

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

An honorary lifetime membership in the presbyterian women organization is conferred upon an Individual in recognition of her faithful service in some area of the church's work and the work of Presbyterian women. Please consider nominating someone you feel worthy of this honor. 2019 Nomination forms are Available at the reception desk. Please return completed forms to the reception desk by march1, 2019.

JOIN A PRESBYTERY MISSION TRIP

Consider these opportunities to help with flood relief hosted by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

- April 28-May 4, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance host site at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington.
- May 5-May 11, NC Council of United Methodists host site at Chestnut St. UMC, Lumberton, NC. Brian Schroeder and Betsy Keith are attending. Brian and Betsy have been on similar trips in the past and are great resources for information.

To register or for more information contact the presbytery office: www.presbyterywnc.org, 828-438-4217. Cost of each trip is \$50. The groups will do repairs such as: gutting (removing damaged walls, ceiling and floors) and otherwise preparing homes for reconstruction (installing insulation, sheetrock, drywall mudding, flooring and painting).

READING BUDDIES NEEDED AT SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY

Consider giving an hour a week to the children who need individual attention and to know someone cares. Contact Gloria Hickson (704-865-6109) to get more information or to get started.

Community Lenten Lunch Series

Meal served at noon for \$6.00. Worship begins at 12:30. A love offering will be received each Wednesday to benefit CAM and The Resource Connection Gateway. The bus will leave from the Chapel side of FPC each week at 11:30 a.m. for those who would like to ride together.

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

- Location: St. Marks (no meal)
- Preacher: Brack East, Holy Trinity Lutheran

March 13

- Location: First Presbyterian
- Preacher: Fr. Lucas Rossi, St. Michael's Catholic

March 20

- Location: St. Stephen's AME Zion
- Preacher: Matthew Kuiken, First ARP

March 27

- Location: St. Michael's Catholic
- Preacher: Felicia Fox, First Baptist

April 3

- Location: All Saints Episcopal
- Preacher: Juston Smith, First UMC

April 10

- Location: First Baptist
- Preacher: To Be Determined

April 17

- Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran
- Preacher: Lauren Sease Vanacore, First Presbyterian

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

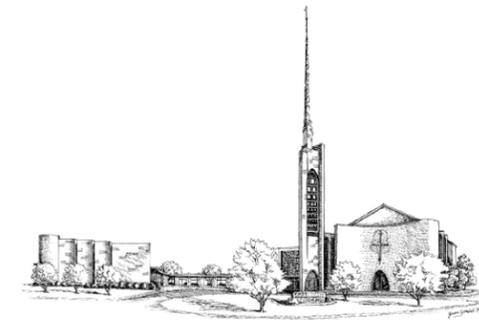
Worship activity boards and age-appropriate books related to the scripture lesson are available in the Narthex near the entrance to the Sanctuary. We also have Children's Church every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of each month. Children's Church is a worship experience designed especially for children (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:

*Pastor John H. Stanley, Minister of Visitation;
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Associate Minister;
Bethany Jennings, Director of Music Ministries;
David Jennings, Organist;
Sanctuary Choir;
Sanctuary Ringers*

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

February 24, 2019

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

HANDBELL PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION
Bell Fanfare
DAVID BROWN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen to the stories of God,
Passed down by the faithful from age to age.
Listen to the Son of God,
Teaching us how to live, love and serve.
Listen to the voice of God,
Proclaiming the broken world "beloved".
Listen and worship, people of God,
For God is here among us.

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN #315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

WE APPROACH GOD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, forgive us when we fail to live in the light of your good news: when we choose politeness instead of kindness, fear instead of love, and routine instead of revelation. Help us to hear your Spirit calling us to new life, and move us to feel your presence wrapping us in love....(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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 pew Bible, Old Testament pg. 42

CHORAL ANTHEM

When In Our Music God is Glorified

ARR BY HAL HOPSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:27-38 pew Bible, New Testament pg. 64

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor John H. Stanley

"Hurting People...Hurt People"

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

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

OFFERTORY

Carillon Celebration

DOUGLAS WAGNER

†DOXOLOGY

†PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

WE BEAR GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #445

God, How Can We Forgive

LEONI

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†CHORAL AMEN *(please remain standing)*

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

†If you are able, please stand.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

March 6th. Service at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ALIVE!

Adult Ministries is pleased to continue its season of Wednesday night programs. The theme of this series will be "Cultivating our Faith". A meal will be served at 5:30 and the program begins at 6:15. Mark your calendar for the following Wednesday nights:

- March 20: Cultivating our faith through music: Presenters are Bethany Jennings and David Jennings.
- April 3: Cultivating our faith during times of transition.
- April 17: Stations of the Cross.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BAKE SALE

Don't miss your chance to get some of the best baked goods and meals around! The bake sale is Saturday, March 2, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cakes, pies, cookies, and casseroles will be first come, first served. The bake sale supports missions projects selected by the Presbyterian Women.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER: MARCH 3

Join the Missions Ministry for a congregation-wide meal packaging event in the Fellowship Hall. We will measure rice and nutritional supplements, bag and box them, and prepare them to be sent to disaster regions around the world. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a ball cap. Please register at the following link: <http://events.stophungernow.org/FirstPresGastonia2019>.

FAITH AND FICTION

Faith and Fiction will meet on Sunday, March 3, at Covenant Village in the Card Room at 4:00 p.m.. We will be discussing Gilead by Marilynne Robinson. Hostesses will be Bev Bryant and Jean Hileman.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

This special worship service will be March 10. We are very excited to welcome Reverend Rebekah Maul, Senior Minister of Wake Forest Presbyterian Church as guest preacher for the day

ROADRUNNERS TRIP

Join the RoadRunners for a trip to the Penland School of Crafts. One bus will leave the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on April 17. Please sign up at the Reception Desk by April 3. The cost is \$12 and includes a box lunch. Please note that there is a lot of walking and a lot of up and down steps on this tour. Only those who are able to make the walk should plan to attend. The group will return in the afternoon.