



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh

FIRST PRESS

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Stay Connected at First Presbyterian Church!

From meaningful worship and small group opportunities to fellowship gatherings, and special seasonal events, God is moving in powerful ways throughout our church family. Read below to discover what is coming up and how you can get connected.

Worship this Sunday

March 22, 2026

Join us for Worship at 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Preaching: The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Sermon Title: Marks of A Disciple: Peace

Scripture: Psalm 33:13-22 | John 14:15-27

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

From Tara's Desk

Dear Church,

For the past month or so, I have had the privilege of leading a small worship service for the incarcerated ladies in the program formerly known as Job Start. For those worship services, I focused the service heavily on spiritual disciplines. The idea was to teach them disciplines that would draw them closer to God and that they could then apply in their daily lives. Our worship services included Lectio Divina, the Examen Prayer, and more.

I wanted to share with you today a simple practice of breath prayer. Breath prayer is an ancient Christian practice that dates back to the sixth century.

Begin with your eyes closed and imagine that Jesus is calling you by name. Imagine Jesus actually asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Your answer may be one word, such as peace, love, or help. It may be several words, such as "feel your presence" or "lead me each day." Whatever your answer, this is the foundation of your breath prayer.

Next, think of the name you are most comfortable calling God: it can be God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. You may want to call God "father" or something else. Just pick the name you want to use in your prayer.

Now, as you inhale, say God's name. As you exhale, say your request.

For example:

Inhale: Lord Jesus Christ,
Exhale: wrap me in your arms.

You then repeat the prayer several times with your breath.

I find Breath Prayer to be a wonderful way to calm myself. Sometimes it is also the way I begin my prayers. It also reminds me of the breath of life, breathed into us each day by God.

I hope this spiritual discipline is helpful for you. May it calm you and center you in this life of faith.

In faith, hope, and love,

Tara

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, Senior Pastor

News:



Honoring Alan Jessup

For over 20 years, FPC has been the host for the Church Basketball League. While the league is now run by a collaborative group of youth staff from the participating churches, for most of these 20 years, the league was run by Freddie Crisp, who dies in July of 2023, and Alan Jessup. Alan and Freddie managed every aspect, and both also coached teams. Alan continues to be the coach of our HS team, and after such a long tenure, was surprised with a plaque last Saturday.

Alan, we are grateful for the incredible ways that you have used your gifts in ministry and are grateful for the way you inspire us.

Ed Finley Sr. Honored by Governor Josh Stein

[Click Here to read the article](#)



The 2026 Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the office of Elder and Deacon, Class of 2029. To make nominations, [click here](#). If you would like to submit a paper nomination, one is available in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space or the Edge Lobby. Please place the completed form(s) in the box found in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space (near the photos of our ministers) or in Cindy Elderkin's mailbox on the 2nd floor of the Edge building.



Calling All Ordained Elders

In order to stay in touch with our members who may not be able to come to church on a regular basis, we have been taking communion to them several times a year. Any ordained elder (currently on Session or not) and currently serving deacons can perform this service.

If you are an ordained elder interested in meeting and serving more members of our church family, please contact Kelly Thompson (thompsonke314@gmail.com) in order to be added to our list of home communion servers. We will contact you by email when we have a need for your help. We are hoping to reach 100% of the church family with communion.

The dates for at home communion in 2026 are May 24th, July 26th and October 4th.



On Sunday, March 15, we honored Becky McMillan Glendy and Kelly Evans Thompson with Honorary Life Membership from Presbyterian Women. Both received a certificate, flowers, and a pin. The pin, which more than 200 in our FPC congregation have received since 1938, includes symbolism – representing inclusivity, growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ, and peace in our own lives and throughout the world. At the center of the design is the cross, by which our sins are forgiven and we are freed to live in Christ, who is the center of our lives. The overall design is of a butterfly, the symbol of newness in Christ.

Thank you to everyone who participated, from the award nominations all the way through to the reception.

(Pictured: PW Co-Moderator Margaret Peacock, honorees Becky Glendy and Kelly Thompson, PW Co-Moderator Susan Johnson, and PW HLM Committee member Susan Johnson)



FPC Parking Lot Guidelines

As our church continues to serve both our congregation and the wider community, we want to remind everyone about our parking lot guidelines.

A number of our parking spaces are leased to individuals who park here during the workday. If you are coming to the church during weekday business hours for meetings, church business, or other

activities, **please park only in spaces clearly marked FPC or in unnumbered spaces.**

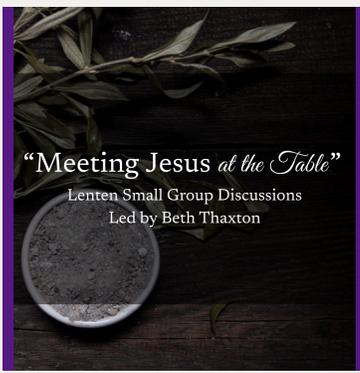
All numbered parking spaces are reserved for individuals who lease those spots and should remain available for them throughout the day.

Your attention to this helps us be good partners with those who rent parking from the church and ensures that everyone has access to the spaces assigned to them. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us steward our shared space well.



Easter candy donations are needed for the annual children's Easter Egg Hunt. Please place donations of individually wrapped candy in the basket located at the reception desk in the Edge Lobby. Questions? Please contact [Beth Thaxton](#).

This Week



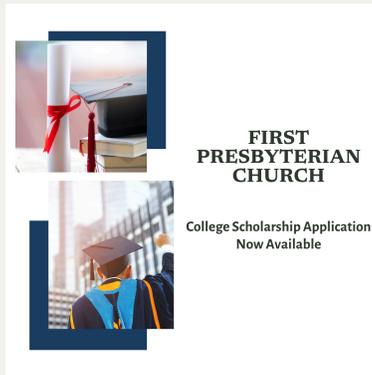
Join us for a Lenten Small Group on Tuesdays during Lent.

Bring your own lunch while we discuss "Meeting Jesus at the Table" led by Beth Thaxton.

We will meet on the Third Floor in the Ed Greer Room from 12:00-12:50 p.m.

Dates:
March 17 | March 24 | March 31

All are welcome!



Graduating Seniors!

Completed applications are due Friday, April 15.

Questions? Email [Fran Yohman](mailto:Fran.Yohman)

Printed applications will also be available in the Edge Lobby.

Next Week



SPRING LANDSCAPING DAY: PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK

Spring Landscaping Day: Preparation for Holy Week

Join Russell Clark, Facilities Manager and the Property and Insurance Committee on Saturday, March 28 from 9- 12 pm in preparing our church grounds for Holy Week. Areas of focus will be weeding, mulching and planting around the church grounds. All are welcome and if you have wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes, please bring them with

you. Thank you for helping us care for the place we share in worship and community.

Coming Soon

Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church



Palm
SUNDAY

March 29
8:30 am & 11:00 am



Maundy
THURSDAY

April 2
7:00 pm



Good
FRIDAY

April 3
12:00 pm & 7:00 pm



Easter
SUNDAY

April 5
8:30 am & 11:00 am

Join us in preparing our hearts
for the Risen King!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Raleigh



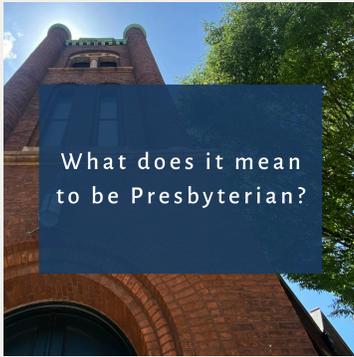
Easter Egg Hunt & Resurrection Celebration

Children and families are invited to join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate our Risen Lord!

When: Sunday, April 5 at 9:45am. Meet in the Sanctuary to hear the Easter story! Following the story, we'll walk over to the Capitol grounds to hunt for eggs. Be sure to bring a basket!

When the eggs have all been hunted & family photos have been taken, we'll come back to Memorial Hall for a Resurrection Celebration and enjoy snacks and Easter-themed crafts.





All are welcome! Class will be held at 9:45am in the Parlor (Just off the Lisa Ham Gathering Space) on Sunday April 12, 19, 26 and May 3.

Designed for folks new to the denomination or those looking to refresh their memory, this four week Sunday school class will explore the theology and practice of Presbyterians.



TRINITY CENTER

Pine Knoll Shores, NC
trinityctr.org

NOV. 6-8

Arrive: 4p.m.-6p.m. Friday
Depart: 1p.m. Sunday

Still Waters: Praying Through Psalm 23

By beloved coastal waters, come to find stillness using the beloved words of Psalm 23. Are you seeking time away in beloved Christian Community? Are you

COST:

\$295/Shared Room
\$335/Private Room

Your fee covers your room for 2 nights and 6 meals as well as a portion of the guest speaker's fees.

Register online April 12 - April 19
We will have a help desk in the Edge Lobby on April 12 & April 19, from 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM.

searching for ancient wisdom amid a chaotic world? Are you longing for an encounter with the wild and living God we call our Good Shepherd? Join us as we explore the words of this most memorized Psalm and encounter how it guides us deeper into union with our marvelous and magnificent God.

Facilitator: Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Registration & Payment Options

Register & Pay Online:

go to fpcraleigh.org/events

**PW will cover online payment fees*

Register in Person & Pay with Personal Check:

Write check to FPC, memo line "PW-Women's Retreat 2026"

Paper Registration is also available at the Edge Lobby Reception Desk.

Questions?

Pam Jones | p3jones@yahoo.com

(404) 668-0420

Sponsored by FPC Presbyterian Women



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