

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA  
704.864.2651 • [www.fpcgastonia.org](http://www.fpcgastonia.org) • streaming live

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 27, 2024

Twenty-Third 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

"Standing on the Promises"

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

The Lord reigns! Let the peoples tremble.

He is enthroned between the cherubim.

Let the earth quake.

The Lord is great in Zion;

he is exalted above all the peoples.

Let them praise your great

and awe-inspiring name.

He is holy. Let us worship our Creator.

#### †HYMN #336

"We Gather Together"

KREMSER

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Brad Simpson

#### COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

David Conner

### WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. You call us to study the Scriptures, but we are easily distracted. You ask us to be persistent in prayer, but we are quickly discouraged. Forgive us, God of grace. Write your Word in our hearts, so that we may truly know you and joyfully serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord... *(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

"This is My Father's World"

Elaine Hagenberg

This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of  
the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in  
the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas-  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world;  
The battle is not done! Jesus who died will be  
satisfied and heaven and earth be one.

This is my Father's world: The birds their carols  
raise, the morning light, the lily white, Declare their  
Maker's praise. This is my Father's world: He shines  
in all that's fair; In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-23

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

### SERMON SERIES

Profiles in Courage

### SERMON

Fear and Faith

Rev. Brad Simpson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### †HYMN #450

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

### COMMITMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

If you feel led, use this time to drop your pledge or commitment in the offering plates at the front of the chancel.

### †BLESSING OF COMMITMENTS

Lord, we are grateful for the abundant blessings you have given us.

*We thank you most of all for the gift of Jesus Christ, who has given us victory over death.*

We ask that you bless our efforts to grow closer to you and share your love with others.

*Use our time to strengthen our faith and provide hope to others.*

Give us strength to restore what is broken in our relationships, community, and world.

*Use our talents to ensure that your will is done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Grant us wisdom as we use the finances you've given us to build your Kingdom.

*Use our treasures to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

Be with us this year, bless our offerings, and walk with us as you lead us.

*May you be glorified in all we give and all we do!*

### 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](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/giving) or by scanning the QR code on the right.



### OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Just As I Am"

### †DOXOLOGY #606

### †DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

## WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

### †SENDING HYMN #700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'M GONNA LIVE

### †CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### †POSTLUDE

"Toccata in C"

J.S. Bach

†If you are able, please stand.

# THRIVE

October 27, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

## WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

### †GATHERING SONG

"Here I Am to Worship"

Tim Hughes

### WELCOME

Rev. Brad Simpson

### COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

David Conner

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### †PASSING OF THE PEACE

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

### ANTHEM

"Desert Song"

Brooke Ligertwood

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7

Matthew 14:22-23

### SERMON SERIES

Profiles in Courage

### SERMON

Fear and Faith

Rev. Brad Simpson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### †COMMITMENT OF STEWARDSHIP

If you feel led, use this time to drop your pledge or commitment in the offering plates at the front of the chancel.

### †BLESSING OF COMMITMENTS

### †HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Tomlin, Havergal, Malan, & Giglio

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

### †SENDING SONG (Chorus only)

"Courageous"

Mark Hall & Matthew West

### †BLESSING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY

*Today during the Thrive and Traditional Services.* Please fill out the pledge cards you received by mail or use one from the pew in front of you, and place them in the offering plate during the service. This year's Stewardship committee members are: LeeAnn Harris, David Conner, Charlie Grissom, Hayley Nester, and Coerte Voorhees.



### PWS ANNUAL BUTTER BRAID AND COOKIE DOUGH SALE

*October 21 to November 1, 2024.* Order your Butter Braids and Wooden Spoon Cookie Dough® as a gift or treat yourself to these delicious baked goods. They are perfect for breakfast, brunch, or dessert. Orders will be delivered on November 20th. Visit [fpcgastonia.org/braid-and-cookie-sale](https://fpcgastonia.org/braid-and-cookie-sale) to order.



### ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

*Sunday, November 3, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall, and 11:00 am, Sanctuary.* All are invited to Communion and All Saint's Sunday as we celebrate the communion of saints and remember those members of First Presbyterian who have died during the past church year.

### ROADRUNNERS TRIP TO MURRAY'S MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT IN CATAWBA NC

*Thursday, November 7, 2024.* Step back in time to the 1890s and explore Murray's Mill, General Store, Wheathouse Exhibit Gallery and more. Take a tour of the historic mill (Cost: \$10), buy locally roasted coffee beans, or enjoy the picturesque surroundings. We'll eat lunch at Granny's Country Kitchen. Please be at the church at 9:00 am; we will be returning around 4:00 pm. Contact Connie Gesser at 704-473-6430.

### MEET THE AUTHOR

*Thursday, November 7, 2024, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall.* Join us for an evening with Dr. Richard Rankin as he introduces his latest book, "Local Signs and Wonders: Essays about Belonging to a Place." There will be time for questions and you can purchase his book on site and get it signed. Light refreshments will be served.

### KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

*Sunday, November 10, 2024, 11:00 am, Sanctuary.* We will gather to participate in the Kirkin' O' the Tartans! During this service, we will participate in the tradition of carrying tartans into the church as we celebrate our Presbyterian Scottish heritage. The Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, the Marianne and E.G. Lassiter Chaplain and Dean of Spiritual Life at Presbyterian College, will be our guest preacher. There will be a covered dish lunch following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

### CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT MONTREAT — HAS BEEN CANCELED FOR THIS YEAR.

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.

## LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl, Thrive Band

## LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl, Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Ringers

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

#### FLOOD RELIEF DONATIONS FOR WNC

Donations to Black Mountain Home for Children can be made online. Scan the QR code below.



#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SILENT AUCTION

Raised over \$3,000 dollars for Black Mountain Home for Children.

### CONNECT & GROW THIS WEEK

#### TRUNK OR TREAT

*Today, 5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall parking lot.*

#### BIBLE STUDY

- **Men's Fellowship & Breakfast:** *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.*

Rev. Brad Simpson will lead the discussion.

Menu: Smoked pork BBQ, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, Hawaiian rolls, and brownies.

#### FAITH AND FICTION

*Sunday, November 3, 4:00 pm, Covenant Village.*