

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 28, 2024

Fifth 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

"Voluntary on KREMSER"

Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Matthew 21 & John 26)

Jill Kimbirl

Before Jesus' crucifixion He told His disciples that they would desert Him, to which the Apostle Peter declared:

"I will never desert you!"

But before the cock crowed Peter had denied Jesus three times, just as Jesus had foretold. Then, after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?" to which Peter replied,

"Yes, Lord, I love you." Jesus replied: "Then feed my lambs."

Again Jesus asked His disciple, "Do you love me?" to which His disciple replied,

"Yes, Lord, You know I love you." Jesus replied: "Then tend my sheep."

A third time Jesus asked His church, "Do you love me?" to which Jesus' church replied,

"Yes, Lord, You know everything, You know we love you." Jesus replied; "Then feed my sheep."

Three times Peter denied Jesus. And then three times Peter confirmed "Lord, I love you." After this exchange, Jesus' final words to Peter, and to Jesus' church:

"Then follow me."

†HYMN #336

"We Gather Together"

KREMSER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How many times shall we ask you for forgiveness? Seven times? Seventy-seven times? You know. We know. We desert you. We do what is right in our own eyes, just as scripture says. And then recommit ourselves to you and your teaching again, and again. We enjoy, and are thankful, for the openness of your heart towards us and our people. But we do not extend this grace often enough to others. So, once again, we ask for your restorative grace as we practice this thing called "discipleship", to which we have been called, for our benefit, and for the benefit of all...our people and other people, (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

Rev. Grady Moseley

ANTHEM

Mary McDonald

"Be Still"

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am with you.

Be still and know that I will comfort you when you come to Me in your hour of need.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am here for you and I will wipe your tears you will be renewed.

Come unto me my child be still and know that I will give your rest.

I am present in your pain and I always will remain your Comforter and Friend.

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am with you.

Be still and know that I will comfort you when you come to Me in your hour of need.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am here for you; and I will wipe your tears; you will be renewed.

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you.

Be still and Know. Be still.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 25:14-30

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON

"Return On Investment"

Rev. Grady Moseley

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #320

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

WAREHAM

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Confession of Belhar)

Brad Simpson

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world; that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker; that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Lead Us, Heavenly Father"

C.S. Lang

†**DOXOLOGY #606**

†**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†**SENDING HYMN #697** (verses 1 and 2)

"Take My Life"

HENDON

†**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

†**POSTLUDE**

"Fanfare in D"

William Mathias

†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.

VBS REGISTRATION

Wednesday, May 1 — Registration for VBS opens on May 1. Mark your calendars to be the first in line! Sign up to volunteer via the Realm Connect app.

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 questions 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 Realm Connect app 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, Executive Pastor and Pastor for Congregational Care at First Presbyterian Church Charlotte. Reserve your seat via the Realm Connect App or by calling the church office!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 19, All Day — On Graduation Sunday, we come together to honor our graduates, celebrating their achievements and send them off with our blessings and support.

OUTDOOR SERVICE AT WARLICK YMCA

Sunday, May 26, 10:00 a.m., Warlick Family YMCA — Join us for our first outdoor service at the Warlick Family YMCA! Remember to bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating as we kick off our summer worship services.

**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. Brad Simpson; Rev. Grady Moseley; Jill Kimbirl; Matt Smith; Bluegrass Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

THRIVE

April 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"Blessed Assurance"

Crosby/Knapp

WELCOME

Rev. Brad Simpson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Grady Moseley

ANTHEM
"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Public Domain

SCRIPTURE READING
Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON SERIES
Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON
"Return On Investment"

Rev. Grady Moseley

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION
"Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"

Stead/Kilpatrick

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN
"I'll Fly Away"

Brumley

†BLESSING

†If you are able, please stand.