

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 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

Alice Jordan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lance Perry

God calls us to worship the Risen Lord;

In Christ, we are freed from the shackles of sin and death.

God calls us to trust the Risen Lord;

In Christ, we are shown the way of true righteousness.

God calls us to embrace the Risen Lord;

In Christ, we are transformed into a new creation.

God calls us to follow the Risen Lord;

In Christ, we are empowered to continue his mission of love, mercy, and restoration.

Come, let us worship the Risen Lord.

Together, let us worship God!

†HYMN #321

"The Church's One Foundation"

AURELIA

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lance Perry

Lord, we confess that we do the right things for the wrong reasons. We are nice to others so we can feel good about ourselves. We are generous with our time, talents, and treasures in order to wield influence and power.

We give with an expectation to receive in kind. Forgive us when we do not allow your love to transform us completely. Shape us and mold us so we may follow your Spirit with every thought, word, and deed, (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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

arr. by Wilson

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all unity may one day be restored, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each others, we will walk hand in hand. And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from who all things come. And, all praise to Christ Jesus, His only son. And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Amos 5:21-24

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 2:14-26

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Ready, Set, Go!

SERMON

"Faith is Kinetic"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #286

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Belhar Confession 10.5)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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

"Prelude on TRENTHAM"

Philip Moore

†DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #288

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Festal Flourish"

Gordon Jacobs

†If you are able, please stand.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Come out this Wednesday at 5:30 pm for our next WNA event in the Fellowship Hall! Explore with us as we Animate Faith through the insights of contemporary thinkers and theologians, such as Nadia Bolz-Weber, Brian McLaren, and Bruce Reyes-Chow. Nursery Care will be provided; kindergarten through 5th grade will join together for Children's Choir with Holly Howell. We hope you will join us as we fellowship together to deepen our faith!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

A new member orientation class will be held Sunday, October 2 from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm in the Church Parlor. A light lunch will be served with a short discussion and church tour to follow. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Trip Stewart by calling (704) 864-2651 or by emailing her at tstewart@fpcgastonia.org.

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On October 5, a birthday lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm. Join us as we gather to celebrate those who have celebrated their 90th birthday! To RSVP, call our Receptionist by October 3.

BASKETS FOR BLACK MOUNTAIN HOME FOR CHILDREN

Presbyterian Women will be supporting Black Mountain Home for Children by contributing gift baskets for the Fall Festival auction. The Fall Festival and Open House will be held on October 8, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Black Mountain Home for Children.

BLOOD DRIVE

The blood drive is back! The bloodmobile will be here from 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm on October 17 and will be located on the Garrison side of the parking lot.

SEWING MINISTRY

Our sewing ministry is reaching out to anyone who sews or knits to join Betsy Keith providing items to share in our community. First Presbyterian has donated hand knitted afghans and baby booties to the local Salvation Army this year. If you knit or sew and would like to help, contact the receptionist at the church office.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

One of the many ministries of FPC Gastonia is maintaining a plot at The Rotary Community Garden on Franklin Blvd. We have had bountiful harvests this year of collards and green beans and soon it will be time to plant carrots! If you would like to join a team from our church to support this ministry, please email Caroline Letts (carolinehletts@gmail.com) for more information.

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	Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport	Tuesdays and Fridays by appointment

*The pastoral staff is available to meet throughout the week by appointment. If you would like to get in touch with them outside of office hours, please send them an email or call the church office.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Pastor
Rev. Lance Perry - Interim Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport - Minister of Visitation
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Holly Howell - Director of Children's Music
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
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, Rev. Lance Perry, Jim Smith, Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Lance Perry, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Sanctuary Choir

THRIVE

September 25, 2022

8:55 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"House of the Lord"

Wickham/Smith

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

"We Are One"

Wells/Holcomb/Newbell

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Amos 5:21-24

James 2:14-26

SERMON SERIES

"Ready, Set, Go!"

SERMON

"Faith is Kinetic"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"I Will Follow"

Morgan/Tomlin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

SENDING HYMN

"I Will Follow" (Chorus Only)

Morgan/Tomlin

†BLESSING