



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
September 28, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

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

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 656 – We’ve Come This Far By Faith

**We’ve come this far by faith,
leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word;
God’s never failed us yet.
O, can’t turn around,
we’ve come this far by faith.
We’ve come this far by faith.**

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield

The Gift of Generosity

Tom Gillespie

* Call to Worship

Matt Bussell

Leader: If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, Jesus says, “Come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.”

People: **Christ calls us to come to worship;
to rest from the things that are troubling us;
to learn what Christ can teach us;
to realize what we can offer to others;
to return into the world to serve.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 39 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

[Refrain]:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *[Refrain]***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[Refrain]***

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, giver of blessings, we thank you for the mercies we know,
and ask your forgiveness when we fail to acknowledge you
as the source of all good.
When we hoard your gifts,
when we neglect those in need,
when we ignore the bounty around us,
when are blind to the good,
forgive us. Help us to share, to see, to live gratefully.
Through Christ 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: *Amos 6:1a,4-7*

Al Lineberry

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
the notables of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel resorts!

Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Lisa Witherspoon

The Word Read: *Luke 16:19-31*

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *Scraps*

Jill Duffield



RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Newton Cowan

**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 and regular mail, can be found there as well.

Offertory: Hymn No. 509 – All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

**All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers,
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.**

**We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

* Song of Response: Doxology

**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

Newton Cowan

* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 834 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand

**Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

* Benediction

Jill Duffield



Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor
Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission
Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Lisa Witherspoon, Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Al Lineberry, Lay Reader
Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice!
Rejoice! Ensemble

"We've Come This Far By Faith" Text and music: Albert A. Goodson.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan.

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

"All Who Hunger Gather Gladly" Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan; Music: William Moore's *Columbian Harmony*.

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

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; Music: George N. Allen.

** Let us rise in body or spirit*

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WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we seek to serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good. Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith community welcoming those who seek an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service. We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.



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 near you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency please contact the closest usher.

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.

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.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by mail, web, or text. Scan the QR code (right) to give online. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text for instructions for giving via text. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.



THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through 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.

JOIN THE REJOICE! FELLOWSHIP TEAM – We’re looking for folks to pick up donuts, prepare coffee, set up and/or serve before the 9 am Rejoice! service. This is a great way to get to know your fellow worshipers. Sign up for regular service or as an occasional substitute: see Julie or Homer Wade in the back of the Life Center before or after Rejoice! or email hwade1805@gmail.com.

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

Claude Sumner Kidd, Jr.
September 18, 2025

Robert Raymond Wyatt
September 18, 2025

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

SEPT 28 - OCT 5, 2025 | *See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG*

TODAY!

- **YOUTH COHORT DINNERS:** We will meet by grade in homes. 5-6 pm, Middle School | 6-7 pm, High School. Our groups are growing – please contribute \$5 toward dinner at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP

NEXT SUNDAY



CROP WALK

Walk with Greensboro to fight hunger, 1:30 pm. Not able to walk? Sponsor our walkers. *Our goal is \$10,000!*



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- **Meals on Wheels.** Our team will spend a couple of hours delivering a hot meal to the homebound. We serve on third Wednesdays monthly and fifth Mondays quarterly. To help, contact Linda Allen, LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM or 336-549-3367.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- **StepUp Greensboro Impact Luncheon.** Our partner ministry in the Shetler Building holds this luncheon to increase awareness and raise funds for its mission. StepUp has served more than 2,263 unemployed & underemployed people with job readiness and other training. *Interested?* Contact event cochairs Julie Wade (JULYWADE59@GMAIL.COM) or Nancy Abrams (ABRAMSNE@AOL.COM).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

- **Youth Breakfast Club.** Two start times: 7:15 am and then 8 am to accommodate high school youth who go to school later. At Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

- **First Families.** Families with children ages infant-early elementary school get together monthly for dinner. Info: Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

9 am Rejoice! and 11 am sanctuary worship services.

10 am church school:

- **New study begins,** led by Professor Sandie Gravett in the YMBC and Agape classes. Redhead Hall.
- **The Whole-Brain Child** concludes, Memorial 304.
- **Christian Theology,** led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers class, Main 125.
- **Youth:** Doughnuts, air hockey, chat about the week, brief bible lesson. Memorial 303.
- **Children's milestone classes:** *Preschool,* Bible Superheroes in the New Testament. *K-1,* Favorite Bible Stories from the Old Testament. *Grades 2-3,* Worship Education. *Grades 4-5,* Catechism Education.

Kids Disciple Club: Grades 3-5 meet the first Sunday of the month for fun, service & bible study. 3-4:30 pm in Mullin Life Center.

Youth Groups: Games, bible study, food & fun. 5-6 pm, Middle School; 6-6:30 pm, dinner for all; 6:30-7:30 pm, High School. Our groups are growing – please contribute \$5 toward dinner.

SIGNUPS: OCTOBER AND BEYOND

Register for these events and more: Use the QR code or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP



WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL 5K: Saturday, October 4, 9 am in Fisher Park. This is the WPC's biggest fund-raiser, and supports tuition assistance, teacher salaries & more.

TRUNK OR TREAT 2025: Sunday, October 26, from 5 to 6pm! We need lots of trunk decorators – sign up now and let us know your trunk theme. Plan to provide candy/treats for approximately 150 children. (*Limited quantity of pizza will be provided!*)

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TO RALEIGH: November 7-9. FPC middle schoolers, grades 6-8, will engage in various service activities organized by Raleigh Youth Mission Company. \$275 per student. Got questions? Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or Nolan Chilton, NCHILTON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

MAHJONG 101 – Curious men and women are invited to a beginner Mahjong lesson Sunday, October 12, 3-5 pm in the Garden Room. Sign up now, and bring a Mahjong card (available at NATIONALMAHJONGGLEAGUE.ORG) and a water bottle. More info: Sheri Evans, SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM.



OCTOBER 19: Our entire FPC family will gather for Sunday school, worship, lunch, & fun at 4924 Tapawingo Trail! We'll start at 10 am with coffee & donuts followed by intergenerational Sunday School and worship. Then lunch, 11:45-1. Stay until 3 pm for arts & crafts, playground, canoeing, archery, rock climbing, yard games, and sitting & visiting. *Special outreach collection* – bring preemie and newborn diapers to help with the work of Family Room Foster Care Resource Center. **RSVP by October 8!**

FORK & FAITH MONTHLY LUNCHEON is Wednesday, October 22 at noon in the Life Center. Join other women for lunch, fellowship and sharing our lives. RSVP by October 17 to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or call 336-854-2663.



JANE BORDEN

will speak at the Women of Faith luncheon – open to all! \$10, make a paid reservation by October 8. RSVP online, or call 336-478-4799, or stop by the Welcome Center. She also will sign copies of her latest book, *Cults Like Us: Why Doomsday Thinking Drives America*. Available at the luncheon or pre-order from Scuppernong Books.

WOMEN'S

RETREAT with keynote speaker Niki Hardy, January 24 & 25 at Grandover. Pick up a registration form in the Welcome Center, or register online at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT.