

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
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

"Flute Prelude on HENDON"

Rebecca te Velde

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

All who desire to be in God's presence;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who are full of abundance all enduring hardship;

Come and worship the Lord!

All who are mature in faith and all beginning their journey with Christ;

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 #409

"God Is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

Coerte Voorhees

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #697 (verse 1 only)

"Take My Life"

HENDON

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we thank you for gathering us here and now, giving us the opportunity to grow closer to you. We confess that we do not always seek you when we gather for worship. Too often, we bring our own expectations, as well as the expectations of the world in which we live, into this worship space. Forgive us when we fail to seek your Son above all else. Help us to worship you openly, giving you all our hearts, minds, and souls, (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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"We Are Yours, Lord"

*Holy God, creator of our inmost being,
You spoke our first full thoughts and breathed our innocent prayers.
You've healed us, you've led us, you've loved us!
Holy God. Now we come to worship you.*

Mark Patterson

*We come to worship you, mighty God. We come to praise you, Holy one.
Giving praise to your name in all we do, we are yours, Lord,
may our lives bring glory to you.*

*We will go where you lead us for you alone have called us by name.
Give us strength as we learn to love you more;
Give us faith, Lord, to trust you each day.*

*We come to worship you, mighty God. We come to praise you, Holy one.
Giving praise to your name in all we do, we are yours, Lord,
may our lives bring glory to you!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-51

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

SERMON SERIES

"The Heart of Worship"

SERMON

"A Holy Gathering"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #402

"How Lovely, Lord"

MERLE'S TUNE

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Confession of 1967)

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humanity, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

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

"Chorale in D"

David Blackwell

†DOXOLOGY

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #697 (verse 6 only)

"Take My Life"

HENDON

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Toccata on ST. THOMAS"

Gayden Sikes

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

September 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"House of the Lord"

Wickham/Smith

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

Coerte Voorhees

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #697 (verse 1 only)
"Take My Life"

HENDON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM
"We Are One"

Wells/Holcomb/Newbell

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12
Luke 2:41-51

SERMON SERIES
The Heart of Worship

SERMON
"A Holy Gathering"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION
"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

B. Ligertwood

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN (chorus only)
"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

B. Ligertwood

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Please see our website at fpcgastonia.org/weekly-announcements for more details

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It's an opportunity for excitement and to make a difference. We encourage you to pray about how you can contribute to FPC Gastonia, whether by teaching, joining a committee, participating in a small group, or through financial generosity. Stewardship has a goal to raise \$1.4 million, so please consider filling out the covenant card below and placing into the offering plate to contribute to FPC Gastonia's generosity.

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF

Today is Youth Group Kickoff Sunday from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Current's family pool (1012 Dornoch Rd Gastonia, NC 28054). Parents, please plan to stay for the first half hour for a parent meeting. The youth group will meet every second and fourth Sunday of the month in the PAD from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Join us this Wednesday night from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for Wednesday Night Alive. Rev. Grady Moseley will lead us in session two: *Our Strength and Guide*. No reservations necessary; meals are \$8 per adult and \$5 per child, payable at the door. Feel free to join us for dinner and fellowship even if you cannot attend the evening program. Childcare is provided for infant to age 4. Dinner is barbecue, baked beans, slaw, chips, and apple pastries with tea and water.

LADIES BUNCO NIGHT

Join us for a ladies bunco night on October 15 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women 10-years or older are welcome to come. This is open to anyone, so be sure to bring a friend! There will be finger foods and prizes. Don't worry if you do not know how to play; we will teach you! RSVP to Rachel Commerford by calling (561) 676-1366 or emailing rachelcommerford@gmail.com.

COVID-19 AND FLU VACCINE CLINIC

A vaccine clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 at 5:30 p.m. outside of the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to receive an up to date flu or COVID-19 vaccine.

TRUNK OR TREAT

FPC Gastonia is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29 from 5:00 p.m. –7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall parking lots. Email Mary Taneti at mtaneti@fpcgastonia.org to sign your trunk up and for a chance to win the "Best Trunk Award." Children can pick a pumpkin at the mini-pumpkin patch! Wear your best costume and bring your own bag for candy.

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.*
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
Mary Taneti - Direction of Faith Formation
Rev. Grady Moseley - Minister of Visitation
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Jill Kimbirl - Interim Minister of Visitation
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Ana Meyer - Financial Secretary
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mothers' Morning Out
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader & Audio/Visual Supervisor

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Jill Kimbirl, Mary Taneti, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Jill Kimbirl, Mary Taneti, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings

1621 East Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054
September 11, 2023

Dear FPC Gastonia Family,

Stewardship season kicks off on September 24th and concludes with Commitment Sunday on October 22. Throughout October, there will be reflections in the weekly e-news and speakers during worship, reminding us to look within our hearts and thoughtfully respond to God's blessings with a meaningful financial commitment. When we give out of gratitude and love of God, we can trust that our gifts, large or small, will be used by God to meet the needs of our church and community.

In considering your commitment, the church offers a variety of methods to respond to God's love with financial gratitude including checks, automated bank drafts, and online giving through the Realm Connect App. We also welcome Required Minimum Distributions! By making your pledge and returning your Covenant Card by October 22, the church will be able to plan its worship, faith formation, fellowship, and mission ministries for the coming year.

Faithful financial stewardship requires not just our treasure but our time and talent as well. Peter reminds us that each of us should use whatever gifts we have received "to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10.) Show us how you'd like to give your time and talent next year by completing and returning the enclosed survey.

First Presbyterian Church Gastonia has been a beacon of light for our community since its founding in 1882, and we are humbled by that legacy. To keep that light shining, the Stewardship Committee asks for your prayerful consideration as you contemplate making a generous gift to the church of your treasure, talents, and time. By reaching out, engaging, connecting, and belonging, we can reach our goal together as Faithful Stewards.

We pray for you and our church family. Please return your Covenant Card in the enclosed envelope.

Grace and Peace,
Stewardship Committee
Coerte Voorhees — Chair



Faithful
Stewards

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." — 1 Peter 4:10

2024 Stewardship Campaign at First Presbyterian Church

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in deepening my faith by:

- Joining a small group
- Plugging into a Sunday School Class
- Attending Wednesday Night Alive
- Getting involved with mission opportunities

I am interested in serving FPC by:

- Volunteering with our children/youth
- Joining a committee or ministry team
- Helping out on Sunday at church or during the week
- Playing an instrument at Thrive or participating in Traditional Music Ministries

I/We pledge \$ _____

- Annually
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly

Your confidential commitment is received only by the business office. Please attach a voided check if your bank has new instructions

Would you like FPC to draft your bank account?

- No
- Yes, monthly on the last business day
- Yes, monthly on the 15th