

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 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

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

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Noel Rawsthorne

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE

Barbara and Dennis Winkles

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Keep awake, the Lord is coming!

Bringing hope to the downtrodden!

Let us worship God!

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN #100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Foundation Strong

David Conner

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You came to us in the form of a babe lying in a manger, but we were not ready for you. You proclaimed God's Kingdom to all the earth, but we were not ready for you. You died, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven, commissioning us to continue your ministry, but we were not ready for you. You promise to come again, but we confess that we do not make ourselves ready for your return. Forgive us when we do not make ourselves ready for your return. Speak to us your words of life, so that we may be transformed and participate in your transformation of the world until the day you come again, *(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

"Wexford Carol"

arr. by Mack Wilberg

Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending his beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherd keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear. 'Prepare and go', the angels said, 'To Bethlehem, be not afraid; For there you will find, this happy morn, A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.'

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

GOSPEL READINGS

Mark 1:1-3, 13:32-37

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

An Unorthodox Advent

SERMON

No Manger, No Problem

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #107

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

REJOICE, REJOICE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was

buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

arr. by H Darke

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #107 (verse 1 only)

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

REJOICE, REJOICE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Fanfare on IN DULCI JUBILO"

Paul Fey

†If you are able, please stand.



THRIVE

November 30, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"The Father's House"

Benjamin Hastings, Cory Asbury, Ethan Hulse

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION
Foundation Strong

David Conner

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE

Alise and Kevin Napp

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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
Isaiah 2:1-5
Mark 1:1-3, 13:32-37

ADVENT SERMON SERIES
An Unorthodox Advent

SERMON
No Manger, No Problem

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†SONG OF DEDICATION
"Even So Come"

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING SONG
"Even So Come"

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 7, Sanctuary. There will be a congregational meeting before the 11:00 am service to hear a report from the Officer Nominating Committee.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Begin the Advent season with a meaningful gesture by dedicating a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone you love. These beautiful plants will adorn our Sanctuary throughout Advent. Please return your completed form with payment (or pay online) by **Sunday, December 14, 2025**.



CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, December 14, 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. The Sanctuary Choir, Ringers, and special musical guests invite you to a joyful fellowship dinner filled with beautiful Christmas music, laughter, and the spirit of the holidays. Come share in the warmth of community and the sounds of the season! Cost: \$10/person, \$40/max for families. **RSVPs are required by December 10.**



NATIVITY SERVICE REHEARSAL

Sunday, December 21, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall. In lieu of Thrive worship, the children of the church will have a rehearsal for the Nativity service before Sunday school.

COMBINED SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 21, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. We will gather for one combined worship service that will focus on scripture readings, singing hymns, and special Advent music.

MASTERPIECE MOMENTS: PAINTING WITH LEEANN

Sunday, December 21, 4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Craft a one-of-a-kind nativity collage that tells the story of Christ's birth in vibrant color and texture. No artistic experience needed. Bring a canvas no larger than 8 x 10" and scissors. **RSVPs are required by December 17.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ADVENT

Sun, Dec. 14	5:30 pm	Christmas Dinner and Music Extravaganza	Fellowship Hall
Sun, Dec. 21	11:00 am	Combined Service of Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
Sun, Dec. 21	4:00 pm	Masterpiece Moments: Painting With LeeAnn	Fellowship Hall
Wed, Dec. 24	11:00 am	Christmas Eve Nativity Service	Fellowship Hall
Wed, Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary

VISIT [FPCGASTONIA.ORG](https://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? If so, 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; Jill Kimbirl; Mary Taneti; Noah Williams; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford; Jill Kimbirl; Mary Taneti; Bethany Jennings; David Jennings; Sanctuary Choir; KC Armstrong, Guest Soloist

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

BLACK MOUNTAIN HOME ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree collection runs through **Sunday, December 14!** Proceeds will directly benefit the children of Black Mountain Home for Children.

CONNECT & GROW THIS WEEK

BIBLE STUDY

- **Men's Fellowship & Breakfast:** *Tuesdays, 8:00 am, PAD.*
- **Women's Bible Study:** *2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:30 am, Confirmation Room.*
- **Young Presbyterians:** *Sundays, 3:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.*
- **Youth Group:** *Sundays, 5:30 pm, PAD.*

Thank you for supporting the Youth bake sale. We raised \$2K to support our trips.

FAITH & FICTION

Sunday, December 7, 4:00 pm, off site. The book being discussed is The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson.