

CHURCH CURRENTS

OCTOBER 2024

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgeville.org



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PRESBYTERIANS

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061





First Presbyterian Church



Issue No. 339 October 2024

Pastor:
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Childcare is
temporarily
unavailable

Beloved,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Christ! I give thanks to God for you daily, and pray for your wellbeing and spiritual health. Your faithfulness in being family to one another makes me proud!

Three years ago, I became eligible for a sabbatical, and a congregational vote approved one as part of my Terms of Call. We began making plans, which included applying for a grant from the Lily Foundation Clergy Renewal Program. My mother's death in 2022 derailed our application that year, and we were denied last year. This year, our grant has been approved, and it includes \$15,000 for the congregation for your part of the renewal process. Next summer, while I am away, our congregation will undertake some spiritual work regarding our identity, mission, and where we're heading. Without this grant, we would not have the resources to do this, and I believe it will be very important work.

The theme for my sabbatical is pilgrimage, and I will engage in several activities that involve tending to my own spirit, visiting holy and sacred sites, and reconnecting with family. While you graciously granted me a month away just recently for some much-needed rest, this sabbatical will have an entirely different focus—not just “unplugging” but plugging myself in to a fresh power supply.

When we rejoin at the end of the summer, we will have the opportunity to share with one another what we have each learned—me about myself, and you about our church. I believe that the experience will be a well-timed one, as I celebrate my tenth anniversary with you next November, and as we celebrate 200 years of faithful ministry as a church.

As always, I am grateful for you.

In Christ, Rev. Susan

Have you ever wondered why we ask the congregation to sign up to provide Fellowship Refreshment or Sanctuary Flowers? It's quite important for several reasons:

1. **Community Involvement:** It helps foster a sense of community and involvement among congregation members. When people sign up to contribute, they're actively participating in church life and contributing to the overall atmosphere and experience.
2. **Organization and Planning:** Sign-ups provide structure and help with planning. It ensures that there's a steady flow of flowers and refreshments without last-minute scrambling. It also helps in managing resources and avoiding duplication or shortages.
3. **Appreciation and Recognition:** It allows the church to acknowledge and thank those who contribute, which can be encouraging and affirming for those who give their time and resources.
4. **Consistency:** Regular contributions ensure that there's a consistent experience for attendees, which can be important for maintaining the aesthetic and hospitality standards of the church.
5. **Minimizing Burden:** By distributing the responsibility among many people, it reduces the burden on any single individual or group, preventing burnout and making it more manageable for everyone involved.

Overall, while it might seem like a small detail, having people sign up can significantly enhance the sense of community and smooth operation of church activities.

**Please consider signing up once every six months and we'd never be without!
Current sign up sheets for Sanctuary Flowers and Refreshments are on the
kitchen refrigerator.**

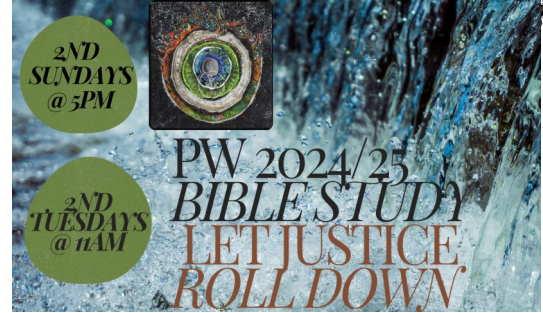




CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



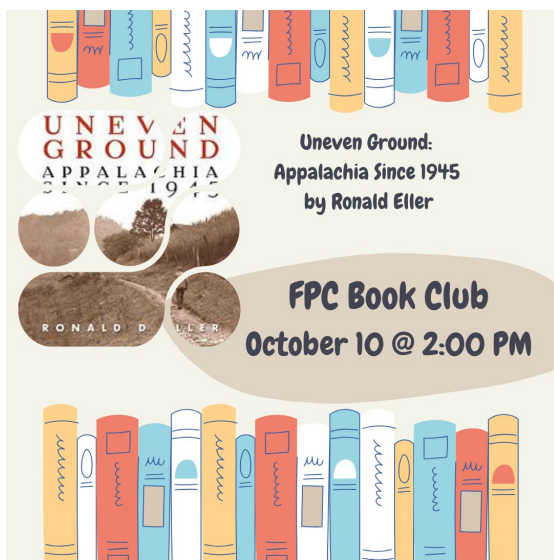
Reminder to PW of our meetings in October:
 Our Sunday group will meet on the 13th and the Tuesday group will meet on the 8th. Please note the difference between these dates. If anyone from the Tuesday group would like to donate snack items for the Domestic Violence walk please bring the items on that Tuesday to help pack the snack bags.



If anyone still needs a study guide for this year please let Lois know. She can order a few more. They are still \$15, which is a real bargain.



Lockerly Arboretum is staying open late on Tuesdays and Thursdays during October in celebration of 'Walktober.' Join us on a family friendly hike through the gardens at Lockerly, ending with hot cider and cookies on **Tuesday, October 29, at 5:30 PM.**



The First Presbyterian Church book club will meet on **Thursday, October 10 at 2:00 PM** in the church parlor. We will be discussing the book *Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945* by Ronald D. Eller. Eller examines the politics of development in Appalachia since World War II. Appalachia's struggle to overcome poverty, to live in harmony with the land, and to respect the diversity of cultures and the value of community is also an American story. In the end, Eller concludes Appalachia was not different from the rest of America; it was in fact a mirror of what the nation was becoming.

The book selection for November is *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869* by Stephen E. Ambrose. In this *New York Times* bestseller, the author brings to life the story of the building of the transcontinental railroad. It is a story of the men who built the railroad: the investors who risked their money; the engineers and surveyors who risked their lives; and, most importantly, the Chinese and Irish immigrants and former Confederate soldiers who did the backbreaking work of laying the tracks. Through Ambrose's words, this huge undertaking comes alive.

Please join us for a lively discussion of interesting literature.~ Millie Murphy



Milly Free Fridge is in need of regular volunteers to clean the fridge and the area around it.

Make plans to join us Sunday, October 27th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge and cleaning out the fridge when we deliver our donations.

Please bring any of the following: Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks.
We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

Samaritan Ministry

This month, we saw the largest group of people requesting assistance in a very long time. There was a line of more than 20 people who waited outside of the church starting around 8:30 AM. It was with a heavy heart that we turned away the majority of those seeking assistance. We helped 7 families either keep their utilities on or get them turned back on with our assistance. Thank you for helping us to continue offering this ministry to those in need. Bill and Marion have been faithfully tending this ministry and we are grateful to them for this help.



The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, October 15 at 9:30 AM.



In September, the FPC Food Pantry served 51 households, 7 of them new and one returning after a couple of years. We could certainly have

done more if the food had been available; we ran out every week, sometimes in just 10 minutes. If our funding increases, or the in-kind donations do, we can do more. Please help as much as you can - and thanks in advance for sharing your blessings!

~Donna Gautier















Food Pantry staples list:

Canned soups, canned pasta, canned ham, tuna, salmon, and chicken; boxed mac & cheese, grits, oatmeal, and/or cereal; peanut butter & jelly; canned fruit and vegetables





October

		<p>1 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis</p> 
<p>6 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship-World Communion 1:00 UMC Bridge</p> 	<p>7 7:00 MSG</p> 	<p>8 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 PW Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis</p> 
<p>13 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 1:00 UMC Bridge 5:00 PW Bible Study</p> 	<p>14 6:30 PFLAG</p>  	<p>15 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis 5:30 Session Meeting</p> 
<p>20 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship 1:00 UMC Bridge 1:30 Homeless Awareness Club</p> 	<p>21 6:30 PFLAG 7:00 MSG</p>  	<p>22 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis</p> 
<p>27 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity 1:00 UMC Bridge</p>	<p>28 7:00 MSG</p> 	<p>29 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 5:30 Family Fun Hike</p> 



JER. 31:31-34
 GOD WILL WRITE
 A NEW COVENANT
 ON THEIR HEARTS

PSALM 46
 GOD IS OUR REFUGE









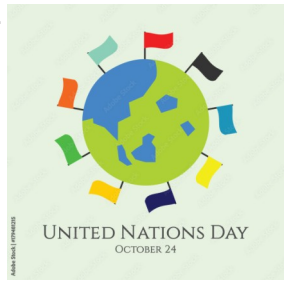

ROMANS 3:19-28
 JUSTIFIED by GRACE
 through FAITH

JOHN 8:31-36
 WHEN THE SON SETS YOU FREE
 YOU ARE FREE INDEED!

Reformed and ALWAYS Reforming

2024



<p>2 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study</p>  	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study</p>  	<p>10 2:00 FPC Book Club</p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10:00 March Against Domestic Violence</p> 
<p>16 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>23 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study</p>  	<p>24</p> 	<p>25 5:00 Trunk or Treat</p> 	<p>26 9:00-2:00 College of Elders Retreat</p> 
<p>30 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study</p>  	<p>31</p> 		

Elders on Session

Class of 2026 ~ Wesley Applebury (At Large) Charles Burrell (Congregational Care) Jennifer Flory (Worship) Pat Henry (Finance) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Joel Respass (Property) Anne Smart (Christian Education)

Operations: The church office is open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please call the office for an appointment



YOUTH MINISTRY



**CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
10:15am, Craft
Room Upstairs

Youth Group restarts October 6, directly after worship service. Expect pizza, games and fellowship as we get back into the Youth Group groove! Make plans to join us.



We've got a place for you!
WELCOME
TO OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. - 1 Timothy 4:12

**Restarting
Youth Group**

October 2024

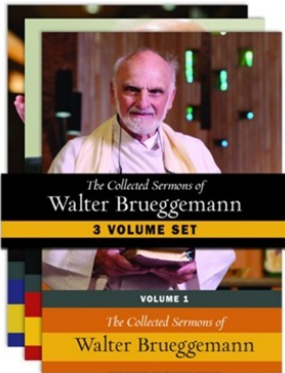


It seems like we just got back from Montreat! And yet it is time to start looking ahead to the Montreat Youth Conference 2025! In the last two years, we raised funds through dinners and activities and had a lot of fun doing it.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to raise the full cost of the trip. We will still have our themed dinner fundraisers and expect to raise enough to cover the program fees. However, to cover the cost of room and board, Christian Education Elder Anne Smart and Rev. Susan have decided to establish sponsorships and limit the number of youth participating. We anticipate sending three chaperones and five youth in 2025. Please consider helping our youth experience this amazing opportunity to explore their faith.

Full Sponsorship: \$650
Half Sponsorship: \$325

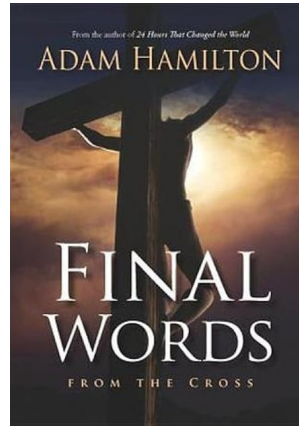
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Bible Sunday School class continues to meet via ZOOM. This conveniently allows us to study and learn in an informal manner from the comfort of our home computer, on a tablet or

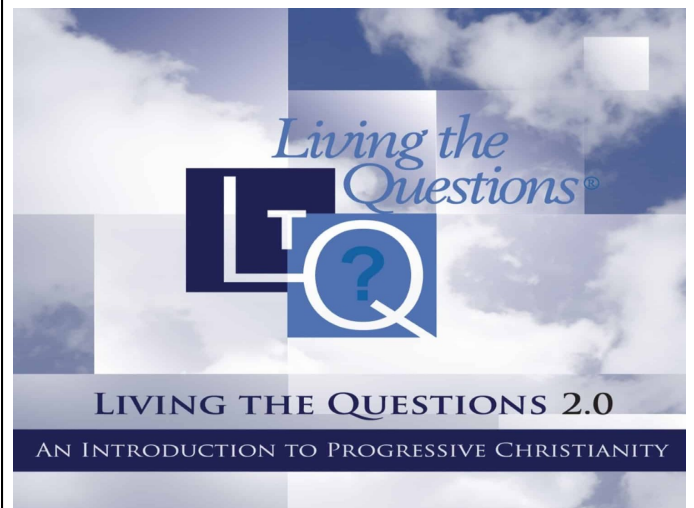
on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM**. We are discussing the sermons in the second volume of *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*. This collection is organized to match the seasons of the church calendar. The material is thought provoking and fresh. If you have never encountered Professor Brueggemann's work you are in for a treat. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable, he also has a great sense of humor. I hope a number of you will join us. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link. ~Joel D. Burns

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are studying *Final Words From the Cross* by Adam Hamilton. This group meets in person in the parlor room **every Sunday morning at 9:45**

AM. We would love to have you join us. ~Bill Werts



WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. For a few more weeks we are engaging in a video series, **Living the Questions 2.0**. This series features progressive Christians who help us think deeply about our faith. Each session is somewhat independent from the others so if you can't get there a particular week, you can still enjoy the ones you can attend. After we complete this study we will find another exciting topic. *The pot luck begins at 6:30 P.M. If you do not wish to participate in the pot luck, the discussions begin about 7:00 P.M.* Please join us . ~Joel Burns



There are ten changes that the General Assembly 226 adopted that are listed on the handouts available in the Narthex. We continue to highlight a few each month.

Medical coverage, small church flexibility

GAEC-28 asks mid councils to work with the Board of Pensions to explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans for Pastors and Spouse or Families to help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present medical coverage options for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.

GA unanimously agreed to develop educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church.

Divestment from occupier countries

GA unanimously adopted a commissioner’s resolution asking The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions, the two primary investing arms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to “prayerfully consider” ending their investments in government debt from countries “engaged in prolonged military occupation,” currently defined by the United Nations as Israel, Morocco and Turkey.

Protecting children from gun violence

DOE-03, an overture calling for action so that children can live free from gun violence, passed easily in committee but was removed from the consent agenda so the entire assembly could hear testimony about it. Following heart-wrenching witness, co-moderator Tony Larson spoke and said, “The stories are important, but they are hard. They are important because they have residence in our communities.” DOE-03 passed the assembly unanimously.



TREASURER'S CORNER

I realize that my appeals may seem like a broken record, but we continue to give less than the church needs to accomplish its mission. Our finance committee is working to organize a stewardship drive for later this year, but in the meantime we need our members to give an extra few dollars to the church.

Please support the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry. All of our work is an effort to follow the example of Jesus. ~Joel D. Burns

	July	August	2024 YTD
Contributions	\$12,816	\$29,494	\$128,151
Other Income	\$1,743	\$997	\$8194
Designated Funds Received	\$4,311	\$2,036	\$22,090
Total Income	\$18,870	\$32,527	\$158,435
Budgeted Expenses	\$18,366	\$22,633	\$174,680
Designated Funds Spent	\$1,635	\$3,474	\$40,977
Total spent	\$20,001	\$26,107	\$215,657
Net (Loss)	(\$1,131)	\$6,420	(\$57,222)

FPC Presbyterian Women have supported the Baldwin County Solicitor General's Office with money to provide babysitting for the In Our Best Interest group and also by creating snack bags for the March Against Domestic Violence in October that recognizes those who died due to domestic violence in Baldwin County. The march this year begins at the County Court House and ends at Allen's Market where there is a short vigil for those we have lost in previous years. Make plans to join us in the march on **Saturday, October 12 at 10:00 AM**, wearing something purple in honor of those affected by domestic violence. Reverend Susan will be saying a short prayer at the vigil, along with other community members.

First Presbyterian Church is once again participating in the annual Trunk



or Treat event put on by Bodyplex at the Walter B. Williams Park on **Friday, October 25 from 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM**. This event allows young and old alike to safely trick or treat with the option to play in bounce houses and snack on corndogs, popcorn and more. We ask that the congregation help by donating as much candy as you wish. Please make sure it is nut free. **You can drop off candy at the office before October 25th, the day of the Trunk or Treat.** Want to get more involved? We could always use more people to hand out the candy. Make sure to come in costume- the kids love that!



Help Wanted: We would like to have the nursery available during Sunday services to those under the age of 5. To do so would require two adults each Sunday in the nursery. If you would be willing to participate in this ministry, please contact



NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anne Smart via text or phone(478-454-8613). You would only be in the nursery if a child (or children) 5 years old or younger is in attendance.

Thank you,
Anne Smart
Christian Education



PRAYER REQUESTS



Church Family:

Wesley Applebury, cancer recurrence and treatment, attending seminary in Atlanta,
**Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr.,
Decatur, GA 30030**

Jack Bivens, ongoing health concerns- at Autumn Lane in Gray, GA. **Cards can be sent to :
136 County Line Road, Haddock, GA 31033**

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Ellen Thompson, in need of two hip replacements

Extended Family:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues

Brad Blackham, friend of Jennifer Flory, open heart surgery/valve replacement and recovery

Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, ongoing health concerns

Bella Covone, Susan Balfour's niece, idiopathic hypertension

Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Marshall Hodgman, Donna Gautier's son, recovering from heart surgery at home

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Ben Morgan, Jennifer Flory's brother, ongoing concerns

Janie Mullis, Bill Werts' son-in-law's mother, ongoing health concerns

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall

Paul Schrage, Carrie Cook's father, ongoing health concerns

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis

Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns

Special friend of Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns

Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments

Jeanene Vinson, former secretary at FPC, ongoing health concerns

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

In Assisted Living:

George and Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin, GA 31021

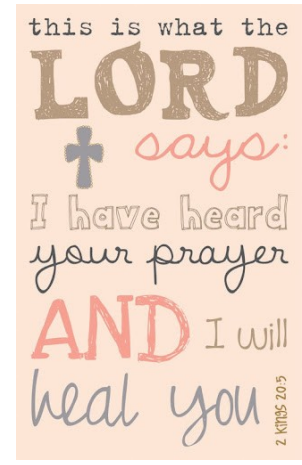
Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Jackie Northington, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 3303

Suzy Smith, Savannah Court, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

**Limited
Mobility**
Helen Danuser

Military Service
Will Deason
Rebecca Elangwe
(Both are
Reservists)



Anniversaries

October 4~ Don & Jane Braxley



Birthdays

- October 1~ Bob Smart
- October 4~ Linda Bradley
- October 8~ Astrid Callender
- October 8~ Craig Callender
- October 9~ Holley Cowan
- October 23~ Tammi Ritchie
- October 24~ Mary Baker
- October 24~ Becky Henderson
- October 30~ Doris Moody

