

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 29, 2024

Nineteenth 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

"KINGSFOLD"

Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brad Simpson

We gather today as a community of faith,

To dream of a world where the hungry are fed and the thirsty are given water.

We gather today as a community of faith,

To welcome our neighbors who are the poor, afflicted, and sojourner.

We gather today as a community of faith,

To encourage one another to build the Kingdom Christ has shown us.

We gather today as a community of faith,

Let us worship God!

†HYMN #409

"God Is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we fail to be the neighbors you call us to be. We hold back from creating the neighborhood you call us to build. Forgive us when we don't care for those who are suffering. Help us to be good neighbors by feeding those without food, providing clothing to those who cannot provide for themselves, and giving hope to those who feel lost, (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 Lord 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

"God Is Our Refuge"

Allen Pote

God is our refuge and strength,
A present help in time of trouble.
Though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea,
Though the water roar and foam, we will
not fear!

Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
Though the water roar and foam, we will not fear!

Come and behold the work of the Lord, the
awesome acts of God.

He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth.

Come and behold the work of the Lord, the
awesome acts of God.
He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth.

He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us.
He is the air, we are his song, We will celebrate His
presence all the day long.

He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us.
He is the air, we are his song. We will celebrate
His presence all the day long.

God is our refuge and strength,
A present help in time of trouble.
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
Though the water roar and foam, we will not fear!

God is our refuge and strength,
A present help in time of trouble.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:6-12

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-40

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

SERMON

Look for the Helpers

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #757

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Confession of Belhar)

Rev. Brad Simpson

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 MUSIC

"Rock of Ages"

Diane Bish

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #296

"Go in Grace and Make Disciples"

WONDROUS LIGHT

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Psalm XIX"

Benedetto Marcello

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

September 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"We Are One"

Christa Wells, Ellie Holcomb, and Trillia Newbell

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Brad Simpson

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"Speak O, Lord"

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:6-12

Matthew 25:31-40

SERMON SERIES

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

SERMON

Look for the Helpers

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION #757

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

KINGSFOLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Brad Simpson

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

"It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"

Fred Rogers

†SENDING HYMN

"Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly"

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, and Pat Barrett

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Today after Worship Service, noon to 1:30 pm, Church Parlor. Those interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church and all who have recently joined our church are invited to this special luncheon. Others who have questions about FPC and our activities are also invited. A short discussion and church tour will follow the lunch.

VACCINATION CLINIC

October 2, 2024, 3:30 to 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. We are hosting a vaccination clinic for individuals who want to get an updated **Flu, RSV, or COVID-19** vaccine. No registration or appointment is required.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR STAFF RETREAT

October 3, 2024, Fellowship Hall. The Church office will be closed for its annual staff retreat.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

October 6, 2024, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Join us for a 2-hour program to empower parents with the knowledge, tools, and faith-based strategies to better understand and respond to youth mental health challenges.

FAITH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUICIDE AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH

October 20, 2024, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, PAD. We will explore how faith can guide us through life's toughest moments, address mental health concerns, and foster support within our church community.

90TH BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

October 23, 2024, Noon to 1:30 pm, Parlor. You are cordially invited to attend a special luncheon honoring those celebrating 90 years and above birthdays. There is no cost for honorees; however, admission is \$8 per guest, payable at the door.

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 27, 2024, 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall parking lot. We need your help with ensuring that we have a great supply of backup candy. Please donate candy (individually wrapped Halloween candy), small toys (shop orientaltrading.com), and treats (individually wrapped cookies). Drop off your donations in the baskets placed at the Reception Desk, Memorial Gallery, and Fellowship Hall.

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



WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! Whether you are a first-time visitor, a lifelong member, or anywhere between, we pray that you experience God's love found in Jesus Christ through our worship this morning.

CONNECTION CARDS

Please fill out a Connection Card located in front of your pew. We will reach out to you as promptly as possible if you have a prayer request, would like to sign up for an event, or need a pastor to reach out to you.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member? We receive members every second Sunday at 10:15 am in the Library. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office or check the appropriate box on your Connection Card.

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 am - 12:00 pm
Rev. Brad Simpson	Mondays 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Mary Taneti	Tuesdays 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Rev. Grady Moseley	By appointment
Jill Kimbirl	By appointment

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford; Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford; Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; David Jennings; Sanctuary Choir

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

BLACK MOUNTAIN HOME FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 12, 10:00-3:00 pm.

Free fun for the entire family. Visit www.blackmountainhome.org for more information.

[blackmountainhome.org](http://www.blackmountainhome.org) for more information.

CONNECT & GROW THIS WEEK

YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

Sundays, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, PAD.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 am, PAD.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 am, Parlor.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall.