

CHURCH CURRENTS

NOVEMBER 2023

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love endures forever.
- Psalm 118:1





First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 328 November 2023



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

Hello friends,

Your session has been meeting each month and working very hard on several church issues. We now are in the process of developing a Budget for 2024. It may have a different look but hopefully it will show you a clearer picture of where we stand.

As we all know, our costs are going up and so are the costs here at the church. The property committee headed by Joel Respass has been hard at work resolving issues around the church grounds, with more to come. The city of Milledgeville cut down two trees near the back entrance to our church and did a great job.

We have added several new members and had a baptism in the recent months for which we are all very joyful and thankful. They are great additions to our church family. We are now offering Sunday School for children at 10:15 a.m. with Anne Smart, Gloria Burns, Ruby Werts and Laurie Peebles.

The Food Pantry still needs monetary contributions and canned goods every week. Samaritan ministry also continues to need our contributions and Bill Werts would welcome helpers on the third Tuesday each month. The need is great as we head into the holidays.

Please continue to be in prayer for all of our church family and our pastor as we continue our work and as we look to the future of our church. ~ Nancy Miller, Clerk of Session



THANKS FOR BEING AWESOME

You did it again, First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville. You gave a total of \$269 to the Peace & Global Witness this year. 25% of this offering stays with us to use in peacemaking endeavors in our community. The Session has voted to donate the money from this offering over the past

years, which currently amounts to \$358.11, to the mission in Africa run by Reverend Cheryl Barnes who works with young women in three countries to help them continue in school.

Looking forward:

We are busy planning Advent activities for December and have exciting events planned. St. Nicholas is a favorite figure in Europe where they celebrate the saint with a special day filled with fun for the children. Children put out their shoes, which he fills with chocolates, fruit and nuts. This year, we will celebrate him as well, with hot chocolate, activities and a chili cook off. So make sure to save the date. It's bound to be amazing.



VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone,
iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for **Instant Church Directory** and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church



If you haven't already checked out the new directory and updated your information and picture, please do so as soon as possible. Call the office if you are having a difficult time getting in. This online version can be downloaded and printed for those who prefer not to use a digital version. But we can't do that until people put in their information. You can also add yourself to the groups listed.



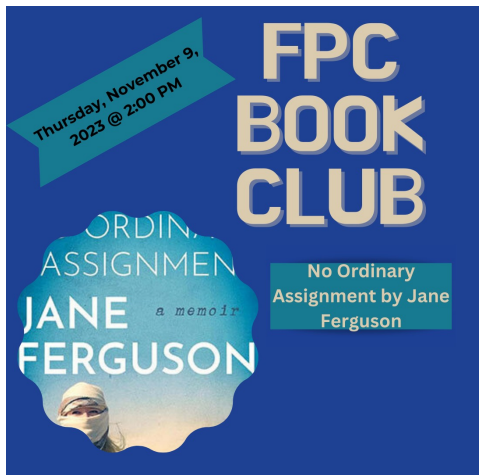
CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Join us for another family friendly event. Anyone is welcome

to join us for this casual, yet definitely sweet, meet up at Dunkin' Donuts. Let's enjoy good coffee and something sweet together, Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM. The first dozen donuts is on us! We'll have fun activities for the children while the adults fellowship.

Starting in December, we will have a Midweek Coffee and Contemplation opportunity every Wednesday from 11:30AM-1:00PM. More details will be forthcoming. We hope you'll join us during Advent for this spiritual discipline.



The First Presbyterian Church book club will hold the November meeting the second Thursday, November 9th, at 2:00pm in the church parlor. The book we will be discussing reflects what is happening in the Middle East today. The book selection for November is *No Ordinary Assignment: A Memoir* by Jane Ferguson. The author is a special correspondent for *PBS News Hour* and has been a visiting professor of war reporting at Princeton University. Ferguson's book chronicles her unlikely journey from bright, inquisitive child in war torn Northern Ireland to intrepid war correspondent. Without family wealth or connections, she began as a one-woman reporting team, a borrowed camera her

only equipment. While other reporters chased "bang-bang shoot'em up" stories, she sought to give voice to civilian experiences of war. With this goal in mind, she has covered nearly every war front and humanitarian crisis of our time. One reviewer of her book wrote that "Jane Ferguson's breathtaking memoir takes us inside the savage wars of the last two decades with a greater immediacy and compassion than any news report".

The book selection for December is *Bill of Obligation* by Richard Haas. Once again the group has been invited to Dick and Arlene Mueller's home to partake of Christmas cheer and goodies as we discuss our December book selection. This is a fun event that we look forward to every year.

Come join us in November in the church parlor as we discuss our book as it relates to current news events.

~Mille Murphy



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Milly Free Fridge is in need of regular volunteers to clean the fridge and the area around it. We can easily take ten minutes when we deliver the sandwiches and snacks we make on the last Sunday of the month to clean the area. So please join us Sunday, November 26th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge.

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. **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

The Samaritan Ministry continues to assist those in need once a month. We thank you so much for your consistent and generous giving to this special outreach. It is very needed, especially as the temperatures drop and people need to keep the heat on to stay warm. This past month, we were able to help three families retain the necessary services of water and electricity. Please consider helping Bill out on the third Tuesday of the month as he tries to help all those who come to the church looking for assistance. The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, November 21.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE



Food Pantry Thanksgiving Litany

We have had the opportunity to serve 58 households during October. **Thanks be to God!**

New families have come to us each week and we were able to help them all. **Thanks be to God!**

Donations in kind and in funds have been generous. **Thanks be to God!**

Young people from GCSU have been volunteering, Mondays for bag prep and Tuesdays for distribution. **Thanks be to God!**

This ministry is vital to so many in our community and you are making a difference. May it continue and grow as your donations and prayer support increase with the need.

Thanks be to God for the movement of the Spirit in the heart of this congregation!

Second item:

We continue to collect 2024 calendars for distribution to Food Pantry guests beginning in December. Some have also brought notepads, pens, gloves, socks...all sorts of "freebies" we get too many of and most of these folks do not get but can use. I have Christmas cards, gift tags and stickers, some wrapping paper sheets and bags that I will make available. Items like these help make the season more festive and free up people's money for necessities. ~Donna & Margaret



November

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.
In Everything Give Thanks!

5 **9:30** Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
12:00 Youth Group

6 **7:00** MSG



7 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon



12 **9:30** Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
12:00 Youth Group
5:00 PW Bible Study

13 **6:30** PFLAG
7:00 MSG



14 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry
11:00 PW Bible Study
12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon
5:30 Session Meeting



19 **9:30** Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 PW Thank Worship
Service FBLive &
WKZR102.3FM
12:00 Youth Group
1:30 Homeless Awareness
Club

20

21 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry
and **Samaritan Ministry**
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



26 **9:30** Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
12:00 Youth Group
12:00 Milly Free Fridge

27 **7:00** MSG



28 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World

2023



1 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study  <small>ALL SAINTS DAY</small>	2 6:00 IOBI	3	4 
8 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	9 2:00 FPC Book Club 	10	11 10:00 Family Sweet Meet 
15 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	16 6:00 IOBI	17	18
22 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	23 	24	25
29 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	30		December 2 at 10:00 AM 

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Wesley Applebury (At Large) Jennifer Flory (Worship)
 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.



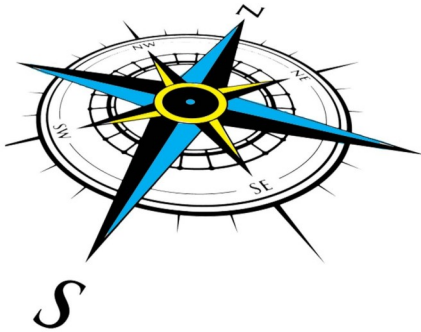
YOUTH MINISTRY



YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 12:00pm

Air bobbing for apples, learning about centering prayer and more are on the docket for the Youth Group. Don't miss out each Sunday afternoon- there's food and fellowship available for all of our youth!



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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

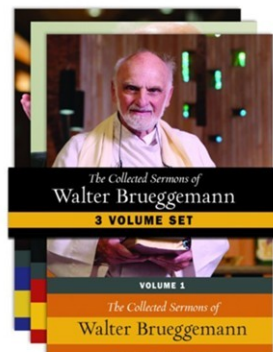
Sundays, 10:15am, in the Fellowship Hall

We have been having a blast with the Children's Sunday School Class each Sunday morning. There is always an interesting story with fun activities to engage the children in. And parents can even get supplemental materials offered on our website under 'Children's Sunday School.' Take advantage of all the materials available to round out our young saints' religious and spiritual 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 homes or on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful conversations every Sunday at 9:30 AM. We are studying the first volume of *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann* and each of the sermons has been thought provoking. The sermons we are now studying were written in the early part of this century but they are as fresh today as when originally delivered. If you have never encountered Dr. Brueggemann's work you are in for a treat. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable, he also has a great sense of humor. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link. ~Joel D. Burns

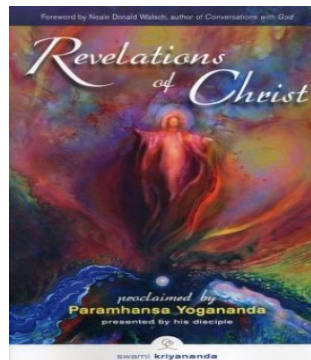


Crochet Sunday School Class

We're trying something

new! A Crochet Sunday School Class started the last week in October. The class will focus first on learning to crochet before delving into meditation and explorations of faith. Join us in this new adventure on Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM in the library.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

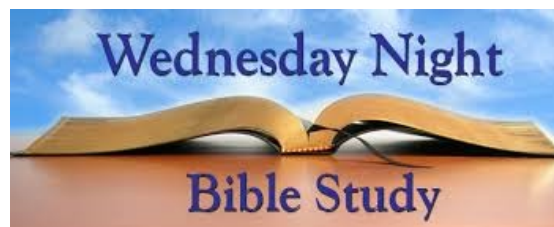


We are studying *Revelations of Christ* by Yogananda. This group

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. We are glad to say a few folks have joined since last month, but there is room for a lot more. We are reading and discussing *The Other Evangelicals, A Story of Liberal, Black Progressive, Feminist and Gay Christians and the Movement That Pushed Them Out*. John Lamsma has led the study and is doing a great job. This is an interesting history of the gradual effort by the conservative evangelicals to usurp the term "evangelical." 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. and finish by 8:00 P.M. Please join us whether you have the book or not! The book is available on Amazon. ~Joel Burns





The Presbyterian Women will be leading worship on November 19, 2023 in honor of the Thank Offering given by the Presbyterian Women of the PC(USA). Our speaker for the day will be Haley Lerner, who is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is a fervent justice-seeker and is particularly passionate about the pursuit of racial justice, immigrant and refugee advocacy, and LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Church.



TREASURER'S CORNER

As everyone knows, we have a great church and it does remarkable ministry in the neighborhood. Our services cost a lot of money. In the last few months we have not given enough to cover our expenses, even though our team has been careful with every penny.

Please support our ministry with your time, talents and financial resources. We count on you. God bless everyone ~Joel D. Burns

	August	September	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$11,948	\$13,176	\$163,092
Other Income	\$688	\$1,035	\$9,531
Total Income	\$12,636	\$14,211	\$172,623
Budgeted Expenses	\$16,817	\$25,968	\$176,820
Net (Loss)	(\$4,181)	(\$11,757)	(\$4,197)



A Poem for the Theme | How
does a weary world
rejoice?
**The Last Time I Saw
God**

*Written by Rev. Sarah (Are)
Speed*

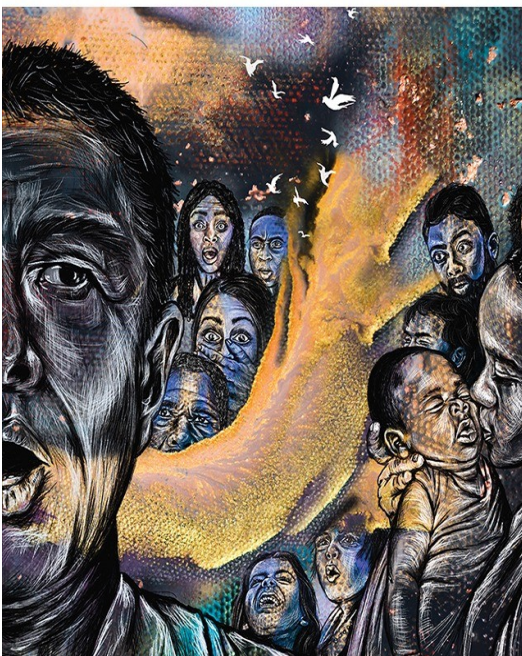
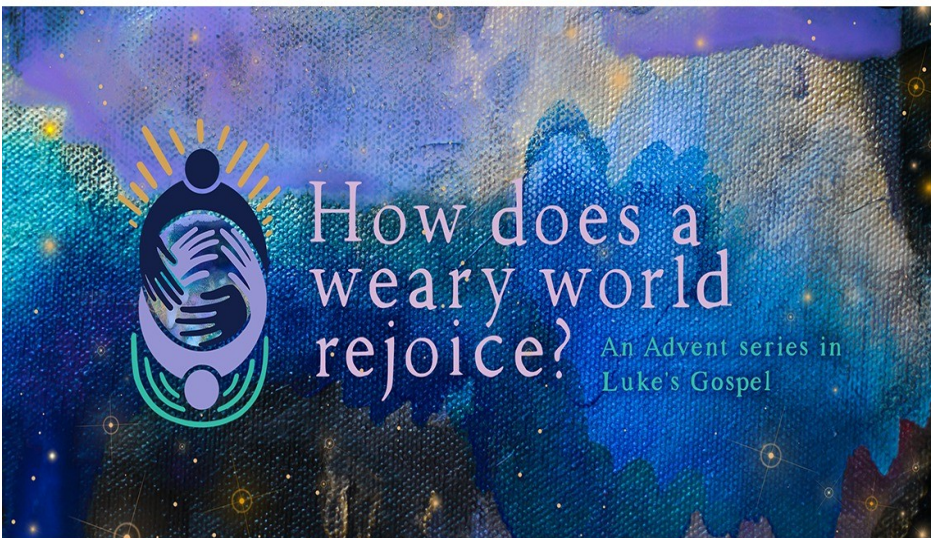
The last time I saw God face
to face
I was looking at a bed of
tulips.
God was every color of red.
I was merely a mortal,
in awe of it all.

The time before that,
we were tying back the
curtains,
looking for stars.
God was the deepest purple
and the brightest light.

The time before that,
the city was soft with snow.
God was the quiet
that tucked us all in.

And in between these small
gifts there were
newborn babies,
and sapling trees,
homemade bread,
the sound of a church
singing on Sunday.

...
Why, yes, we are lucky.
We are more than lucky
for the moments when
delight and awe
unzip the weight
we carry around.





Prayer Request



Church Family:

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

Beth Baarda, in home hospice in La Grange, GA

Nan Carpenter, recovering from a fall

Gini Wilkerson, recovering from brain surgery

Extended Family:

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

Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment

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

Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues

Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, double amputation

John Howard, Joe Bennett's brother-in-law, ongoing health concerns and surgery

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

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable

PJ Malagisi, former elementary student of Jennifer Flory, traumatic brain injury

Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns

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

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, mass on her colon- at Carlyle House in Macon

Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, undergoing prostrate cancer treatment

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

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns, recovering from a fall

Susan Patrick Renfro, dear friend of Margaret Ivester, caretaker of spouse after surgery

Timbo Renfro, dear friend of Margaret Ivester, recovering from hip replacement surgery

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

Addie VanOrsdale, family friend of Cissy Lane, kidney failure

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns

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

Eloise Lamb, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

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

Martha Chappell

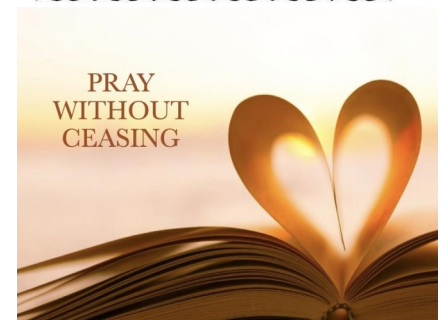
Helen Danuser

Military Service

Will Deason

Rebecca Elangwe

(Both are Reservists)



Anniversaries

November 5~ David & Tammi Ritchie



Birthdays

November 1~ Kate Phillips

November 8~ George

Carpenter

November 9~ Lois Callender

November 12~ Elliot

Callender

November 13~ Jane Braxley

November 14~ Chichi Odihe

November 24~ Letha

Hawkins

November 25~ Debbie

Lamsma

