center | Pine Knoll Shores, NC  
When: November 6-8

More details to come!

**Registration opens Sunday, April 12**



**Sponsored by FPC Presbyterian Women**

### New Name Tags!



### New Name Tags Coming This Sunday!

As part of our ongoing rebranding process, we're excited to share a small but meaningful update you'll notice this Sunday — new name tags! As we refresh our visual identity, we've updated our Sunday morning name tags to reflect our new look. When you arrive for worship this Sunday, you'll find your updated name tag ready for you. We encourage everyone to wear one as they help us greet one another more personally, strengthen connections, and live more fully into our calling as a welcoming church community. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!



## “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, March 3  
Tuesday, March 10  
Tuesday, March 17  
Tuesday, March 24  
Tuesday, March 31



## LUNCH & LEARN:

**Legal and Financial Steps to Good Aging**

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.



**February 20, 2026**

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

### Martha Ministry Newsletter

Laurie let us know that Carole Baxter is now in rehab at Hillcrest Rehab on Blue Ridge Road. Carole would love to receive cards, have visits and most certainly our prayers for her recovery.

Jim and Babs Nichols let Tara know that their nephew, Jake Powers, died suddenly this past Saturday. Babs let me know that he was loved fiercely we know he will be dearly missed. We as a congregation are saddened to learn of his passing and send prayers and notes of love to the entire family.

We learned on Sunday that frequent visitor to our church, and mother to new member Katherine, Beth Richeson is recovering from a recent surgery. Beth reported that she is doing well in her recovery. As many of you may know Beth is a retired Presbyterian minister and it's wonderful to have her in our midst. We are grateful that she is doing so well. Rich Blessings.

Heyward Armstrong and Dave Parnell are recovering from their recent surgeries, and we are so happy to learn that. Our prayers and best wishes continue for them.

We received a note from Barbara Willams with a special prayer request, "Please add former FPC member Erica Knightstep to the prayer list. Erica has been battling cancer for some months and really needs prayer right now." Thanks to Barbara for reaching out to us.

# Inside Outreach

Volume VI, Issue 4 | February 19, 2026

Dear Friends,

It was good to see many of you yesterday at Ash Wednesday service, as together we began the season of Lent and our journey of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

Last Wednesday, Tara and Mark led a worship service in our Sanctuary for the ladies from JobStart. Laurie and I joined them in worship. Although, they have been meeting for several weeks now, last week marked the first time we could hold a worship service due to inclement weather, sickness at the unit, and a delay in our required training. But, alas, things are back in full swing. Many thanks to Tara, Laurie and Mark for participating in worship and to Fran Yohman and Mike & Nancy Austin for providing the Wednesday lunches. It's great to have this impactful ministry established and running again.

Last Sunday we had twenty-eight people show up to learn and play Mahjong together. What an awesome time of fun and fellowship. No worries if you missed out. We will be Mahjonging again soon. Stay tuned for more details and many thanks to Hope Carmichael and Anne Otersen for teaching us how to play.

Our two mission spotlights this newsletter are in honor of our recent staff mission outing. This morning, our staff toured the First Baptist Clothing ministry, as well as the Wake Relief food pantry new site. Did you know that our staff does a quarterly mission outing to learn more about the great work of our mission partners?

Did someone say Red Cross Blood Drive? Once again it is time to consider making a life-saving donation to help those in need of a blood transfusion. Our next drive is March 18th from Noon to 5:00 pm in Memorial Hall. The sign-up link is further down in this newsletter.

Finally, I am collecting the following new items for our unhoused neighbors in need who attend our shower ministry. Donations can be left in the FPC Shares bins.

Men's & women's underwear (all sizes)

Non-white plain t-shirts (all sizes)

Socks

Sports bras (all sizes)

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



# January 2026 Gifts to Friendship Fund

## General Gifts

Anonymous\*  
Ed and Jane Bristol  
Dick and Cindy Carlton  
Priscilla Chappell  
Chuck and Nancy Crew  
Peter Davis  
Early Birds\*  
Fred and Arlene Hines  
Brinton and Kathy Hopkins  
Barger Jeutter  
Jim and LuAnn Little  
Loose Offering – Communion  
Ed and Jenny McLeod  
Jim and Babs Nichols  
Will Robertson and Virginia Riel  
Tim Roney  
Hannah Hall Slaughter  
Darren Stuart  
Bill and Barbara Williams\*  
Megan Yohman

\* Multiple Gifts

## Memorials (IMO = In Memory of)

*IMO Emma Patterson Blake*  
John and Frances McClain  
  
*IMO Diana “Dee” Arlene Hatch*  
John and Frances McClain  
  
*IMO Donald “Don” Ikerd McRee*  
John and Frances McClain  
  
*IMO James Eugene Osborne*  
John and Frances McClain

## Honorariums (IHO = In Honor of)

*IHO Allen and Jan Barwick*  
Chelsea Blake  
  
*IHO Judy Rogers and her dedication to FPC*  
Katie McCargo

## January 2026 Gifts to Outreach

*FPC Shares/Water Ministry*  
Joe and Yvonne Wyche

*McDonald's, Grocery and Gas Gift Cards*  
Ray and Jan Denny

## Mission Highlight

First Baptist Church @ 99 N. Salisbury St. Clothing Ministry is an expression of concern for our friends and neighbors in need.

This ministry distributes clothing donated by Wake County residents, strives to provide adequate clothing for families, people experiencing homelessness, those in transition from relocation or re-entry into the workforce, or any person with an identifiable need.

Established in 1983, the FBC clothing ministry serves approximately 1,000 people each month. It is set up like a little department store with clothing arranged by categories and size. In an effort to serve as many people as possible, customers are limited to 30 minutes of shopping time. All clothing is free. At checkout, it is folded and bagged.

Hours of Operation: MONDAYS | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed to welcome and interview clients, assist clients in clothing selection, sort donations, and help with checkout. This is a great opportunity for groups and youth to accrue volunteer hours. To volunteer, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [cmvolunteercoordinator.fbc@gmail.com](mailto:cmvolunteercoordinator.fbc@gmail.com).

Gently used clothing donations are accepted Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am-4 pm. There is a large donation bin located inside the back parking lot doors where clothing donations may be placed.

They ask that you pre-sort, bag, and label your clothing donations by gender/age – men's, women's, children's. They are unable to clean or repair donated clothing, so please ensure that your clothing donations do not have stains, rips, or broken zippers and buttons. In addition to clothing, they also accept handbags, suitcases, backpacks, and blankets. Tax receipts are on the greeting sign as you enter the building.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
99 N. SALISBURY ST | RALEIGH



FBC Clothing Ministry

Wake Relief, established in 1975 as an outreach ministry of Christ Episcopal Church is committed to providing emergency food to Wake County residents in need. They aim to empower clients with a sense of dignity and abundance and believe that no one should have to choose between paying bills and providing nutritious food for their family. Clients are referred by Wake County Social Services, area churches, school counselors or local outreach organizations. Referred clients receive one week's worth of nutritional groceries based on the size of their family once every 30 days.



Wake Relief depends on churches, companies, individuals, and civic organizations for food donations. All grant monies received go towards the purchase of food and paying rent for their pantry space. Wake Relief annually receives a grant from the FPC Mission budget. Additionally, FPC member Jane McMillan delivers FPC shares donations once a month. FPC member Jane Anderson represents our congregation on the Wake Relief Board of Directors.

Now located at 4 N. Blount St in Downtown Raleigh, Wake Relief operates as a choice food pantry. Their new space is bigger and allows clients to get what they truly need instead of what others think they need. And, they no longer have to share space with anyone. They were previously located on Tucker Street in Glenwood South in the old Ravenscroft School building and shared space with The Diaper Train.

Wake Relief has always been and continues to be an all-volunteer operation. They do not have a paid administrator. If you would like to volunteer with Wake Relief, call 919-307-8748 and leave a voice message. Shifts are 3 hours in length. They are open Monday & Tuesday from 1-3 pm, Wednesdays from 10am-Noon and every 4th Saturday from 10am-Noon.



HELP US END HUNGER

**American Red Cross**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**WHY CONTRIBUTE?**

- Save Lives: One donation can save up to three lives.
- Health Benefits: Blood donation can improve your overall well-being.
- Feel Good: Experience the reward of helping those in need.

**Wednesday  
March 18**  
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
112 S Salisbury St  
Memorial Hall

**March**

Canned Spaghetti  
or Ravioli

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!