



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh

FIRST PRESS



June 7 - June 14, 2026

Worship this Sunday | June 7, 2026 | Join us for Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Preacher: The Rev. Tara W. Bulger | Romans 1:16-17; 3:19-31 & Genesis 6:11-22

The pastor on call for the month of June is The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger.
She can be reached at 919 714-7206 or at tbulger@fpcraleigh.org.

Dear Church,

Almost every pastor I know has a secret, and it is this: we would all rather officiate a funeral than a wedding. It seems incongruous. Weddings are generally happy days with lots to celebrate. And there are many weddings that I am glad I got to officiate. (And in my many years of ministry, there are a lot of weddings I would have rather sat out of.) In a wedding, the officiant speaks about the sacrificial love of Christ, which is at the heart of what is needed to live in covenant relationships with one another. Those are important and useful things to think about.

But funerals, funerals are places of hope. When I graduated from seminary and took my first church, I remember officiating a funeral for a church member and thinking, "I knew I would have to do funerals, I just didn't know I would have to do them for people I've come to love." Funerals can be deeply sad. But at their core, funerals remind us that all of God's promises are true.

Funerals remind us that God has loved us our whole lives long. They remind us that the Holy Spirit has sustained us throughout our lives. And they proclaim our greatest hope: that out of God's great love there is resurrection. Death never has the last word. Only the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord, does.

Weddings are a beginning, and there is beauty in that. But funerals are a beginning, too. The beginning of the resurrected life in Christ. What an honor and a privilege it is to witness to that.

I have been thinking of this as I prepare for Nat Sparrow's funeral this Saturday. It will be so sad to say goodbye to Nat. But I also know his love and faithful witness will remain with us all. And at the funeral, we get to hear of the hope we have in Christ. Thanks be to God.

In faith, hope, and love,

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger



The Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Nat Sparrow will be held in our sanctuary this Saturday, June 6, at 11:30 a.m. We will be live streaming the service for those that will not be able to attend in person. You can watch the live stream on our website or on our YouTube page.



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, starting May 24 at 9:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall. All are welcome! If you missed our last session, you can watch it on our YouTube channel.



First Presbyterian Church is trying to help the Red Cross overcome a blood donation shortfall.

Please consider donating blood and providing a critical lifesaving need. You can make a difference!

When: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Memorial Hall

You can call the church to sign up!



Saturday, June 20, 8am | Umstead State Park, Company Mill Trail

Come and hike with us!

Use the gate at Harrison Avenue and I-40 and park in the lot that is just off to the left after you come in.

Company Mill Trail is a 5.8 mile loop.





Join us Tuesday, June 23 for a discussion of "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans.

You can BYO lunch and join us in person at church at noon. Or you're welcome to join by zoom at 7pm on the 23rd.

Hope you join us for discussion on this wonderful book!

You may also sign up by calling the church or adding your name to the events registration book at the reception desk in the Edge Lobby.



The FPC Foundation and Stewardship Committee are jointly hosting a Community Event with a reception and information table in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space after worship on Sunday, June 28, 2026.

Indulge in favorite food items and lemonade with an opportunity to learn more about giving to the FPC Foundation and to the FPC General Fund. This session will be a time to learn something new about the differences between annual and planned giving, how each type of donating works at FPC, and possible tax advantages you may not have considered.

Both mechanisms of planned giving for the FPC Foundation and annual giving for the church's operating fund will be explained and information will be at your fingertips. Stop by the table and let us help with any questions you may have.

Hope to see you there!