



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh

FIRST PRESS

July 5 - July 19, 2026

Worship this Sunday

July 5, 2026

Join us for Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Preacher: The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Sermon Title: Tell Me A Story: Children's Bible Stories for All

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 | 1 Samuel 17:41-50

[Click here for our live stream and worship resources](#)

[Click here for our YouTube Channel](#)

The pastor on call for the month of July is The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher. She can be reached at 919 714-7213 or at

[*lweicher@fpcraleigh.org*](mailto:lweicher@fpcraleigh.org).

From Tara's Desk

Dear Church,

With the upcoming 250th anniversary of our nation this Saturday, I wanted to share with you part of a sermon by Episcopalian Bishop G. Ashton Oldham, delivered on September 7, 1924. It is entitled, "America First."

America First

Not merely in matters material, but in things of the spirit.
Not merely in science, inventions, motors, and skyscrapers,
but also in ideals, principles, character.

Not merely in the calm assertion of rights, but in the glad
assumption of duties.

Not flaunting her strength as a giant, but bending in helpfulness
over a sick and wounded world like a Good Samaritan.

Not in splendid isolation, but in courageous cooperation.

Not in pride, arrogance, and disdain of other races and peoples,
but in sympathy, love, and understanding.

Not in treading again the old, worn, bloody pathway which ends
inevitably in chaos and disaster, but in blazing a new trail, along
which, please God, other nations will follow, into the new
Jerusalem where wars shall be no more.

Some day some nation must take that path—unless we are to
lapse once again into utter barbarism —and that honor I covet
for my beloved America.

And so, in that spirit and with these hopes,
I say with all my heart and soul, "America first."

May it be so, friends. With God's help, may it be so.

In faith, hope, and love,
The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Coming Up



To join by Zoom, [click here](#).

Meeting ID: 847 2796 7870

Passcode: 607400



Saturday| July 11 | 8:00 A.M.

**1305 White Oak Church Road,
Apex**

Come and hike with us!

We will meet at the parking lot on White Oak Church Road (1305 White Oak Church Road, Apex). There are restrooms there and easy access to the American Tobacco Trail. You will be able to do a 6 - 8 mile loop.

All are welcome. Email Laurie Taylor Weicher with any questions.



Sunday, July 12, we have not one, but two fantastic community building events after worship.

Join Mark Woodcock in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space to try out ringing handbells and playing a simple song together.

Then head to Memorial Hall for the return of Hot Dog Sunday.

Please bring a side dish to share. All are welcome!



Vacation Bible School

July 13-17, 2026

9am-12pm | Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Cost: \$25 per family to cover supplies.

[Link for more info & to register.](#)

VBS will be here very SOON, and we are excited to explore our theme, "Snowball Mountain Challenge." Our mission project will be to collect gently used coats -- we love a winter theme -

Volunteer Needs:

- **Decorating - Nan McCaslin** is looking for helpers to assist her in decorating! Of course, she's got an incredible plan & just needs extra hands! Email her for more information at nanmccaslin57@yahoo.com.
- **Volunteer Snacks - We're** looking for someone who can be present at VBS (or 2 people to share the role) to serve snacks & goodies to our volunteer leaders. The food will all be planned & purchased by another incredible volunteer! Email Beth Thaxton at bthaxton@fpcraleigh.org.
- **Group Shepherds & Floaters - If you are** available to help

- so that we can ensure that folks can stay warm when winter arrives! Look for our donation display in the Edge Building leading up to VBS!

Donations of both children's and adults' coats will be accepted!

accompany a group OR float on certain days, please let Beth Thaxton know by email at bthaxton@fpcraleigh.org.



August 10-14, 2026
9am-12pm | Ages 3 - 5th Grade
Cost: \$25 per family to cover supplies
[Link for more info & to register.](#)



Join us for a long-held tradition at FPC, the All Church Retreat at Montreat! February 12-14, 2027

The Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger will be our keynote speaker!

Our theme is "To be a Christian" and will explore 4 different themes throughout the weekend.

Activities include:

- Keynotes
- Small groups
- Free time in Montreat
- Talent show
- Worship
- and more!

Register by November 10.

This event has been held for over 30 years, but after a hiatus due to the pandemic & Hurricane Helene, we're thrilled to be BACK!

[Click to learn more and to register!](#)

[Click Here to Read the May Session Minutes](#)



First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh | 112 South Salisbury Street | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

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