

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## JUNE 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**

*Worship  
With Us*



# First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 335 June 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 our Risen Lord Jesus Christ! I lift you up in prayer before our loving and gracious God and give thanks for you, your faith, and the good work that we do together in Christ's name.

June is Pride Month--a month dedicated to learning the history of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement, to celebrate the wondrous diversity of humanity, and to show support for those in our midst who may have experienced hurtful and even deadly attitudes and behaviors from family and strangers alike.

It is important for the church to acknowledge its own role in perpetuating harm. For many Christians, attempts to seek guidance in scripture have been conflated with secular bigotry, resulting in a less-loving church misaligned with the encompassing love of our Savior. It is difficult to estimate the number of LGBTQ+ individuals who have been shunned by church and family, subjected to hate crime, and lost their lives by their own hand or others' because of things taught in church. Pride Month is the time for us to name the church's sins against LGBTQ+ persons, repent of our bigoted and harmful past, and to reaffirm our trust that God has indeed made each of us beautifully and wonderfully.

I am proud of this church family for its open arms for and affirmations of all people. I am proud that we have sought to make this church a safe place where people can explore their faith without judgment. Thank you for loving others as yourself.

In Christ,  
Rev. Susan



Thanks to your generosity in giving to the Pentecost Special Offering, we were able to use \$394.00 to help pay for our youth to attend the Montreat Summer Conference in June. This is a formative spiritual experience for our youth and we are so glad that they can attend.

**THANK YOU**



7 Youth and 3 Adult Chaperones are attending this year's MYC! Please spend the first week of June praying for **Astrid Callender, Uriel Nwankwo, Masoma Odihe, Josefa Tchamna, and first-time Montreat-ers Teri Anne Bradley, Anna Respass, and Nathan Tchamna** as they explore their faith with other Presbyterian youth. **Rev. Susan, Laurie Peebles, and Joel Respass** also covet your prayers as they accompany and care for our young people this week.

*Faithful God, you have claimed us as covenant people, and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading these young people and their adult mentors to this time and place. Ground them in your truth and guide them by your Holy Spirit, so that in their participation in the Montreat Youth Conference, they may grow in faith, hope, and love and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*



# CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Number of the Day:

# 200

That's how many years old our congregation will be in 2026!

We're starting early to make plans for a celebratory weekend, so keep an eye out for information and projects as we approach this wonderful milestone and listen for the Spirit calling us into God's future!

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

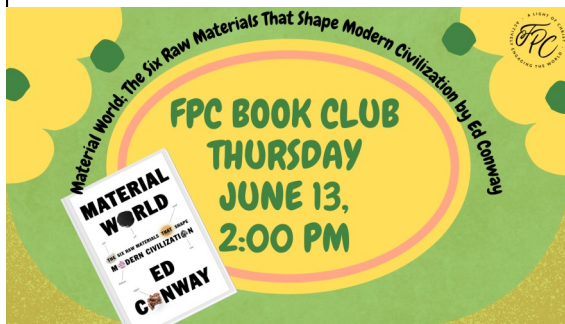
Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE  
Make yourself at home!

### After-Worship Receptions:

**Sign up to contribute refreshments for the after service fellowship reception. We enjoy this time with each other after worship. The sign up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen.**



The First Presbyterian Book Club will hold the June meeting on Thursday June 13th in the church parlor at 2:00 pm. The book selection that we will be discussing for June is *Material World; The Six Raw Materials That Shape Modern Civilization* by Ed Conway. In his book the author explains how the fundamental materials sand, salt, iron, copper, oil and lithium have created

empires, razed civilizations and fed our ingenuity and greed for thousands of years. Without them, our modern world would not exist, and the battle to control them will determine our future. One example is sand. Without sand there would be no concrete, and without concrete there would be no high rise buildings. The Romans developed the formula for concrete and used concrete extensively in their building. The formula was lost when the Roman Empire fell, and it was centuries before the correct combination of materials was combined again to make a usable form of concrete.

The book selection for July is *The Black Box: Writing the Race* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Dr. Gates is a well known professor of Black History, but most people know him as the host for the PBS series "Finding Your Roots". Distilled over many years from his Harvard introductory course in African American Studies, this book is the story of Black self- definition described through the work of Black writers over many decades from Phillis Wheatley and Frederick Douglass to more modern writers Richard Wright, James Baldwin and Toni Morrison. Through their essays, speeches, novels, plays, and poems, a long line of creative thinkers have shown the rest of the world the contours of the black box inside which society has assigned this "nation within a nation" to live.

Please join us this month for a discussion of *Material World*. It is an interesting book that will cause you to rethink your ideas about simple materials that we see and use everyday. ~Millie Murphy





# MISSION AND MINISTRY



**Milly Free Fridge is in need of regular volunteers to clean the fridge and the area around it. So please join us Sunday, June 26th 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. The need is great in our community.

As the weather gets warmer, frozen bottles of water for the Free Fridge are always welcome. **Thank you!**

## Food Pantry staples list:

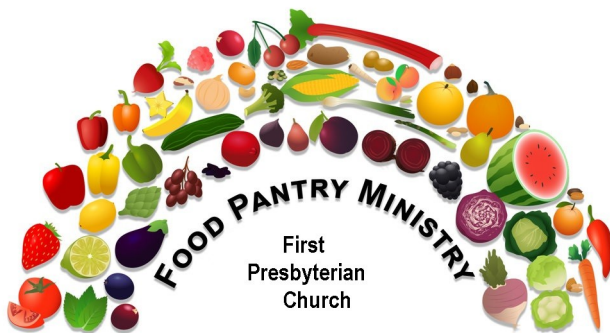
Canned soups, canned ravioli, canned ham, tuna, salmon, and chicken; boxed mac & cheese, pasta noodles, grits, oatmeal, and/or cereal; peanut butter & jelly; canned spaghetti sauce, fruit, and vegetables

## Samaritan Ministry

As usual, there were quite a few people waiting for us to arrive on disbursement day and, as usual, we were forced to use the lottery method to narrow down the number of those helped. Despite this, we were able to help one person stay in her apartment and another turn her gas back on.

The Samaritan Ministry is meant to assist those in need of utility assistance once a month. Your consistent and generous giving to this special outreach is appreciated; it is very needed. Please consider helping Bill out on the third Tuesday of the month as he helps all those who come to the church looking for assistance.

**The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, June 18 at 9:30 AM.**



## *Master, when were you hungry and we gave you food?*








Every day! This congregation supports a food pantry that provides a generous bag of staple foods to people coming in on Tuesdays between 9:30 and 10:30, of course. But there are also those who pick up a snack bag from our porch, make a stop at the Milly Free Fridge we help supply, and some who are assisted with a motel room and get a microwavable meal or two.

Please make donations to these ministries, in-kind or in funding, so they can continue. Food pantry visitors in May totaled 78 and we could have served more if there had been food for them. Thank you for making this much possible, and for increasing support if you can. ~Donna



## WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 Church

### Actively Engaged in the World

<p>2 <b>9:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:15</b> Children's School <b>11:00</b> Worship Service</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>9 <b>9:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:15</b> Children's School <b>11:00</b> Worship Service</p>	<p>10 <b>6:30</b> PFLAG</p> 	<p>11 <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>16 <b>9:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:15</b> Children's School <b>11:00</b> Worship <b>12:00</b> Youth Group <b>1:30</b> Homeless Awareness Club</p> 	<p>17 VBS Starts! <b>9:00-12:00</b> VBS</p> 	<p>18 <b>9:00-12:00</b> VBS <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon <b>5:30</b> Session Meeting</p> 
<p>23 <b>9:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:15</b> Children's School <b>11:00</b> Worship Service <b>12:00</b> Youth Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon <b>226th</b> General Assembly Begins (to July 4)</p> 
<p>30 <b>9:30</b> Sunday School <b>10:15</b> Children's School <b>11:00</b> Worship Service <b>12:00</b> Youth Group <b>12:00</b> Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity</p>		

# 2024



			<p>11:00 am. Youth Leave for Montreat Youth Conference 2024!</p>
<p>5 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p>	6	7	8
<p>12 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p>	<p>13 2:00 FPC Book Club 6:00 IOBI</p>	14	15
<p>19 9:00-12:00 VBS 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p>	<p>20 9:00-12:00 VBS</p>	<p>21 9:00-12:00 VBS</p>	22
<p>26 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study</p>	27 6:00 IOBI	28	29

### 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 Sundays, 10:15am, in the Craft Room Upstairs

Rev. Susan and our Christian Education committee have been working on developing a comprehensive children and youth plan. Along with input from our Property people and Session, we are putting plans to paper to improve our children and youth facilities, develop educational programming, and reach out to our community. Our newly-furnished Youth Room has already become a favorite spot for our young saints, and a new playground set is going up soon.



# Vacation Bible School 2024

# June 17-21





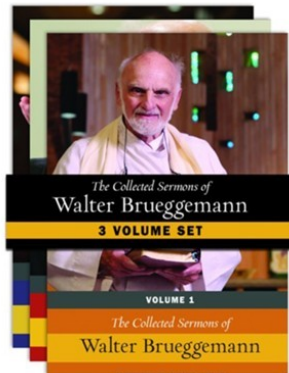


# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## 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

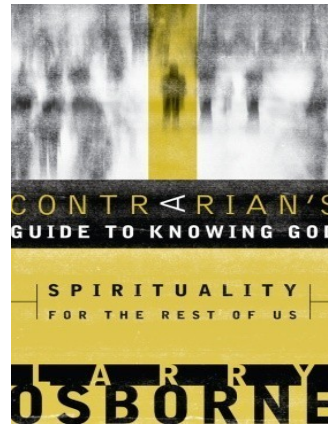


conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM.** We are discussing the sermons in the second volume of *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*. This collection is organized to match the seasons of the church calendar. The material is thought provoking and fresh. If you have never encountered Professor 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

The **DAILY RIPPLE** is a new app developed as part of the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative. Every weekday, the app and website publish a "100-150-word droplet" reflecting on Scripture. Each droplet creates a "ripple" through a question that prompts a positive action. Engage with the app a few minutes (1% of your day) each day to find ways to strengthen and grow your faith and discipleship.



## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



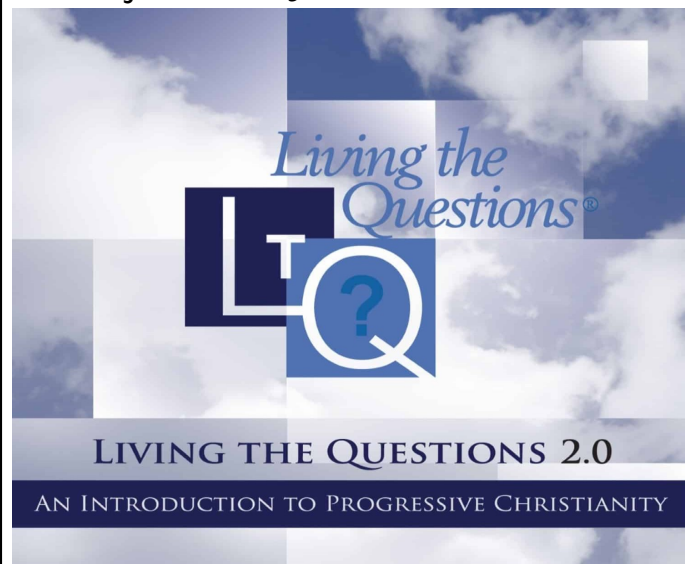
We are studying *Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God: Spirituality for the Rest of Us* by Larry Osborne.

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. 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.

*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





The clock is ticking toward the opening of the **226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian church (U.S.A.)** in June. The Office of the General Assembly is working on this year's new format which will include online committee meetings and in person plenary sessions. Visit [www.ga-pcusa.org](http://www.ga-pcusa.org) to get the latest planning updates, deadlines, and to sign up for the newsletter *On the Road to GA*. [PC-Biz.org](http://PC-Biz.org) is also a great resource for viewing the business items and tracking the vote tallies.

The theme of GA226, **“Live into Hope”**, is based on the hymn of the same name by Jane Parker Huber. Daily themes have been chosen based on verses of the hymn. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly chose the theme as an opportunity to charge the denomination after being in a space of lament and hope. We are now being charged to live into that hope.

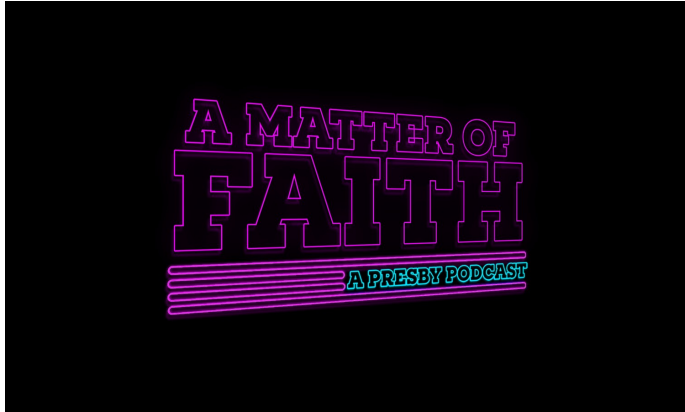


## **TREASURER'S CORNER**

After our very weak first quarter, April was better. Our income was more robust and the expenses were held to a minimum. We need to keep up the level of giving in order to preserve our reserves. Please keep up the good work.

God needs all of us to do our part. ~Joel D. Burns

	March	April	2024 YTD
Contributions	\$12,965	\$18,457	\$57,448
Other Income	\$1,747	\$690	\$3,818
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,712</b>	<b>\$19,147</b>	<b>\$61,266</b>
Budgeted Expenses	\$28,262	\$21,184	\$93,186
<b>Net (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$13,550)</b>	<b>(\$2,037)</b>	<b>(\$31,920)</b>



Looking for a new podcast? Check out **A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast** with Simon Doong and Lee Catoe. The hosts and their guests respond to questions and comments on issues of faith, social justice, and church life. You can write in with your questions.

This weekly podcast is published by the Office of Faith-Based Investing & Corporate Engagement, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, and Unbound: An Interactive Journal on Christian Social Justice for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Recent topics have included Climate, Conflict, and Violence with Columbia Theological Seminary's Dr. Mark Douglas (Rev. Susan's D.Min. advisor); International Peacemaking with International Peacemaker Rev. Angie Wuysang; Experiencing Natural Disasters with Southern Louisiana Presbytery Moderator Linda Trueblood; and Jazz and the Spiritual Life with Rev. Dr. Bill Carter of the Presbybop Quartet and pastor of FPC Clarks Summit, PA (also one of Rev. Susan's favorite people).



Missed service? Don't have time to watch it on Facebook? The Podcast, **Under the Palm**, is uploaded weekly and features Reverend Susan Balfour's sermon and the readings from that day. There are also sermons from previous weeks, if you wanted to catch up or just listen while you drive/work/rest. You can find the podcast on Spotify.







prayer



**Church Family:**

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta, **Columbia Theological Seminary, D.**

**Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030**

**Jack Bivens, in hospital in Milledgeville**

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Donna Gautier, recovering from knee surgery

Letha Hawkins, recovering from surgery

**Extended Family:**

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

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

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

Margret Ellen (Meg) Clark, Margaret Ivester's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, stage 4 cancer

Judy Hunter-Hill, sister of Cissy Lane, in the hospital with severe atrial fibrillation

Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma

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

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

Mildred Moore, Sundae Coleman's aunt, in hospice care

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

Charles Sallstrom, John Sallstrom's brother, ongoing health concerns

Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis

Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, in rehab

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

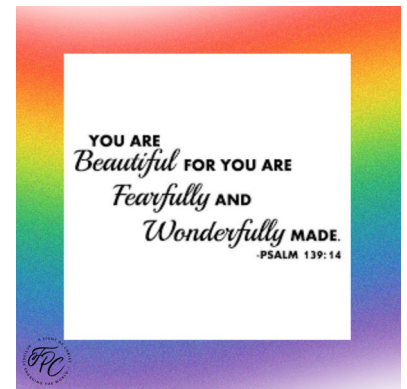
Jeanene Vinson, former secretary at FPC, ongoing health concerns

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

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

**Limited  
Mobility**  
Helen Danuser

**Military Service**  
Will Deason  
Rebecca Elangwe  
(Both are  
Reservists)



**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

**Anniversaries**

June 4~ Brandon & Jennifer Morris

June 25~ Bill & Jennifer Flory

June 25~ Bill & Ruby Werts

June 30~ Bob & Kathy Carroll



**Birthdays**

June 4~ Nancy Miller

June 8~ Gloria Burns

June 12~ Jenny Moore

June 14~ Michael Phillips

June 17~ Deanna Bivins

