

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth 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

"Prelude on KREMSER"

Matthew Corl

CALL TO WORSHIP

How shall we enter the house of the Lord?

With songs of great praise and rejoicing!

How shall we prepare ourselves to receive the blessings?

With hearts, minds, and spirits that are open.

Come, let us worship the Lord and bow down.

Let us offer our praise to God who has redeemed us. Amen.

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

†HYMN #643

"Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Seasonal Mission Opportunities

Matt Miller

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that life is hard. We don't always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. In Christ's name we pray, (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

"I Will Give Thanks"

Craig Courtney

I will give thank to You with all my heart; and I will tell of all Your wondrous deeds.

I will rejoice in You and be glad; I will sing the praises of Your name, O most High!

I proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness into the night.

Be exalted, I God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.

My heart is steadfast, Lord, my heart is sure; I will sing praise to You, make melody.

Among the nations, I give You thanks, I will sing of You among the peoples, O God.

For great is Your love above the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.

O be exalted, Lord, above the heav'ns, and let Your glory be o'er all the earth.

*Awake, my soul, awake, o harp and lyre, for the joy at what Your hands have done,
Lord most high.*

For great is Your love above the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O Lord, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.

*I will give thanks, I will give thanks with all my heart.
I will give thanks to you.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-46

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Thanksgiving By Giving"

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #756

"O God of Every Nation"

LLANGLOFFAN

†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.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Paul Manz

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #336

"We Gather Together"

KREMSER

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT"

J.S. Bach

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

November 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"Your Grace Is Enough"

M. Maher

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Seasonal Mission Opportunities

Matt Miller

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"Hosanna"

B. Ligertwood

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

"Thanksgiving By Giving"

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Edwards/Wood

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN (chorus only)

"God of Justice"

T. Hughes

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Today, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., First Baptist Church of Gastonia — Worship alongside members of churches across Gastonia at the annual Community Thanksgiving Service! Rev. Daniel J. Commerford will be preaching.

YOUTH BAKE SALE

Today, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Memorial Gallery, Fellowship Hall — Our youth will hold a bake sale to raise funds for their summer trips. Sign up to donate a baked good via the Realm Connect App.

THANKSGIVING OFFICE HOURS

The church office will close on Wednesday, November 22 at 12:00 p.m. and remain closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. BRAD SIMPSON

Sunday, November 26, Combined Service at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary — All are invited to the formal installation of Rev. Brad Simpson as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. At this service, Brad will affirm his commitment to the congregation, and the congregation will affirm its commitment to his ministry. Rev. Dr. James Taneti will be our guest preacher. This service is an act of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. We welcome all who wish to visit for this special service, including Brad's family, friends, and colleagues.

POINSETTIA AND CHRISMON ORDERS

This Advent season, the church will be decorated with poinsettias, chrismon trees and ornaments. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one this season, please fill out the inserted order form and return with a check by December 8.

SEASONAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Join us in giving back this season!

- Contribute to our **CAM Food Drive**, running through January, to stock Crisis Assistance Ministry's shelves. Drop off donations at the Receptionist's desk.
- Volunteer for **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** on December 2 at Hobby Lobby; call the church office to sign up for a one-hour spot. Let's make a positive impact together!
- Consider giving a contribution to the **Angel Tree for Black Mountain Home for Children**; leave your gifts under the Christmas tree outside of Brad's office by Friday, December 8.

COCOA AND CAROLS

Wednesday, December 6, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall — Begin the Advent festivities with Christmas carols and hot cocoa. David Jennings and Bethany Jennings will lead us in singing and fellowship.

ROADRUNNERS TRIP TO BILLY GRAHAM LIBRARY

Thursday, December 21, 1:00p.m., Front of Church — Join us for our next road trip, this time to Billy Graham Library! The church bus will leave at 1:00 p.m. for a tour of the Library. An optional Christmas dinner and Horse Drawn Carriage ride will also be available. RSVP on Realm by December 21 for the tour; visit Billy Graham Library's website to register for the dinner and carriage ride.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR
ANY OF THE EVENTS ABOVE AND LEARN
MORE ABOUT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES.



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 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 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
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
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
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader & Audio/Visual Supervisor

LEADING THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Brad Simpson, Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Mary Taneti, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Brad Simpson, Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Mary Taneti, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Ringers