

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

"Ye Sons and Daughters Of the King"

Healey Willan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brad Simpson

Christ has borne our sin and endured death for our sake.

Jesus is worthy of our praise!

Christ has conquered death for our sake.

Jesus is worthy of every blessing!

Christ has released us from the bondage of our sin.

Jesus is worthy of every honor!

Christ meets us here today, offering us new life.

Jesus is worthy to be worshiped!

We gather to worship our savior, who lived, died, and was raised again for us.

Together, let us worship God!

†HYMN #490

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

BEACH SPRING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we know that following you requires us to follow Christ to the cross. We confess that we avoid this path too often. Instead of allowing you to fill us with new life in Christ, we cling to our sinful ways. We pursue earthly pleasures instead of surrendering to your will. Forgive us when we don't let the sinful parts of our heart die. Create in us a clean heart, and renew us to a right spirit, (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

Rev. Brad Simpson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 7:51-60
Matthew 16:24-28

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

SERMON SERIES

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

SERMON

"The Value of Unlearning"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #835

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

CLOSER WALK

†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 or by scanning the QR code on the right.



On the second Sunday of the month, a special offering is collected for the Nickel-A-Meal ministry.

Nickel-A-Meal provides meals for those in need through the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Hunger Program. Red buckets are scattered about and available for your donations before or after worship, and gifts can be made online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving (select the Nickel-A-Meal fund).

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Lead Me To The Cross"

Ligertwood

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #835 (Refrain Only)

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

CLOSER WALK

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

Healey Willan

†If you are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

August 17 at 9:00 am. We need middle and high school Church volunteers to help build door and window frames at the Hilton's home.

BACKPACK BLESSING

Sunday, August 18. Bring your backpacks to church for the blessing of your backpacks.

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S KICK-OFF DINNER

Wednesday, August 28 at 5:30 pm. The Presbyterian Women will hold their kick-off dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Please email khayes@fpcgastonia.org or call 704-864-2651 to RSVP by August 20, 2024.

SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY AND GRIER MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLECTIONS

August 1-31, 2024. The Missions Committee is collecting supplies. Collection bins will be located outside of the fellowship hall and at the reception desk. Items needed include band-aids, Lysol wipes, tissues, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, deodorant, inexpensive wired earbuds or headphones, clear backpacks, and new or gently used sweatpants and leggings. Contact Rusty or LeeAnn Harris at 803-606-6543 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY

August 25 at 9:00 am. Join us for a Faith Formation Sunday Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. We will learn about Sunday school classes for all age groups, and our rising third graders will receive Bibles.

THRIVE COMBINED SERVICE

September 1 at 9:00 am. Join us for our last combined worship service for the summer.

RALLY DAY

September 8 at 10:00 am. Join us for a time of celebration and prayer in the Fellowship Hall as we officially kick off the fall!

FALL SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER: FAITH AND POLITICS

September 8 at 6:00 pm (dinner). The symposium begins at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$8 for individuals up to \$24 for families. The panelists will be Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce and Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler. The moderator will be Rev. Dan Commerford.

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*

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| 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!

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. Daniel J. Commerford; Rev. Brad Simpson; Bethany Jennings; David Jennings; Thrive Band