

CHURCH CURRENTS

MAY 2023

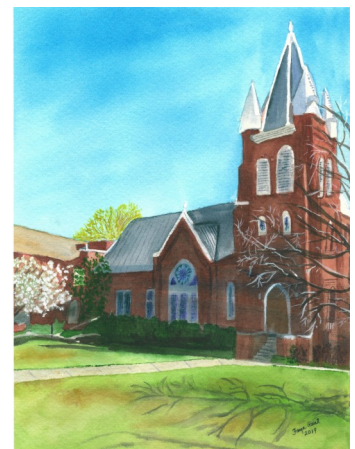
210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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. 322 May 2023

Pastor:
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Gloria Burns

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Childcare is
temporarily
unavailable



Beloved,

Greetings in Christ! I give God thanks for you and for your faithfulness. I pray for you daily as we journey together in the gospel.

I've been giving a lot of thought lately about "spirituality". As Presbyterians, we don't focus on it as much as we should. As a result, I think a lot of us don't have a good grasp about what that means. We've all heard someone describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious"; perhaps we are too "religious but not spiritual"!

Spiritual health has a lot to do with locating oneself in a larger context, feeling a sense of connectedness. It's about our connection with God, with others, and equally importantly, with ourselves.

I recall a very difficult time in my life when I looked in the mirror and didn't see myself there. I recognized the features, but there was a disconnect. I was in a spiritually derelict funk. I'm happy to say that it has passed, and I can once again identify with the person in the mirror.

Perhaps you've had those moments? Or perhaps you just haven't felt quite in harmony with the world around you. I encourage you to take some time each day to locate yourself in God's creation, and to contemplate your connectedness to God, others, and yourself. Make your spiritual health a priority.

And may God's grace sustain you always.

In Christ,

Rev. Susan

After-Worship Receptions:

Please consider signing up to contribute refreshments for the after service fellowship reception. If you need help setting up, let us know. We enjoy this time to reconnect with each other after worship. The sign up sheet in on the refrigerator in the kitchen.

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!



Are you interested in joining others once a month to eat, fellowship and grow? That's the definition of a Care Group. Care

Groups at FPC have often been a group that meets once a month for a potluck dinner to support each other. If you are interested in being part of such a group, please contact the office at (478)452-9394. We look forward to restarting this joyful ministry for the congregation.

Thank you so much to the entire congregation. **This year, we raised \$707 for One Great Hour of Sharing.** The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

THANKS
FOR
BEING
AWESOME



Feeding the Community

Food Pantry

Each week until the last in April we distributed nearly all the prepared bags of food, totaling 39, with half a dozen going to new families. Thank you for your response to our urgent request in mid-month for funds and food. We are currently solvent, but will need continuing contributions if we are to stay that way.

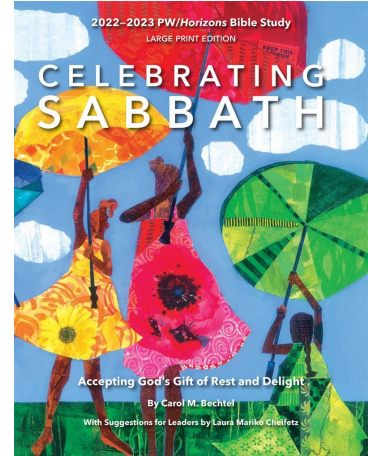
We had a generous in-kind donation from the resources of Middle Georgia Community Food Bank recently, which will be helpful with some items, such as tuna, mac'n'cheese boxes, and some vegetables. I hope we can continue to get this, but distribution is irregular so we cannot count on it. Large soups and canned meats (chicken, chili, stew) would be good choices for your donations as they deplete our funds and are never available through the Food Bank.

Thank you for continuing to keep the Food Pantry in your prayers and on your shopping lists!

~Donna and Margaret

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is wrapping up it's study of *Celebrating Sabbath* and plan to meet for a **combined final meeting at Melba Burrell's house on Tuesday, May 9 at 11 AM.** Contact the office for her address and directions. This will be a great end to a wonderful study.



Happy May to you all, can you believe almost half a year is gone?

It will be here soon -- June 25th -- that "save the date" email. We are having a very special congregational luncheon in appreciation of every one of us here at First Presbyterian Church! Rain or shine we're grilling, and I will hold the umbrella over our Grill Chef's heads if necessary. Remember lots of choices/options were promised -- dine in or out, Old Maid or corn hole, hamburger or hot dog, badminton or sidewalk chalk coloring, talking or listening, smiling or laughing -- all of us will celebrate each other! What a great way for us to enjoy fellowship together and a great way to kickoff Vacation Bible School which begins June 26th! Plan for it now. You don't want to miss this one, so mark your calendars. Details regarding condiments, side dishes and desserts will follow. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please call me at (478)316-4345. See you there!

Blessings,
Margaret Foster Ivester

PS - There will be a SECRET VIP in attendance. It's a must for you to be there!

Join us Sunday, May 28th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge.



Volunteers making sandwiches in February 2023

Please bring any of the following:

Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

Thank you!

As the weather turns warmer, please consider donating water for the Milly Free

Fridge to help those who are un-housed and those whose water has been turned off. The need is great in our community.

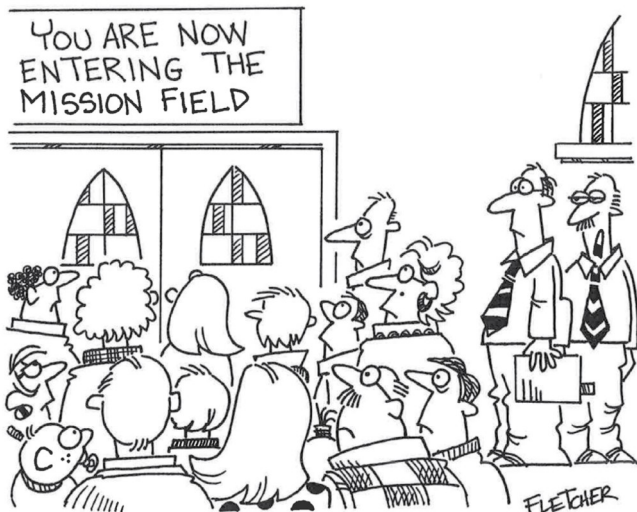


Food Pantry staples list:

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



Feeding the Community



© 2012 Dennis Fletcher. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons









"What do we do if they NEVER leave the building?"

**Samaritan
Ministry**

This month, we were able to help 3 families with their utilities. Thank you for helping to make that happen. The Samaritan Ministry help for this month is scheduled for May 18 at 9:30 am. Please consider giving regularly to this mission as we often have to turn people away, there are so many in need. Also please consider giving of your time once a month. Bill could use the company.



UTILITY ASSISTANCE

<p>BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.</p>  <p><small>PRAY, BELIEVE, LIVE, GROW, SERVE. COMMUNITY QUALITY. APRIL 10 - MAY 29, 2018. MATHIAS PA</small></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>  <p>Feeding the Community</p>
<p>7 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM PFLAG</p> 	<p>9 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 PW Bible Study at Melba's 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>  <p>Feeding the Community</p>
<p>14 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group Mother's Day</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>  <p>Feeding the Community</p>
<p>21 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>  <p>Feeding the Community</p>
<p>28 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group Pentecost</p>	<p>29 Office Closed</p>  <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>30 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>  <p>Feeding the Community</p>



2023

BE THE CHURCH
THE CHURCH SERVES

<p>3 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>4 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p> 	<p>5 6:00 Taco Bar Fundraiser</p> 	<p>6</p>
<p>10 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>11 2PM FPC Book Club 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>17 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>18 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p> 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>24 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>25 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>31 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 		<p>Make plans to join us next month for the VBS Food Truck Party starting June 26-30</p>	

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Wesley Applebury (At Large) Jennifer Flory (Worship) Margaret Ivester (Congregational Care) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Joel Respass (Property) Anne Smart (Christian Education) Bill Werts (Missions and Outreach)

Operations: The church office is now 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.

Our schedule is:

Puppets (1-12) **Sunday 10am** to perform at 11 am worship

S.T.A.R.S.(K-5th) **Sunday 2:00-3:00**

Sunday Youth Group (6th -12th) including prep for Montreat (9th - 12th) **Sunday 3:00 - 4:30**



On behalf of our Youth, we thank you for your support in sending our Youth to Montreat. We have a month left to complete fundraising. Our Soup Lunch was a success and hopefully the Silent Auction will help. Please join us for Cinco de Mayo. Sponsorship of a Youth is

still welcome as well as donations. Our congregation has been so supportive and generous. Thank you for encouraging the spiritual growth of our children.

~Anne Smart, Christian Education

Forward to Montreat Youth Conference



What fun, food and fellowship as our congregation gathered to support our youth as they earn their way to summer fun and learning. Excited by early success our youth are

moving forward to earn the necessary funds to accomplish their dream. Here is a list of our scheduled events so far:

Friday May 5: Tacos for supper

\$5.00 per taco. Other side items available at small additional charges.

~Gloria Burns



After Worship receptions: Our Youth can take the refreshments you provide, set up your reception, monitor it during the hour and cleanup for a donation to our fund. Please talk with Gloria Burns to make arrangements.

Join us on Cinco de Mayo (May 5) at 6:00 for a yummy Taco Bar. The money raised will go to fund the youth retreat at Montreat this summer.

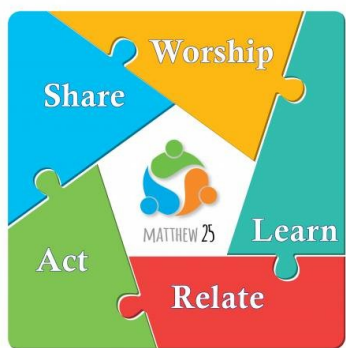
JUST
\$5
PER
TACO

TACO BAR
FUNDRAISER

(478)452-9394
210 South Wayne Street

VBS starts next month, June 26-30. Be sure to invite your friends and join us on June 25th for a special congregational gathering. We're looking forward to the Food Truck Party!





Five Spiritual Practices to End Poverty

MATTHEW 25 EXPLORATION

Rev. Susan continues to explore the Matthew 25 themes with a book study. She hosts discussion at **Metropolis on**

Thursdays at 5:30. The basis of our study is *Covenant Economics: A Biblical Vision of Justice for All*, by Richard A. Horsley. If you'd like a copy of the book, it's \$27 on Amazon and \$30 on Barnes & Noble. Please join us in the active discussion and reflection of how the economy has changed and yet stayed the same.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck



supper and lively discussion. Please join us. We are still working on *Bullies and Saints* by John Dickson. This book is a fascinating review of the history of the good and evil the institutional church has caused and how it occurred. Recently we started the study of the crusades. 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 whether you have the book or not! The book is available on Amazon. ~Joel Burns

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



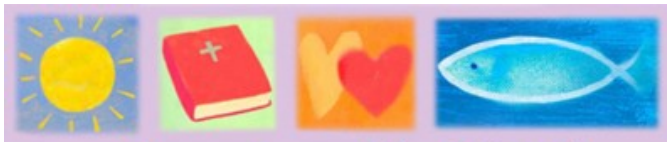
We are studying *A Call to Die* by David Nasser. This group meets in person in the parlor room every Sunday

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 homes or on our smartphones. Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we meet for thoughtful conversations. We have been studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann* and every one has been thought provoking. 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



Growing In Faith Together

The First Presbyterian Church Book Club will hold the monthly meeting on Thursday, May the 11th at 2:00 pm. We will be discussing *The Forgotten 500; The Untold Story of the Men Who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War II* by Gregory A. Freeman. This story was suppressed for more than fifty years for political reasons, but the author is now able to tell the story of the rescue of the downed airmen. During bombing campaigns over the Romanian oil-fields, hundreds of American airmen were shot down in Nazi occupied Yugoslavia. Local people risked their own lives to give refuge to the airmen and to help them construct a runway in order that cargo planes could land and rescue them. One review describes the book as "Fascinating, full of romance, action and adventure. This untold story of World War II has finally been told with skill and grace".



The book selection for the month of June is *Cheap Land Colorado: Off-Gridders At America's Edge* by Ted Conover.

Come and join us for what is expected to be a lively discussion of two very interesting books.

~Millie Murphy



TREASURER'S CORNER



Due to some extraordinary gifts we had a couple of good months. We need to sustain this level of giving to keep our services strong.

Please remember to contribute to the general fund, Samaritan's Fund and Food Pantry. May God Bless everyone.

~ Joel Burns

	February	March	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$11,824	\$41,960	\$68,288
Other Income	\$626	\$2,609	\$3,921
Total Income	\$12,450	\$44,569	\$72,209
Budgeted Expenses	\$19,296	\$22,931	\$61,600
Net (Loss)	(\$6,846)	\$21,638	\$10,609



WE ARE THERE

The Pentecost Offering helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. With our gifts, we are there to help build these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become.

40% STAYS WITH OUR CONGREGATION
to support local ministries with children, youth, and young adults.

25% SUPPORTS MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH
especially the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

25% SUPPORTS YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS (YAV),
serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

10% IS DEVOTED TO CHILDREN AT-RISK
and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

Please give generously... for if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



 **PENTECOST**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with young people.

join us!

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

April 10 – May 28, 2023



PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family:

Harry Beck, ongoing medical concerns
 Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
 Helen Danuser, recovering from a fall
 Jenny Moore, recovering at home
 Jackie Northington, ongoing health concerns, in SNU

Extended Family:

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
 Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery
 Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues
 Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, double amputation
 Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma
 Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable
 Joanne Lambertson, family friend of Jennifer Flory, fighting cancer
 Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns
 Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, mass on her colon- at Carlyle House in Macon
 Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
 Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns, recovering from a fall
 Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns
 Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
 Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns
 Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
 Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns

Nan and George Carpenter have moved to an assisted living facility. If you would like to write or visit them, their new address is:

339 Manor Lake Circle, Hoschton, GA 30548

In Assisted Living:

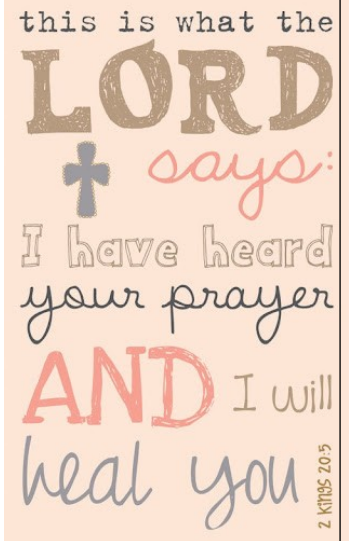
Bryan Dempster, Green Acres, 313 Allen Memorial Drive, Milledgeville 31061
 Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021
 Eloise Lamb, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
 Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
 Gloria Smith, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 1110
 Suzy Smith, Savannah Court, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

Limited Mobility

Beth Baarda
 Martha Chappell
 Helen Danuser

Military Service

Will Deason
 Rebecca Elangwe



Anniversaries

May 17~ John & Linda Bradley



Birthdays

May 8~ Dorothy Elangwe

May 9~ Catherine Dean

May 12~ Masoma Odihe

May 17~ Fidelis Folifac

