



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro

February 9, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

MULLIN FORUM SUNDAY

*We invite you to light a candle as you enter the worship space
to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 729 – Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

**In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

**In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

**In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**

**In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart**

Welcome & Announcements

Jill Duffield

* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

All: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

Call to Worship *continues, over*

Leader: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

All: Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

Leader: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

All: We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 14 – For the Beauty of the Earth

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

[Refrain]:

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:**

[Refrain]

**For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:**

[Refrain]

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:**

[Refrain]

**For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:**

[Refrain]

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Newton Cowan

Holy God, Creator of all that is and Giver of Life:

Hear our prayer.

**There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us
From one another and from You.**

We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,

For fear of admitting our part in the separation,

For fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,

To a wholeness with each other and with You.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations

Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

* Assurance of Pardon

* The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Passing of the Peace

Response to the Peace: Hymn No. 582 – Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Leviticus 19:9-18*

Christopher Kelly Harrill

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

“You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.

“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a

The Word Read *continues, over*

grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Donna Chase

The Word Read: *Luke 10:25-37*

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *Why We Need Parables: The Case of the Good Samaritan*

Kavin Rowe



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Jill Duffield

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

– Traditional Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People

followed by 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.

Call for the Offering

You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.

Offertory: Hymn No. 771 – *What Is the World Like*

**What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.**

**What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.**

**What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.**

**What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.**

**These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.**

Song of Response: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Sing praises, Alleluia.
Praise God Creator, God the Son,
Praise God the Spirit three in one.
Sing praises, sing praises,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

* Prayer of Dedication

Jill Duffield

* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 379 – We Shall Overcome

**We shall overcome;
we shall overcome;
we shall overcome someday.**

[Refrain]:

**O, deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome someday!**

**We'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand someday.**

[Refrain]

**We shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace someday.**

[Refrain]

**We are not afraid;
we are not afraid;
we are not afraid today.**

[Refrain]

**God will see us through;
God will see us through;
God will see us through today.**

[Refrain]

* Benediction

Kavin Rowe

Today's Worship Leaders

Kavin Rowe, George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament
at Duke University, and Mullin Forum Guest Preacher

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation

Christopher Kelly Harrill, Lay Reader

Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!

Rejoice! Ensemble

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" Text and music: African American spiritual.

"For the Beauty of the Earth" Text: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint; Music: Conrad Kocher.

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Text: Trad. liturgical text; Music: Paul M. Vasile.

"What Is the World Like" Text: Adam M. L. Tice; Music: Sally Ann Morris.

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng.*

"We Shall Overcome" Text and music: African American spiritual.

** Let us rise in body or spirit*

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About C. Kavin Rowe



C. Kavin Rowe is the vice dean of the faculty and the George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament. The third volume of his collected essays has recently been published as *Studies in Luke, Acts, and Paul* (Eerdmans, 2024). The second volume, *Method, Context, and Meaning in New Testament Studies*, was published early this year (Eerdmans, 2024), and the first volume, *Leading Christian Communities*, in 2023 (Eerdmans). Rowe is the author of four other books: *Christianity's Surprise: A Sure and Certain Hope* (Abingdon, 2020), *One True Life: the Stoics and Early Christians as Rival Traditions* (Yale University Press, 2016), *World Upside Down: Reading Acts in the Graeco-Roman*

Age (Oxford University Press, 2009, paperback 2010), and *Early Narrative Christology* (de Gruyter, 2006, repr. Baker Academic, 2009). He has published dozens of articles and essays, and co-edited *The Word Leaps the Gap* (Eerdmans, 2008) and *Rethinking the Unity and Reception of Luke and Acts* (University of South Carolina Press, 2010). He is on the editorial board of several international peer-review journals and has also frequently written articles for *faithandleadership.com*.

Rowe has been a Fulbright Scholar, Regional Scholar for the Society of Biblical Literature, chair of the Society's Southeastern Region New Testament section, president of the Society's Southeastern Region, and was elected to the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas. He was awarded a Lilly Faculty Fellowship, a Christian Faith and Life Grant from the Louisville Institute, the John Templeton Prize for Theological Promise, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award, and a Distinguished Scholars grant from the McDonald Agape Foundation.

About The Mullin Forum

In 1991, the Session of First Presbyterian Church established the Joe and Betty Mullin Preaching and Teaching Forum to honor the former FPC minister and his wife. Over the years, the forum has brought "distinguished preachers, teachers or similar guests" to preach for the community and to conduct workshops. Designed for rejuvenation and rejoicing, the forum has given pastors, church professionals and lay leaders a place to rest and rediscover their gifts, and to rejoice in the God who gave them.

Past speakers have included Fred Craddock, Samuel Proctor, Walter Brueggemann, Joanna M. Adams, Rodger Nishioka, John Buchanan, Nora T. Tisdale, Tom Tewell, Thomas Troeger, Barbara Brown Taylor, James A. Forbes Jr., Anna Carter Florence, Tom Long, Frances Taylor Gench, Brian Blount, Kenda Creasy Dean, Diana Butler Bass, Ted Wardlaw, Scott Black Johnston, Shannon Johnson Kershner, Mary Louise Bringle, and Luke Powery.

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.
We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship
is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.

We seek to be God's changemakers for good in the world.
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and our creation care and hunger
ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you

can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.




NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.



USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: Contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on **Facebook**  (search "First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro"), **YouTube**  ("fpcgreensboro") and **Instagram**  ("1stpresgso") to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.

PARKING MINISTRY: This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at fpcgreensboro.org/signup

FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS • Check out the "Coming Up" insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at fpcgreensboro.org/connect • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/events.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. You can also go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. You may also mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.



PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

IN MEMORIAM

John Alexander Edwards
Dec. 2, 1934 - Oct. 2, 2024

During his time as a volunteer manager in Disaster Mental Health with the American Red Cross, John Edwards would encourage staff to be “a meaningful presence” – a commitment he made in his own life for 89 years until his death last fall at River Landing at Sandy Ridge.

A native of Rocky Mount, N.C., John attended Davidson College and met Evelyn Copelan, a student at Queens College (now University), after their freshman year in college. They married shortly after graduation in 1957 and were together 66 years until her death in April 2024. They were blessed with four children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

After earning master’s and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology at UNC Chapel Hill and the University of Tennessee, respectively, John set up a private practice in Greensboro that he maintained for decades. He was one of the first licensed psychologists in North Carolina.

John was founding and long-time director of the UNCG Counseling and Testing Center, and he taught psychology at UNCG and N.C. A&T State University. He was a trusted advisor on issues with families in more than 70 appearances in 27 years on WFMY’s “The Good Morning Show.”

John carried his passion and expertise into the wider community as a volunteer leader for many years. With the Red Cross, he worked on 17 disaster operations and led teams providing mental health support to both clients and disaster workers. He offered pro bono psychological services to low income and homeless people through Greensboro’s Urban Ministries.

John was involved in school desegregation and racial reconciliation efforts in Greensboro, including a leadership role on a Board of Education advisory committee related to school integration. He was on the board of Family Life Council and consulted with Head Start.

One organization that was particularly important to him was the Irish Children’s Summer Program, which brought Protestant and Catholic children from Belfast to Greensboro in an effort to bring those communities together.

John and Evelyn were active at First Presbyterian Church; he as an Elder and long-time senior high youth advisor and she as Director of Christian Education for Elementary Children.

He received the Clara Barton Award for Meritorious Volunteer Leadership from the Red Cross, the Media Award from the N.C. Mental Health Association and Physician of the Year from the Greensboro Mayor’s Office Council on Employment of the Handicapped.

The Session gives thanks to God for John’s life and offers its deepest condolences to his family and friends. It requests that a copy of this memorial be placed in its minutes and a copy sent to his family.

– The Session of First Presbyterian Church

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9 | [See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org)

TODAY IS MULLIN FORUM SUNDAY

As part of our 200th February focus on Pastoral Leadership, we welcome Duke Divinity professor Kavin Rowe, who attended FPC as a child, to preach both services. **AT 4 PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM**, he will discuss his book *Christianity's Surprise: A Sure and Certain Hope*.

[FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/200](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/200)

SOUPER BOWL

POTLUCK! After worship, come to the Life Center for a hot bowl to benefit youth ministry and local hunger efforts!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- **BOOK CLUB:** *Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry, facilitated by Neil Dunnivant. 10:30 am, Garden Room.
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON**, noon in Mullin Life Center, for those who RSVP'd.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **BIBLE & BISCUITS:** Before heading to work, join us for food, fellowship and reading & discussing scripture. Bibles and food provided. No sign-up or prep needed-just show up to meet God and your FPC community. 7:45-8:30 am in the Solarium.
- **BOOK CLUB:** *Hannah Coulter* by Wendell Berry, facilitated by Neil Dunnivant. 1:30 pm, Garden Room.
- **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS:** Fellowship & bible study for young adults and Peacehaven Farm friends. Second & fourth Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, Welcome Center. Info: Evelyn McMullen (863) 944-3047 or Donna Chase, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **RSVP DEADLINE FOR FORK & FAITH** monthly lunch for women, being held February 19 at noon in the Life Center. Contact Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

SIGN UP NOW FOR ASHEVILLE YOUTH MISSION WEEKEND, MARCH 28-

29: High-schoolers are invited to help serve people living in the margins – in poverty, or food insecure, in both urban and rural settings – who were especially overwhelmed by Hurricane Helene. We leave that Friday at 5 pm and return Saturday about 7:30 pm. Registration is \$150, covers transportation, housing, & food. We will be indoor camping at AYM – bring an air mattress, sheets, pillow, shower caddy, shower shoes. *RSVP by March 9 to Phaedra Smith, PSMITH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-207-0419*



IN 2 WEEKS!

NEIL'S MEALS: Through your efforts and in partnership with Out of the Garden Project, we help feed our Guilford County neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Join us **Saturday, March 1**, in Mullin Life Center to help make a difference in our community. Registration will be at 8:30 am and we will begin packing at 9 am. *Children 8 to 13 years old are welcome to attend and participate with an accompanying adult.*

SIGN UP NOW





Celebrate FPC's 200th by putting your beverages in one of our new Tervis tumblers. They feature a custom patch including the rose window and the year we were established, 1824. Available at the reception desk in the Welcome Center – \$13 each or two for \$25.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
MEALS • EVENINGS • OVERNIGHT

Our Winter Emergency Shelter provides dinner & a warm place to sleep for 15 men each night in the Shetler Building. **Please find a way to help** – that's what Jesus would do! Use the QR code for more info and sign-up links.



**FEBRUARY 16:
NEXT SUNDAY IN
CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM**

- *The Disciples of Jesus*. Sandie Gravett series in YMBC & Agape classes, Redhead Hall.
- **200th anniversary: Pastoral Leadership** – Jill Duffield speaks about Dr. Charles F. Myers, senior pastor 1916–1944. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.
- **Gospel of John** in the Seekers class, Main 125.
- *3D youth, Confirmation, Milestones, and Thrivers classes will not meet due to the long Presidents' Day weekend*

RICHARDSON TRUST

GRANTS: Encourage nonprofits whose work you admire to apply for a 2025 grant from the L. Richardson Trust. *Deadline is March 15.* Info: FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/RICHARDSON-TRUST.

**AUTHOR TO LEAD
LENTEN RETREAT 2025**

SIGN UP NOW for our Lenten retreat, *Meeting God in the Longings of Our Hearts*, being held Saturday, March 8, 9 am-3 pm at the church. Men and women of the church are invited to join author Jeff Crosby and Rev. Grier Booker as we deepen our understanding of ourselves and cultivate a more profound connection with our spirituality. Worship leaders will be Jill Duffield, Anne Albert & Will Edwards. Donna Chase and the Adult Formation Committee will guide activities. Registration including catered lunch is \$50. Books can be purchased at the Welcome Center reception desk. *RSVP by Monday, March 3.*



**SUNDAY,
MARCH 2**

- **One 11 am service** for Confirmation Sunday
- **Congregational Meeting** after worship, to vote on church officers. More info at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/MEMBER-RESOURCES