

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 3, 2024
3rd Sunday in Lent
Women's Sunday
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 in D"

Deiterich Buxtehude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,
From Bethany to Jerusalem,
From then until now,
Come, Lord Jesus.
To heal the sick,
To mend the broken hearted,
To comfort the disturbed,
To disturb the comfortable,
Come, Lord Jesus.
To carry the cross,
To lead the way,
Come, Lord Jesus.
Today, to this place,
To us,
Come, Lord Jesus.

†HYMN #409

"God Is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

**Processing with the Choir is Girl Scouts Troop #20013*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Presbyterian Women

Kate Buckles

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Blanket Sunday

Mollie Trosper

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, grant us your forgiveness,

For our careless thoughts, for our thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech and the words with which we wound others, *(silent prayer)*

God of life, grant us your forgiveness,

For our false desires, for our hurtful actions, for our wastefulness and for all we left untended, *(silent prayer)*

Loving Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning, scatter the sin from our souls as the mist from the mountains; begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, this day and forevermore. 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

Sabrina and Anna Robinson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Edna Jacobs Banes

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-55

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Lead Me to the Cross

SERMON

"Mary and the Cross"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #159

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

KINGSFOLD CMD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mary Taneti

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 ANTHEM

"Lenten Meditation"

Jay Althouse

Jesus Christ, my Savior lived for me, and died, source of my salvation, yet was crucified. Peace that knows no measure: this by faith I see. Love that knows no ending; Jesus died for me.

Hear me now, Lord Jesus: I will never stray. I will never wander. Hear me as I pray: free me now from darkness. Cleanse me now from sin. Pardon my transgressions. Make me pure within.

Lord, we renew our committment these forty nights and days. And Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways.

Lord, O Lord, we renew our committment these forty nights and days. And Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways. Amen!

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God!

When directed by an usher, please come forward to receive communion. If you wish to have communion served to you in the pew, please raise your hand and our servers will come to you.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #546 (verse 1 only)

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

SICILIAN MARINERS

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Edna Jacobs Banes

†POSTLUDE

"Variations on SICILIAN MARINERS"

Karrin Keene

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

March 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"God So Loved"

Cash, et al

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rachel Commerford and Hayley Nester

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-55

SERMON SERIES

Lead Me to the Cross

SERMON

"Mary and the Cross"

Rev. Dr. Edna Jacobs Banes

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION
"Build My Life"

Yunker, et al

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mary Taneti

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Lead Me To The Cross"

Ligertwood

THE LORD'S SUPPER

†SENDING HYMN (verse 3 only)

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

C. Scott

†BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Edna Jacobs Banes

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 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 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!

WELCOME REV. DR. EDNA JACOBS BANES

A native of Clinton, SC, Edna was a teacher in South Carolina, Germany (where she met her husband Warren), Nebraska, Florida and Texas in her first career. A move to Alexandria, VA coincided with a call to ministry. She received an MDiv from Virginia Theological Seminary and a DMin from Columbia Theological Seminary. She served as associate pastor at Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria and then Dean of Students and Chaplain at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond and Charlotte before retiring to Montreat. She currently serves as pastoral associate at Kenilworth Presbyterian church in Asheville. She and Warren have two adult children and four grandchildren. She enjoys walking, kayaking, reading, and discovering the holy in the ordinary.

WELCOME SARAH MCDOWELL

Originally from the Midwest, Sarah McDowell now resides in the South. She is a wife and mother of two boys, finds breakfast to be her favorite meal, and is nervous to sing the National Anthem. Sarah has been a professional singer since the age of 11, and she has served as a worship leader for over 20 years, earning awards for her songwriting. In each of these roles, Sarah is committed to giving her best. Inspired by Deuteronomy 6:5, she values the concept of presenting her "muchness" to God, bringing her talents, gifts, taste, style, past, struggles, mistakes, victories, and hopes to be used by God.

GIRL SCOUTS TROOP #20013

Today, we extend welcome to Girl Scouts Troop #20013. FPC Gastonia has been actively engaged with the Girl Scouts since the 1920s. Joining the procession with the choir are: Zoe Barthelemy, Amelia Buie-Miller, Savannah Butler, Wynn Farris, Karli Gordon, Grace Kucera, Alexandra Maga, Hannah Morrow, Hannah Russo, and Anna Robinson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

LENTEN LUNCHES

Wednesday, March 6, 12:00 p.m., Holy Trinity — Churches in the community are hosting Lenten lunches and worship every Wednesday during Lent, with donations supporting Displaced Roses and CAM. For transportation, meet under the Church Portico at 11:30 a.m.

March 6	Holy Trinity	Rev. Brad Simpson, (FPC)
March 13	First Baptist	Dave Wilcox Organ Program, (St. Mark's)
March 20	FUMC	Rev. Dr. Carolyn Dewberry, (St. Stephen's AME Zion)

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Sunday, March 10, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Church Parlor — Those interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church Gastonia are invited to a special luncheon after the Traditional worship service. A short discussion and church tour will follow. Sign up by scanning the QR code or by calling the church office. Childcare will be provided.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER COMBINED SERVICE & MISSION EVENT

Sunday, March 17, 10:00 a.m. — Join us for a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a mission opportunity with Rise Against Hunger in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to volunteer by scanning the QR code and complete the Liability Release form. Remember to bring a hat!

WOMEN'S CONNECTION RETREAT

August 9-11 — We're excited to share that we're organizing a group for this year's Women's Connection Retreat at Montreat Conference Center. Only 6 spots remain! Secure your spot by emailing Mary Taneti at mtaneti@fpcgastonia.org at your earliest convenience.

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



Holy Week

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 24

Palm Sunday

Thrive | 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday School | 10:00 a.m.

Traditional | 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt

12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

will move to the **indoors should there be inclement weather*

MARCH 25–28

Stations of the Cross

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday–Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Drop by the Sanctuary the week of March 25-28 to participate in an immersive prayer experience through the Stations of the Cross. A self guided meditation may be done between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship with Communion

6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

MARCH 29

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Childcare will be provided for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Easter

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 31

Easter Services

Sunrise Service | 7:00 a.m., Columbarium*

Thrive | 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Traditional | 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Flowering of the Cross

A flower cross will be located at the Narthex entrance of the sanctuary. You are invited to bring fresh flowers and place them on the cross to celebrate Christ's resurrection..

will move to the **Chapel should there be inclement weather*

Missions

Join us in giving back this season!

During Lent, we're collecting canned goods and money for S.O.C.K.S. (Serving Our Community with Kindness in Springwood). You can drop off donations in the boxes near the Fellowship Hall or Narthex. All Holy Week offerings will go to S.O.C.K.S.

Easter Lilies

In keeping with our tradition, the sanctuary will once again be adorned with Lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or memorialize someone with a lily presented as a witness to the Resurrection of Christ, Please complete the form by Sunday, March 17 with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "Lily" in the memo line. Return the form and your check by mailing it to the church.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, providing hope through rebuilding efforts, and working with communities to promote self-development.

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone by participating in this offering, please complete the inserted form with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with "OGHS" in the memo line. Return the form and your check by mailing it to the church.