

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 27, 2024

11:00 a.m.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
COMMITMENT SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Psalm 139Fred Gramman
Coventry Ringers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

200 YEARS OF BLESSINGS, IMAGINE WHAT COMES NEXT!

* CALL TO WORSHIP Caroline Phillips

Leader: As the rains pour from heaven, soaking the earth that it may produce good things ...

All: So God pours God’s love upon us, that we, too, may produce goodness, healing and peace.

Leader: We have been blessed with many gifts, talents, and resources.

All: God invites us to use these gifts, talents, and resources for healing, peace, and hope.

Leader: Come, let us worship and celebrate the mighty love and power of God.

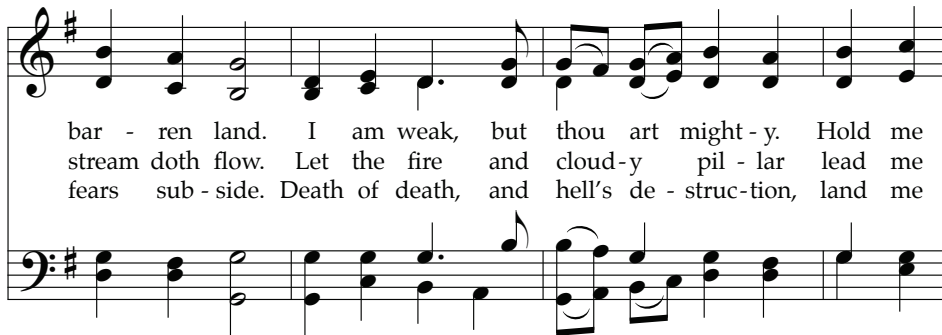
All: Praise be to God who has blessed us in so many ways.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 65 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.....NETTLETON

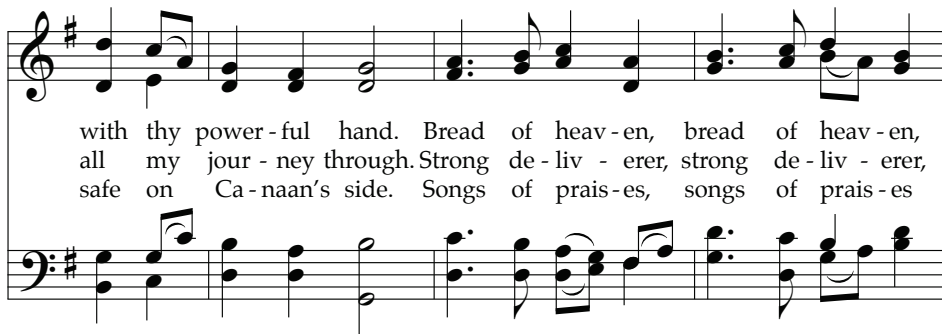
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand?
We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see.
We bring our selfishness, our greed, and our hard heartedness.
We try to do good, but sometimes fail.
We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed.
Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely.
We live in the sure hope of your unfailing grace and we cling to your
promise to make us new creations in Christ. Amen.**

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

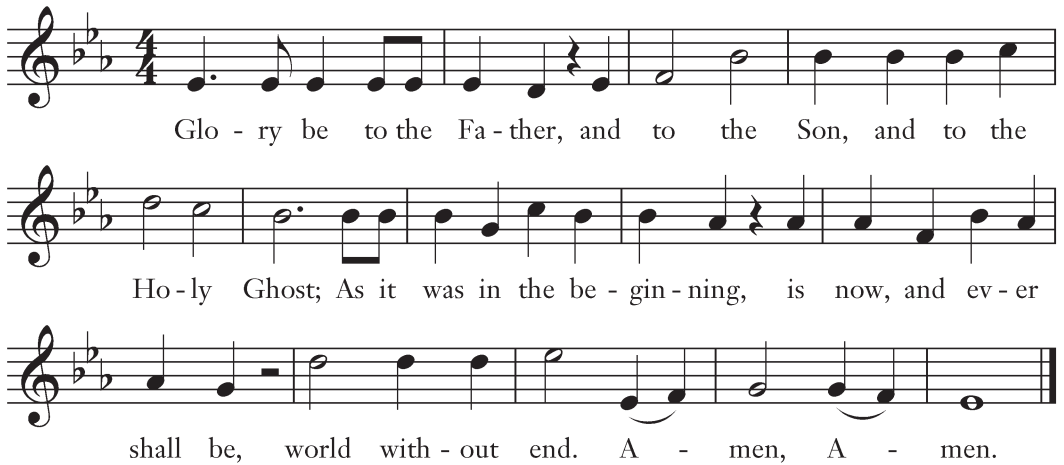
* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* 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 ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Glory Be to the Father.....GLORIA PATRI



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Jeremiah 31:7-9* Paula Hoeger

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Donna Chase

ANTHEM: My Eyes for Beauty Pine Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Chancel Choir

Jessica Beitel, organ

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddes grace,
no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.
One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.
And every gentle heart that burns with true desire,
is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

- Robert Bridges

THE WORD READ: *Mark 10:46-52*

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Call and Response* Jill Duffield



649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhóníígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóóiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íí da nít'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 649 – Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound.... AMAZING GARCE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Matt Bussell

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.**

– from A Brief Statement of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with 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

*We invite you to place your 2025 pledge card in the offering plate.
There are extra pledge cards available on the end of each pew
and at the entrances to the sanctuary. You may also
scan the QR code at the end of the order of worship
to make an offering or your 2025 pledge.*

OFFERTORY: *Grazioso* Arnold Sherman
Coventry Ringers

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final note on a whole note. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-".

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-
lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-



- * PRAYER OF DEDICATION Matt Bussell
- * CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Jill Duffield
- * RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 275 – A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.....EIN’ FESTE BURG
- VOLUNTARY: A Mighty Fortress Vaclav Nehlybehl (1919-1996)
John Alexander, organ

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

- Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*
- Caroline Phillips, *Pastoral Care*
- Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*
- Donna Chase, *Director of Christian Formation*
- Paula Hoeger, *Lay Reader*
- Charlotte Freeze, *Acolyte*
- John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
- Jessica Beitel, *Assistant Organist*
- Chancel Choir*
- Coventry Ringers*



* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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MAKE A
PLEDGE
HERE



ABOUT COMMITMENT SUNDAY: For the past few weeks, we’ve reflected on the ways we’ve been blessed, as a congregation and as individuals, for 200 years and also for today, right here, right now. This morning, we come together as a church body to dedicate our pledges, and to imagine what will come next for 2025 ministry.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code *to the left* to make a pledge, or scan the QR code *to the right* to give to the offering 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.

GIVE TO THE
OFFERING
HERE



275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are aligned with the notes on the treble staff. The bottom staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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.

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.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the season of "Ordinary Time." This season is a time of spiritual growth when the scriptures about Jesus' preaching, teaching and healings are read and proclaimed.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our family by Bob & Susanne Rhodes.

The flowers in the Tower Room are given to the glory of God and in memory of John Sumter MacRae III whose service was held on Friday.

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.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles "Skipper" Hardin West, Jr.
October 24, 2024

John Sumter MacRae III
October 14, 2024

Ann Carlson Patterson
October 13, 2024



COMING UP

A T F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N

WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 | *See our full calendar at* FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE



24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL – Discord and anxiety surround the upcoming election.

Join us to pray for our church, our members, our nation, our leaders, and those in need. 5 am Monday, November 4, through 5 am Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. Choose a 30-minute slot. The sanctuary will be open noon-2 pm Monday, otherwise pray wherever you are.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD

– Strengthening families is one of our outreach priorities, and a home makes a strong foundation. Our next workday will be Saturday, November 9, from 8 am to 3:30 pm. Please let Matt Bussell know if you are going or if you have questions.

HOT DISH & HOPE & CHRISTMAS

- HD&H honor cards will be available beginning November 1. \$5 in the Welcome Center.
- This year, Hot Dish is collecting \$20 Walmart gift cards for our guests for Christmas. Please drop cards off at the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 1.

RESPOND Point your camera phone at the relevant QR Code and click on the link that pops up, or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

ALL SAINTS' AND COMMUNION SUNDAY is next Sunday, November 3. Jill Duffield preaches at 9 and 11 am, with necrology read during worship.

- A Gathering to Remember All the Saints, 4 pm in Memorial Columbarium.
- All Saints Musical Offering is at 5 pm; John Rutter's *Requiem* and more with Chancel Choir, chamber orchestra & soloists.

LIFELONG LEARNING

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 10 AM

For next Sunday, November 3:

- *The Genealogy of Christ as King in The Gospel of Matthew* begins, led by Sandie Gravett in Redhead Hall, YMBC and Agape classes. Explore the story of Jesus Christ as Messiah based on a heritage with four rather surprising women. Runs through November.
- *How Christians Think about and Use the Bible: History* in Memorial 304, Faithful Families class (parents of youth & kids).
- *Music and The Bible*, led by Sam Simpson in the Garden Room, in the Come as You Are class.
- *Gospel of John*, led by Gerard Davidson in Main 125, Seekers class.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A SMALL GROUP, IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY? We are exploring starting a staff-facilitated, short-term Disciple Bible Study on the *Gospel of John*. The class would start on January 7 and meet Tuesdays from noon to 1 pm for 11 weeks. ***If you think you may want to be a part of this group, please join us for an information meeting on Tuesday, October 29, at noon in the Garden Room*** for more details and an opportunity to ask questions. You can also contact Katherine Farless, KFARLESS@GMAIL.COM.

AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

WOMEN'S RETREAT – Registration is open for the retreat, being held January 25-26 at Grandover. More than 150 attended last year, and registration is already half-full!

Info: FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT



TRUNK OR TREAT LATER TODAY: Meet 20+ decorated trunks in front of the sanctuary, 4-6 pm.

FUNDAY SUNDAY at Spare Time (5502 Hornaday Road), next Sunday (November 3), 5:30-7:30 pm. Bowling, pizza & chicken tenders, laser tag optional. \$25 includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental & food. Laser tag an extra \$5. *Sign up deadline is today!*



NAME THAT VETERAN! As we approach Veterans Day this year, we are inviting church members to visit a special display of Veterans' photographs. Our library staff has numbered each photo and has constructed a scoring sheet challenging you to guess the veteran's name. *This display will be available in the library on Sundays, November 3 and 10, and also on Wednesday, November 6, during the Veterans Luncheon.*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT Kids enjoy pizza, play & the movie *Aladdin!* 5- 8 pm. \$15 per child, 40 spaces available. We'll take RSVPs until full or November 12.

A FALL DAY OF HISTORY AND BEAUTY: Join the Paisley Travelers for a daytrip to Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem. \$27 per person (excluding lunch), we leave at 9:10 am and return at 3 pm. Tour an exhibit which includes works by Romare Bearden, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, and more. Afterward, visit the garden and/or village, plus lunch at the Old Fourth Street Filling Station. *RSVP by Tuesday, November 5*, to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM. Make checks payable to FPC 55+ Travel Group and mail to 202 N. Holden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410.

OUR 200TH CELEBRATION CONTINUES



This past Wednesday marked THE 95TH YEAR OF THE YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS!

NOVEMBER 24 IS WORSHIP & THE ARTS SUNDAY for our 200th. One worship service at 11 am. Hymn Festival with Mel Bringle leading worship with plenty of singing! Worship & the Arts Weekend begins Friday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 with a UNCG Brass and Organ Concert in the sanctuary; followed on Saturday, Nov. 23 by an Organ and Harpsichord Crawl at 9 am and UNCG Chamber Singers at 7:30 pm. Also join us in the Virginia Gilmer Room on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 10:15 am for "FPC Music Ministry ... How We Got Here!" with Lane Ridenhour, Bonnie McAlister and Robby Hassell.

JOB OPENING

The church is looking for our next Congregational Nurse and Director of Sadye Bowles Ministry Fund. While church members are not eligible for employment, please share this with anyone who might be interested. Job description is at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/JOBS.