

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 22, 2023

Third 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 & SILENT MEDITATION

Andante on "Our Father, Who Art In Heaven" (Sonata VI)

Felix Mendelssohn

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lance Perry

Rejoice, for God is with us at all times.

In Christ, we are assured God's presence.

Take heart, for God listens to us at all times.

In Christ, we are assured that God hears our prayers.

Listen, for God speaks to us at all times

In Christ, God shows us the way of righteous love.

Rejoice, for God is with us at all times.

May God meet us as we worship!

†HYMN #409

"God is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your call for justice is so clear that there is no excuse when we fail to hear you over the noise of daily life. We want to cease to do evil. We want to learn to do good. We yearn to follow your loving ways. Yet, we rarely do all we can to rescue, defend, and plead for those in need. Forgive us when we ignore your words and rely upon our own. Grant us courage, both as individuals and as a community, to make your Kingdom realized on earth as it has been in heaven, (*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

"Glory Be to the Father"

GREATOREX

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Lance Perry

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:12-17, 6:9-13

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Let Us Pray

SERMON

"Kingdom Builders"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'M GONNA LIVE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Confession of 1967, 9.31)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate men from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

"Pater Noster"

Arthur Foote

†DOXOLOGY #607

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #700 (verse 3)

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'M GONNA LIVE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Robert Hobby

†If you are able, please stand.

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 donations in the boxes located beside the Fellowship Hall and Reception Desk to help fill the shelves at CAM and the stomachs of the hungry in our community!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE 2023

This week for our fourth lesson of our Wednesday Night Alive series, *Grateful*, we will review "Table Ethics." We will gather at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall and dinner will be served to begin the evening, consisting of: chili and baked potatoes, tossed salad, and sugar cookies for dessert..

FAITH AND FICTION

Faith and Fiction will meet on Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm in the Card Room at Covenant Village. The book we are reading this month is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Our hostess will be Pat Sudderth and Alberta Kincaid. If anyone needs a copy of the book, please contact Sarah Wentz.



VALENTINE'S BANQUET

We invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 5, at 5:30 pm for our "Not So Newlywed Game." Lasagna, veggie lasagna, salad, rolls, and a dessert will be served for dinner. Nursery care for younger children will be provided; K-4 program with dinner will be at the Pad. Please RSVP by scanning the QR code or by calling the church office by January 30. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$4 per child.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarship opportunities are available to those who are members of a Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, are high school seniors, or are already in college. **The application deadline is February 15, 2023.**



LINK YOUR VIC CARD AT HARRIS TEETER AND EARN MONEY FOR PWS!

Harris Teeter's Together In Education program gives schools a chance to earn funds when you link your VIC card and shop Harris Teeter brands. When you shop Harris Teeter brands, and link your VIC card, a percentage of your purchase is donated to our preschool. To link your card and help PWS, please scan the QR code.



BUS DRIVERS AND RIDERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers for Covenant Village bus riders and drivers. If you would like to volunteer please scan the QR code which will direct you to the sign up form. Please note that bus riders and drivers must meet and park at Covenant Village at 9:30 a.m.

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 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Rev. Lance Perry	Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport	Tuesdays and Fridays 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. Lance Perry - Interim Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport - Minister of Visitation
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Holly Howell - Director of Children's Music
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
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
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader
Trip Stewart - Information Services

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Lance Perry, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Lance Perry, David Jennings, Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Ringers

THRIVE

January 22, 2023 at 8:55 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"God Is Able"

Fielding/Morgan

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Lance Perry

ANTHEM

"As It Is In Heaven"

Cash/Maher

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Matthew 4:12-17, 6:9-13

SERMON SERIES

"Let Us Pray"

SERMON

"Kindom Builders"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"God So Loved"

We The Kingdom

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN

"God So Loved" (chorus only)

We The Kingdom

†BLESSING