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 1, 2026
All Saints' Sunday
11:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION
"God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" — Wilbur Held

CALL TO WORSHIP — Jill Kimbirl

Our help is in the name of the Lord our God;
The Maker of heaven and earth!
The Lord comes to our aid in times of need;
And gives us the courage to do what we know is right,
The Lord invites us to turn away from the influences of the world around us
And confess that Jesus is Lord.
This is our God!
Let's worship together.

†HYMN #326
"For All the Saints" — SINE NOMINE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR GIVING
Bold Generosity — Marshall Walker

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we often look to eternal life at the expense of experiencing the New Life you offer us right now. We fixate on the promise of heaven instead of following your command to make your will done on earth as it is in heaven. Forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us as we strive to follow your ways until the day we are all together 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS
Romans 12:1-2
Revelation 21:1-7

GOSPEL READING
John 11:25-26

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES
This is Us

MEDITATION
Building with the End in Mind — Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #836
"Abide with Me" — EVENTIDE

REMEMBRANCE AND NAMING OF THE SAINTS

Gretchen Akers
Martha Beal
Laura Costas
Katherine Currence
Elaine Deason
Geraldine Johnston
Bill Massey, Jr.
Kay Moss
Betty Quarles
Holt Robinson
Emily Simpson
Dale Stark
Ben Summer
Fred Upchurch
Dee Upchurch
Geny Ware

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

"Peace I Give to You" — Craig Courtney

†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 #697 (verses 1 and 6)

"Take My Life" — HENDON

†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 worshiping community who have joined the Church Triumphant.

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 an orange 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Today, 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE (WNA): MISSIONS COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING

Wednesday, November 4, 5:30, Fellowship Hall. Join Charlie Grissom to learn about the restructuring of the Missions Committee, what is changing, and how the new structure will help shape FPC's mission and outreach. **No RSVP required**. Menu: Chili beans, slaw, cornbread, and chocolate chip cookies. Cost: $8/ea.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE (WNA): THANKSGIVING DINNER

Wednesday, November 18, 5:30, Fellowship Hall. Gather around the table as we conclude the fall season of Wednesday Night Alive with our Thanksgiving Dinner on November 18. Share an evening of food, fellowship, and gratitude, with a special Thanksgiving Prayer led by Mary Taneti. Menu: Thanksgiving Meal: Turkey breast, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, gravy, green beans, mac and cheese, sweet potato casserole, slaw, rolls, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, pecan pie. **No RSVP Required**. Cost: Free.

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

November 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"Your Love Never Fails" — Anthony Skinner, Chris McClarney

WELCOME — Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR GIVING
Bold Generosity — Marshall Walker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

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CHILDREN'S SERMON — Mary Taneti

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Romans 12:1-2
Revelation 21:1-7
John 11:25-26

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WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†SONG OF RESPONSE
"Redeemed" — Benji Cowart, Michael Weaver

REMEMBRANCE OF SAINTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF BLESSING

†SENDING SONG
"Redeemed" — Benji Cowart, Michael Weaver

†BLESSING