



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Raleigh

FIRST PRESS

May 17 - May 24, 2026

Worship this Sunday

May 17, 2026

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

Preacher: The Rev. Tara W. Bulger

Sermon Title: Sent Into the World

Scripture: Psalm 8 | Matthew 28:16-20

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

[Click here for our YouTube Channel](#)

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

lweicher@fpcraleigh.org.

From Tara's Desk

Dear Church,

“I have a hard question for you.”

This was a text message I received this week from my daughter, Hannon.

She had been watching news coverage of the Athena Strand case; it's a heartbreaking story of a seven-year-old girl who was abducted and murdered by a FedEx driver.

"Here's my question," she texted, "why does God allow such evil like that to happen? She was just a little girl. I have a hard time accepting that if God is all-powerful, why wouldn't he prevent things like this from happening?"

I understood exactly what she meant. I tried to respond as best I could. I told her that I don't believe God "causes" evil but that I, too, grieve the fact that it is allowed. I told her I think the presence of evil is in some way related to our freedom. But I do believe God has ultimate power and that evil will not win. Not that it makes it any easier to hear. I also told her that I believed God was with that little girl, in her terror and in welcoming her into God's presence. I reminded her that Jesus himself knew what evil was truly like when he was crucified on the cross.

She told me she was mad at God for allowing stuff like this to happen.

I reminded her it was okay to be mad at God, but that she needed to take that anger to God in prayer. To not let her anger separate her from God, but to cry out to him over this terrible injustice. In prayer, God hears our cries, and while she might not get an "answer," I believed she would find peace. The faithful response to our anger, our fear, and our grief is prayer.

Don't we all struggle with the problem of evil in the world? Doesn't every thinking person grieve the horrid reality of this life at times? I know I do. And I am grateful to my daughter, who reminded me this week to take it all to God in prayer. God can handle our rage and grief. God wants to hear from all of us.

May it be so for us all,
The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Coming Up



**Music Made in Heaven
cordially invites you to attend
"The Gathering"**

**Sunday, May 17, 2026
2:00 p.m.**

**First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
99 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27603**

*Access surface parking lot from Hillsborough Street.
Enter building through the double doors*

This annual concert will feature original compositions and arrangements of familiar tunes – including a premiere! – performed by our community handbell choir, along with the traditional reading of inscriptions in our bells honoring the children for whom they have been donated. A reception will follow.

Free and open to all. Donation baskets available.

We hope to see you there!

**MUSIC MADE IN HEAVEN
www.musicmadeinheaven.org
musicmadeinheaven@gmail.com**



**Sat. | May 23 | 9:00 A.M.
Shelley Lake: Near the dam**

Let's Take a Walk!
Join the Fourth Saturday Walking Group for an hour mid-morning walk at Shelley Lake.

All are welcome - bring a friend!

Contact Alan Jessup at 919-906-7632 or ajessup07@gmail.com if you have questions.



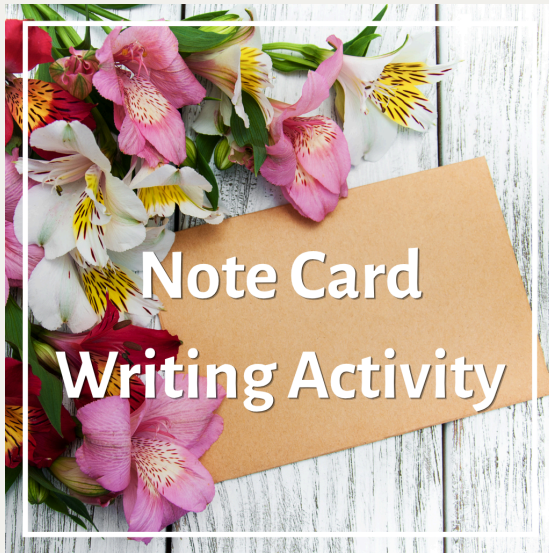
Beginning Sunday, May 24 we will move to our one-service summer schedule. Join us each week for Sunday School (all ages): 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Worship: at 10:30 a.m.; Community Building Activity: 11:30 a.m. We hope that you will be able to join us throughout the summer!



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!



Share God's Love Through a Simple Card

Join the Congregational Care Committee on Sunday, May 24 after worship for a special card-writing activity for our homebound members. A simple note of encouragement can brighten someone's day and remind them that their church family is thinking of them.

Cards, envelopes, pens, and stamps will be provided for this activity. All you need to bring is your kindness and a few moments of your time.

Come help us share love, encouragement, and connection with members who are unable to join us in person.

Summer First Press Schedule Begins May 24

As we move into our summer rhythm at the church, our weekly newsletter will transition to a bi-weekly schedule beginning the week of May 24. During these summer months, we hope this slower pace offers space for rest, renewal, and meaningful time with family and friends.



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Our regular weekly newsletter schedule will resume the week of September 6. Until then, we look forward to staying connected with you throughout the summer and sharing updates, opportunities for fellowship, and important church news every other week.



Join Us for Pickleball at FPC

We're starting back our Pickleball group at First Presbyterian – Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 in the church gym beginning on Wednesday May 27th. 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. ([Pickleball Rules](#)). If you have questions or want to be on our mailing list, please contact Ernie Thompson at ethompson@fpcraleigh.org.



Saturday, May 30, 9am

Lake Johnson Park
(5401 Avent Ferry Road)

Park at the lot just off Avent Ferry Road, and look for the Longleaf Shelter

We'll walk the East Loop (2.8 miles) and then the West Loop (2.1 miles), with the option to do either loop again if desired.



Join us on Sunday, May 31 at 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall as we celebrate and give thanks for our dedicated teachers and volunteers.

The Congregational Life and Christian Education Committees invite you to a special Appreciation Luncheon in their honor. Enjoy a build-your-own salad bar and potluck as we gather in fellowship and gratitude for these remarkable servants in ministry.

All are welcome to come, share a meal, and express appreciation for the difference they make in our church family. Please bring a side dish to share!



Owen Beal

Senior Violin 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!

 **ST. MICHAEL'S**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

 **St. Timothy's**
Episcopal Church

Service of Sung Compline

Sunday, May 31st 7:00 PM

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

**Featuring the Combined Choir of
St. Michael's and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**

Selections Include

O Lord, Increase My Faith - Orlando Gibbons

Pilgrims' Hymn - Stephen Paulus

Nunc Dimittis - Orlando Gibbons

**4523 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609**





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