

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

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 ST DENIO"

Rebecca te Velde

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

In the beginning, the heavens and earth were created,
And darkness loomed over the void.
God said, "Let there be light!"
And the world was illumined.
Christ proclaimed, "I am the light of the world!"
He alone illumines our path.
Come, let us worship Christ, who lights our way.
Let us worship God!

†HYMN #12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Stewardship Update and 2026 Budget Report

David Rogers

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In a world full of darkness, we confess that we fail to look to your light to illumine our path. Too often, the temptations that arise out of our brokenness lead us further into those dark places. Help us follow the light of our Savior. May his guidance lead us to the paths of mercy, justice, and righteousness you have revealed to us in him, *(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

"Oh, What A Wonderful Child"

arr. by Greg Gilpin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

GOSPEL LESSON

John 8:12-20

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

I Am: Knowing God in Jesus Christ

SERMON

When the Dimmer Hits

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #305 (verses 1 and 2)

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

DARWALL'S 148TH

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

[†]Ordination Candidates

ELDERS

Betty Burrell
Cindy Clark
William Current
Betty Davenport
David Dickson
Frances Henry[†]
Lee Nester[†]

DEACONS

Amy Boyd[†]
David Conner
Bryan Farist[†]
Claude Hathcock
Meg Peak[†]
Judy Planer
Hanna Vohs[†]

THE LITANY OF GIFTS

There are varieties of gifts,
But it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God,
But it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through each person in a unique way
But it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit
To be used for the common good.
Together we are the Body of Christ
And, individually, members of it.
The Pastor continues...

†REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

We do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

We do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciples, obeying his Word and showing his love?

We will.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO INCOMING OFFICERS

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, members of First Presbyterian Church, accept these men and women as Elders and Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the head of the Church?

We do.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

STATEMENT OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

†**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #305** (verses 3 and 4)

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

DARWALL'S 148TH

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

"Prelude in D"

Johann Krebs

†**DOXOLOGY #606**

†**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†**HYMN #305** (verse 4)

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

DARWALL'S 148TH

†**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

†**POSTLUDE**

"DARWALL'S 148th"

Percy Whitlock

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

January 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"I Will Follow"

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Stewardship Update and 2026 Budget Report

David Rogers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"

Joel Houston, Matt Crocker, Salomon Ligthelm

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

John 8:12-20

SERMON SERIES

I Am: Knowing God in Jesus Christ

SERMON

When the Dimmer Hits

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†SONG OF RESPONSE

"Here I Am To Worship"

Tim Hughes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING SONG

"Here I Am To Worship"

Tim Hughes

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We're grateful to share that your donations totaled \$4,225 for Least of These of Gaston County! Your gifts will help provide dignity, support, and hope to children in foster and kinship care right here in our community.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Today, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. At this special service, the congregation and incoming officers answer questions before God and one another, affirming God's calling of each elder and deacon being installed into his/her term. Those beginning their term for the first time will be ordained and installed.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 18, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. There will be a congregational meeting before the Traditional Service to conduct the business of the Corporation and approve the Senior Pastors' terms of call.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR MLK DAY

Monday, January 19. The office will close at noon on Friday, January 16, 2026, and will be closed on Monday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

SPRING WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Wednesday, January 21, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. Wednesday Night Alive programming will resume. Dr. Will Current will present, "Understanding AI and its Implications for the Church."

FAITH FORMATION: FPC MEMBERSHIP 101, STRUCTURE AND GOVERNMENT

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 am, Library. This is a brand new class being offered that explains the structure and governance of our congregation. Come learn how FPC conducts its business, understand the roles of the session, diaconate, committees, stewardship, and more. Contact Mary Taneti for details.

BOY SCOUTS SUNDAY

Sunday, January 25, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. We will recognize those involved in the scouting programs at FPC Gastonia! They will be honored during the Traditional worship service.

VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Sunday, February 1, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Cost: \$10/each. We invite you to join us for our Valentine's Banquet and "Not So Newlywed Game." Childcare for younger children will be provided; a K-4 program with dinner will be at the PAD. RSVP by QR code, connection card, or contact the Church Office by January 28th.



YOUTH SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE

Sunday, February 8, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. During a combined worship service led by FPC Youth, a special offering will be taken to support the Daily Change Offering.

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



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, join us today, January 11, 2026 at 10:05 am in the Library. You may also 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

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY FOOD DRIVE

Help us start the new year with generosity! We're collecting non-perishable food items to support families in our community facing food insecurity until **January 31st**. Every can, box, and bag makes a difference. Look for the collection bins at the Reception Area, Memorial Gallery, and the Fellowship Hall.

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:** *2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:30 am, Confirmation Room.*

FAITH & FICTION

Sunday, February 1, 4:00 pm, off-site. The book being discussed is Unwritten by Charles Martin.