

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 28, 2024

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Christmas in July

10:00 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

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

arr. M. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Taneti

Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.

We have waited and watched, longing for God to save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our hope.

We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.

We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us.

Let us worship our Savior!

†HYMN #106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another. Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion, and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, 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 #581

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you,

And also with you.

As God's children who have received Christ's peace, let us now share Christ's peace with one another...

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"Christmas Sanctus"

Lee Dengler

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

"Road Trip: Finding God in the Midst of our Journey"

SERMON

"Traveling Together to Bethlehem"

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed)

Jill Kimbirl

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 or by scanning the QR code on the right.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Joy To The World"

Handel/Mason/Watts

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #134

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Postlude on REGENT SQUARE"

Alec Rowley

†If you are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

NEW CONNECTION CARDS

Please fill out the Connection Card located in the pew to mark your attendance, and place in the offering plate during the offertory.

SAVE THE DATE! CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

November 15-17, Montreat Conference Center — The entire congregation is invited to come together at Montreat for a weekend of fellowship, discipleship, and worship this fall. Scan the QR code for more information. The deadline to register is August 1 and there are currently 46 spots left.



ICE CREAM AND WATERMELON SUMMER SOCIAL

Join us for summer fellowship, cool ice cream and watermelon treats, and entertainment on *Sunday, August 4th at 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall*. Please RSVP using the QR code or on the Connection Card in your pew.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY COLLECTION

We are celebrating Christmas in July by collecting for Least of These Carolinas from *July 1-31*. The most-needed items are: underwear, socks, stuffed animals (around 12-18"), rolled up fleece blankets, monetary donations (checks made to FPC and "Least of These" in memo line). All items must be NEW. Donation boxes are under the Christmas tree in the Memorial Gallery. We will conclude the season with our favorite Christmas hymns.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We need middle and high school Church volunteers to help build door and window frames at the Hilton's home beginning *Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 9:00 am*. **Sign-up on the website.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

August 25, 2024, there will be a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing the next class of elders, deacons, and nominating committee.

Summer Worship Through September 1

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Children and S.A.L.T. will not meet for Sunday School.
Henderlite and Connections will meet at 9:00 a.m.; Seekers will meet at 11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday Breakfast and Study takes place on August 11 in lieu of Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. Special guest teacher Rev. Dr. Joshua T. Morris will present a study from his book *Moral Injury*.

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service
Combined Summer Services will be in the Sanctuary with the exception of September 1 in the Fellowship Hall.

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



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 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 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!

**Rev. Commerford will not be in the office July 28 thru August 3.

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
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Wendy Gem - Director of Communications
Kensie Hayes - Receptionist
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

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl; Bethany Jennings; David Jennings; Copeland Smith; Jim Smith; Sanctuary Choir