

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 2, 2025

All Saint's Sunday

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

Fugue on "Shall We Gather At the River?"

Michael Monroe

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the Word of our God will stand forever!
Empires rise and then they fall,
But the Word of our God will stand forever!
Seasons begin and then they end,
But the Word of our God will stand forever!
Life takes us to the mountaintop as well as through the valley,
But the Word of our God will stand forever!
Let us worship the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.
For the Word of our God will stand forever!

†HYMN #326

"For All the Saints"

SINE NOMINE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Foundation Strong

Bob Blake

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we do not always hold on to what is eternal. We are shortsighted and often only take into account what we experience and accomplish. Forgive us when we only measure the effectiveness of your love for us by how it impacts us personally. Give us opportunities to participate in what will persist after we have joined you in your eternal Kingdom. May our faith be strengthened by Jesus Christ, whose love endures forever, *(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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 3:12-17

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Curiosity and Courage

MEDITATION

The Work

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #836

"Abide with Me"

EVENTIDE

REMEMBRANCE AND NAMING OF THE SAINTS

Alice Arkin

Hugh Bryant

Irene Cherry

Virginia Choquet

Ralph Dickson III

Tim Fuller

Nancy Garrett

Jean Hileman

Louise Keir

David Layton

J. R. "Ozzie" Ozment

Bill Roberts

Bennett Rocket

Mary Beth Stuart

Joyce Wilds

LITANY OF RESPONSE (Inspired by Romans 8)

If God is for us, who is against us?

For it is Christ who died and was raised again who intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, for we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 ANTHEM

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

arr. by Dan Forrest

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

When directed by an usher, please come forward to receive communion. If you wish to have communion served to you in the pew, please raise your hand and our servers will come to you.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #542 (verse 1 only)

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

GOD BE WITH YOU

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Postlude on SINE NOMINE"

Paul Leddington Wright

†If you are able, please stand.

The Chancel flowers are presented to the glory of God in memory of all members of our worshipping community who have joined the Church Triumphant.

THRIVE

November 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"Great Things"

Jonas Myrin, Phil Wickham

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION
Foundation Strong

Bob Blake

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON SERIES
Curiosity and Courage

SERMON
The Work

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†SONG OF DEDICATION
"Forever"

Chris Tomlin

REMEMBERENCE OF THE SAINTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

†SENDING SONG
"Forever"

Chris Tomlin

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CURIOSITY AND COURAGE UPDATE

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to share their hopes and dreams for FPC's future by participating in both of the following:

- Online Church Survey (**Open Now**): The survey will be available until **tomorrow, November 3**.
- Listening Groups (**November 5-9**): To sign up for a listening group, contact the Church Office, fill out a Connection Card, or scan the QR Code.



Listening Group



Online Church Survey

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE: PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Wednesday, November 5, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. Sally and Gwin Hilton, Betsy Keith, and Brian Schroder will discuss their relief work in Western North Carolina to assist those affected by Hurricane Helene. To avoid food waste, RSVPs are encouraged but not required; register through the Church Office or on Realm. Cost: \$8/person or \$25/family.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

Sunday, November 9, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. We will gather for one combined service at 11:00 am to participate in the tradition of carrying tartans into the church as we celebrate Kirkin' O' the Tartans and our Presbyterian Scottish heritage. Rev. Matt Conner will be the guest preacher. Join us for a covered dish luncheon following worship in the Fellowship Hall. **If you want to present a tartan, contact Kevin Schultz at 704-960-0940 or schultz.kevinlee@gmail.com by November 6.**

VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 11, Noon, Fellowship Hall. Join us for a special luncheon to celebrate our veterans. Michael McMahan, retired US Army Captain, Vietnam War veteran, recipient of the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Valor, the Vietnam Combat Medal with four battle stars, and many other medals and commendations, will be the guest speaker. RSVP through the Church Office or on Realm. There is no cost for honorees; however, admission is \$8 per guest.

NOVEMBER 16 WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, November 16. Some of the congregation will be at the retreat in Montreat, but we will still have the Thrive and Traditional worship services here.

VISIT FPCGASTONIA.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! Whether you are a first-time visitor, a lifelong member, or anywhere between, we pray that you experience God's love found in Jesus Christ through our worship this morning.

CONNECTION CARDS

Please fill out a Connection Card located in front of your pew. We will reach out to you as promptly as possible if you have a prayer request, would like to sign up for an event, or need a pastor to reach out to you.

NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in becoming a member? Our next reception for new members will be today, at 10:05 am in the Library. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office or check the appropriate box on your Connection Card.

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.

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl; Noah Williams; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl; Bethany Jennings; David Jennings; Sanctuary Choir

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING OUR HOUSE TOGETHER

The ministries of First Presbyterian Church are made possible by the prayers, time, talents, and financial participation of our congregation. During this stewardship season, we invite you to prayerfully consider your 2026 commitment. Pledge using the QR code, a pledge card, or a pink envelope, available in the Narthex. Completed pledges may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the Church Office.



CONNECT & GROW THIS WEEK

BIBLE STUDY

- **Young Presbyterians:** *Sundays, 3:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.*
- **Youth Group:** *Sundays, 5:30 pm, PAD.*
- **Men's Fellowship & Breakfast:** *Tuesdays, 8:00 am, PAD.*
- **Women's Bible Study:** *Wednesdays, 10:30 am, Confirmation Room.*

FAITH & FICTION

Today, 4:00 pm, off-site. The book being discussed is The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris.