

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

11:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Please use this time to silently prepare for worship.

PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

"Prelude on LLANFAIR"

Wilbur Held

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brad Simpson

We come to receive the plentiful bounty of God's love.

Let us worship God!

We come to be healed, affirming that Christ is enough.

Let us worship God!

We come to hear God's Spirit speaking to us.

Let us worship God!

We come to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God!

Come, let us receive the plentiful bounty of God's love.

Together, Let us worship God!

†HYMN #409

"God Is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Black Mountain Home for Children

Jimmy Harmon

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Lord, we thank you for this time, space, and community that you have provided for our sake. We confess that we often try to walk the journey of life and faith on our own. We avoid genuine relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We limit our faith to what can be attained on our own instead of relying on others to help us grow. Forgive us when we think that faith is only an individual practice. Help us come together as your people so that we can grow closer to Christ together and collectively share his Good News to the entire world, (*silent confession*) amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be at peace with God and one another, for in Christ, we are all forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

†GLORIA PATRI #581

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

As God's children who have received Christ's peace,
let us now share Christ's peace with one another.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

Lloyd Larsen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 27:17

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36-48

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON

"We are the Witnesses"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #305

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

DARWELL'S 148TH

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

Tithes and offerings may be presented online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving or by scanning the QR code on the right.



On the second Sunday of the month, a special offering is collected for the Nickel-A-Meal ministry. Nickel-A-Meal provides meals for those in need through the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Hunger Program. Red buckets are scattered about and available for your donations before or after worship, and gifts can be made online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving (select the Nickel-A-Meal fund).

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Prelude in Classic Style"

Gordon Young

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #305 (verse 4 only)

"Come Sing, O Church in Joy!"

Gordon Young

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Robert Powell

†If you are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTIONS FOR SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY AND GRIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Missions Committee is gathering items for our neighbors at Sherwood Elementary and Grier Middle Schools. To view the full list of needed items, simply scan the QR code located at the bottom of this page. Contribute by filling the bins located at the reception desk and outside the fellowship hall throughout the entire month.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday, April 17, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. — We're forming a support group to offer assistance to caregivers in our faith community. You can express your interest through the Realm Connect App, or by calling or emailing the Minister of Visitation, Grady Moseley at (704) 864-2651 ext. 105 or gmoseley@fpcgastonia.org.

ROADRUNNERS TRIP TO RIVERBANKS ZOO

Thursday, April 25 — Join the Road Runners for a day at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, SC. Adult tickets are \$26.24, and seniors (62 and up, picture ID required) pay \$24.14. Purchase tickets by visiting www.riverbanks.org or purchase them in person.

THRIVE BLUEGRASS SUNDAY

Sunday, April 28, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall — The Thrive service is going downhome. Worship along with bluegrass gospel hymns like 'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus, I'll Fly Away, and more. Wear your best denim, gingham, and Appalachia fashion. We'll pick, grin, and praise during the Thrive worship service.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 5, 11:00 a.m. — Join us for the Traditional service to celebrate our confirmands who will help lead worship upon the completion of their confirmation journey.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Sunday, May 5, 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m., Church Parlor — Those interested in becoming a member or have question about First Presbyterian Church Gastonia are invited to a special luncheon after the Traditional worship service. A short discussion and church tour will follow. RSVP via the Realm Connect App or contact the church office.

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, May 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m. — Join us for our annual church picnic filled with delicious food and great company! We're happy to have TAXCO Mexican Restaurant and Kona Ice catering this year. Scan the QR code for additional details. RSVP is available via the QR code or by calling the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Monday, May 6, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall — Celebrate PW's birthday with fellowship, lunch, and a message from Anna Dickson, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care at FPC Charlotte. Reserve your seat via the Realm Connect App or by calling the church office!

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS

July 21–25 — Sign-ups to volunteer for VBS are open! Use the Realm Connect App to sign up.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FPC GASTONIA,
SCAN THE QR CODE!



WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church - where faith is alive! Your presence here is our honor and joy. We pray that your heart is encouraged, that the Word is clear, and that you go from this place renewed and refreshed in search of an ever deeper connection with our awesome God! If you would like more information about First Presbyterian Church, please sign the welcome forms in your pew or stop by the welcome table to receive a gift in gratitude for your presence with us.

NURSERY CARE

Professional nursery care is offered for infants and children up to four years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

PASTORAL STAFF OFFICE HOURS*

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford	Mondays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Rev. Brad Simpson	Mondays 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Mary Taneti	Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Rev. Grady Moseley	By appointment
Jill Kimbirl	By appointment

*Throughout the week, the ministry of the pastoral staff will lead them to meetings at church, beside the hospital bed, homes of members, and elsewhere in the community in order to serve the mission of FPC. Although they are always available by appointment, they will also be available in their offices for unannounced visits during office hours. Be sure to come on by and say hello!

**Rev. Commerford will be away April 15-28.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Pastor
Rev. Brad Simpson - Associate Pastor
Mary Taneti - Director of Faith Formation
Rev. Grady Moseley - Minister of Visitation
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Kensie Hayes - Receptionist
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Jill Kimbirl - Pastoral Assistant
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Ana Meyer - Financial Secretary
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mother's Morning Out
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader & Audio/Visual Supervisor

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Sanctuary Choir

THRIVE

April 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"God So Loved"

We The Kingdom

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MISSION
Black Mountain Home for Children

Jimmy Harmon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Brad Simpson

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM
"God Is On Your Side"

Pittman, et al

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Proverbs 27:17
Luke 24:36-48

SERMON SERIES
Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON
"We are the Witnesses"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION
"Help Us Accept Each Other"

F. Kaan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN (Chorus Only)
"I Believe It (The Life of Jesus)"

Reddick, et al

†BLESSING

†If you are able, please stand.