

FPC FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church | Volume XXX, Issue 4 Jan 25, 2026 - Feb 1, 2026

Dear Church,

In my sermon on Sunday, I discussed the need for hope and the places where we find it. I wanted to share some places where I find hope in our church community:

- Our staff: our church staff is comprised of faithful and talented people who love our church and lead us well. Not only that, but they're a lot of fun, and I am grateful to call them my friends.
- The Friendship Fund volunteers: Kathy Johnson and the volunteers who run the Friendship Fund give me much hope. When hurting or troubled people approach us for assistance, I am so heartened to know they will meet these people who will share warmth and care.
- The elders and deacons of the church: Last week, our church officers gathered for a retreat on Friday and Saturday. Seeing their dedication to the church and hearing their ideas for us in the next few years fills me with great hope. Our church is in excellent hands!
- Presbyterian Women: The women of this organization (and its one co-ed circle) are dedicated and faithful dynamos who do so much for our church!
- Our Adult Sunday School classes: Never have I seen such a rich and vibrant adult education program like this church has. Our members' commitment to learning and growing in their faith is inspiring!
- The Children and Youth of the Church: What a joy it is to see so many baptized babies, to have confirmands become church members, and to send off a large group of youth on the ski trip later this week.
- Our Inquirers' Class on Sunday: 17 people attended to learn more about the church. All talked about the warm welcome they have received at the church and their appreciation of what we have to offer.

I could list many, many more. Where do you find hope in our church? I would love to hear any answers you would like to share.

In faith, hope, and love,
Tara



Sunday Worship Times

Early Service 8:30 a.m.
Late Service 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Lectionary
January 25:

Isa. 9:1-4
Ps. 27:1, 4-9
1 Cor. 1:10-18
Matt. 4:12-23

February 1:
Mic. 6:1-8
Ps. 15
1 Cor. 1:18-31
Matt. 5:1-12

The Pastor on Call
Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher
919-714-7213
lweicher@fpcraleigh.org

Church Office
919-821-5750
fpcraleigh.org



Given the threat of snow and ice this weekend, I wanted to let you know that I will be closely monitoring the weather regarding Sunday's worship service. I will decide whether to open or close the church by 6 p.m. on Saturday, the 24th. You will receive an email at that time with any decisions made.

Stay warm and safe!

Tara

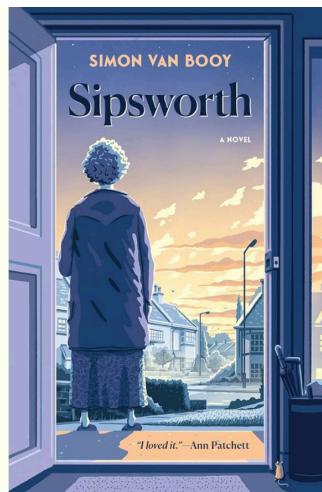


Thank You

You did it! Your Estimates of Giving for 2026 totaled \$1,629,004 from 236 households, including 30 new pledgers! Your generosity, when combined with our other income, will allow FPC to cover the budget requests for activities and missions of the church in the coming year. We are so very grateful for the opportunity to give our resources toward the glory of God and the furtherance of His work on earth. Again, Thank You!

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Tara Bulger and Generosity/Stewardship Committee



BOOK CLUB

Our next read for anyone who wants to join will be *Sipsworth* by Simon Van Booy. This lovely novel tells the story of Helen Cartwright, whose life is unexpectedly upended by a little something she finds.

We'll discuss the book in person on Tuesday, February 24 at noon (bring your own lunch).

We will also meet at 7:00 P.M. on the 24th over Zoom for those who prefer to meet in the evening. Contact Jean Suber at 919-821-5750 if you would like to sign up for the zoom meeting.

Hope you can join us.



Ways to Give in 2026

There are several ways to make a pledge payment this year. In the past, we distributed personalized pledge envelopes to all who had made an estimate of giving. In order to reduce costs and waste, those envelopes have been discontinued. Here are the ways to give in 2026:

- By Check or Cash Using Pew Envelope. If you choose to give by check or cash, you can use a pew envelope, note "Pledge" on the line marked "Fund" and place in the offering plate or drop in Gail Barrett's mailbox on the second floor of the Edge Building. If giving cash, please be sure to note your name on the Pew Envelope.
- By Check Using Your Own Envelope. You may also put a check in your own envelope and mail to the church, noting "Pledge" in the memo line. Church mailing address is 112 S. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27601. Please do not mail cash. Important: if you wish to give to other missions of the church or special offerings, you should indicate your name and the desired recipient on the Fund line (if using a pew envelope) or memo line of your check (if using your own envelope).
- Online Using Realm. Another way to give is to register on Realm on our [Giving Page](#), at the website "onrealm.org" or use the link that was sent to you in a recent email. You can then make one time or recurring gifts online. There is a charge for online donations which you may cover and allow the church to receive the full amount of your gift. Depending on the type of credit card used, charges range from 2.8% to 4% of the amount given. Contact Jean Suber at 919-821-5750 or jsuber@fpc.org if you have any difficulty or questions about signing up on Realm.

Through you and your generosity, the church will be able to live into our overall mission of Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends of the earth with love, faith, and action.

Generosity/Stewardship Committee

TACKLE HUNGER

with a
CHURCH-WIDE LUNCH

Sunday | Feb. 8
After 11 A.M. Worship

MENU:
SOUP & WINGS

Donations accepted to
cover the cost of the meal
and any proceeds benefit
Farm Church!



First Presbyterian Church Presents



GRANDPARENT CAMP

AUGUST 10-14, 2026 | 9AM-12PM

Grandparents and Grandchildren (3 years old - 5th grade) will come **TOGETHER!**

Designed for:

FPC members who are grandparents & have grandchildren (members or not, in town or not)
FPC children who have grandparents (members or not, in town or not)

Grandparents & Grandchildren will stay together throughout the morning, traveling to different stations together.

There will be crafts, recreation, snacks, Bible stories, and more!

COST: \$25 per family, which helps cover the cost of supplies; scholarships available.

For questions, contact Beth Thaxton at
bthaxton@fpcraleigh.org or 919-714-7212

January 16, 2026

Martha Ministry Newsletter

There they made him (Jesus) a supper; and Martha served...John 12:2

While we have no stated cares or concerns to note this week, let us remain vigilant as we pray for one another and our neighbors.

Let's be the church together... online.

Look up members in our church directory

Update your personal information

Give online - one time & recurring gifts

View giving history & print giving statements

Make & keep track of pledges

Sign up or sign in [at onrealm.org](http://onrealm.org)



There is an exciting change coming to our church community. We will have a new app for our church that will enable us to better connect with one another, see the church's events and register for them, access a more complete church directory, see your giving in real time, and much more. Our new platform is called Realm.

By now, you should have received an invite to create an account in our new online community. This email will have come to you from "onrealmmail." It may have ended up in your spam folder at first, so please look there. Use the link in that email and follow the steps to create a password. Once you have an account, you can sign in.

Please complete these steps by January 22, 2026, as we hope to transfer completely off our old system soon. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Suber, Communications Director at the church office at 919-821-5750. In addition, Tyler and Dr. Bulger will be available during the church school hour this week if you have trouble getting connected.

As part of our ongoing commitment to good stewardship and clear communication, the church is implementing a new Facilities Use Request Form for all groups and ministries wishing to use church spaces. This simple tool will help us coordinate schedules, care for our shared facilities, and support the many ways our buildings are used for worship, fellowship, mission, and community outreach.

By gathering requests in one consistent format, church staff and leaders will be better equipped to plan throughout the year, anticipate needs, and avoid scheduling conflicts. The form also helps ensure that each group has the resources they need—whether that's room setup, technology, or custodial support—so gatherings can run smoothly.

All requests should be directed to our Facilities Manager, Russell Clark. A downloadable request form and a digital submission form are available on our website under the Campus Facilities page. Please complete the form and submit it online, or download and complete the form and return it to the church office and place it in the mail slot located on the door of Russell Clark's office.

Thank you for your cooperation as we take this step toward more thoughtful planning and faithful use of the spaces God has entrusted to us.