

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA  
704.864.2651 • [www.fpcgastonia.org](http://www.fpcgastonia.org) • streaming live

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 2, 2025

Fourth 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

"When Morning Gilds the Sky"

Dale Wood

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brad Simpson

All who desire to be in God's presence;

**Come and worship the Lord!**

All who are full of abundance and blessings;

**Come and worship the Lord!**

All who are enduring hardships and tribulation;

**Come and worship the Lord!**

All who are rich; all who are poor;

**Come and worship the Lord!**

All who desire to be in God's presence;

**Come and worship the Lord!**

#### †HYMN #667

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

LAUDES DOMINI

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

#### MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Black Mountain Home for Children Collection

Craig Whitley

### WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we play it safe when you call us to be bold. We settle for what is familiar when you call us to do a new thing. We miss opportunities to spread your Good News because we think it's too risky. Forgive us when we don't follow you completely. Help us to trust in your ability to guide us in every season. As you lead us, give us the courage and strength to build your Kingdom on earth as it is 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

## †PASSING OF THE PEACE

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

### SERMON SERIES

Alpha & Omega

### MEDITATION

"Scattering Seeds"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### †HYMN #171

"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"

SEACHRIST

### 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](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/giving) or by scanning the QR code on the right.



### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I Will Sing and Not Be Silent"

I will sing and not be silent. I will sing and not be silent,  
for God has given me a song.

I will sing and make melody. I will sing with joy in my heart,  
for God has given me a song. I will rejoice!

New every morning are your mercies, O God.

You turned my sorrow into dancing!

Allen Pote

You took away my sadness and clothed me with joy that  
I may sing your praises.  
I will and not be silent. I will sing with joy in my heart,  
for God has given me a song. I will rejoice!  
God's anger is only for a moment, but God's kindness will last a lifetime.  
Weeping may stay for a night, but in the morning will come rejoicing.  
I will sing and not be silent. I will sing and not be silent,  
for God has given me a song.  
I will rejoice!

†**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**

†**SENDING HYMN #541** (verse 1 only)

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

RANDOLPH

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

†**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

†**POSTLUDE**

“Lord God, We All To Thee Give Praise”

Johann Gottfried Walther

†If you are able, please stand.

# THRIVE

February 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



## WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

### †GATHERING SONG

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”

Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

### WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

### MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Black Mountain Home for Children Collections

Craig Whitley

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Brad Simpson

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### †PASSING OF THE PEACE

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9

### SERMON SERIES

Alpha & Omega

### MEDITATION

“Scattering Seeds”

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### †HYMN OF DEDICATION

“Jesus, Alpha and Omega”

Keith Landis

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### †SENDING SONG (chorus only)

“First and Last”

Kaitlyn Etoroma, Daniel Etoroma, Hendrik Bisschoff & Hailey Bisschoff

### †BLESSING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE: INTERFAITH TRIALOGUE

*Wednesday, February 5, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall.* Panel discussion on the relationship between the three faiths based on our shared ancestor, Abraham. Panel: Mark Epstein (Temple Emanuel); Hossam Shoukry (Islamic Society of Gastonia); Rev. Joan Martin (Retired PCUSA Minister). Moderator: Rev. Daniel Commerford. Dinner will be served (Free).

### YOUTH SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE

*Sunday, February 9, 2025, 11:00 am, Sanctuary.* During a combined worship led by FPC Youth, a special offering will be taken for Daily Change which supports both international and regional hunger programs.

### HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN ART PRESENTED BY TIM WITHERELL

This event has been rescheduled for *Wednesday, February 12, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. Cost: \$5/person.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE: NUTRITION BASICS

*Wednesday, February 19, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall.* Beth Silvers, a registered dietitian, and certified diabetes care and education specialist, will review how vitamins and minerals relate to hormones and enzymes, define carbs, proteins, and fat, and identify the best sources of each as part of a healthy diet. Dinner will be served. Cost: \$5/person.

### ROADRUNNER'S TRIP TO FORT DOBBS

*Saturday, March 1, 2025, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.* Explore life during the Revolutionary War at the fort in the 1700s through reenactments, demonstrations, historic weapons, firings, and cooking. Meet at church at 9:00 am. Contact Connie Gesser at 704-473-6430.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BAKE SALE

*Saturday, March 1, 2025, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall.* Presbyterian Women will host their Annual Food Festival and Bake Sale. Proceeds will support various missions of Presbyterian Women throughout the year. Donated food items will be accepted on Friday, February 28, 4:00-6:00 pm.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SUNDAY SERVICE

*Sunday, March 2, 2025.* We will receive an offering during worship service. This mission is supported by Presbyterian Women and assists the Church World Service by providing blankets, hygiene kits, and other supplies to those recovering from natural and man-made disasters in the US and worldwide. Guest pastor will be Rev. Dr. Elizabeth L. Hinson-Hasty, Professor of Theology and Ethics at the Union Presbyterian Seminary. Consider donating to this ministry by making your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with Blanket Sunday in the memo line.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FPC GASTONIA, SCAN THE QR CODE!



## 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? We receive members every second Sunday at 10:15 am in the Library. If you are interested, please 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; Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Thrive Band

## LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

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

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

#### COLLECTION FOR OUR FRIENDS AT BMH

*February 19 - 21, 4:00-7:00 pm & February 22, 9:00 am-noon, PAD.* Declutter and give to others. Items needed include home decor, housewares, furniture, and new clothing (junior-ex large).

### CONNECT & GROW THIS WEEK

#### BIBLE STUDY

- **Young Presbyterians:** *Sundays, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.*
- **Youth Group:** *Sundays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, PAD.*
- **Men's Fellowship & Breakfast:** *Tuesdays, 8:00 to 8:30 am, PAD.*
- **Women's Bible Study:** *Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 am, Confirmation Room.*

#### FAITH AND FICTION

*Today, 4:00 pm, Covenant Village.*