

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

May 19, 2024

Day of Pentecost
Graduation 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 on MORECAMBE"

Pamela Decker

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brad Simpson

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall fresh on us!

Spirit of the Living God,

Make us a new creation in Jesus Christ.

Spirit of the Living God,

Speak to us God's words of life and love!

Spirit of the Living God,

Mold us into faithful disciples, sharing God's love with the entire world!

Spirit of the Living God,

Make this time and space holy through your presence!

†HYMN #610

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

AZMON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Rick Hovis

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How often, Lord, do we rely on our own strength instead of yours? How often, Lord, do we listen to the voices in and around us instead of yours? How often, Lord, do we follow our own path instead of yours? Forgive us when we do not trust in the words of your Spirit. Help us to embrace your love revealed to us in Jesus Christ and trust your Spirit's ability to lead us wherever you call us to go, *(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.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

RECOGNITION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mary Taneti

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

LITANY

Gathered together, we celebrate and give thanks for the gifts and accomplishments of our graduates. We rejoice for the persistence and hard work that has led to this day, and we glorify the many gifts God has given them to share.

We give thanks for their excitement and energy, their courage and creativity, their wonder and curiosity, and their wisdom and dreams.

We give thanks for parents, teachers, and mentors who have guided and shaped them into the person they were created to be.

Their contributions have blessed and challenged us. We have become a fuller and more diverse community because of them.

With joy, we send our graduates with our love, blessings, prayers, and the knowledge that no matter how far they go, their church remains a home for them, and that this congregation, their church family, supports them.

We thank you for the joy and fellowship that you have shared with us and we give you blessings of love as you journey forth into the world.

Fill each graduate with courage in the face of challenge, integrity in the face of injustice, and discipline in the face of chaos.

May their minds be open to new learnings. May their hearts be open to lasting relationships. May their hands be open to committed service. May their feet lead them on the paths designed by you.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"We Are Held"

Susan Labarr

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:1-4

GOSPEL READING

John 14:25-31

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON

“Fuel From the Fire”

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

†HYMN #688

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

MORECAMBE

†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

"Fughetta on MORECAMBE"

Fred Binckes

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #288

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Toccata in Seven"

John Rutter

†If you are able, please stand.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 GRADUATES

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Alvord Apau-Kese is graduating from Highland School of Technology and will be attending Western Carolina University. Alvord plans to major in Biology.

William Ange Current III (Tripp) is graduating from Forestview High School and will be attending the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. William plans to major in Business.

Joshua Morris Duncan is graduating from Gaston Christian School and will be attending the North Carolina State University. Joshua will join the Exploratory Studies Program.

Karl Kwame Osei-Boateng is graduating from North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Karl plans to major in Public Health with a minor in Biology.

Thomas Carter Robinson is graduating from Forestview High School and will be attending North Carolina State University in the College of Engineering program.

Elizabeth Graham Shine is graduating from Stuart Cramer High School and will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ellie plans to major in Biology on a pre-med track.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Mallory Ann Craig is graduating from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a major in Finance and Collateral in International Business.

Tom David Efird II is graduating from Davidson College with a major in Economics.

Anna Grace Gibson is graduating from University of North Carolina in Charlotte with a major in Exercise Science and a minor in Psychology.

Davis Spencer is graduating from the University of Alabama with a major in Business and minor in Marketing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT FPC

May 24-27 — The church office will close this Friday at 12:00 p.m. for Memorial Day and remain closed through Monday, May 27.

OUTDOOR SERVICE AT WARLICK YMCA

Sunday, May 26, 10:00 a.m., Warlick Family YMCA — Join us at the Warlick Family YMCA for the first Summer service! Bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating as we kick off our summer worship services. Childcare will be provided on-site.

CHURCH SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Friday, May 31 — The church will begin its Summer schedule, closing on Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 2, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary — FPC will begin its summer worship schedule on June 2, having combined services throughout the season.

YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS MINI-MISSION TRIP TO RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

Thursday, June 6, 8:30 a.m. — Our first mini-missions trip will be to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Register by signing up via the Realm Connect App.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND STUDY

Sunday, June 9, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall — Second Sunday Breakfasts start back with Rev. Dr. Joshua T. Morris, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Union Presbyterian Seminary, as a guest speaker.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE PROJECT

June 10-22 — Join us in answering the call to provide beds for children and families in need. The Mission Committee at FPC is pitching in to help starting June 10th, with final delivery on June 22nd. Volunteers of all ages (12 years and up) are welcome, regardless of construction experience. Let's make a difference together! Sign up via the QR code below.

YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN ROTARY GARDEN HARVESTING

Sunday, June 16, 5:00 p.m., Rotary Community Garden — All Young Presbyterians, ages Pre-K to 5th grade, are welcome to be part of this local mission. Parents please drop off and pick up at site. Bring a pair of garden gloves. We will have Tony's Ice Cream after the harvesting.

VBS REGISTRATION

July 21-25 — Sign up for VBS! Visit www.myvbs.org/firstpresgastonia to register. The deadline is July 10. If you want to volunteer, you can sign up via the Realm Connect App!

**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*

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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!

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. Daniel J. Commerford; Rev. Brad Simpson; Mary Taneti; Jill Kimbirl; Matt Smith; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

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

THRIVE

May 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"Spirit/Spirit of the Living God"

Third Day/Iverson

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MINUTE FOR MISSION
Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Rick Hovis

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Brad Simpson

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM
"Holy Spirit Come"

Mayberry, et al

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Acts 2:1-4
John 14:25-31

SERMON SERIES
Responding to the Resurrection

SERMON
"Fuel From the Fire"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION
"Come Thou Fount"

Public Domain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN
"Spirit"

Third Day

†BLESSING

†If you are able, please stand.