

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

ROADRUNNERS TRIP TO LOVE FEAST IN VALDESE

The Roadrunners are planning a trip to Valdese, N.C. on Sunday, December 9th. We will attend a "Christmas Moravian Love Feast" at the Waldensian Presbyterian Church. It is the 125th Year Anniversary of the founding of their community and we are thrilled to be participating in this occasion. Our trip begins in our Church parking lot at 3:30 p.m., attending the hour long Service, and a stop on our way home for supper at Olive Garden in Hickory. Your only cost will be your meal. You can make your reservation at the front office with Donna Kerns. Please join us for a momentous occasion.

MEDICATION TAKEBACK

We ask you to gather your out-of-date and no-longer-needed medications – opioids and other medications, both pills and fluids – and bring them to church on December 9, where a police officer will collect and safely discard them following Drug Enforcement Agency rules. Look for drop-off points near Thrive (8:30-10:00) and the Narthex 10:15-11:15).

SERVICE OF HOPE

The ministers of FPC and FUMC will lead this is a time of worship for those grieving the loss of loved ones or having difficulty with relationships, illness, addiction, depression, or stress. It will be Tuesday, December 11 at both 12:15 and 6:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. RSVP to 704-864-4371. Childcare is available. Refreshments will be served following the service.

THRIVE PRAISE TEAM PRESENTS A MODERN ADVENT CANTATA

On Sunday December 16, please arrive early at 8:45 a.m. for this special selection of music and spoken word to celebrate the season.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & ADVENT VESPERS (FEATURING MEMBERS OF OUR MUSIC MINISTRY)

Come on December 16 at 5:00 p.m. for this special celebration of Advent and Christmas in the Fellowship Hall.

THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMENS GROUPS

We are having a joint Advent/Christmas gathering on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00. We will meet at Grape and Barley and then walk to Lotus for a fellowship dinner.

SUPPORT THE CHILDREN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN HOME

Be a secret shopper or make a donation at the Angel Tree beside the Reception Desk. Contact Rick Hovis with questions or for more details.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next newsletter deadline is December 6 for the edition that will be mailed on December 12. Please send any upcoming events to Jason at communications@fpcgastonia.org and he will publicize them by various means (newsletter, e-blasts, bulletins, screens, etc.). The Communications Ministry will soon have a regular schedule of newsletter deadlines for 2019.

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:

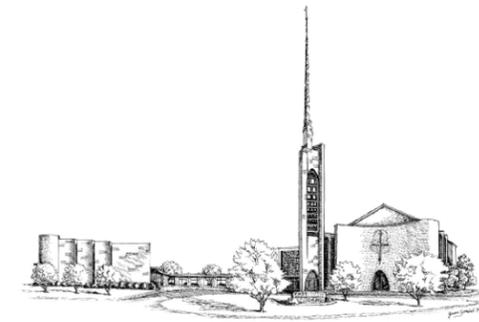
*Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr., Senior Minister;
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Associate Minister;
Pastor John H. Stanley, Minister of Visitation;
Bethany Jennings, Director of Music Ministries;
David Jennings, Organist;*

*The Advent Candle Lighters Today Are:
Deacon and Worship Ministry member, Warren Quarles; and,
PW Council Secretary and FPC Staff Member, Trip Stewart*

*The flowers in the Narthex are presented to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Charlton Kennedy Torrence, Jr. by his family.*

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

December 2, 2018
The First Sunday in Advent
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

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

ORGAN PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Is Sounding (BWV 645) JS BACH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Prophecy Candle/Candle of Hope

Musical Response

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. People who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Why do we light the first candle?

The first candle is the Prophecy candle. This candle reminds us of the prophets who dared to speak of a child to come, our promised Savior. The first candle also represents the hope that the prophets held for a Savior. Because our world is filled with fear, we light this candle trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ dwells among us. We light this candle to bring hope to the world for the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

Musical Response

We give thanks for prophets among us who bring us surprising new visions of hope. Living Christ, give us hope in these days of waiting. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

†PROCESSIONAL PRAISE #140

Once In Royal David's City

IRBY

WE APPROACH GOD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, we listen to every sound but your voice. You ask us to prepare the way, but we stampede to the store. You ask that we level the uneven places, but we wonder what's in it for us. You ask that we proclaim the Good News, but we remain silent. You ask that we be voices in the wilderness, but we wish for gentler surroundings. Forgive us Holy Lord. Give us the focus to prepare, the conviction to transform, the courage to speak, and the resilience to stand sure in your love. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name...(silent confession)...Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

What comfort do you receive from the Good News of God's forgiveness?

That I belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for my sake, so that nothing will ever separate me from God's love.

Hear the Good News! I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

†GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM

Come, Messiah!

LLOYD LARSON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16 pew Bible, Old Testament pg. 738

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 21:25-36 pew Bible, New Testament pg. 85

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr.

"Heavenly Anticipation"

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERATORY

VENI EMMANUEL

ROBERT LAU

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of our salvation, we do not deserve your love and yet you lavish it upon us...(Pastor continues in prayer)... With all of creation, with all peoples in every time and place we join the everlasting chorus:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

(Pastor continues in prayer...)

As we wait, during this blessed rest known as the season of Advent, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

...(Pastor continues prayer)...

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE BEAR GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

†HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

†CHARGE AND BENEDECTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

The Congregation is asked to remain standing.

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

Fantasia on IN DULCI JUBILO (BWV 729)

JS BACH

†If you are able, please stand.

FAITH AND FICTION

Faith and Fiction will meet at the home of Sarah Wentz on Sunday, December 2, at 5:00 p.m. We will be discussing *Long Way Gone* by Charles Martin. Hostesses will be Sarah Wentz, Jean Hileman and Bev Bryant. Lenise Melton will arrange to have the church bus bring everyone from Covenant Village.

CALL TO ADVENT CHOIRS EVENT CANCELLED

The rotating choirs Call to Advent event has been cancelled as other events needed to be added to the church calendar. We appreciate Bethany's efforts and hope we can experience a similar event in the near future.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Anyone interested in becoming a new member or finding out more about that process is invited to our next New Member Class on Sunday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Please let Trip Stewart know you plan to attend (tstewart@fpcgastonia.org). You may join that morning if you are ready to do so.