

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## NOVEMBER 2022

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

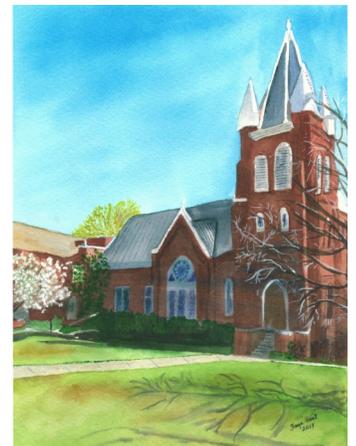
478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgeville.org



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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET**  
**MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061**

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





# First Presbyterian Church

## Issue No. 315 November 2022



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 the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! When I lift you up in prayer, I give thanks for you. Your dedication to our faith and our church family make our church one in which positive transformation happens all the time, and it is a beautiful thing to see. As it's not always visible, I'd like to share some of the transformation I see.

What you do probably see is the careful cultivation of our youngest saints. Gloria coaches them in social and communication skills at the same time that she teaches them important gospel truths. When a child of our church enters the puppet Sunday school and worship ministry, they usually are soft-spoken and hesitant; over time, their reading comprehension increases, as does their poise and confidence. Our children learn skills they don't often gain in other areas of education.

Most of you may not realize that our children and youth ministry extends well beyond our immediate membership. We have an extended church family of children who may not regularly attend worship, but whom we see at every Easter Egg Hunt and every Vacation Bible School. We have been so important in the lives of children in our community, as they've learned about the love of God through the love of our church. Our faithful Christian Education team does a marvelous job of it.

With our less-than-youngest saints, too, I have seen our church be transformative. Some who have had doubts about their abilities and potential contributions to our common life have flourished in leadership and grown in their faith as they hesitatingly stepped into various roles and activities. In one sharing moment, several of our elders agreed that serving on session helps to re-center their faith and refocus their commitment. When one serves, they not only give of themselves, but they gain as well!

Last year, I had the honor to officiate the wedding of two individuals who met when they came to our church for help; they are now back on their feet together, building their lives in the love of God.

One of the most poignant examples of how this church impacts individuals regards our late brother Joe Vincent. Those of you who knew Joe know that he wasn't the easiest person to love. He had been made unwelcome in some of the other churches in our town. But here, he was welcome. I was disappointed that his family didn't want a funeral, but I knew we did. I was moved by the outpouring of love evident in not only the attendance of his memorial service, but in the eulogies. The place Joe had at FPC was a testament to the openness of heart any and everyone one can find here.

I invite you to reflect for a moment about the ways in which our church has shaped your life and faith. What does it mean to you to call FPC your church home? How have others in our church family nurtured and cared for you? How does our worship life feed, challenge, or uplift you?

I look forward to our luncheon on November 6, when we will gather together in table fellowship and have the chance to celebrate all that we love about FPC, and reflect on its importance in our lives and the life of our community.

In Christ, Rev. Susan



## Angel Tree 2022

Keep a look out for the Angel Tree this month. We have the inside scoop on some youngsters who really need the help our church family can give. Don't be shy, take more than one angel to help a child feel loved this Christmas. You know you love to play Santa!



## Food Pantry

Food Pantry has served some what fewer than usual (24) families this month, but more than usual (5) new folks, so that percentage is up. Thanks to your ongoing generosity, we are always able to care for everyone.

You may recall that last December, I was able to give each family a Christmas card with a surprise cash gift. I would like to do that again this year and invite you to participate.

If you would like to do so, please prepare a card, signed "Your Sisters and Brothers in Christ at First Presbyterian", enclose your cash gift, and give it to me or leave it in the office. I will begin distributing them the first Tuesday in December. If you would prefer, you can make a check to the church designated for Food Pantry and I will manage the cash. Last year, each card held \$25. I chose to use cash instead of gift cards to save the folks that activation fee that eats into the gift.

Your donated 2023 calendars will also be made available beginning in December, so please keep us in mind when those arrive in your mailbox. "Thank you" to those who have brought them in already! We also received, and have begun to offer, handmade warm hats and scarves someone made from leftover knitting yarn. They are wonderfully colorful, warm and fluffy, and the folks are so appreciative as the weather has cooled significantly. "Thank you!" to that donor as well.

Please continue to keep the Food Pantry in your prayers and in your budgets. This is a worthwhile ministry and is so appreciated by our less fortunate neighbors. Thank you on their behalf. ~Donna Gautier

### 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



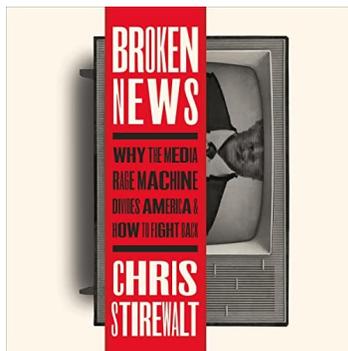


# CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Join us for the Celebratory Luncheon on November 6. Stay after for the Peace Fair. There will be music, games, story telling, places for contemplation and more!

## FPC BOOK CLUB



The FPC Book Club will meet on the second Thursday, November 10th, in the church parlor. We will be discussing the book, *Broken News: Why the Media Rage Machine Divides America and How to Fight Back* by Chris Stirewalt, a former Fox News political editor. *Broken News* is a deeply researched study of how the news is made and how it must be repaired, with surprising take always about who is to blame. The author goes deep inside the industry to explain how today's media divides America for profit. He offers practical advice on how we can become better news consumers for the sake of the republic.

The book selection for December is *Nomad Century* by Gaia Vince. Most people accept climate change, but many are unaware of how destructive it has become. Drought hit regions that can no longer support the people, coastlines diminishing year after year, wildfires and hurricanes leaving widening paths of destruction, but the biggest consequence is a total reshaping of the earth's human geography. Global migration has doubled in the past decade with an estimated billions of displaced people in the coming decades.

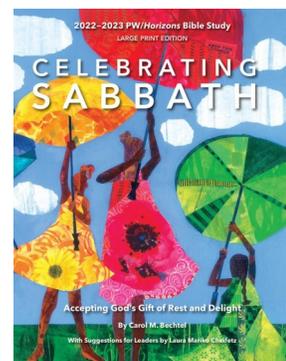
Please mark your calendar and join us. These two book selections promise a meaningful discussion about topics that are current today. ~Millie Murphy

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study continues to meet on the second Sunday at 5:00 pm and the second Tuesday at 11:00 am. Both groups will meet in the Parlor Room.

This year's book, *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol Bechtel has proven interesting from the very start.

The Presbyterian Women are also leading a Thank Offering Service on November 20, 2022, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.





# MISSION AND MINISTRY



**Thanks to your generosity of time and money, we continue to make sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge each month. Join us the last Sunday of the month to help feed our neighbors and ourselves.**

Please bring any of the following: Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials. Please note: We currently do not need peanut butter or bread. Please consider bringing something else. Thank you!

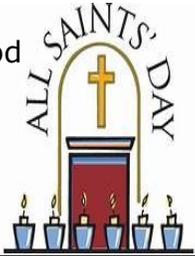


## Samaritan Ministry

Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds, we were unable to help anyone with their utilities in October. We were also not awarded the extra funding we had hoped to receive from the Presbytery. They said it was not a reflection of our ministry, but a lack of being able to fund every program. We will try again next year. There remains a great deal of need in this area that not many other charities can help. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry and please consider giving of your time once a month for this ministry.



# November

		<p>1 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 5:30 Worship</p> 
<p>6 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Celebratory Luncheon 1:00 Peace Fair</p>	7	<p>8 <b>ELECTION DAY</b> 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 PW Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>  
<p>13 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group 5:00 PW Bible Study</p>	14	<p>15 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>20 <b>PW THANK OFFERING SERVICE</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group</p>	21	<p>22 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>27 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Milly Free Fridge 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group</p>	28	<p>29 <b>GIVING TUESDAY</b> 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 



# 2022



<p>2 5:00PM Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 <b>World Community Day</b></p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9 5:00PM Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study</p>	<p>10 <b>2:00PM FPC Book Club</b></p>	<p>11 <b>VETERANS DAY</b></p>	<p>12</p>
<p>16 5:00PM Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>23 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study</p>	<p>24 <b>THANKSGIVING</b> Office Closed</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>30 5:00PM Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study</p>			

## Elders on Session

**Class of 2024** ~ Jennifer Flory (Worship) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) 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. Call the office for an appointment.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Beginning November 13, our Children and Youth Programs will be changing their schedule.

We hope that our new times will work better for some of our members. We will continue to meet those Youth who can on Wednesday from 5:00-6:30 so that we can complete the Rock Garden that Ms. Marion and Buddy are helping us with.

**Our new schedule will be:**

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

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

**Youth Choir (K-12<sup>th</sup> ) Sunday 3:00 – 3:30**

**Sunday Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> ) including prep for Montreat ( 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) Sunday 3:30 – 4:30**

As we approach our Christmas Joy Service, choir rehearsals will expand to 2:45 – 3:45. Please let us know if you are planning to participate with the group for this event. You must practice with us to perform on December 11.



## TREASURER'S CORNER

After a promising report last month I must tell you that the financial situation this month is much worse. Take a close look at the summary attached. Please do your part to help us pay our bills. Our church depends on faithful givers to keep the mission going. God's work is hard, but we can make a difference in the lives of others. ~Joel Burns

	August	September	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$14,592	\$12,641	\$111,219
Other Income	\$683	\$684	\$8,798
Total Income	\$15,275	\$13,325	\$120,017
Budgeted Expenses	\$15,214	\$22,982	\$165,857
<b>Net (Loss)</b>	<b>\$61</b>	<b>(\$9,657)</b>	<b>(\$45,840)</b>

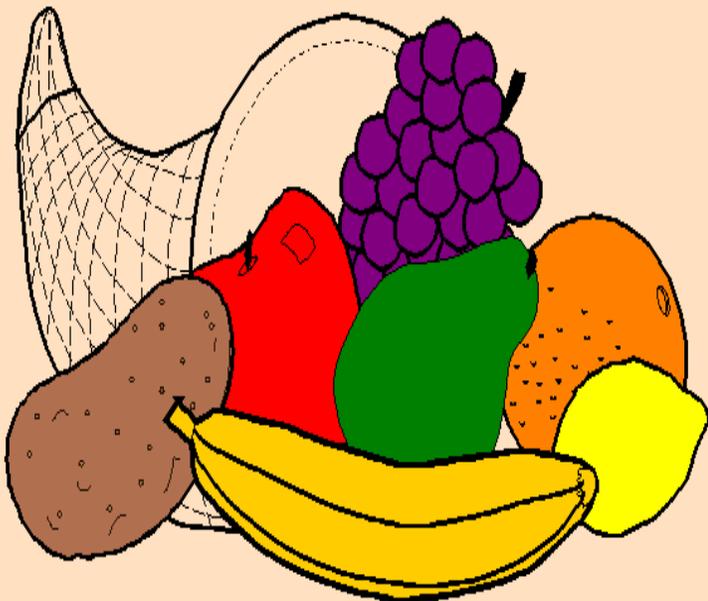
# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets for a pot luck supper and lively discussion. We have started a new book, *Bullies and Saints* by John Dickson. This book is a fascinating review of the history of the good and evil the church has caused. 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

... God ... gives us richly all things to enjoy.  
1 Timothy 6:17 NKJV



## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are studying *A Call to Die* by David Nasser. It is a series of 40 lessons about

how we draw closer to the teachings of Jesus. 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 permits us to study and learn without risk of COVID exposure and several of us enjoy the experience. Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we meet for our conversations and study. We are studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*. His fascinating Biblical interpretation and his humor lace this collection and make for easy discussions.

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

Give thanks unto the Lord,  
for he is good: for his mercy  
endureth forever.  
Psalm 107:1



# CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Offering collected  
November 27-  
December 18, 2022

In the story of God, as we tell it, there is a barrier that exists between the Created world and its Creator. A wall. Sin, we believe, separates us from God, and separation from God is unbearable.

Our story goes on to tell us that God, seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of getting over, or through or around what separates us, offered us a gift in Jesus Christ, who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.

*What a gift!*

But the story goes on to say that Jesus is the *perfect* gift; not only opening a door but coming through it. Our story says God is with us.

In Jesus, God joined with humanity, pointing the way to the end of our separation. And in his life, death and resurrection, so our story of God goes, Jesus *is* the door, now standing open. The giving continues because God is with us, still — and always.

Because being with us is part of God's story, being with others is part of our call.

During this Advent Season, we are called to support the Christmas Joy Offering, to celebrate God's perfect gift and open doors for those we might not be able to meet face to face, but who need the support that our gifts provide.

We support the potential of students of color who are becoming leaders in our churches and communities as we seek to come alongside them, to encourage and to open doors. And we support church workers and their families who encounter critical financial needs as we come alongside them, to assist them — we open doors for them. We thank God for being “with us” through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

The story of God, as we tell it, is not about a barrier, but about a gift. It's not about the separation, but about the gift of “being with.” Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering, in celebration of God's perfect gift to us. Give because it brings us together, to open doors of relief and opportunity and to relationships that are part of God's story, a part of God's perfect gift to us.

Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future.



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



November 20, 2022, the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church will lead the worship service and collect the Thank Offering.

## About the *Thank Offering*

The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. Since 1988, Presbyterian Women has supported more than 1,600 different projects, with grants of \$12.4 million for international and \$14.8 million for domestic projects. It has been nearly 125 years since Eliza asked women to support mission and today faithful givers are still responding to her inspiring call through the PW Thank Offering. For more information on the 2022 Thank Offering recipients, read the Summer issue of *Horizons* magazine or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://presbyterianwomen.org/thank).

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an inclusive, caring community of women committed to working toward God's promise of wholeness for all people. It is the women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Guided by the PW Purpose, participants in Presbyterian Women nurture their faith through prayer and Bible study, build community, work for justice and peace, and support the mission of the church.

These commitments are lovingly carried out in Presbyterian Women groups in congregations, presbyteries and synods. At the national level, Presbyterian Women provides the resources, direction and opportunities to fulfill the organization's mission and ministry.

Presbyterian Women has a connectional structure that allows you to participate as deeply and/or broadly in the organization and its commitments as you wish. Won't you come experience all PW has to offer?



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN



**Church Family:**

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home  
 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, recovering at home

**Limited Mobility**  
 Martha Chappell  
 Helen Danuser

**Extended Family:**

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns  
 Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment  
 Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery  
 Dee Hartmann, Sandra Balfour's sister-in-law, health issues  
 Michael Hutchinson, Joel Burns' cousin, recovering from burns  
 Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma  
 Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable  
 Julie Monteaugustor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns  
 Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis  
 Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, 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, ongoing health concerns  
 Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

**Military Service**  
 Will Deason  
 Rebecca Elangwe



**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

**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 25~ Debbie Lamsma

