

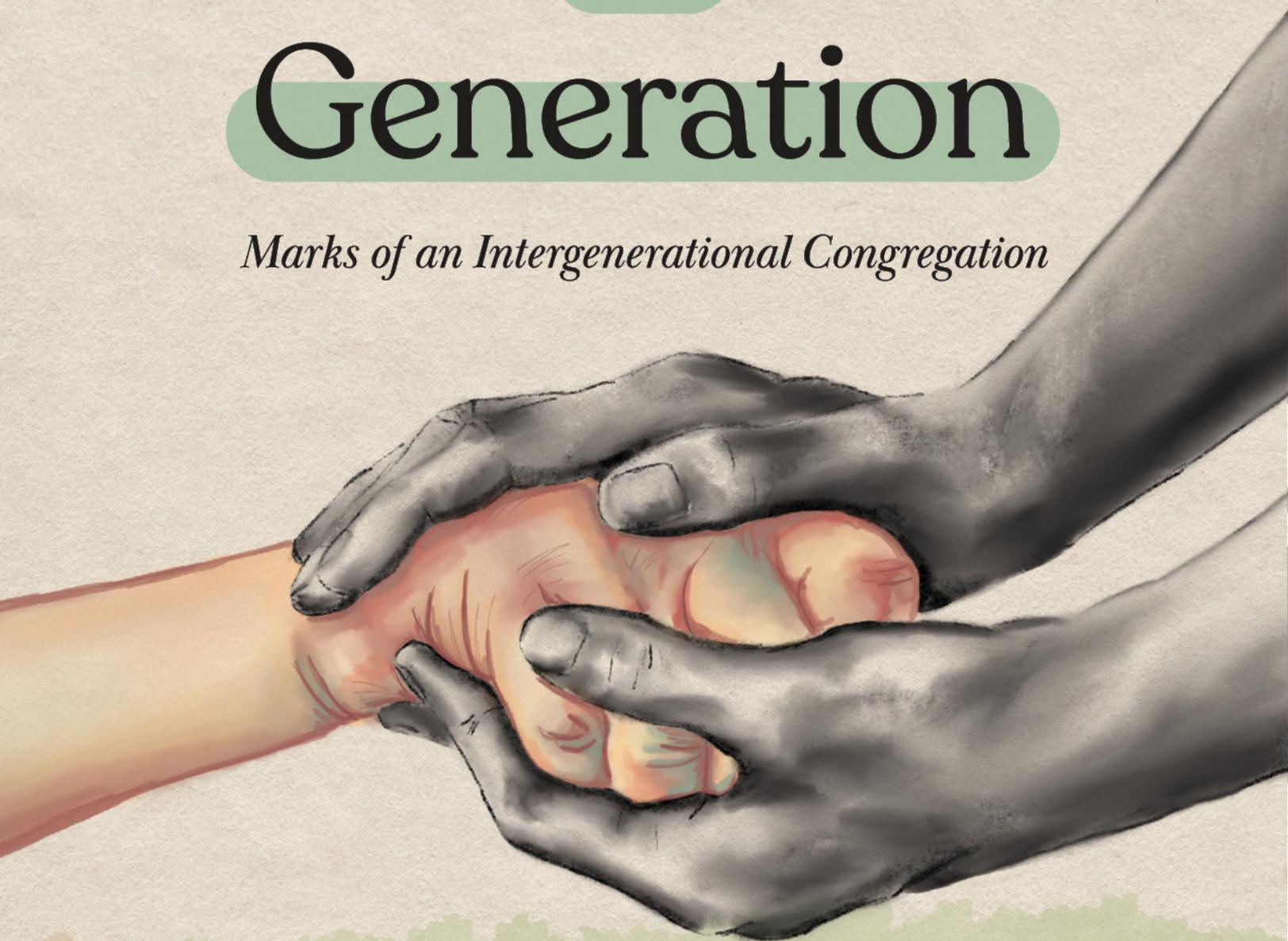
First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia

Generation

to

Generation

Marks of an Intergenerational Congregation



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 16, 2022

Second Sunday After Epiphany

11:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

CARILLON PEAL

Please use this time to silently prepare for worship

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Healey Willan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Abingdon Worship Annual, 2012)

Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

for all are welcome in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is only embrace

for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,

for God dwells in each of us.

Let us worship in unity, with loyalty and with abiding love,

for God has first loved us.

†HYMN #12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, so often our loyalty to you and to others is lacking, while we remain fixated on material things and empty pursuits. We sin against you and against our neighbor, unable to see the error of our ways and find the right paths. Forgive us, Faithful God. Like Ruth, who gave up her own family to be family to another, show us how to be family to those we know and to the stranger in our midst. Like Jesus, may we be loyal to you in every time and place, binding us together in faith, hope and love. In Jesus' name we pray...(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

†ANTHEM

“Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee”

Charles Gounod

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ruth 1:1-22

SERMON SERIES

Generation to Generation

SERMON

“Gifts and Graces: The Faithfulness of Ruth and Naomi”

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

†HYMN #14 (verses 1 and 3)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Celebration of Faith by Rex A. Hunter)

We are a cloth of diverse colours made from many gifts and graces.

**We are the people flowing forth from Creator God,
surprising ourselves with the things which can be done.**

We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave,
contributing one to the other,

holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking.

We are each worthy of being respected and cared for
**essential to the pattern, skilled in our appointed tasks,
sources of laughter and sharers of tears.**

We commit ourselves to work together,
**that one day, this world may be a place
where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.**



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

“Praeambulum”

J. Heinrich Scheidemann

†DOXOLOGY

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German

†If you are able, please stand.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport
Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Mica Cline

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

During the month of January we will be collecting non-perishable food and pantry items for Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM). Please place your donations in the baskets located in the Narthex or by the Reception Desk to help fill the shelves at CAM and the stomachs of the hungry in our community!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE!

This week during our WNA series, Animate: Practices, we will be studying community. We will gather at 6:15 p.m. to watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas with the group. Please note that dinner will NOT be served as originally planned due to COVID-19 concerns.

GENERATION TO GENERATION

Over the next several weeks, gather with us on Sunday mornings as we study what it means to be an intergenerational congregation with Generation to Generation, a new sermon series from our Pastoral Staff! During this series, we will focus on the importance of relationships between various age groups and the impact that those relationships have on our worshiping community. Be on the lookout for additional resources during the week!

AUDIO TRAINING SESSION FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come learn basic and intermediate audio operation for the Thrive service or any other event in the Fellowship Hall! The only requirements are a heart to serve, basic computer skills, and willingness to learn. Join us on Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Matt Smith at msmith@fpcgastonia.org or contact Matt with any questions.

JANUARY IS VISION AWARENESS MONTH!

By collecting and Recycling old eyeglasses and sunglasses, we can help adults and children in developing countries to enjoy a better quality of life. Many will experience corrected vision for the first time allowing them to read, attend school, and gain employment. All types of glasses for adults and children are needed. Please drop off your glasses at the Reception Desk.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A new year may have high school seniors thinking about college scholarships for 2022. Some families may need financial help more than ever this upcoming year. The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina offer college scholarships in the amount of \$1500 per academic year. Applicants (male or female) must be members of a Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, with scholarships available to both high school seniors or those already in college. The criteria for awarding scholarships are: need for financial assistance, scholastic ability, leadership of applicant in church, school, and community.

Packets containing information and applications forms are available at the Reception Desk. The scholarship application is also posted on the website of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Look under Items of Interest for PW Scholarship info.



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church - where faith is alive! Your presence here is our honor and joy. We pray that your heart is encouraged, that the Word is clear, and that you go from this place renewed and refreshed - in search of an ever deeper connection with our awesome God! If you would like more information about First Presbyterian Church, please sign the welcome forms in your pew or stop by the welcome table.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As COVID-19 rates continue to be dangerously high in our community, we urge members and friends of the congregation to remain vigilant and act with caution when gathering in large groups and indoor spaces. We would especially like to reiterate the importance of social distancing and mask wearing in these settings. For this reason, we continue to strongly urge all congregants to wear masks indoors and social distance while attending any First Presbyterian Church event. As always, if you feel unwell we encourage you to stay home and worship with us via Livestream. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

NURSERY CARE

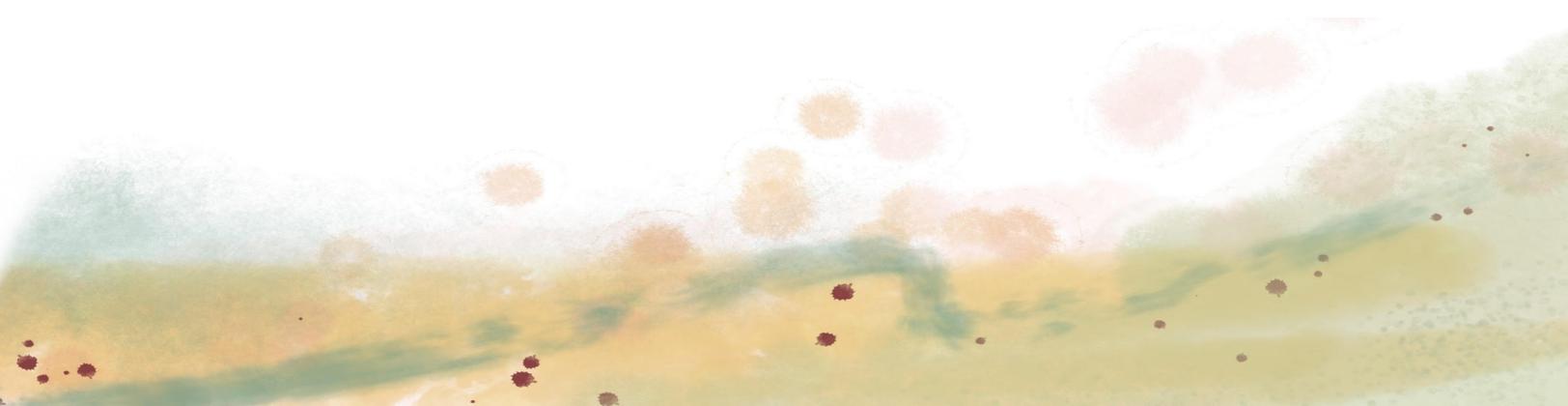
Professional nursery care is offered for infants and children up to four years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Worship activity boards and age-appropriate books related to the scripture lessons are available in the Narthex, near the entrance to the Sanctuary.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Minister
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore - Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport - Interim Minister of Visitation
Celeste Crowe - Director of Communications
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Lisa Marisiddaiah - Parish Nurse
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mothers' Morning Out
Nancy Moore - Financial Secretary
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Saundra Scott-McCray - Receptionist
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader
Trip Stewart - Information Services
Rev. Rachel Vogado - Director of Faith Formation



THRIVE

January 16, 2021

8:55 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"Your Grace is Enough"

M. Maher

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"Holy, Holy Is The Lord Almighty"

K. Gentes

WE EMBRACE GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Ruth 1:1-22

SERMON SERIES

"Generation to Generation"

SERMON

"Gifts and Graces: The Faithfulness of Ruth and Naomi"

ANTHEM

"Your Grace Finds Me"

Myrin/Redman

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Build My Life"

Yunker/Martin/Kaple/Redman/Barrett

†BLESSING

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport,
Matt Smith, Thrive Band