

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 21, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany
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

"DUKE STREET"

Wilbur Held

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 139:7-10)

Rev. Brad Simpson

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the Word of the Lord will last forever!
Empires rise and then they fall,
But the Word of the Lord will last forever!
Seasons come and seasons go,
But the Word of the Lord will last forever!
Come, let us gather to worship the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.
For the Word of the Lord will last forever!

†HYMN #805

"Come Sing to God"

ELLACOMBE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, your love is as sure as it is abundant. Even though we are called to keep our eyes on him alone, we confess that we often become distracted. The glimmer of worldly pleasures often leads us down sinful paths. Forgive us when we lose sight of your plan for us. Lead us in the ways of righteousness that have been revealed through the giving of your Son, Jesus Christ, (silent prayer) 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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing)"

Taylor Davis

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 40:4-5

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 3:12-21

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

SERMON SERIES

Joy to the World!

SERMON

"Thieves of Joy"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #846

"Fight the Good Fight"

DUKE STREET

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Confession of 1967)

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides us in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of humanity in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than humanity's schemes will finally prevail.

†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

“Intermezzo in E flat”

Charles Smithson

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD’S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“Postlude on HYMN TO JOY”

Charles Callahan

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

January 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"Your Grace Is Enough"

Maher

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Brad Simpson

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 40:4-5

Philippians 3:12-21

SERMON SERIES

Joy to the World!

SERMON

"Thieves of Joy"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Your Love Never Fails"

Skinner/McClarney

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN (chorus only)

"Your Love Never Fails"

Skinner/McClarney

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

Sunday, February 4, 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary — Due to scheduling changes, the congregational meeting is now being held February 4. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Senior and Associate Pastor's terms of call and to conduct business of the corporation. Please make sure to mark your calendars for this important event.

BOY SCOUTS SUNDAY

Sunday, January 28, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary — Join us as we recognize those involved in the scouting programs at FPC Gastonia! They will be honored during the Traditional worship service.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY FOOD DRIVE

Contribute to our **CAM Food Drive**, running through January, to stock Crisis Assistance Ministry's shelves. Drop off donations at the Receptionist's desk.

VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Sunday, February 4, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall — We invite you to join us for our "Not So Newlywed Game." Nursery care for younger children will be provided; K-4 program with dinner will be at the PAD. RSVP by calling the church office or scanning the QR code below.

YOUTH SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE

Sunday, February 11, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary — During a combined worship led by FPC Youth, a special offering will be taken to recognize the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring reminds us that while we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, many within our community go without a bowl of soup.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14 — We will observe Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season with a drive-thru Imposition of Ashes at noon in the Chapel Portico, then dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a service with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS AND FOR
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!



WELCOME

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 to receive a gift in gratitude for your presence with us.

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.

PASTORAL STAFF OFFICE HOURS*

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford	Mondays 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Rev. Brad Simpson	Mondays 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Mary Taneti	Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Rev. Grady Moseley	By appointment
Jill Kimbirl	By appointment

*Throughout the week, the ministry of the pastoral staff will lead them to meetings at church, beside the hospital bed, homes of members, and elsewhere in the community in order to serve the mission of FPC. Although they are always available by appointment, they will also be available in their offices for unannounced visits during office hours. Be sure to come on by and say hello!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Pastor
Rev. Brad Simpson - Associate Pastor
Mary Taneti - Director of Faith Formation
Rev. Grady Moseley - Minister of Visitation
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Jill Kimbirl - Pastoral Assistant
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Ana Meyer - Financial Secretary
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mother's Morning Out
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader & Audio/Visual Supervisor

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Sanctuary Choir