

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) (C) (Am) (B7)
Fm D^b B^bm C7

Lent 2026 at FPC

[firstpresbyterian](http://firstpresbyterian.org) • fpcgreensboro.org

Mus - tard seeds can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for rough the night,
filled with the us as one.

(Em) (G)
Fm A^b

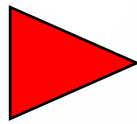
THIS IS HOW
GOD

WORKS

roots thread the for the sun.
watch as the to a run.
peace thrives in there was none.
tend - ing ou day's be - gun.
Born through ou and our hearts,

(C) (D) (G)
D^b Fm7 B^bm7 E^b A^b

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
11 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

Join us to film a glorious Easter service that will share the love of Christ across the country on ABC-TV.

DETAILS

WHAT TO WEAR: A colorful spring outfit. *About your coat:* You can hang it in the narthex, tuck it under the pew so the camera won't see it, or leave it in the car.

WHEN TO GET HERE: Give yourself plenty of time to get to the sanctuary, park, and get to your seat. **Please do not enter the sanctuary after 11:05.**

ABOUT PARKING: As always, please allow members with mobility issues to have spaces closest to the sanctuary. The lots on Eugene Street and at Hanes-Lineberry (if they have no services at that time) are available for those who can walk a bit.

DURING THE SERVICE: Sing with enthusiasm! Please **remain seated** until the closing voluntary is finished. The camera will continue to record during that time.

AFTER THE SERVICE: Stop by the cookie reception in Mullin Life Center. If you are a family with kids infant-elementary, join First Families for lunch. Contact Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.

THEN WHAT? The service will be prepared for broadcast by the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission and ABC. During Holy Week, it will be aired by ABC affiliates. As soon as we have a schedule, we will share it!

Lenten question



JILL DUFFIELD
Senior Pastor

I am reading a book about asking questions. I saw a review of it and impulsively added it to my cart along with one titled, *The Vanishing Church: How the Hollowing Out of Moderate Congregations is Hurting Democracy, Faith and Us*. I am learning a lot from the second book, but I am enjoying the first. I think I'll appreciate *The Vanishing Church* more once I get to the last section that offers some insights as to how to address the crisis the author lays out. Right now, I am still slogging through statistics and stories about the church with which I am all too familiar. Declining numbers and waning influence, you've likely heard this before, too. Nonetheless, I think it will prove helpful to dig deeper into the causes, consequences and cost of these realities. Stay tuned. I'd love some conversation partners if you happen to enjoy charts, graphs, political science, and ecclesiastical trends. What could be more fun? Back to the questions, see what I did there?

J.R. Briggs' writes in *The Art of Asking Better Questions: Pursing Stronger Relationships, Healthier Leadership, and Deeper Faith*, that the purpose of questions is for clarity and engagement. He contends, "It is impossible to be curious and judgmental at the same time." I like that thought. I'm going to try it and see if it is true. He says, "We don't stunt our spiritual formation by asking questions. We stunt our formation when we don't." Given that Lent is one of the primary liturgical seasons for seeking to deepen and expand our spiritual formation, we're going to explore some questions based on a hymn that asks, "What is the world like when God's will is done?"

Each verse posits an answer using stories and images from Scripture. The tune is lovely and easy to sing. If you don't know it, you will by the time we arrive at Holy Week. The hymn is #771 in the Glory to God hymnal if you want to give it a read (or a hum).

But, for now, I'd like to invite you to prayerfully ponder how you'd answer the question if someone asked you, "What is the world like when God's will is done?" Is there an image, a person, a scripture passage or a personal story that comes to mind? Wonder about it. Get curious. Write down an answer or two. Even better, generate a list of questions in response. Here are some that come to mind for me: Would I recognize it? Do I recognize it? Am I willing to participate in it or do I try to avoid it, thwart it or refuse to comply? How can I be sure it is God's will and not my own? What must I change in order to reveal God's will in our time? These are just a few of the queries I hope to wrestle with this Lent. What about you?

I hope we can find times and places this Lent to be curious, potentially discover some clarity and more than anything else, engage our questions and get better connected to God and to one another.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill".

1000 WORDS



Clockwise from above: The new Third Thursday Book Club debuts ... Circle of Friends fills take-out trays at Hot Dish & Hope ... an Advent tradition -- straightening the star headband for the children's nativity.

And three views from the Women's Retreat, adjusted for wintry weather: large group gathering ... intergenerational table friends ... retreat speaker Niki Hardy and Jill Duffield on the Q&A.

Through love



one another.

Galatians 5:13

FPC's Outreach Ministry serves in five focus areas:

- Hunger Action
- Strong Families
- Earth Care
- Racial Equity
- Affordable Housing

What is your interest?

Whether once a week or once a month, you can make a difference in our ongoing ministries such as Hot Dish & Hope, or with one of our nine community partners such as Faith Action International House..

Learn more at

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/OUTREACH or contact Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Mission & Outreach, at 336-478-4705 or MBUSSELL@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

L. Richardson Trust Grants

Each year, the trustees elected by the congregation award grants from the L. Richardson Trust. Last year, 17 applicants requested over \$180,000 and we awarded 8 grants totaling \$59,500. If you know of great organizations working to make a difference in our community and world, please share the application with them and encourage them to submit it by March 16. More info at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/L-RICHARDSON-TRUST-GRANTS.



Poor People's Campaign rally in Raleigh

On Saturday, February 14, join us for a march for Love Forward Together, mobilizing for love, not hate; ending poverty, welcoming immigrants, supporting public education, and the religious values of mercy, grace, and empathy. We will meet at the church in front of the Welcome Center at 7:30 am to carpool and caravan to Raleigh.

Interfaith Housing Initiative

Join us on 5:30-7:30 pm February 26 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to learn how we can make a difference in the housing crisis by coming together to fund the construction of six new units at Partnership Place Apartments. There will be a reception hors d'oeuvres and we'll hear testimonials, see construction plans, and get educational resources to put our faith into action. *Sign-up info at bottom of page.*

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will be on campus on March 11, 1:30 to 6 pm. Walk-ins are welcome, but you'll get done more quickly if you make a reservation. *Sign-up info at bottom of page.*

Neil's Meals

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 11 at 9 am for our next Neil's Meals! We will once again be partnering with Out of the Garden Project to pack boxes of food that will be distributed to our hungry neighbors. People of all ages and abilities are invited! A sign-up page will be shared as we get closer to the event.

Earth Care & General Assembly

At least three overtures related to creation care have been submitted for consideration at the 2026 PC(USA) General Assembly, which will be held June 22-July 2. Learn more by pointing your phone camera at the QR code and clicking the link that pops up.



[RSVP for FPC events at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS)

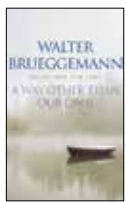
THIS LENTEN SEASON, we will journey through the hymn **What Is the World Like**.

It asks us to look at this time and place through the New Testament stories of the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.



The text was written by Adam Tice, a Mennonite pastor and well-known hymn writer. The music was composed by Sally Ann Morris, a prolific composer and the Musician-in-Residence at the Wake Forest School of Divinity. It is on page 771 of our Glory to God hymnal.

PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY by picking up a devotional in the Welcome Center.



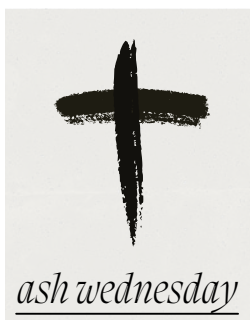
A Way Other Than Our Own is by Walter Brueggemann, a theologian who called the church to counter the worldly cultures of consumerism,

militarism, and nationalism. (Free, one per household, please.)

Lent in Plain Sight, by Senior Pastor Jill Duffield, takes on a journey through ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem. (\$10)

LENT BEGINS with the Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 18

Our foreheads are marked with a cross, the ashes made from the leaves of last year's Palm Sunday service. The ashes represent our mortality and commitment to repent.



- Youth Breakfast Club at Chick-fil-A on Pisgah Church Road, 7:15 or 8 am.
- Preschool Chapel, 9:30 am in the sanctuary.
- Ash Wednesday worship, 6 pm in the sanctuary. Erin Kesterson Bowers will be the preacher.

What is the world like

WEEK ONE: This is how God

First Sunday of Lent, Feb 22

WORSHIP
9 am Rejoice
11 am Sanctuary

Newton Cowan opens our series with the parable of the mustard seed. Scriptures: Ezekiel 17:23-24 and Luke 13:18-19. Children's choirs and the handbell choir will participate in the 11 am service.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Journeys for our Lent
Young. Come as You Are
Room. Info at right.
What Is the World Like
Bowers. Faithful Families
304. Info at right.

EVENING

Youth Cohort
School, 6-7 pm

WEEK TWO: This is how God

Second Sunday of Lent, March 1

WORSHIP
9 am Rejoice
11 am Sanctuary

Jill Duffield explores the parable of the prodigal son. Scriptures: Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30 and Luke 15:11-32.

A Congregational Meeting will be held just before the 11 am service to vote on the next class of elders.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Journeys for our Lent
Come as You Are
at right.

What Is the World Like
Faithful Families,
YMBC and Agape

Christian Theology
Seekers, Main 12

Youth, connect a
together, Memorial
Memorial 300. Cl

Make when **God's will** is done?

MOVES US each to believe.

10 am
Lenten Journey: Preston
 You Are class, Garden
 ht.
Like, led by Erin
 Families, Memorial
 e Dinners, in homes. Middle School, 5-6 pm. High
 m.

Christians Who Influenced America's History, led by Sandie Gravett. YMBC and Agape, Redhead Hall
Christian Theology, led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers, Main 125
Youth, connect and engage Scripture together, Memorial 303. *Confirmands*, Memorial 300. *Children*, Corl Building.

LONGS FOR US when we roam.

10 am
Lenten Journey: Lisa Ganem.
 e class, Garden Room. *Info*
Like, led by Erin Bowers.
 Memorial 304. *Info at right*.
 e classes, Redhead Hall
 y, led by Gerard Davidson.
 5
 and engage Scripture
 rial 303. *Confirmands*,
children, Corl Building.

EVENING
 Kids Disciple Club, for grades 3-5, will learn a spiritual practice for Lent. 3-5 pm, Mullin Life Center.
 Youth Group: Games, bible study, food, & fun! Middle School, 5-6 pm, dinner for MS & HS, 6-6:30 pm, High School, 6:30-7:30 pm.
 Registration will open for Vacation Bible School, being held July 20-23.

special adult studies

Lively discussions and meaningful reflections on Jesus' life and ministry. Bring your Bible and any notes to enrich your journey as we deepen our understanding of this incredible Gospel. Led by Erin Bowers. Thursdays at noon, February 19 through March 26, Garden Room. Erin will send notes in advance, so let her know if you plan to attend. FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS



In this series, some of our members will share their faith journeys and the experiences that shaped them. Sundays at 10 am beginning February 22, Come as You Are class, Garden Room.



Based on the scripture passages and our Lenten hymn, with readings, videos, activities, and discussion. Led by Erin Bowers. Sundays at 10 am beginning February 22, Faithful Families, Memorial 304.



what the world is like

Continues, next page

WEEK Three: This is how God **WORKS** when rivalries end.

Third
Sunday
of Lent,
March 8

WORSHIP

Communion Sunday
9 am Rejoice
11 am Sanctuary

Erin Kesterson Bowers continues our Lenten series with the story of the good Samaritan. Scriptures: Leviticus 19:1-2, 13-18 and Luke 10:25-37.

CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 am

Journeys for our Lenten Journey. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.

What Is the World Like, led by Erin Bowers. Faithful Families, Memorial 304.

YMBC and Agape classes, Redhead Hall

Christian Theology, led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers, Main 125

Youth, Memorial 303. *Confirmands* visit New Garden Friends Meeting. *Children*, Corl Building.

EVENING

Youth Group: Games, bible study, food, & fun! Middle School, 5-6 pm, dinner for MS & HS, 6-6:30 pm, High School, 6:30-7:30 pm.

WEEK FOUR: This is how God **READIES US** for the light.

Fourth
Sunday
of Lent,
March 15

WORSHIP

9 am Rejoice
11 am Sanctuary

Jill Duffield looks at the story of the ten bridesmaids. Scriptures: Exodus 19:9-14 and Matthew 25:1-13.

CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 am

Journeys for our Lenten Journey: Trip Brown. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.

What Is the World Like, led by Erin Bowers. Faithful Families, Memorial 304.

YMBC and Agape classes, Redhead Hall

Christian Theology, led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers, Main 125

Youth, Memorial 303. *Confirmands*, Memorial 300.

Children, Living in Faith Together, intergenerational activities on prayer for Lent, Mullin Life Center.

EVENING

Youth Group: Games, bible study, food, & fun! Middle School, 5-6 pm, dinner for MS & HS, 6-6:30 pm, High School, 6:30-7:30 pm.

WEEK FIVE: These are the **STORIES**

Fifth
Sunday
of Lent,
March
22

WORSHIP

Confirmation Sunday

9 am Rejoice, 3-year-olds will receive Preschool Bibles

11 am Sanctuary, Confirmands will be welcomed as full members.

Jill Duffield closes the series. Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Ephesians 4:1-16

CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 am

Journeys for our Lenten Journey: Andrew Spainhour. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.

What Is the World Like, led by Erin Bowers, ends today. Faithful Families, Memorial 304.

YMBC and Agape classes, Redhead Hall

Christian Theology, led by Gerard Davidson. Seekers, Main 125

Youth, Memorial 303. *Confirmands*, in the sanctuary. *Children*, Corl Building.

EVENING

Youth Cohort Dinners, in homes. Middle School, 5-6 pm. High School, 6-7 pm.



Holy Week


Palm Sunday, March 29
 9 am Rejoice service with children's choirs
 10 am Resurrection Egg Hunt for children
 11 am Sanctuary service with handbells

Maundy Thursday, April 2
 7 pm communion service in the sanctuary

Tenebrae Friday, April 3
 7 pm service in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 4
 7 am Sunrise service, columbarium
 9 & 11 am services with choir & brass, sanctuary
 10 am Family Easter Party, Life Center


Dupre's Stations of the Cross



John Alexander, organist
Jill Duffield, reader

Palm Sunday, March 29, 5 pm

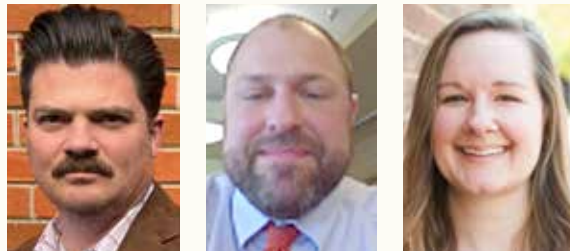
I am supposed to go and tend to the person in the ditch, no questions asked about who they are, or where they're from, or what landed them there in the first place.



From Jill Duffield's sermon on February 1, 2026

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINEES

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, March 1 at the start of the 11 am service in the sanctuary. Members will vote on the next class of elders; trustee for the L. Richardson Trust; at-large members of the 2026 Nominating Committee; and change of call for the pastors. The elder nominees are:



T.J. DRISCOLL, an attorney who currently serves in Youth Sunday School and as a Lay Reader worship.

STU JOHNSTON, a high school teacher who currently serves as a Youth Sunday School teacher and on the Communications Committee.

MADDY LOWMAN, a clinical mental health counselor who currently serves in Mental Health Ministry and as a Lay Reader in worship.



BILL PINCKARD, a business owner/investor who currently serves as YMBC prayer manager, on an Usher Team, and at Hot Dish & Hope and Neil's Meals.

JACALYN WHITE, a community volunteer who currently serves at Hot Dish & Hope and as co-chair of the 2027 Women's Retreat.

CAROLYN WOODRUFF, an attorney who currently serves on the Finance and Project Review committees.

The nominee for trustee is **ROBBY HASSELL**, a Superior Court Judge (emergency) and adjunct law professor who currently serves in the Chancel Choir, as a Lay Reader, and at Hot Dish & Hope.



FEBRUARY & MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

RSVP FOR EVENTS AT FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS

Mahjong Monday

February 16, 10-noon in the solarium. Players of all skill levels are invited to engage in friendly competition (no lessons today) and connect with other Mahjong enthusiasts. Bring your NJML card. Registration closes February 12.

Fork & Faith Women's Luncheon

February 18 and March 18, noon in Mullin Life Center. RSVP five days ahead to Dolly Jennings, 336-854-2663 or DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM.

Book Clubs

The **Third Thursday Book Club** will discuss *The Jackal's Mistress* by Chris Bohjalian on February 19, and *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan on March 19. 6:30-7:30 pm in the Myers Loyalty Room.



The **Monday-Tuesday clubs** will meet together March 10 to welcome author Diane Flynt, author of *Wild, Tamed, Lost, Revived: The Surprising Story of Apples in the South*. The author is orchardist and founder of Foggy Ridge Cider in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. 1:30 pm in the Garden Room.

Youth Breakfast Club

Middle School & High School youth meet February 18 and March 4 at Chick-fil-A on Pisgah Church Road. Come at 7:15 am, or if you go to school later come at 8 am.

Women of Faith Luncheon

March 9. Speaker will be Matt Hicks, Botanical Gardens superintendent with the City of Greensboro. Noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. RSVP by March 4 at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGN-UPS, in the Welcome Center, or 336-478-4799.

Mr. Rogers Day

On March 20, On this day put on a cardigan and find someone to be neighborly with. Did you know Fred was a Presbyterian pastor? In the spirit of Jesus' words in Luke 10, look for someone outside your usual path.

GOT KIDS? WE GOT YOU.

VBS REGISTRATION

Sign up beginning March 1 for summer Vacation Bible School, being held July 20-23.

FIRST FAMILIES

Families with children ages infant through early elementary school will get together March 6 at the Derus home. 6-8 pm. Contact Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Kids play, have pizza and watch *Inside Out 2*. For ages infant through fifth grade. March 14, 5-8 pm, \$25/child. Registration opens February 18.

NEED A BABYSITTER?

Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, for a list of our youth who baby-sit.

A story behind the scenes of tuck-pointing brick and filling plates

It has been a real pleasure for me to volunteer at Hot Dish & Hope. I have gotten to know some of my longtime FPC friends better and met new members. One of the most inspirational things is the number of people who come Tuesday and Thursday afternoons who are not members. Winston is one.

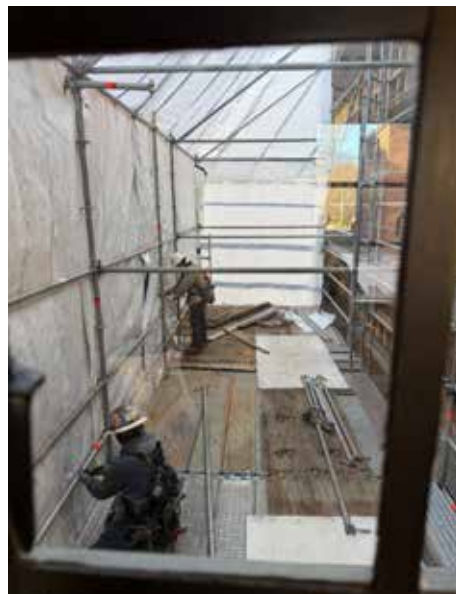
Winston is a reliable young man who is most happy working on the serving line or helping stack tables and chairs at the end of the evening. Recently, as we plated dinners in the Life Center kitchen, Winston asked, “What is happening to the outside of the sanctuary?!” He was unaware of the Rooted & Reaching Capital Campaign of 2024 and our vision of our third century of ministry together.

It was a joy to witness how many FPC members immediately began to fill him in. With enthusiasm and energy, they painted a verbal picture of where we were and where we are now. They were eager to explain how our sacrificial giving is making a huge difference on our campus and in our community. And they demonstrated that momentum and focus are being sustained in love as the vision is realized. I think they answered his question!

Those members mirror the congregation – folks who are paying their pledges in a timely way; folks who are giving once and contributing again; folks who have completed their pledges and continue to give; and folks who have given monthly for the past two years – diverse patterns of giving but unity in support of the vision. A large group of disciples who believe that is where God is – in the gratitude of blessings received and the opportunity to share them.

Two years into our three-year campaign is an excellent time to offer prayers of gratitude for gifts given and donations yet to come. As we live in gratitude for what God has done and will do, may it inspire our life together as we continue to be changemakers for good. And I can’t wait to hear what Winston thinks when the scaffolding comes down next year!

– *Becky Veraar, Capital Campaign co-chair*



WHAT’S HAPPENING BEHIND THE WRAPPED SCAFFOLDING?

There are now 18 certified masons grinding out an inch of old mortar around each brick and removing broken bricks. The plan was to grind and re-mortar a section at a time, but the mortar cannot cure in this unusually cold weather. Instead, the masons are continuing to grind across larger sections.



LEARN MORE about the campaign and renovation using the QR code, or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN



Our gifts express our gratitude to God, our trust in God’s promises, and our desire to participate in God’s work in the world. Your commitments and gifts make our ministry this year possible. As of the end of January, 407 households have pledged a total of \$2,558,000 for 2026 ministry. Our goal is \$3,000,000. It is still a good time to let the church know what you plan to give this year. The easiest way is to email Christine Ciaccio, our Finance Director, at CCIACCIO@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG. If you feel reluctant to prepare a card, please make gifts throughout the year so we can measure and thank you for your support. Use the QR Code or go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/TOGETHER-IN-GIVING.

First Presbyterian Church
617 N. Elm St.
Greensboro, NC 27401-2095

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Greensboro, NC
PERMIT 95

A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

EMAIL SCAMS

If you receive an email that seems to be from a staff member, check the address and make sure it's from (name)@fpcgreensboro.org. If it isn't, do not open the email and delete it.

SPONSOR THE FLOWERS FOR OUR WEEKLY SANCTUARY SERVICE

in honor or memory of someone special. Contact Carolyn Yow, email or 336-478-4768. Dates available in 2026: April 5; May 3, 10, 24 and 31; July 12 and 19; August 30; September 6 and 13; October 4; and December 13.

NEED PRAYER? Send your confidential request to NCOWAN@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG or use the

attendance QR code in Sunday's bulletin. Pastors will be reading and praying these petitions.

TEXT ALERT SYSTEM

The system is used for urgent information such as weather delays and COVID-related schedule changes. To receive campus alerts text the word: fpcgreensboro to 48767 and follow the on-screen instructions.

EVER WONDER WHO WILLIAM "FATHER" PAISLEY IS?

How about the mailing address of your pew buddy? These and other mysteries can be answered in the FPC Member Directory. Go to www.fpcgreensboro.org/member-resources. Under the photo, click on "Directories." Then click on "Log into your member portal or create your account here." While you're there, please add or update your family's information. Perhaps your grown children have flown the nest. We don't want to lose touch with them, so encourage them to set up an account with their new addresses.