



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro

May 18, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BAPTISM SUNDAY

SENIOR SUNDAY

*We invite you to light a candle as you enter the worship space  
to prepare your heart and mind for worship.  
Please silence your cell phone as worship begins.*

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 408 – There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,  
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

*[Refrain]:*

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.**

**There are blessings you cannot receive  
till you know him in his fullness and believe;  
you're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." *[Refrain]***

Welcome and Announcements

Jill Duffield



\* Call to Worship

Matt Bussell

**Leader:** Rejoice always, pray constantly; in everything give thanks,  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

**People:** **Open our lips, O Lord; and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**All:** **Alleluia! Let us worship God!**

\* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 396 – Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

**Brethren, we have met to worship  
and adore the Lord our God.**

**Will you pray with all your power  
while we try to preach the word?**

**All is vain unless the Spirit  
of the holy One comes down.**

**Brethren, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.**

**Sisters, will you come and help us?  
Moses' sister aided him.**

**Will you help the trembling mourners  
who are struggling hard with sin?**

**Tell them all about the Savior.**

**Tell them that he will be found.**

**Sisters, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.**

**Is there here a trembling jailer,  
seeking grace and filled with fears?**

**Is there here a weeping Mary  
pouring forth a flood of tears?**

**Brethren, join your cries to help them;  
sisters, let your prayers abound!**

**Pray, O pray, that holy manna  
will be scattered all around.**

**Let us love our God supremely;  
let us love each other, too.**

**Let us love and pray for sinners  
till our God makes all things new.**

**Christ will call us home to heaven;  
at his table we'll sit down.**

**Christ will gird himself and serve us  
with sweet manna all around.**

\* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you command us to love one another,  
yet we hold grudges  
and refuse to work for peace.**

**You command us to care for all of creation,  
yet we neglect the earth  
and abuse nature through carelessness.**

**You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,  
yet we too often walk our own way.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**Guide us as we work toward  
a new heaven here on earth.**

**Lead us to reconciliation  
and a vision for your beloved community,  
as we share your love  
with your people everywhere. Amen.**

*A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.*

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

\* Passing of the Peace

\* Response to the Peace: Hymn No. 582 – Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Revelation 21:1-6*

Kelly Harrill

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

A Moment of Godly Play for Children of All Ages

Phaedra Smith

The Word Read: *Acts 11:1-18*

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and

we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: *Step by Step*

Jill Duffield

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

\* Affirmation of Faith

Newton Cowan

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*– Traditional Apostles' Creed*

## Prayers of the People

*followed by 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.**

## Call for the Offering

*You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

Offertory: Text from Hymn No. 833 – O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

**O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.**

**O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.**

\* Song of Response: Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Sing praises, Alleluia.  
Praise God Creator, God the Son,  
Praise God the Spirit three in one.  
Sing praises, sing praises,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

Newton Cowan

\* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 821 – How Can I Keep from Singing?

**My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.**

*[Refrain]:*

**No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? *[Refrain]***

**What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. *[Refrain]***

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? *[Refrain]***

\* Benediction

Jill Duffield

## Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Phaedra Smith, Associate Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Kelly Harrill, Lay Reader

Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! and AV Support

Rejoice! Ensemble

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Text and music: Doris Akers

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" Text: : George Atkins; Music: *Columbian Harmony*

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Text: Traditional liturgical text; Music: Paul M. Vasile

"O Love That Will Let Me Go" Text: George Matheson; Music: Christopher Miner

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*

"How Can I Keep from Singing?" Text and music: Robert Lowry

*\* Let us rise in body or spirit*

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**2024-2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS:** *Adult Formation:* Margee Jones, John Sullivan. *Youth Formation:* Leigh Abraham, Layne King. *Children's Formation:* Sally King, Lorie Jones. *Church Officer Development:* Tim Cook, Graham Farless. *Communications:* Rich Prigge, John Vanderwerff. *Discipleship:* Lauren Martin, Nancy Courts. *Finance:* Rob Peddrick, Dave Thompson. *Hospitality:* Caroline Showers, Bet Vanderwerff. *Human Resources:* Ralph Davison, Lisa Cook. *Outreach:* Margaret Arbuckle, Rhonda Wakefield. *Pastoral Care:* Tamara Slaughter, Sheri Evans. *Property:* Brian Pierce, Sam Simpson. *Stewardship:* Dan Goley, Tom Gillespie. *Technology:* Sam Bostian. *Worship:* Chip Bristol, Morgan Hood. *Nominating:* Nancy Moore, Ross Harris. *Appointments:* Randy Jackson, Leigh Jones.

## **SENIOR CLASS OF 2025**

*Congratulations! to our graduating high school seniors*

Anna Barnett

Maddy Chandler

Henry Chase

Mary Katherine Faucher

Connor Frick

Elliott Keys

Elizabeth "Elle" Lackey

Davis "Wade" Legette

Wyatt McHenry

Summer Oakley

Brian "Turner" Pierce

Sally Rose

William "Thomas" Shaw

Sam Sherrill

Isabelle Simpson

Rachael Skipper

Walker Stanley

John Stroud

Henry Supple

Andrew "Bo" Vanore

William Wakefield

Brantley White

Charlie White

Emily Witherspoon

Robert "Bobby" Young

***WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.***

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we seek to serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good. Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith community welcoming those who seek an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service. We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

*Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.*



**TAKING ATTENDANCE:** The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an

attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.



**NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED** for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

**WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL**

**EMERGENCIES:** If during the service you or someone near you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency please contact the closest usher.

**USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED:** Contact Anne Albert, [aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4711.

**PARKING MINISTRY:** This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at [fpcgreensboro.org/signup](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup).

**WAYS TO GIVE:** In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. Go to [fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text](https://fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text) to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.



**INTERESTED IN BEING A LAY READER FOR THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR?** If so, please contact Lay Reader Ministry Team Chair Catherine Freeze, [catherinefreeze@gmail.com](mailto:catherinefreeze@gmail.com), or Director of Worship Anne Albert, [aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org).

**FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE** – Honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sanctuary service. Flowers are accompanied by a bulletin note explaining their significance. *Dates available: July 13; August 3 & 31; and September 14.* Contact Carolyn Yow, [cyow@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:cyow@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336-478-4768.

**FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS** • Check out the “Coming Up” insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at [fpcgreensboro.org/connect](https://fpcgreensboro.org/connect) • Visit [fpcgreensboro.org/events](https://fpcgreensboro.org/events).

**PASTOR ON CALL:** When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.



# COMING UP

## AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF MAY 18 -25 *See our full calendar at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)*

**SPRING CLEAN YOUR CONTACT INFO:** Members from the Discipleship Committee can help you check and update your info in Fellowship One, our member database. *Find them in the Welcome Center during Church School today.* Or to do it on your own, go to the home page and click on "Members" in the top bar.

### MONDAY, MAY 19

- **MAHJONG MONDAY** for FPC women who play Mahjong, 9:30-11:30 am, Garden Room. Be sure to bring your NMJL card. Info: Sheri Evans, [SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SMEVANSNC@GMAIL.COM).

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

- **FORK & FAITH** monthly luncheon for women who've RSVP'd, noon in the Life Center. *Join us for our next luncheon, June 18: RSVP by June 13 to Dolly Jennings, [DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM) or 336-854-2663.*
- **DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR MISSION TRIP TO BLACK MOUNTAIN** to assist in flood recovery, August 10-15. *Interested? Use the QR code (below) to register.*



**HUNGER ACTION:** Look for tables around campus where you can write letters to Congress calling for passage of the Farm Bill, which supports farmers and hunger programs. More resources at [BREAD.ORG/OFFERING-LETTERS](http://BREAD.ORG/OFFERING-LETTERS). *Leave your letters at the church by next Sunday!*

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**JUNE 4**  
1:30 am - 6 pm  
Life Center



Donors will receive a \$15 Amazon.com gift card by email and be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000 gift card. *Use the QR code to make your appointment. Walk-ins also welcome!*

### REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMPS



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Some spots still open! For ages 3 (by August 31) thru rising second-graders, August 4-7.



**KDC CAMP:** Bible study, games & off-campus activities for rising 3rd-5th graders, August 4-7.



**WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS:** For ages 12 months through 6 years, choose days or weeks.

**GO TO [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP)**



# ROOTED & REACHING IN CHRIST'S LOVE

## MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1** is Communion Sunday, both worship services.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8** is Pentecost Sunday, wear red as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**THE SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE** begins June 15, one service in the sanctuary at 10 am with various musical styles; and will continue through August 17.

**INTERESTED IN BEING A LAY READER FOR THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR?** If so, please contact Lay Reader Ministry Team Chair Catherine Freeze, catherinefreeze@gmail.com, or Director of Worship Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org.

## AUTHENTIC CONNECTION

Applications are open for **NEXT YEAR'S YOUTH COUNCIL**. The council meets 4-5 times during the year to offer feedback and ideas for our youth programming. Interested students can access the form using the QR code. The deadline is June 20.



**BIBLE & BISCUITS** – Tuesday, May 27, 7:45-8:30 am: Before heading to work, join us in the Solarium for food and fellowship followed by reading and discussing scripture. Bibles and food provided.

## TRANSFORMATIVE SERVICE

**DONATE FABRIC & YARN:** The Community Service Group handcrafts blankets, hats, playmats, lap robes and more, which are distributed to nonprofits in our community. In 2024 they donated 2,428 items! Support their work by donating fabric and yarn. *Drop off in the red wagons around campus, and be sure to mark your donations "Community Service."*

**DONATE CANNED GOODS FOR URBAN MINISTRY**  
Drop off in the red wagons around campus on Sunday mornings, or on Wednesdays at the Food Drive-By, 11 am to 1 pm in the Elm Street circle, in front of Redhead Hall. *Hunger doesn't take a summer break!*

## LIFELONG LEARNING

**"THE CARE OF SOULS"** – Next Sunday, Rev. Doug McLeroy concludes a personal account drawn from his new book, *On My Believing Days: A Story of Life and Faith* (available on Amazon or at your favorite bookseller). Hosted by YMBC & Agape classes in Redhead Hall, 10 am.

**ADVOCACY AND THE CHURCH**, June 1 at 10 am. Led by Rev. Matt Bussell in the Come as You Are Class, Garden Room.

**SCOTLAND PILGRIMAGE REVISITED** – Sunday, June 8, 10 am. Members who went on the Scotland pilgrimage will share their experiences. Come as You Are Class, Garden Room. *More member experiences on June 29.*

**CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD** – series begins Sunday, June 8, 10 am. Explore what the Lord's prayer teaches about being in regular conversation with God. Led by Professor Sandie Gravett in Redhead Hall, hosted by YMBC and Agape classes.

## WHAT ELSE?

**MONDAY, MAY 26** – Campus closed for Memorial Day.

► **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN at**  
**FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP**

Sign up for the activities above and more, including summer children's camps.