

# 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

March 19, 2023  
4th Sunday in Lent  
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

"I'm Just a Poor Wayfarin' Stranger"

arranged by Tammy Waldrop

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

Let us worship God, who has done great things,

*We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.*

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

*We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!*

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth

*We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!*

#### †HYMN #336

"We Gather Together"

KREMSER

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

#### MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Director of Faith Formation Update

### WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Everlasting God, fountain of all life and true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in you our life, joy, and peace. (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!*

## †CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #227

“Jesus, Remember Me”

REMEMBER ME

## WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

### CHILDREN’S SERMON

Rev. Lance Perry

### ANTHEM

I Am Not My Own

*I am not my own. I am not my own.  
Not in body, not in soul. In life, nor even death.  
I am not my own.  
I belong unto my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.  
I am not my own.*

Craig Courtney

*I am not my own. I am not my own.  
Not in body, not in soul, in life, nor even death.  
I am not my own.  
His own blood has ransomed me, from evil set me free.  
I am not my own.*

*For my salvation all things work together,  
In eternal life He gives me hope.  
By the power of His Holy Spirit, I will live for Him.  
I am not my own. I am not my own.  
I belong to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.  
I belong to Him! I belong to Him!*

*In life, in death my only comfort, I belong to Him.  
I will live for Him forever and ever,  
Forever and ever, forevermore!*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 32:1-7  
1 Samuel 16:1-13

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

### SERMON SERIES

Lessons Learned the Hard Way

### SERMON

“David - Saint and Sinner”

Rev. Lance Perry

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### †HYMN #415

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

### †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### 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

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

arranged by Cathy Moklebust

### †DOXOLOGY #607

### †DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

## WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

### †SENDING HYMN #415 (verse 1)

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

### †CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (BWV 727)"

J.S. Bach

†If you are able, please stand.

The Chancel flowers are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of  
Edith Cherry Warren who has joined the Church Triumphant.  
Given by Harry Petrey, Martha Petrey Trussell, Margaret and Jim Smith

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LENTEN SERMON SERIES - LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY

Continuing each Sunday through Lent, we will focus on the theme of "Lessons Learned the Hard Way," a new sermon series from our Pastoral Staff. We anticipate that this theme will be particularly relevant as we study moral failures of biblical characters, contemplate on our own, and journey to the cross on Easter morning.

### LENTEN LUNCHESS CONTINUES THIS WEDNESDAY

During Lent, various churches in the community host a Lenten lunch and worship service. The lunch and service will take place from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm every Wednesday during Lent. Meals cost \$7 per person. Please meet under the Church Portico at 11:30 am if you need transportation. See below for the remaining schedule.

March 22 First Baptist Rev. Justin Lowe

March 29 First United Methodist Rev. Shawn Griffith

### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION TODAY

A New Member Orientation Class will be held today following worship. If you have been visiting and want to know more about FPC or if you are ready to join the church, plan to come! We will have a light lunch in the parlor, talk about the church's ministries, and provide a brief tour of the building. Childcare will be provided.

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER



As part of our commitment to meaningful mission, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia is participating in Rise Against Hunger. We will be hosting this event in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 26, immediately after the 11:00 am worship service. Our goal is 30,024 meals, which will mean we need about 150 volunteers. Please volunteer to help! There are several ways to register; online by scanning the QR code or by going to the announcements page on our website, or by completing a registration form available at the receptionist desk.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

All children are joyfully invited to join the fun of the annual Easter Egg Hunt! On Sunday, April 2, everyone will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm, right after worship. There will be extra baskets if you need one, although we encourage you to bring your own. Hope you can come for an "egg-cellent" time!

## HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 7 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday Services: Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 am in the Columbarium.  
Thrive Service at 8:55 am in the Fellowship Hall.  
Traditional Service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.

## **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	Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

\*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  
Mot Davis - Receptionist  
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare  
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications  
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries  
David Jennings - Organist  
Russ Keeney - Pastoral Counselor  
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, Lance Perry, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

## **LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY**

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Lance Perry, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Sanctuary Ringers, Sanctuary Choir, Garrett Chitwood, Trumpet

# THRIVE

March 19, 2023 at 8:55 a.m.



## WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG  
"Because of Your Love"

Baloche/Brown

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY  
Director of Faith Formation Update

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Lance Perry

ANTHEM  
"Faithful God"

Parker/Wedgeworth/Hein

SCRIPTURE LESSONS  
Psalm 32:1-7  
1 Samuel 16:1-13

SERMON SERIES  
"Lessons Learned the Hard Way"

SERMON  
"David - Saint and Sinner"

Rev. Lance Perry

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE  
"Grant Me An Upright Heart (Psalm 32)"

M. Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN  
"Ready The Way" (refrain)

C. Stephan

†BLESSING