

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 25, 2026

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Carl Mueller

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

All who desire God's presence;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who are full of abundant blessings;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who are enduring hardships;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who have been disciples for quite some time;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who are new to their journey with Christ;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who are rich; all who are poor;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who desire God's presence;

Come and worship the Lord!

†HYMN #275

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

EIN' FESTE BURG

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Youth Bake Sale

Zac Phelps

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We profess that your love for us is as abundant as it is indiscriminate. But we confess that we do not see others as you see us. We prioritize what is familiar and comfortable instead of what is faithful. We fail to model our community after your Kingdom. Forgive us, and help us welcome others onto our shared journey of faith so that we can belong to Christ together, (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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Ryan Murphy

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 84:1-4

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

This is Us

SERMON

Belonging to Christ and One Another

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #301

"Let Us Build a House"

TWO OAKS

†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.



OFFERTORY

"Ein Feste Burg"

Johann Gottfried Walther

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #317 (verse 1)

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

MC KEE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Fanfare on Ein Feste Burg"

James Pethel

†If you are able, please stand.

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? If so, you may 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; Jill Kimbirl; Mary Taneti; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

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

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BOLD GENEROSITY: GIVING WITH PURPOSE

Your generosity helps bring our mission to life! Through our prayers, time, talents, and financial gifts, we grow in faith, care for one another, and serve our neighbors near and far. As we look toward 2027, we invite you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to FPC.

Make your 2027 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, 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.*
- **Youth Group:** *Sundays, 4:00 pm, PAD.*
- **Men's Bible Study:** *Tuesdays, 8:00 am, PAD.*
- **Women's Bible Study:** *1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30 am, Confirmation Room.*

FAITH AND FICTION

Sunday, November 1, 4:00 pm, off-site.

FPC MEMBERSHIP 101: MEMBERSHIP IN THE PCUSA

Today, October 25, 10:00 am, Library. Learn what it means to be Presbyterian, and what makes our tradition distinctive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

TRUNK OR TREAT

Today, October 25, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall parking lot. Bring your family, invite your friends, and join us for an evening of Halloween fun! Enjoy decorated trunks, candy, treats, and plenty of smiles as we celebrate together. Costumes are encouraged, and all ages are welcome!

HELP US WELCOME THE WNC PRESBYTERY TO FPC

Tuesday, October 27, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, church-wide. First Presbyterian Church will host the Presbytery of Western NC meeting at FPC. Pastors, elders, and church leaders will gather from across the Presbytery. Please contact Jill Kimbirl for details.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE (WNA): MAKING GOD KNOWN

Wednesday, October 28, 5:30, Fellowship Hall. How does God want us to tell others about God? Nancy Green leads a conversation about the Great Commission, Jesus' call to make disciples of all nations, and what that commission means for believers today. **No RSVP required.** Menu: Breakfast for supper: Eggs, sausage, bacon, grits, biscuits with assorted jelly, fruit, and cinnamon rolls. Cost: \$8/ea.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, November 1, 9:00 am and 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary. All are invited to Communion and All Saints' Sunday as we celebrate the communion of saints and remember those members of First Presbyterian who have died during the past church year.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS: COMBINED SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 8, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. We will gather for one combined service at 11:00 am as we participate in the Kirkin' O' the Tartans! During this service, we will honor our tradition of carrying the tartans into the church as we celebrate our Presbyterian Scottish heritage. Rev. Mark Tidsworth will be the guest preacher. Bring a dish and join us for lunch following worship in the Fellowship Hall. **No RSVP required.** If you are interested in carrying a/your Tartan this year, please contact Kevin Schultz (schultz.kevinlee@gmail.com).

VETERANS' DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 11, Noon, Fellowship Hall. Join us for a special luncheon to celebrate our veterans. Our guest speaker will be Teresa Morris. Cost: \$8/person. **No RSVP required.**

YOUTH BAKE SALE

Sunday, November 15, before each service, Fellowship Hall, Memorial Gallery. Our youth will hold a bake sale to raise funds for their trips. Contact Zac Phelps for more information. Drop off baked goods Friday, November 13, from 2:00-4:00 pm and Saturday, November 14, from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS, VISIT
FPCGASTONIA.ORG/EVENTS



NOTES



MISSION

United in Christ, we are a community growing in faith, caring for one another, and serving our neighbors near and far.

VISION

Belonging. Renewing. Transforming.

VALUES

Christ Centered

We proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection reveal God's redeeming love. Everything we do together flows from our commitment to follow Christ and share his Good News through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Authentic Worship

We gather to worship Christ in ways that are meaningful and engaging. God welcomes us as we are and transforms us through hearing and proclaiming God's Word known to us in Jesus Christ.

Growing Faithfully

We strengthen our faith together through the lifelong pursuit of Christ's ways. The Holy Spirit renews us when we gather to ask honest questions as we engage scripture and explore relevant ways to live out our faith.

Real Relationships

We welcome all to experience Christ's love here. God calls us to form intentional and genuine relationships through nurturing, encouraging, and supporting one another in all seasons of life.

Intergenerational Commitment

We are strongest when generations worship, learn, and serve together. Pursuing Christ is a lifelong journey, and every follower of every age is blessed by walking that journey together.

Meaningful Mission

We participate in the restorative work of the Holy Spirit by putting our faith into practice. When we provide hope, comfort, and service to our neighbors, we spread Christ's love in ways that make an impact.

Bold Generosity

We become the congregation God calls us to be through selfless devotion. As Christ gave himself for us, we respond with generosity by offering our time, gifts, and resources to strengthen our community and bless our neighbors.

THRIVE

October 25, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"Forever"

Chris Tomlin

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION
Youth Bake Sale

Zac Phelps

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM
"What A Beautiful Name"

Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Psalm 84:1-4
Luke 15:1-7

SERMON SERIES
This is Us

SERMON
Belonging to Christ and One Another

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†SONG OF RESPONSE
"Goodness of God"

Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson

COMMISSIONING OF MISSION PARTNERS

Jill Kimbirl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

PRAYER OF BLESSING

†SENDING SONG
"Goodness of God"

Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson

†BLESSING