

CHURCH CURRENTS

NOVEMBER 2024

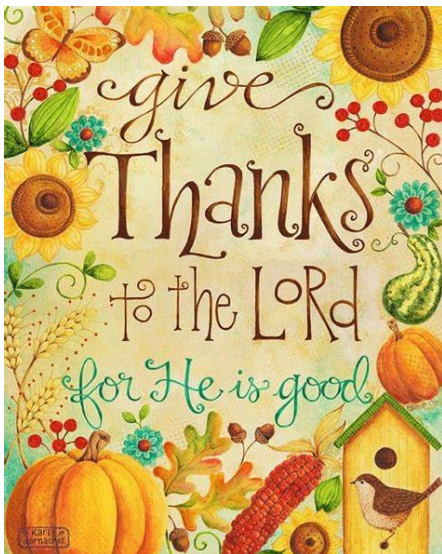
210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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



Join us on Sunday mornings on WKZR
102.3 FM or via Facebook Live

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061



First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 340 November 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

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Emotional and Spiritual Care Offerings are responsive to the challenges posed by the effects of natural disasters, the tragedy of mass shootings and other human caused disasters. Please contact Kathy Riley, PDA national staff and Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care at Kathryn.riley@pcusa.org for more information or to schedule a program. All PDA programs are offered at no cost and can be offered in person or virtually.

Faith Leader Support Discussions are tailored to the participants' situation, offering the opportunity for reflection and tools for self-care and resilience and responds to questions and comments from faith leaders. 1:1 conversations with PDA team members are also available.

Resilience & Renewal is a half-or full-day program designed for those who have been immersed in disaster response or who could benefit from a resilience-focused retreat. Participants explore the essentials of healing and resilience-building tools, including story telling, relaxation and self-care techniques, spiritual practices, and strengthening positive connections with others. Our goal is to provide an opportunity to experience respite throughout the day, learn new tools, and take home a personalized self-care plan that can be used in everyday life.

Tools for Building Resilience is designed to increase participants' understanding of their own signs of stress and to teach in-the-moment strategies to handle stress. Those attending will build on their experience while practicing new tools that have been shown to be effective in sustaining an individual's capacity to serve.

Building Hope, Resilience and Compassion in Times of Stress, we explore some of the ways the challenges and stresses of our work can affect us, including compassion fatigue, secondary traumatic stress and burnout with a focus on enhancing our ability to respond in healthy ways to stress. We'll share strategies that can help in preventing or reducing these effects, including relaxation and resilience-building tools, mindfulness and sharing our story with trusted others. We'll also spend time with compassion satisfaction and the ways our work and other aspects of our lives can bring joy and growth. It can be offered in a half-or full-day format.

Offering Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care After a Natural or Human Caused Disaster.

Although faith community leaders and others are trained to provide quality emotional and spiritual care, the disaster environment presents distinct challenges. PDA offers a program for becoming equipped to offer appropriate and respectful disaster emotional and spiritual care. The program is tailored to the group's needs and can be presented in 2-6 hours, depending on the particular group's interests. We offer this program in "blue sky" times to prepare groups for offering care, or it can be presented shortly after a disaster in an abbreviated format to those who feel called to serve in this way in response to the disaster.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

This year, Stewardship Season is November 10 to December 1

In the next few weeks, we will be making decisions about our annual pledge to the Church. We may ask ourselves: "What is the purpose of our pledge?"

Familiar hymns speak to me whenever we sing them. Their lyrics remind me of the blessings we receive as members of God's Kingdom here at Milledgeville First.

We sing about the ties that bind us together in Christian love. So, what are the ties?

I think our baptism makes us a part of God's kingdom as well as the sharing of the Lord's Supper. Baptism is not only about water and kind words being said over and to us - it is about making a commitment and a decision to live the Christian life. Communion is more than just bread and juice from the fruit of the vine - Jesus commanded us to do this in his memory. Other ties that bind us to God's Kingdom and each other are hymns, confessions, and creeds.

So, what does our church do with our pledged money? Part of it is used for the upkeep of our physical building, but the building is not the church. It is the place where we gather together to worship and offer thankful praise to God for all our

blessings. Our pledges pay for equipment, utilities, resources, and of course, salaries of our employees. Another great and valuable part of our pledges is support for community, national, and global missions.

- Remember, when we pledge it is not just financial - we also pledge our time and talent. Everyone has a talent and most have time to do something, if only to make telephone calls or send notes.

Love and blessings to all. ~Nancy Miller



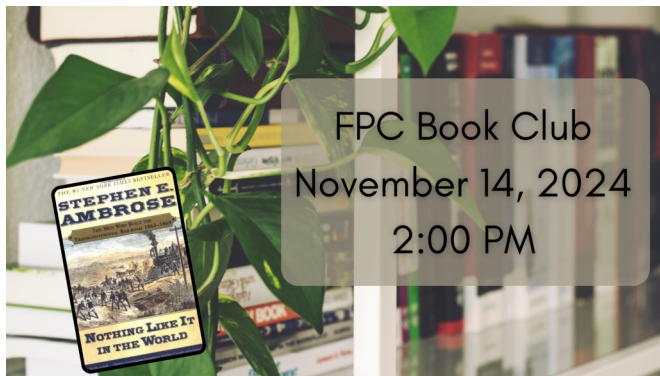
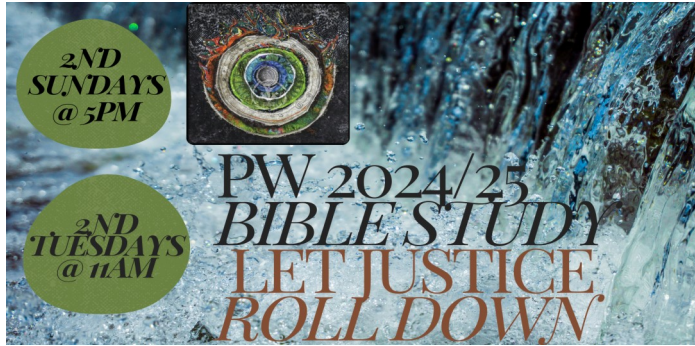


CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Reminder to PW of our meetings in November: Our Sunday group will meet on the 10th and the Tuesday group will meet on the 12th. Please note the difference between these dates. 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.



Make plans to join us on November 30 at 10:00 AM to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas Season. As usual, there will be donuts, coffee and fellowship.



The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet in the church parlor Thursday, November 14th at 2:00 pm. The book we will be discussing will be *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.

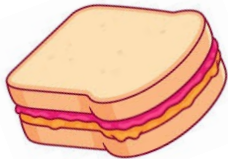
The book selection for December is *The Messenger Boys* by Steve Carr. The author is the great-nephew of the two brothers, Charlie (18) and Sherman (16), who in 1915 with their best friend (18), rode their bicycles cross country from Indianapolis, Indiana to the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. This was at a time when there were no roads connecting cities as we have today. They supported themselves by working as messenger boys delivering messages for telegraph companies and by selling post cards of themselves. The author used the actual letters and post cards the boys sent back home to write his account of their adventure. This is a story of ambition, determination, and teenage dreams of doing something big in one's lifetime. Please join us as we discuss *Nothing Like It in the World*. The book comes highly recommended. ~Millie Murphy



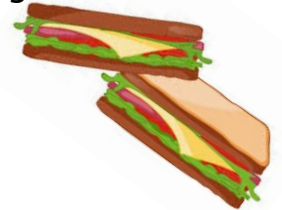
MISSION AND MINISTRY

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

Make plans to join us Sunday, November 24th 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 once again had a large gathering of people looking for assistance. We helped 6 families either keep their utilities on or get them turned back on with our assistance. The church is thankful for your continued support of this mission. As the temperatures turn colder, we expect more people needing assistance to keep their heat on. Bill has been faithfully tending this ministry and we are grateful to them for this help.

The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, November 19 at 9:30 AM.

October, with its five Tuesdays, has been busy for the Food Pantry. We have served 52 households, 6 for the first time. Thank you for helping make this possible through your in-kind and financial donations.

We had an opportunity to partner with a community non-profit to purchase hundreds of cans of vegetables at 20 cents a pound. Serendipitously, or maybe providentially, a student service organization at GCSU chose this month to make a financial donation which covered most of that cost! Praise to the Good Lord!

Please continue to keep this vital ministry in your prayers and on your shopping lists (see the list of items we use) as well as on your mind when making your financial contribution.

~Donna Gautier



Feeding the Community





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





November

<p>3 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship with communion 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 UMC Bridge 3:00 Hospice Care Memorial Service</p>	<p>4 7:00 MSG</p> 	<p>5 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis</p> 
<p>10 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 UMC Bridge 3:00-5:00 AC Listening Session 5:00 PW Bible Study</p>	<p>11 6:30 PFLAG 7:00 MSG</p>  	<p>12 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 PW Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis</p>  
<p>17 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 UMC Bridge 1:30 Homeless Awareness Club</p> 	<p>18 7:00 MSG</p> 	<p>19 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis</p> 
<p>24 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 UMC Bridge</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis</p> 



WE ARE A **MATTHEW 25 Church**

Actively Engaged in the World

2024



		1 	2 5:00 Youth Movie Night :The Mummy  Saturday, November 2 at 5:00 PM the Youth Room
6 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study  	7	8	9
13 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	14 2:00 FPC Book Club 	15	16
20 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 6:30 UMC Women's Bible Study 	21	22	23
27 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study  	28 12:00 PFLAG Friends-giving 	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 10:00 

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.

Pastor John McCrosky will be in the office Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please call the office for an appointment



YOUTH MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15am, Craft
Room Upstairs
YOUTH GROUP
12:00pm, Youth
Room

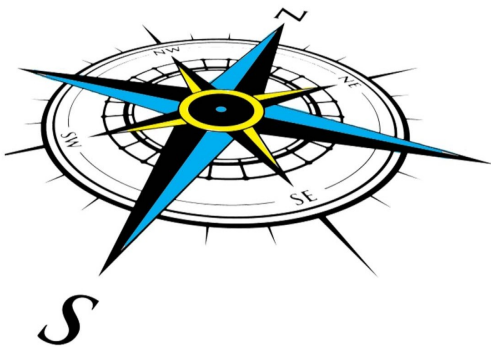
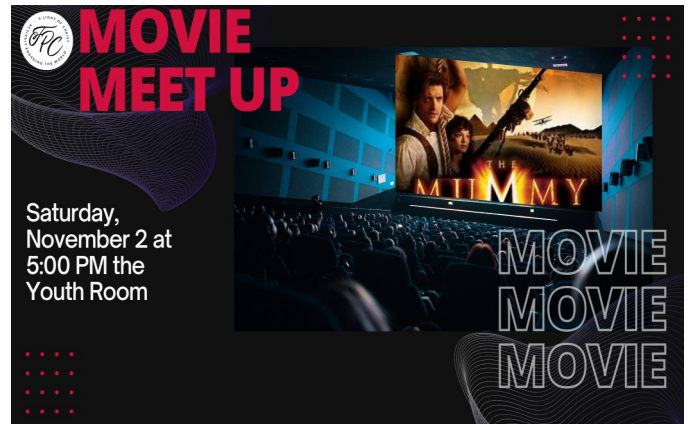
Work continues in the nursery to replace ceiling tiles, etc. Thank you to Charles Burrell, Bob Carroll, and Bill Werts for their hard work. We hope to have the nursery available for those 5 and under soon. If you would be willing to stay in the nursery during worship on an alternating basis, please contact Anne Smart by text or phone(478-454-8613).



NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, November 2, 2024 is Youth Movie Night at 5:00 PM in the Youth Room. Reverend Susan will prepare a Cuban meal, and we will watch *The Mummy* starring Brendan Frasier and Rachel Weisz.



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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



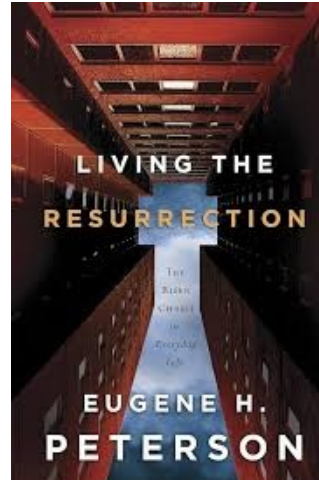
Podcast

Did you know that you can listen to *JUST* the sermon if you missed it on Sunday morning or if you wanted to re-listen to the message because you were moved by the Spirit? Check out our website (fpcmilledgeville.org) under 'Podcast' where you will find a link to the podcast

Take advantage of this opportunity to hear the message any day, any time!



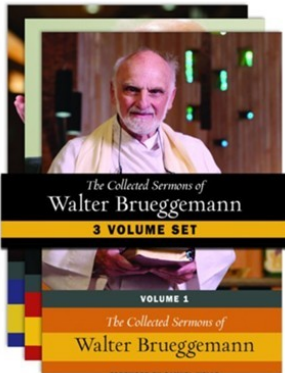
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are studying *Living the Resurrection* by Eugene Peterson. This group meets in person in the parlor room **every Sunday morning at 9:45**

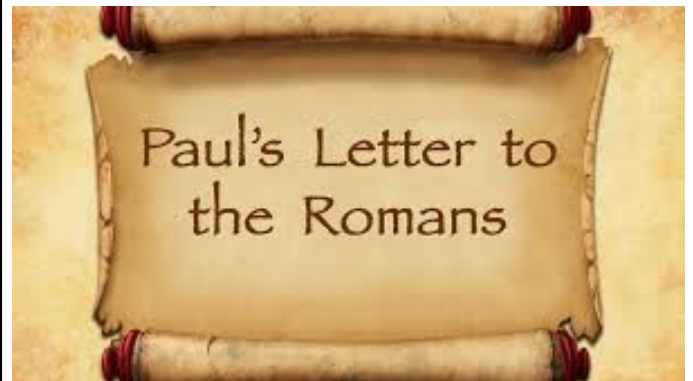
AM. We would love to have you join us. ~Bill Werts

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

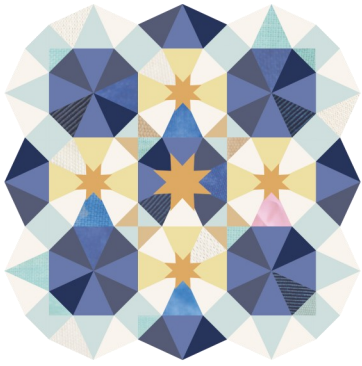
on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM.** We are finishing the sermons in the second volume of *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*. Following the end of that book, we will take a break from sermons to study *The Message of the Psalms* by Brueggemann. 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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans. John Lamsma has studied Romans for many years and is leading the study. After we complete Romans, we plan to discuss *The Righteous Mind, Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt.

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



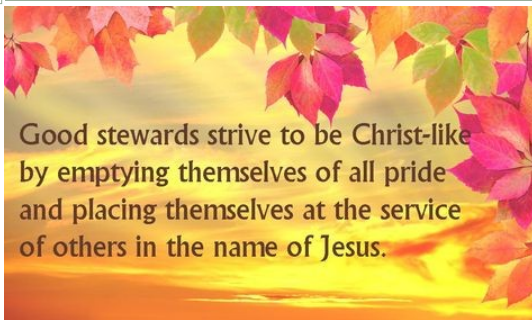
WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

ADVENT REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASONS

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

This Advent season, the Worship Committee is once more using materials from Sanctified Art. The Advent theme is shaped around several reminders we all need from time to time: *you are a blessing; we can't go alone; do the good that is yours to do; hope is worth the risk; love knows your name; don't forget to laugh; the road isn't straight.* These reminders root us in the fundamental truths of our faith. Many of them are life lessons we teach to children—lessons that adults continue to learn and relearn. They may resemble the blessings we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies like weddings or baptisms. And so, we invite you to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning. ~ The Sanctified Art Creative Team



Good stewards strive to be Christ-like by emptying themselves of all pride and placing themselves at the service of others in the name of Jesus.

TREASURER'S CORNER

In September we received enough money to cover the church's expenses. We need more months like that in order to keep our missions alive. It is also time to consider your support for the church in the coming year. I hope you will plan to give generously. 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, Acting Treasurer

	August	September	2024 YTD
Contributions	\$29,494	\$14,532	\$142,683
Other Income	\$997	\$1,745	\$9,939
Designated Funds Received	\$2,036	\$2,009	\$24,099
Total Income	\$32,527	\$18,286	\$176,721
Budgeted Expenses	\$22,633	\$19,922	\$194,602
Designated Funds Spent	\$3,474	\$1,840	\$42,817
Total spent	\$26,107	\$21,762	\$237,419
Net (Loss)	\$6,420	(\$3,476)	(\$60,698)

Help Us Make a Difference: House of Hope Bringing hope, building futures in Milledgeville



House of Hope is a new but vital transition shelter dedicated to assisting individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, they can house up to 10 people for 90 days, providing crucial support in areas like job placement and obtaining identification. Right now, they have five men and a family of four residing in their rented house from Maranatha.

Founded by Sone Ngolendelle, House of Hope is entirely self-funded, allowing them to maintain their mission of helping those in need. However, to expand their capacity and serve more individuals, they are seeking additional rental space.

There are many ways you can help them make a significant impact:

Volunteer Opportunities: From meal preparation to job training coaching, they offer a variety of roles where your time and skills can directly benefit the residents.

Monetary Donations: Financial contributions are essential in supporting ongoing efforts and expanding services.

The Homeless Awareness Club, led by TeriAnne Bradley, a dedicated young member of our church, is supporting their initiatives and raising awareness about homelessness in our community. The club meets on the third Sunday of each month and all are encouraged to participate.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your support!



Honoring Our Loved Ones with the Poinsettia Memorial Project

This year, in lieu of individual poinsettias, we'll

be placing three to four large memorial poinsettias in a prominent location. We invite you to donate \$20 in memory of someone special to you. Your contribution will support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help give respite housing for the homeless in our community seeking warm, dry shelter in the coming winter months. To participate, simply call or email the office by December 18, 2024. Include the name of the person you wish to honor, and we'll take care of the rest. As we gather together this season, let us remember the love, laughter, and lessons shared with those we miss. Your support in this initiative not only helps us decorate our space but also supports those in need in our community who have no other resources.

Administrative Commission Update

We are grateful to those who took the time out of the day on Sunday, October 27 to share your thoughts with Kent

Burel and Lynne Jordan. If you haven't had an opportunity to talk with members of the AC, we would still like to hear from you. We will return on Sunday, **November 10 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm.** To have the opportunity to visit as many folks as possible we hope to limit each conversation to thirty minutes. **Rev. John McCrosky, the AC Moderator, plans to be at the church every Thursday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.** Here are the names and contact information of the members of the **Administrative Commission First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville:** Kent Burel 678.525.9683 mkentburel@gmail.com, Corey Ingold 770.490.6831 coreyingold62@gmail.com, Meg Jackson Clark 770.301.6165 megjacksonclark@gmail.com, Lynne Jordan 706.476.2951 lynneq.jordan@gmail.com, John McCrosky 706.339.1559 johnmac6@gmail.com



Administrative
Commission



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

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

Blake Connolly, Mary Lucik's great grandson, ongoing health concerns

Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis

Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

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

Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma

Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns

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

Donald Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, back surgery on October 31

Charles Morgan, Jenifer Flory's father, in rehab center following surgery

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

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

Ambria Pearson, granddaughter of Sunda, 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

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

*November 5~ David & Tammi
 Ritchie*



Birthdays

- November 1~ Kate Phillips*
- November 6~ Margaret Ivester*
- November 8~ George Carpenter*
- November 8~ Carl Miller*
- November 9~ Lois Callender*
- November 12~ Elliot Callender*
- November 13~ Jane Braxley*
- November 14~ Chichi Odihe*
- November 24~ Letha Hawkins*
- November 25~ Debbie Lamsma*

