

## Opportunities for service, study & Fellowship

### WELCOME

We welcome our new Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Cindy Benz and her husband, Steve, the week of April 14th. Please be in prayer for Cindy and Steve as they move to Gastonia.

### 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](http://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).

### 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 27

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

#### April 3

- Location: First Methodist
- Preacher: Shawn Griffith, St. Mark's Episcopal

#### April 10

- Location: First Baptist
- Preacher: Juston Smith, First Methodist

#### 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 Chapel.

*Leading worship today are:*

*Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore*

*Pastor John H. Stanley, Minister of Visitation;*

*Jill Kimbirl, Director of Children's Ministries;*

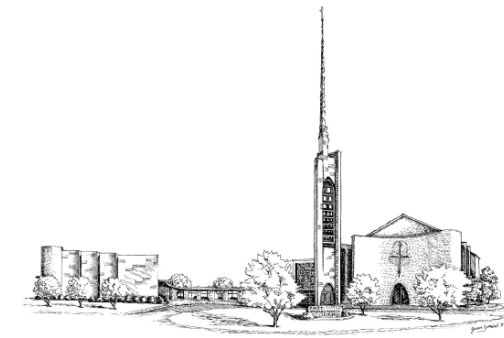
*Bethany Jennings, Director of Music Ministries;*

*David Jennings, Organist;*

*Sanctuary Choir*

All FPC worship services are streamed live on our website.

[www.fpcgastonia.org/watchlive](http://www.fpcgastonia.org/watchlive)



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

704.864.2651 • [www.fpcgastonia.org](http://www.fpcgastonia.org) • streaming live

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

March 24, 2019

Third Sunday in Lent

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 & SILENT MEDITATION

*If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments* PHILIP WILBY

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 63)*

O God, you are our God; we are your people.

Our souls search for you.

**In the sanctuary, O Lord, we look upon you; we behold your glory and your power.**

God's steadfast love is better than all things in this life;

**we will lift our voices in praise.**

God has been our help and in the shadow of God's wings we may sing for joy

**In worship, we cling to God; our souls are upheld by God's almighty hand.**

### †PROCESSIONAL HYMN #13

*The Mighty God with Power Speaks*

KINGSFOLD

## WE APPROACH GOD

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you provide for us in ways we cannot imagine and yet we often complain that you haven't met our expectations. We want for more yet forget what you may want for us instead. We long to control what you do, how you act, whom you favor. Forgive us for acting as if your giving is restricted to what we think is best and when we think you are supposed to do it for us. Forgive us when we try to ration your abundance and when we fail to share your generosity. Fill us again, O God, with your goodness, and nurture our faith, that we may grow in your love as we walk alongside Jesus this Lenten road to Jerusalem... (silent confession)...Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†GLORIA PATRI #581  
*Glory Be to the Father*

GREATOREX

#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jill Kimbirl

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM  
*Be In Our Gathering*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:6-14                      pew Bible, Old Testament pg. 685

#### GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:1-9                      pew Bible, New Testament pg. 76

This is the Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore  
"Cut Off?"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH,  
*Declaration of Faith, 1977; chapter 1, sections 5, 6, 7*

God is at work beyond our story. We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will among all peoples of the earth. We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe. We acknowledge no other God. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God. We praise and enjoy God. To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.

### 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

*Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

MICHAEL BURKHARDT

#### †DOXOLOGY

#### †PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

## WE BEAR GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

#### †HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #738

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

MARYTON

#### †CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### †CHORAL AMEN *(please remain standing)*

#### †ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Fugue from Aylesford Suite*

GF HANDEL

†If you are able, please stand.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

#### OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Due to necessary maintenance and server replacement, the church will be closed the entire day next Friday.

#### 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:

- April 3: Cultivating our faith through fellowship.
- April 17: Stations of the Cross.

#### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Newsletter deadline is March 28. Please send all submissions to [communications@fpcgastonia.org](mailto:communications@fpcgastonia.org).

#### 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.

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

Sunday:	8:00 a.m. Nominating Committee Mtg. 9:00 a.m. THRIVE 10:00 a.m. Seekers SS Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. Youth 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting
Monday:	8:30 a.m. Yoga 9:00 a.m. Bible Moderators 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Council
Tuesday:	9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Missions Ministry Meeting
Wednesday:	7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Sewing Ministry Noon Lenten Luncheon; St. Michael's 5:30 p.m. First Kidz 5:30 p.m. Wee Sing Music 5:35 p.m. Handbells 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Thursday:	Newsletter Deadline 8:30 a.m. Yoga
Friday:	Church Office Closed