

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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 BUNESSAN"

Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, Let us worship.

Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in Your truth; give us undivided hearts to revere Your name.

We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, and we will glorify Your name forever.

For Your love is great towards us; You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let us worship, let us praise, let us give thanks.

Mary Taneti

†HYMN #664

"Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Brad Simpson

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Backpack Program

Collections for Sherwood Elementary and Grier Middle School

Barbara Yarbrough

LeeAnn Harris

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, love, and hope, we confess we have failed to love You with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ignore Your commandments, we stray from Your way. We follow other gods. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive us. Through Your grace, love, and hope, restore and transform us. Help us to serve You faithfully and give honor to Your holy name. We pray our prayer in the name of 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

Jay Althouse

"This We Pray"

When at dawn the glow of morning light brings a new and wondrous day,
then we see your Spirit everywhere. Help us know you, Lord, this we pray.

When at night a songbird sings a tune from a hill so far away,
then we hear your Spirit everywhere. Help us know you, Lord, this we pray.

Lord, show us now your strength and understanding,
Your power and compassion and your might.
And may your love impart a kindness in our hearts,
That we may always do what's true and right.

When the wind is whistling through the trees and the sky is dark and gray,
then we feel your Spirit everywhere. Help us know you, Lord, this we pray.
Help us know you, Lord, this we pray.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 103:1-14

GOSPEL READING

I John 4:7-21

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON

"Love: The Foundation of Our Faith"

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #300

"We Are One in the Spirit"

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed)

Jill Kimbirl

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

"Jesu, the Very Thought Of Thee"

Alec Rowley

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #729

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

Robert Powell

†If you are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTIONS FOR SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY AND GRIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Missions Committee is gathering items for our neighbors at Sherwood Elementary and Grier Middle Schools. To view the full list of needed items, simply scan the QR code located at the bottom of this page. Contribute by filling the bins located at the reception desk and outside the fellowship hall throughout the entire month.

ROADRUNNERS TRIP TO RIVERBANKS ZOO

Thursday, April 25 — Join the Road Roadrunners for a day at Riversbanks Zoo and Garden. Tickets can be purchased on Riverbanks' website (www.riverbanks.org) or at the gate on the day of the trip. Please RSVP your bus seat via the Realm Connect app. Adult tickets are \$26.24, and seniors (62 and up, picture ID required) pay \$24.14.

THRIVE BLUEGRASS SUNDAY

Sunday, April 28, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall — The Thrive service is going downhome. Worship along with bluegrass gospel hymns like 'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus, I'll Fly Away, and more. Wear your best denim, gingham, and Appalachia fashion. We'll pick, grin, and praise during the Thrive worship service.

VBS REGISTRATION

Wednesday, May 1 — Registration for VBS opens on May 1. Mark your calendars to be the first in line! Sign up to volunteer via the Realm Connect app.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 5, 11:00 a.m. — Join us for the Traditional service to celebrate our confirmands who will help lead worship upon the completion of their confirmation journey.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Sunday, May 5, 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m., Church Parlor — Those interested in becoming a member or have question about First Presbyterian Church Gastonia are invited to a special luncheon after the Traditional worship service. A short discussion and church tour will follow. RSVP via the Realm Connect App or contact the church office.

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, May 5, 5:00–7:00 p.m. — Join us for our annual church picnic filled with delicious food and great company! We're happy to have TAXCO Mexican Restaurant and Kona Ice catering this year. Scan the QR code for additional details. RSVP is available via the Realm Connect app or by calling the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Monday, May 6, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall — Celebrate PW's birthday with fellowship, lunch, and a message from Anna Dickson, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care at FPC Charlotte. Reserve your seat via the Realm Connect App or by calling the church office!

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



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!

**Rev. Commerford will be away April 15-28.

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
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Kensie Hayes - Receptionist
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; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl; Matt Smith; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl; David Jennings; Holly Howell, Guest Soloist

THRIVE

April 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"I Believe It (The Life of Jesus)"

Reddick, et al

WELCOME

Rev. Brad Simpson

MINUTE FOR MISSION

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Collections for Sherwood Elementary and Grier Middle School

Barbara Yarbrough

LeeAnn Harris

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary Taneti

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"Shine Jesus Shine"

Young Presbyterians

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 103:1-14

I John 4:7-21

SERMON SERIES

Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON

"Love: The Foundation of Our Faith"

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Send Us Out In The Power Of Your Spirit"

Osgood

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jill Kimbirl

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN (Chorus Only)

"Shine Jesus Shine"

Kendrick

†BLESSING

†If you are able, please stand.