

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 19, 2025

Nineteenth 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 GROSSER GOTT"

Diane Bish

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

We worship the God who created the heavens and earth,

And all that dwell in it.

We worship the God who was faithful to Israel,

A faithfulness that spans from generation to generation.

We worship the God who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,

Our Savior who fulfills all God has promised.

We worship the God who speaks to us today through the Holy Spirit.

Let us gather to worship God!

†HYMN #4

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Foundation Strong

Beverly Bradshaw

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess that we get stuck in our ways. We stop keeping pace with your movement in our lives, relationships, and community. Forgive us when we let our fear of what's to come or desire for familiarity prevent us from being faithful to your call for us, (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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1-17

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:36-40

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Curiosity and Courage

SERMON

Some Things Never Change

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #353

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

SOLID ROCK

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The 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

"Interlude in F"

J.F. Knecht

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #353 (verse 1 only)

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

SOLID ROCK

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

C.S. Lang

†If you are able, please stand.

THRIVE

October 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"The Father's House"

Benjamin Hastings, Cory Asbury, Ethan Hulse

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

MOMENT FOR MISSION
Foundation Strong

Beverly Bradshaw

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM
"In Christ Alone"

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Exodus 20:1-17
Matthew 22:36-40

SERMON SERIES
Curiosity and Courage

SERMON
Some Things Never Change

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†SONG OF DEDICATION
"Way Maker"

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING SONG
"In Christ Alone"

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

†BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CURIOSITY AND COURAGE UPDATE

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to share their hopes and dreams for FPC's future by participating in both of the following:

- Online Church Survey (**Opens Tomorrow**): You will receive an email and link to the survey tomorrow morning, and it will be active from **October 20 to November 3**.
- Listening Groups (**November 5-9**): To sign up for a listening group, contact the Church Office, fill out a Connection Card, or scan the QR Code.



90TH BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

October 22, Noon to 1:30 pm, Parlor. You are cordially invited to attend a special luncheon honoring those celebrating 90 years and above birthdays. There is no cost for honorees; however, admission is \$8 per guest, payable at the door.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COVENANT PEOPLE?

Wednesday, October 22, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. Nancy Greene will discuss how Christ changed our relationship with God under the New Covenant in ways that Moses and the Jewish people could not have imagined under the Old Covenant. To avoid food waste, RSVPs are encouraged but not required; register through the Church Office or on Realm. Cost: \$8/person or \$25/family.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Friday, October 24, all day. The church office will be closed for a staff retreat.

TRUNK OR TREAT AND FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26, 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall parking lot. We need your help with ensuring that we have a great supply of backup candy. Please donate candy (individually wrapped Halloween candy), small toys (shop orientaltrading.com), and treats (individually wrapped cookies). Drop off your donations in the baskets placed at the Reception Desk, Memorial Gallery, and Fellowship Hall.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

Sunday, November 9, 11:00 am, Sanctuary. We will gather for one combined service at 11:00 am to participate in the tradition of carrying tartans into the church as we celebrate Kirkin' O' the Tartans and our Presbyterian Scottish heritage. Rev. Matt Conner will be the guest preacher. Join us for a covered dish luncheon following worship in the Fellowship Hall. **If you want to present a tartan, contact Kevin Schultz at 704-960-0940 or schultz.kevinlee@gmail.com by November 6.**

VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, November 11, Noon, Fellowship Hall. Join us for a special luncheon to celebrate our veterans. Michael McMahan, retired US Army Captain, Vietnam War veteran, recipient of the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Valor, the Vietnam Combat Medal with four battle stars, and many other medals and commendations, will be the guest speaker. RSVP through the Church Office or on Realm. There is no cost for honorees; however, admission is \$8 per guest.

VISIT FPCGASTONIA.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



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

Are you interested in becoming a member? Our next reception for new members will be on Sunday, November 2, at 10:05 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. Daniel J. Commerford; Jill Kimbirl; Mary Taneti; Thrive Band

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford; Jill Kimbirl; Mary Taneti; David Jennings

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING OUR HOUSE TOGETHER

The ministries of First Presbyterian Church are made possible by the prayers, time, talents, and financial participation of our congregation. During this stewardship season, we invite you to prayerfully consider your 2026 commitment. Pledge using the QR code, a pledge card, or a pink envelope, available in the Narthex. Completed pledges may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the Church Office.



CONNECT & GROW THIS WEEK

BIBLE STUDY

- **Men's Fellowship & Breakfast:** *Tuesdays, 8:00 am, PAD.*
- **Women's Bible Study:** *2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:30 am, Confirmation Room.*

FPC MEMBERSHIP 101

Sunday, October 26, 10:00 am, Library. Learn what it means to be a member at FPC.

FAITH & FICTION

Sunday, November 2, 4:00 pm, off-site. The book being discussed is The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris.