



First ARP
CHURCH
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

317 South Chester Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
phone: 704.864.3468
www.firstarpchurch.org

The Worship of God
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2020

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Come, let us worship God.

Reflection

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.” - James 1:2

“Trials are medicines which our gracious and wise physician prescribes because we need them; and he proportions the frequency and weight of them to what the case requires.” - John Newton

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Trumpet Tune
Jim Poag, Trumpet & Trip McGill, Organ

John Stanley

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-4

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**All: Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

Prayer of Adoration (concluded by 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.

Confession of Sin

**All: Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.**

**Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.**

**Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

[In these quiet moments, we admit to God our sins and doubts, and ask Him by His Holy Spirit to cleanse us, forgive us, redirect our lives, and grant us renewed faith.]

Assurance of Pardon

Titus 3:4-6

Pastor: *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.*

Song of Thanksgiving

Goodness of God

Johnson, Cash, Ingram

Scripture Reading

James 1:1-8

Sermon

The Refiner's Fire

Rev. Matt Kuiken

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Response, #100

Holy, Holy, Holy!

NICEA

Benediction

Congregational Response

The Church's Doxology

CORONATION

Now, blessed be Jehovah, God, The God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excel, Who only doeth wondrous works, In glory that excel.

And blessed be His glorious Name To all eternity; The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen, So let it be; The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen, So let it be.

Psalm 72/Oliver Holden—The Psalter, The Bible Songs and The ARP Psalter
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If you have a physical or spiritual need, or a concern for the upcoming week, there are elders available to pray with you immediately following the service. The prayer room is located behind the piano area.

Worship care ministries for infants - four year olds are located on the first floor of the education building during the 9:00 and 10:30 services. All members and visitors are required to pick up a parent pager when arriving. Students that are kindergarten age and older, remain in the worship service.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Ben Morrow by his family.

We extend love and sympathy to Paula Dixon on the passing of her mother, Helen Taylor Long on September 6, 2020.

The Refiner's Fire

Rev. Matt Kuiken

James 1:1-8

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Discussion Questions

- What sorts of *trials* might James be referring to?
 - How would you describe “all joy”?
- What does *steadfastness/perseverance* look like in the life of a believer?
- What options are you more likely to consider when trials happen? [ex: anger, fear, flee, attack, pray, seek counsel, fane ignorance, ignore, blame, play the victim]
- What are the differences between perseverance and passivity?

Starts Today!

Fall 2020 Adult Sunday School & Small Groups

9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Elective Chapel/Zoom Topic: 1 Kings Teacher: Walt Windley Leader: Phil Painter	Elective Outdoor Tent Topic: 1 Kings Teacher: Cliff Olson Leader: David Smith
Foundations Room 306/Zoom Topic: Apostles' Creed Leader & Teacher: Mark Forbes	Cross Trainers Room 309/Zoom Topic: James Leader & Teacher: Randy Mumford
New Life Room 305/Zoom Topic: Romans Teacher: Randy Riley Leader: William & Julie Ratchford	Mustard Seed Room 204/Zoom Topic: Ruth Teacher: Tracy Thomason Leaders: Becky & Allen Waters
Small Group Room: Small Dining Room Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Dyksterhouse/Cherry	Women of the Word Room 313/Zoom Topic: James Leaders & Teachers: Joanne, Sarah, Eve & Cathy
Small Group Room: Former Counseling Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Miele/Kirkpatrick	Generations Room 304/Zoom Topic: What is Reformed Theology? Teacher: Dale Gunter Leader: Craig Curtis
7:00 p.m. Via Zoom	Small Group Room: 308 Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Greeson/Dixon
Grier Men's Class Topic: Romans Leader: David Jansen	Small Group Room: Small Dining Room Topic: Sermon Discussion – James Leaders: Adam & Heather Forbes
Youth & Children	
Junior / Senior High Youth Space/Zoom Teacher: Shawn Hubers	Junior / Senior High Youth Space/Zoom Teacher: Truscott McLear
Infant-Fifth Grade Children's Wing Leaders: Ellis Fisher, Micah Bomgaars, Ken Henry	Infant-Fifth Grade Children's Wing Leaders: Rob Parker, Chris McKay

Starts Wednesday, September 16!

FIRST ARP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

The Tabernacle – led by Pastor Matt Kuiken and Ms. Hope Parks (6:30 - 8:00)

Come join Rev. Matt Kuiken and Ms. Hope Parks as we study the significance and symbolism of the Tabernacle. The tabernacle is more than a tent where God met with the people of Israel in the Old Testament. The tabernacle is a theme that runs from Genesis through Revelation, and teaches us important lessons about the Trinity, worship, holiness, covenant, sin, grace, prayer, and fellowship with God. Don't miss this opportunity to go deeper in Scripture your walk with God. In-person seating will only be guaranteed to the first twenty-five who register. The class will also be offered to all who register to attend virtually via zoom. More details to follow. Register either "in-person" or "virtual."

The Doves – led by Courtney McKeown (Welcome Center/Patio)

The Doves seek to grow to be more like Jesus as we study God's Word, fellowship in community, serve our neighbors, and worship Him alongside one another. Our goal is to not just be hearers of Truth, but doers of Truth in our families, work places, and communities. All women are invited, welcomed, and encouraged to join this one of a kind group of sisters on Wednesday nights for Bible study and fellowship! We will be studying Melissa Kruger's *The Envy Of Eve*. Purchase a book if desired.

The Christian Man – led by Church-Planting Intern Mark Forbes (Room TBD)

Patrick Morley walks us through finding confidence in the identity matters most: *the Christian Man*. We will explore questions like:

- How can I lead a more balanced life?
- How can I have a deeper walk with God?
- What makes a great husband?
- How can I become a dad who makes a difference?
- How should I think about my work?
- What's the right way to deal with lust?

Children's Ministries - F. R.O. G. "Family Nights Around the Table"

We invite families with children ages Two - Fifth grade to join us in the Fellowship Hall where we will enjoy socially distanced games, crafts, music and Bible study together. No two nights will be the same!

F. R.O.G. . . . Fully Relying on God!

Nursery available for children two and under.

Youth Grades 6-12 - A Well-Lived Life: The 10 Commandments (In-Person in the Youth Space and also via Zoom)

Ministry Updates

- **Join us for breakfast this morning** at 10am in the courtyard to kick off our new church schedule. Bojangles biscuits and more will be served.
- **Youth Group (grades 6-12) starts back tonight, 6:30-8pm!** The MAC gym will open at 6pm if you want to come early. We'll meet on the back patio for youth group. Bring a mask in case we need to move inside because of rain.
- **High School Bonclarken Retreat, Sept. 25-27.** Sign up today with Amanda arankin@firstarpchurch.org
- **F.R.O.G. Family Groups Begin on Wednesday Night!** These interactive, socially-distanced family nights will be hosted in the fellowship hall around the tables from 6:30-7:30pm. **Fully Relying On God**, we'll combine Bible Study with lots of fun so that no two nights will be the same. *(a nursery will be available for infants and toddlers)*
- **There's Still Time** – Sign up for our “Homework Holiday” visits during the months of September and October! Visit our Children’s Ministry to access the sign-up form. <https://bit.ly/FARPChilWeb>
- **The West Gastonia Boys and Girls Club** needs two items; notebook paper and individually packaged snacks! Drop off donations in front of Mrs. Maney’s office or leave them at the main entrance.
- **Open Gym! Adult Basketball** - Thursday nights, 6:30-8:30pm in the MAC gym starting Sept. 17.
- **Women’s Ministries** - *Saints and Scoundrels Bible Study* - Video Study by Nancy Guthrie; Thursdays 9/17 – 11/19 (11am -12pm in the fellowship hall; 1pm -2pm – via Zoom). Contact Betsy to sign up (704-718-0026). Thanksgiving Devotional writers needed! Contact Karen Willis for more information or to sign up (704-868-0571).
- **First ARP Monument Sign Removal** - Saturday, Sept. 19 at 8:00am. If you would like to participate, call Billy Marino at 704-271-4497.
- **Congregational Meeting** - Please join us on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 10-10:15am in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on church officers.
- **Tree Memorials/Honorariums** - How blessed we are to have beautiful oak trees planted on our new church campus. If you would like to purchase a memorial/honorarium in recognition of someone, please contact Wade Huss at (cell) 704-813-7208 or (work) 704-271-4449.
- **Got Heart** - Saturday, October 24 (8-12pm). Mark your calendars for our annual neighborhood fall family service day! We will be doing all outdoor projects this year to maintain distance. There will be opportunities for all ages to participate.
- **Foster Closet** - We have a great team in place to begin this new ministry at our church! The Foster Closet seeks to help foster families receiving children with immediate needs (within 24 hours of placement) such as clothing, diapers, baby gear, and bedding. Drop offs, sorting, storage, packing and pick up will all be on our church campus now! If you would like more information about how you can serve contact Court at cmckeown@firstarpchurch.org.
- **Cougar Academy** - Please be in prayer for this new ministry to middle schoolers within our community. This month we began hosting a Wednesday day camp for students in the MAC. Thank you to over 40 volunteers who are committed to serve!
- **Pleasant Ridge Elementary Outdoor Toy Drive** - (sponsored by Foster & Riley Rouse). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, teachers must find creative ways for children to play outside. You can help by ordering items from this Amazon wish <http://bit.ly/PRtoydrive>. You can also donate money and Foster & Riley will shop for you. For more info., contact Foster at 704-813-6587 or fosterrouse@aol.com or Riley at 704-813-7654, rileybentonrouse@aol.com. Donation box is located in the 1st flr. elevator lobby area.

Prayer Concerns

- **All Missionaries** – ministry and safety
- **Ann Cain** – under Hospice care
- **Julie Champion's father** – under Hospice care
- **Carlton Dixon** – at home improving
- **Paula Dixon and family** – passing of Paula's mother, Helen Taylor Long on 9/6
- **Joe Erwin** – health concerns
- **Haiti** – pray for Haiti generally and our sister church, Source Baptiste
- **Mike Haley** – has a rare, non-aggressive cancer; no treatments now; scans every 6 months
- **Brice Huffstetler** – health concerns
- **Joseph Kendrick's sister, Metoka Camp** – battling ovarian cancer
- **Gay McKeown (Trey McKeown's mother)** – kidney failure; on dialysis
- **Amelia Pritchett** – health concerns
- **Betty Smith** – under Hospice care at Robin Johnson House

Financial Update

	<u>As of 8/31/20</u>
Revenues	\$ 954,562.22
Expenses	<u>933,137.04</u>
Net surplus (deficit)	\$ <u>21,425.18</u>

Wedding Anniversaries

Tom & Mary Rose Campbell	9/14/1957	63 years
Jack & Cindy Lear	9/14/1985	35 years
Gus & Miriam Connor	9/15/2002	18 years
Mike & Beth Craig	9/16/1979	41 years
Mark & Annemarie Couture	9/17/1977	43 years
David & Susan Jennings	9/21/1974	46 years
Eli & Christine Kiem	9/21/2013	7 years
Tom & Polly Graham	9/25/1971	49 years
Russ & Becky McKay	9/30/1961	59 years

September Birthdays

David Bolder—9/13	Nixon Sipe—9/20
Loretta Horne—9/13	Edwina Franklin—9/21
Sullivan Keever—9/13	Houston Kelly—9/21
Beth McGill—9/13	Leanne Stowe—9/21
Angie Dixon—9/14	Wade Huss—9/22
Vivian Kiem—9/14	Jimmy Jones—9/22
Eddie Nolen—9/14	Hannah Morrow—9/22
Lillian Smith—9/14	Linda Powers—9/22
Harper White—9/14	Libby Cunningham—9/23
Andrew Farrar—9/15	Bella MacLaren—9/23
Joseph Grasselli—9/15	Claire Garrity—9/24
Matt Adams—9/16	Chris McKay—9/24
Julie Ratchford—9/16	Angela Readling—9/24
Jeanene Rushing—9/16	Jenny Dockery—9/25
Tim Schaap—9/16	Elizabeth Ferguson—9/25
Liza Gwynne Wharton—9/16	Anne Hanna—9/25
John Gray—9/17	Ben Starnes—9/25
Lisa Buchanan—9/18	Courtney McKeown—9/26
Noah Kiem—9/18	Natalie Sneed—9/26
Daniel Phillips—9/18	Jo Ann Sytz—9/26
Gloria Rhyne—9/18	Carson Champion—9/29
Tammy Cherry—9/19	Melanie Henry—9/29
Olivia Garvin—9/19	Isaac Toro—9/29
Dan McCurry—9/20	Tammy Bryant—9/30
Bill Rouse—9/20	Heather Potter—9/30
	Betsy Smith—9/30

SESSION

Matt Kuiken, Moderator

Josh Hjermvick, Vice Moderator

Gene Martin, Clerk

2020
Micah Bomgaars
Ellis Fisher
Gene Martin
Truscott McLear
Gary Miller

2021
John Connor
Ken Henry
Morris Keeter
David W. Smith, III
Joe Summerville

2022
Fred Caldwell
Vincent Cherry
Andy Dyksterhouse
Walter Payne
Bob Rouse

2023
Artie Cooper
Ron Kirkpatrick
Randy Mumford
Phil Painter
David Smith

ELDERS EMERITUS

Bob Barnhill
Tom Campbell
Maurice Canaday
Charles Ferguson
Lin Hollowell

Brice Huffstetler
Tete Pearson
Bob Sytz
Joe West
Oscar Whitescarver

DIACONATE

2020
Matt Adams
Tom Balsom
Gene Barber
Robert Heussy
Frank Hinson
Chris McKay

2021
Brian Cerilli
Mike Harwell
Shawn Hubers
David Jansen
Rob Parker
Greg Starnes

2022
Butch Boyd
Tim Daniels
Billy Israel
Mark Miele
Richard Pearson
William Ratchford
Jeff Stowe

TRUSTEES

2020
Bob Barnhill

2021
Wade Huss

2022
Charles Ferguson

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Rick Craig.....Chairman
Gene Martin.....Secretary
Jerry Best.....Treasurer

FIRST ARP WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Carol Hayes.....Advisor
Jan Adams.....Advisor Elect
Gayle Goodrich.....Past Advisor
Bonnie Jansen.....Secretary
Alice Auten.....Treasurer

MINISTERS

The members of this church family who in serving their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, extend Deep Roots into God's Word and Wide Reach into God's World.

STAFF

Matt Kuiken.....Senior Pastor.....mkuiken@firstarpchurch.org
Josh Hjermvick.....Associate Pastor of Youth and Families.....jhjermvick@firstarpchurch.org
Tammy Baker (704-271-4395).....Financial Secretary.....tbaker@firstarpchurch.org
Phil Biedenbender.....Chancel Choir Director.....pbiedy@gmail.com
Julie Clark.....Interim Assistant Director of Children's Ministry.....jclark@firstarpchurch.org
Betsy Forbes.....Director of Women's Ministries.....bforbes@firstarpchurch.org
Mark Forbes.....Church Planting Intern.....mforbes@firstarpchurch.org
Barbie Harwell (704-472-0508).....Church Hostess.....harwellx6@gmail.com
Wanda Henderson (704-271-4398).....Church Secretary.....whenderson@firstarpchurch.org
Wade Huss (704-271-4449).....Facilities Coordinator.....whuss@firstarpchurch.org
Rebecca Maney (704-271-4409).....Director of Children's Ministry.....rmaney@firstarpchurch.org
Billy Marino (704-271-4497).....Church Administrator.....bmarino@firstarpchurch.org
Trip McGill.....Director of Music and Organist.....tripmcgill@gmail.com
Courtney McKeown.....Director of Neighborhood and Sports Ministry.....cmckeown@firstarpchurch.org
Milette Oden.....Director of Children's Music Ministry.....unacordanc@gmail.com
Wes Phillips (980-522-8671).....Christway Counseling.....wesleyscottphillips@gmail.com
Amanda Rankin.....Female Youth Assistant.....arankin@firstarpchurch.org
Mercede Romero.....Activities Coordinator.....mromero@firstarpchurch.org
Mike Watson.....Maintenance Supervisor.....micheal_watson66@yahoo.com
Tari Williamson.....Director of Christian Education and Discipleship.....tarimarie.w@gmail.com

Welcome to our church community. To receive the information listed below, please print clearly, tear off and place in the offering plate.

I would like more information about:

- Learning about Christianity
- Becoming a Church Member
- Sunday School Community
- Small Groups
- Serving on Sunday Mornings
- Outreach Ministries
- Women's Ministries Opportunities
- Men's Ministries Opportunities

Please add me to the following lists:

- Children's Ministry Newsletter
- Youth Ministry Parent Updates

- Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Name: _____

Email: _____

Spouse: _____

Spouse's Email: _____

Children: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____

Weekly Events

Sunday, September 13

- 9:00am Outdoor Worship / Sunday School / Small Groups
- 10:00am Kick-off Breakfast in the Courtyard
- 10:30am Worship in Sanctuary / Sunday School / Small Groups
- 4:00pm Growing Together Mentor Training via Zoom (4-4:45)
- 6:30pm Youth Group - MAC

Monday, September 14

- 11:30am Intercessory Prayer Time - Prayer Room
- 7:30pm AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 15

- 6:30am Dawn Prayer Meeting - Sanctuary & Virtual
- 1:15pm Community Women's Virtual Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

- 8:30am Cougar Academy - MAC
- 5:30pm Junior Choir - Choir Room
- 5:30pm Youth Choir - Sanctuary
- 6:00pm Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary
- 6:00pm Bag supper for Junior and Youth Choirs
- 6:30pm Wednesday Night Adult Electives
- 6:30pm Youth Ministries - Youth Center
- 6:30pm Children's Ministries - F.R.O.G.
- 6:30pm Adult Choir, Group 1 - Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Adult Choir, Group 2 - Choir Room

Thursday, September 17

- 7:00am Men's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall
- 11:00am Saints & Scoundrels Bible Study (in person) Fellowship Hall
- 1:00pm Saints & Scoundrels Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday, September 18

- 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00am Men's Virtual Prayer Time

Saturday, September 19

- 8:00am First ARP Monument Sign Removal