



# First Presbyterian Church

of Raleigh, North Carolina

*Serving Christ from the Heart of the City to the Ends of the Earth with Love, Faith and Action.*

May 31, 2026  
Trinity Sunday

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements                      The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Introit    *Aria*    Craig Phillips

Call to Worship

We come to worship God the Father;  
**Who is Alpha and Omega, who created out of nothing, who shaped and formed us as people.**  
We come to worship God the Son;  
**Fully God and fully human, the one whose love offers us salvation.**  
We come to worship God the Holy Spirit;  
**Everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**  
Let us worship our Triune God with gladness!

\*Hymn 1                      *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*                      NICA EA

Prayer of Confession                                      The Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger

**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, you are the God who longs to be in our lives and calls for our loyalty and worship. We want to be faithful followers, but often we imagine ourselves to be god-like. We fool ourselves into believing we are in control, or fail to recognize our limitations. Forgive us, we pray, and orient our lives towards you; for we know that living as you call offers us life abundant.**  
*(Let us continue our confession in silence)*

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?  
**With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.**  
This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

Welcome to Worship!  
Some notes about the service:

\*An asterisk denotes standing, in body or spirit.

**Words in bold are read aloud by the congregation.**

Today is Trinity Sunday, the only Sunday of the church year dedicated to a theological doctrine. In worship, we seek not to make sense of this foundational doctrine, but to be shaped by the God revealed to us in three persons.

The Westminster Catechism says our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. That hope is reflected in the words of this response.

\*Response of Gratitude | Hymn 63 stanza 1

AZMON

**The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor thanks a praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.**

## We Listen and Respond to God's Word

Children's Moment

Beth Thaxton

Hymn 399 *God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, stranger and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

*After the Children's Moment, children ages 4 - 2nd gr. are invited to the Library for Children's Church and will return following the sermon.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading                      John 16:12-15

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Hymn to the Trinity*

Michael Burkhardt

Scripture Reading                      2 Corinthians 13:11-13

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*A Trinitarian Blessing*

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Silent Reflection

\*Hymn 11    *Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud*    ABERYSTWYTH

\*Affirmation of Faith: from The Study Catechism

What is God's purpose for your life?

**God wills that I should love by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

Welcome of New Members

The doctrine of the Trinity is not explained in Scripture, but throughout the Bible we see God described in many ways, mainly Creator, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

We are delighted to welcome Kathy Hart as a new member of the church.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and 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.**

Response to Prayer | Hymn 601

DANISH AMEN



An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory

*God of the Sparrow*

Carl F. Schalk

\*Doxology | Hymn 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**We Carry God's Word into the World**

\*Hymn 643

*Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET

ALLE GOTT

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Benediction Response | Hymn 543 stanza 1

**God, be the love to search and guide me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.**

Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

*All Glory Be to God on High* Johann Gottfried Walther

Our offering is a gift in response to God's love and care for each of us. The offering is used to support staff, maintain church property, to offer resources to our community through our important outreach ministries, and many other things. Your giving is deeply appreciated.

Scan here to give an offering online:



We thank Evan McCaskill for singing the Offertory Anthem today in our worship. See Hymn 22 for lyrics to the Anthem.

## Anthem

Creating God, our praise we bring;  
For love, for care, our voices sing;  
We laud with joy, the earth shall ring:  
Alleluia!

O Christ, to you all glory be,  
From sin your death has set us free  
To live with you eternally.  
Alleluia!

O Comforter you give us pow'r,  
Abundant blessings on us show'r,  
Our faith you bring into full flow'r.  
Alleluia!

All praise to God, Creator, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One.  
Forevermore God's name be sung.  
Alleluia! Amen.

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The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given by Katherine and David Kesterson in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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Scan the QR code  
for ways to become  
connected to our  
ministries.



## On the Calendar This Week, May 31 – June 6

**Sunday** – Called Session Meeting 10:15 a.m. | Sunday School 9:30 a.m. | Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Volunteer Appreciation Congregational Lunch 11:30 a.m. | Owen Beal Recital 4:00 p.m.

**Monday, June 1** – Staff Appreciation Lunch 11:30 a.m. | Pickleball 1:00 p.m. | Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 2** – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00 a.m. | CDC Chapel 10:30 a.m.  
Glenaire Lunch 12:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 3** – Early Birds 6:30 a.m. | Friendship Fund 10 a.m. | Pickleball 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, June 4** – Knitting Group 9:00 a.m. | Shower Ministry 11:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, June 5** – No activities or events scheduled for today.

**Saturday, June 6** – No activities or events scheduled for today.

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

### Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer, we will gather for one worship service each week, at 10:30am. Join us for Sunday School (all ages): 9:30-10:15 a.m.; Worship: at 10:30 a.m.; Community Building Activity: 11:30 a.m. We hope that you will be able to join us throughout the summer!

### This Changes Everything: Faith & Everyday Life

Join us this summer for an all-church combined adult Sunday School class exploring how faith speaks into the realities of everyday life. Together, we'll reflect on topics like identity, anxiety, suffering and grief, friendship, community, and more—all grounded in Scripture and meaningful conversation. Come discover how faith truly changes everything. We will gather each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall. All are welcome!

### Join Us for Pickleball at FPC

We're bringing back our Pickleball group – Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the church gym. Additional times can be planned if there is enough interest and participation. Beginners are welcome – we'll have some extra racquets and folks ready to teach you how to play if needed. If you have questions or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Ernie Thompson at [ethompson@fpcraleigh.org](mailto:ethompson@fpcraleigh.org).

### Musical Event at FPC Raleigh

Owen Beal Senior Recital: All are invited to attend Owen Beal's Senior Violin Recital on Sunday, May 31, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary at FPC. Thanks to the congregation for supporting Owen as he has shared his musical gifts in worship over the years!

### Church-Wide Lunch Celebrating our Teachers & Volunteers

All are invited to join us today at 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall as we celebrate and give thanks for our incredible teachers and volunteers. Build-Your-Own Salad Bar, Potluck Side Dishes (please bring a favorite to share!) Come enjoy a time of fellowship, gratitude, and celebration as we recognize these amazing servants in ministry. All are welcome! Hosted by the Congregational Life & Christian Education Committees.

### Inquirers Class

If you've been visiting with us and want to learn more about the church, Presbyterian theology, and FPC's specific ministries, please join us for our Inquirer's Class. We'll meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 7 and 14 in the Vanguard Room. On the 21st, you'll be invited to tour the church campus and to join the church (if you feel ready). Please email Laurie Taylor Weicher at [lweicher@fpcraleigh.org](mailto:lweicher@fpcraleigh.org) with any questions.

## **FPC Book Club**

Join us for our next FPC Book Club on Tuesday, June 23, as together we read, *The Correspondent*, by Virginia Evans. We will meet in person, in the Edge Lobby at noon on the 23rd, or you can join us by zoom at 7pm that night.

## **FPC Shares Item for June**

This month's FPC Shares item is Rice | Gravy | Pasta | Pasta Sauce! 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 two places in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

## **Mission Highlight**

### **The Green Chair Project**

Real estate home stagers Jackie Craig and Beth Smoot found that homeowners had too much stuff in their homes—stuff that no one wanted to waste, but was no longer needed. Jackie and Beth were also aware of the thousands of families struggling to move out of homelessness who could not afford furniture and basic household items without assistance. With this in mind, the pair founded The Green Chair Project in 2010 to collect and reuse essential furnishings, benefiting their Wake County neighbors in need. The Green Chair Project is a non-profit organization that collects donated furnishings for individuals transitioning from homelessness, crisis, or disaster.

For a small fee, clients working with case managers from over 100 partner agencies can select furniture, linens, cookware, and accessories to outfit their new homes. The Green Chair experience promotes the idea of choice and empowers clients as they begin to rebuild.

There are 95,200 Wake County households living below the federal poverty line, who cannot afford essential household needs, such as furnishings for their homes or beds for their children. Since its founding in 2010, The Green Chair Project has helped over 11,000 families start anew. By partnering with referring human services agencies, The Green Chair Project strengthens relationships with its partner agencies, builds new relationships with other prospective agencies, and works with its clients during their personalized shopping experience.

The Green Chair Project partners with the Wake County Public School System through the “Sweeter Dreams” program, in which children are referred by school social workers and provided with twin bed frames, box springs, mattresses, sheets, pillows, and blankets. One in thirty Wake County Public School Children are sleeping on floors or sharing crowded beds with others and not getting the sleep they need to learn online or at school. In 2025, over 1,300 children received a bed of their own. To date, close to 10,000 children have received new beds! The Green Chair Project is on a mission to provide a bed for EVERY child in need!

To date, over 10,831 tons of furniture and household items have been donated to The Green Chair Project, reused, and diverted from landfills. Please consider donating your no longer needed household items and furniture. You can help a family in need and the environment simultaneously.

The Green Chair Project is working toward a future where every child has a bed and every home is stocked with essentials. FPC's Mission budget provides funding for the organization's operational needs, and in past years, we've sent volunteers on our FPC Serves Day of Service. In our January 2021 Month of Service, we assembled cleaning buckets for households they serve. In 2023, the FPC Foundation awarded The Green Chair Project a grant for the “Sweeter Dreams” program.

For more information, visit [www.thegreenchair.org](http://www.thegreenchair.org).