

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP



TODAY WE COLLECT THE NICKEL-A-MEAL HUNGER OFFERING. These funds go to ministries feeding our neighbors locally and globally.

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS will take place during the 11:00 a.m. worship service next Sunday, January 21.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 28: Boy Scout Sunday and Meal (one worship service at 11:00 a.m. - No Thrive)
January 28: New Member Class (10 a.m. in the Library)
February 4: Souper Bowl of Caring
February 11: Valentine's Dinner
February 14: Ash Wednesday 4+4+4 Event
February 18: Blanket Sunday

THIS WEEK AT FPC (see our website calendar for a full list):

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Thrive (Fellowship Hall)
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
5:30 p.m. Mid-High Youth (PAD)
6:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Monday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - Office closed
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Session Room)
4:30 p.m. Communications (Library)
5:00 p.m. Adult Ministries (Parlor)
5:30 p.m. Membership Development (Library)
6:30 p.m. TED Talks Small Group (Parlor)
7:00 p.m. Thrive Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
7:15 p.m. Young Women's Gathering (Olio's)
Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast (PAD)
10:00 a.m. Sewing Ministry (Sewing Room)
10:30 a.m. RoadRunners Planning (Library)
Noon Prayer Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 p.m. Wee Sing Music (Session Room)
5:35 p.m. Handbells (Sanctuary)
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday: 7:30 a.m. Finance (Session Room)
8:30 a.m. Yoga (Narthex)

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.

PROFESSIONAL NURSERY CARE is offered for infants and children up to five years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Worship activity boards and age-appropriate books related to the scripture lesson are available in the Narthex near the entrance to the Sanctuary. We also have Children's Church every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of each month. Children's Church is a worship experience designed especially for children (kindergarten through grade 3). It begins after A Time for Young Disciples in the worship service and meets in the Shalom Room located in the lower level of the Sanctuary building.

Leading worship today are:

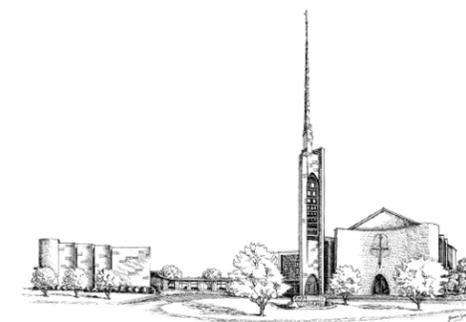
*Rev. Lauren Sease Vaacore, Associate Minister;
Pastor John H. Stanley, Minister of Visitation;
Allison Greene-Simmons, Candidate for Ministry;
Bethany Jennings, Director of Music Ministries;
Guest Organist;*

ANTHEM TEXT

This text is a powerful statement of faith based on Lord's Day 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism: "What is your only comfort in life and death? That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ."

All FPC worship services are streamed live on our website.

www.fpcgastonia.org/watchlive



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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

January 14, 2018
The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
11:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

CARILLON PEAL

Please enter to worship in a spirit of reverence.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP
Pastor John H. Stanley

ORGAN PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Allison Greene-Simmons

We praise you, O God.
You have known us since before we were born.
We love you, O God.
You know us better than we know ourselves.
We worship you, O God.
Your knowledge is more wonderful than we can imagine. e.
We glorify you, O God.
Your creation is ever-changing and ever-amazing.
We praise you, O God.
Your love is with us forever. We worship you in prayer and praise.

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN #643

God of Grace, God of Glory NAN DANKET ALLE GOTT

WE APPROACH GOD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, you have made all of creation and you know each hair on our heads. You know our thoughts—both pure and polluted—and you know our actions—both sincere and sinful. We desperately try to hide our mistakes, our weaknesses, our embarrassments, and yet we can hide nothing from you. Forgive us, Loving God, for all the ways we disappoint and dismiss you. Even as you know the limits of our humanity, we know and trust in the unlimited power of your love. Forgive us, cleanse us, make us whole in and through Christ Jesus our Lord...(silent confession)...Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jill Kimbirl

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM

I Am Not My Own

CRAIG COURTNEY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Psalms 63:1-8

pew Bible, Old Testament pg. 547

Proverbs 8:17

pew Bible, Old Testament pg. 547

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:43-51

pew Bible, New Testament pg. 28

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore
"A Closer Look"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, *The Apostles' 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 Allison Greene-Simmons

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

ORGAN OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY

†PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE BEAR GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #36

Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

AR HYDY NOS

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†CHORAL AMEN

The Congregation is asked to remain standing.

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

PAUL MANZ

†If you are able, please stand.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY IS CAM FOOD DRIVE MONTH

Bring nonperishable food items to fill the baskets near church entrances to fill the shelves at CAM and the stomachs of the hungry in our community!

OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Officers beginning their service this year as part of the class of 2020 will be ordained and/or installed on Sunday, January 21 during the 11:00 worship service.

MINISTRY MEMBERS NEEDED

As we begin the new year most of our ministry teams will need to fill positions as part of the new class. Prayerfully consider where you might be of service to Christ. The pastors or business administrator can help put you in touch with the correct chairpersons.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

The next new member class will be Sunday, January 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Anyone interested in joining FPC or who has questions about the process is welcome and encouraged to attend. A pastor and a few elders will be present to receive you as a new member that morning if you are ready to do so.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMS HAVE RESUMED FOLLOWING THE CHRISTMAS BREAK!

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE FPC APP?

We have a new way to access and share information with one another! The FPC app for your mobile device will give you access to event information, the church calendar, a digital Bible and more! Download it from the Google Play or App Store today! Search for "fpc gastonia".

WEE SING

A new music class for babies and their caregivers! Come sing, dance, listen, move and play simple instruments. The group meets Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the gallery outside of the sanctuary. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jill Kimbirl at jkimbirl@fpcgastonia.org.

YOUNG WOMEN'S MONTHLY GATHERING

Young women, ages 22-35ish, are finding new ways to gather together at FPC! Married or single, with or without children, a ministry has been created to meet you where you are, just as you are! Our study *Woman Overwhelmed: A Bible Study of the Life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus*, is taught by our Associate Pastor, Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore. To be added to the email list or to receive more information, please contact Caroline Hobson at caroline.k.hobson@gmail.com.