

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## OCTOBER 2023

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; [fpchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fpchurch@windstream.net); [www.fpcmilledgeville.org](http://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**



# First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 327 October 2023

Pastor:  
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &  
Youth Ministries:

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 thanks to God for you, and you are in my prayers daily. Your faithfulness shows God's love in beautiful ways.

October 31 is Reformation Day: the anniversary of Martin Luther's famous action of nailing a list of 95 objections to the path the Catholic church had been following. A monk himself, he studied the Scriptures and used them as a lens in which to examine the teachings and practices of the church, and recognized the need for critical reform. This action inspired—or perhaps emboldened—other individuals to turn a discerning eye toward the faith and its institutions.

As Presbyterians, we trace our tradition to John Calvin. However, there are many aspects to Calvin's work that we have continued to reflect upon and reform, in light of further divine revelation and the lessons of experience, all tempered by the guiding principle of God as Love, and the foundation of the Scriptures as—in part—a blueprint for faithful living grounded in love.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has many mottos, and among them is this: Reformed and Always Reforming, According to the Will of God. This phrase is a recognition that the church is a human institution, and is therefore imperfect. Our history reflects our heritage as a scion of the Reformation. Our present reflects our constant practice of discerning God's will for the church. Sometimes that means we are strengthened in our convictions, and sometimes it means that we must humbly reassess our convictions, repent, and move forward in grace.

Always being reformed according to the will of God is a difficult thing. It upsets the status quo, breaks open our self-assuredness, and allows us to grow in new ways. As we celebrate the Reformation, let us remember the courage of those first reformers, and follow in their footsteps to speak and act boldly as a reflection of God's love for the world.

I pray God's grace and peace attend you.

In Christ, Rev. Susan

We are once again participating in the community Trunk or Treat and need your help! We need candy donations; last year there were more than 1,500 children attending the event! We could also use fun loving volunteers who wish to hand out the candy. Last year, Reverend Susan dressed as Queen Elizabeth, complete with tiara and throne. While you needn't be so



exact, the children love seeing adults dressed in costume. So join us in creating a fun, family friendly community event on Friday, October 27 at 5:00 PM at Walter B. Williams' Park.

It's that time again! The youth are fundraising for their Montreat Summer Conference trip and they have something very exciting to offer.

The youth are selling raffle tickets for **TWO SUITE TICKETS to The EAGLES at the State Farm Arena on November 2, 2023**. Drawing will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Deep Roots Festival on October 21, 2023 **Each ticket is \$5**. Call the office at (478)452-9394 for more details. Don't wait to get your raffle ticket. The more you buy, the more likely you'll be to win the tickets!

ONLY \$5 PER RAFFLE TICKET  
TO WIN  
**TWO SUITE TICKETS  
TO SEE  
THE EAGLES AND  
STEELY DAN  
AT THE STATE FARM  
ARENA  
NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

Drawing will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Deep Roots Festival on OCTOBER 21, 2023



YOUTH RAFFLE TICKETS

EAGLES

THE LONG GOODBYE

GET YOURS NOW

Call the church office for details!  
(478)452-9394




## 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.





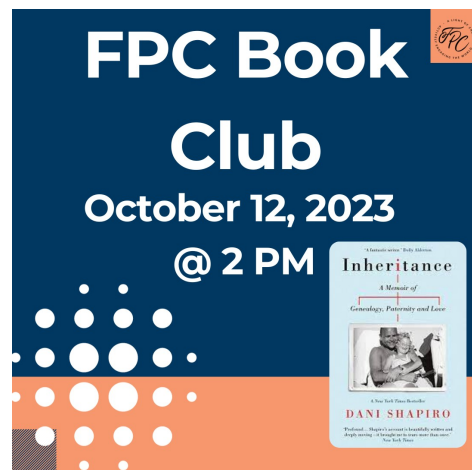
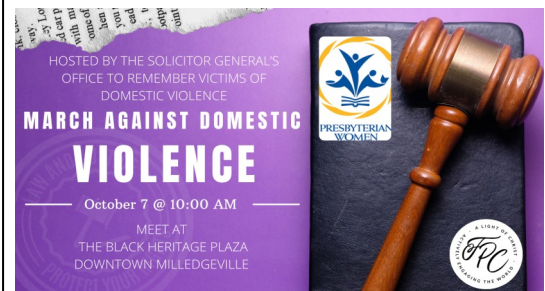
# CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Arboretum's participation in Walktober by meeting for a Family Fun Hike on **Monday, October 16 at 5:30**. Lockerly is staying open late on Mondays and Wednesdays in October so more people can come visit their beautiful gardens. After our walk, we will gather for hot cider and cookies. Make plans to join us for fun and fellowship.

Fall is in the air and we are taking advantage of the cooler temperatures and Lockerly

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. In honor of victims of domestic violence in our community, we will be marching together on **October 7 at 10:00 AM**. The Presbyterian Women are prepared snack bags to give out to participants.



own identity and to find her biological father. This is an amazing detective story with surprising twists and turns along the way.

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".

Please come and join us as we meet to discuss two very different books. As always, they both should be very interesting reads.

~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, October 29th 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

Our Samaritan Ministry provides assistance to those in need of help paying their utility bills. There are very few of these programs available in Baldwin County yet the need for such assistance continues to increase. Those who receive aid are only allowed to request help every six months in order to make sure the most people possible are helped. This month, thanks to your support, we were able to help three people with their utilities for a total of \$475.26. Please consider giving regularly to this mission as we often have to turn people away. There are so many in need. The Samaritan Ministry help for this month is scheduled for October 17 at 9:30 am.

Serve.













As "my Ben" used to say when some unexpected blessing arrived: "Thank Thee! Thank Thee! Thank Thee!" During the past month, Food Pantry has been blessed with one substantial donation of funds, three windfall in-kind donations, and the opportunity to ease the burdens of 54 families. In addition, we have been assisted by several young men from GC whose hearts have been moved to start a new service organization on campus. Their strong backs have eased the burdens of these "senior ladies"!

As good as the above news is, please be aware that Food Pantry has been so much in demand recently that this only barely brings us back "into the black" financially. We must continue all the usual supports: food, funds, and prayers. Personal anecdote: I was in a grocery store this week, filling in the gaps for our distribution, talking with the woman ahead of me in the check-out line about this ministry. When she reached the cashier, she said "put her order on my bill", which she did, and saved a valuable \$27.00 for our budget. You never know what your witness will bring out! "Thank Thee! Thank Thee! Thank Thee!"

~Donna & Margaret



# October

<p><b>1 9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service          FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM  <b>12:00</b> Youth Group  <b>5:00 PW Bible Study</b></p>	<p><b>2 7:00</b> MSG</p> 	<p><b>3 9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p><b>8 9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service          FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM  <b>12:00</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>9 6:30</b> PFLAG  <b>7:00</b> MSG</p> 	<p><b>10 9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>11:00</b> PW Bible Study  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p><b>15 9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service          FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM  <b>12:00</b> Youth Group  <b>12:00</b> Spaghetti Luncheon          hosted by <b>Homeless Awareness Club</b></p>	<p><b>16 5:30</b> Family Fun Hike  <b>7:00</b> MSG</p> 	<p><b>17 9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry          and <b>Samaritan Ministry</b>  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon  <b>5:30</b> Session Meeting</p> 
<p><b>22 9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service          FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM  <b>12:00</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>23 7:00</b> MSG</p> 	<p><b>24 9:00-2:00</b> Presbytery          Meeting in Cornelius  <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p><b>29 9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service          FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM  <b>12:00</b> Youth Group  <b>12:00</b> Milly Free Fridge  <b>Reformation Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>30 7:00</b> MSG</p> 	<p><b>31 9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 



# 2023



4 6:30  
Wednesday Potluck  
and Study



5 5:30 Nominating  
Committee



6

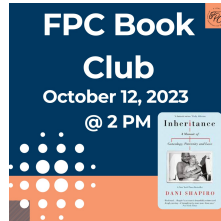
7 10:00 March  
Against Domestic  
Violence



11 6:30  
Wednesday Potluck  
and Study



12 2:00 FPC Book  
Club



13

14 9:30-2:00 Social  
Justice Symposium



18 6:30  
Wednesday Potluck  
and Study



19

20

21 10:00 Deep Roots  
Booth



25 6:30  
Wednesday Potluck  
and Study



26

27 5:00 Trunk or  
Treat



28



## WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 Church

*Actively Engaged in the World*

### 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.



## YOUTH GROUP

### Sundays, 12:00pm



Youth Group is back in swing every Sunday after the worship service. There are exciting events on the horizon and we hope all of our young people will take advantage of the opportunity to engage in fellowship with each other while deepening their faith and connection to the church.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Sundays, 10:15am, in the Fellowship Hall

Children's Sunday School has started off again! We have several different teachers who help out each Sunday. Anne Smart, whose kindness and patience shine through in all she does. Laurie Peebles, whose enthusiasm and exuberance is contagious. We are using a curriculum from the PC(USA) called Growing in Grace & Gratitude. This class is for multiple ages from 4PK-5th grade and is filled with music, art and storytelling. We hope to see many young people taking advantage of this opportunity to engage with and learn more about our faith.







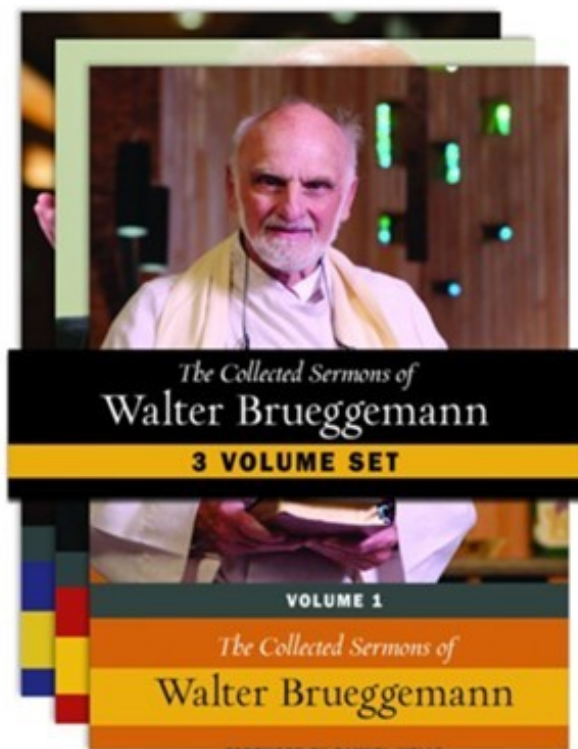
# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



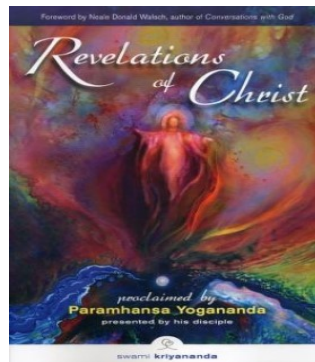
## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 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. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link.

~Joel D. Burns



## 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*. 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 Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a Social Justice Symposium: *Working Toward Justice For All* on Saturday, October 14, from 9:30-2:00 that is **open to everyone**. The symposium is at First Presbyterian Church in Athens and will include three workshops to choose from:

- 1- The Least of These (Anti-poverty)
- 2- Welcoming, Including, Loving All God's Children
- 3- Showing the World what HOPE looks like through the Church

There will also be a catered lunch for \$10. RSVP either by email: [judygrieve@mac.com](mailto:judygrieve@mac.com) or by text: (407)230-6853 with the following information: Your name and email/text number, Church, Lunch (yes or no) and which workshop you wish to attend. More information about the workshops can be found on our Facebook event and the congregation was emailed the PDF with all pertinent information. Feel free to call the office for more information or another copy of the PDF. They ask that you **RSVP by October 4**.



## **TREASURER'S CORNER**

As I write this (September 25, 2023) I am enjoying the glow from the marvelous worship service we had yesterday. We had some wonderful fellowship and a truly spirit inspired service. We have much to celebrate. However, we have fallen far short of the financial support we need. Please try to make an extra contribution to keep us solvent. Please contribute to the general fund, Samaritan's Fund and Food Pantry. God bless everyone ~Joel D. Burns

	July	August	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$13,147	\$11,948	\$149,916
Other Income	\$688	\$688	\$8,496
Total Income	\$13,835	\$12,636	\$158,412
Budgeted Expenses	\$16,442	\$16,817	\$150,852
Net (Loss)	(\$2,607)	(\$4,181)	\$7,560



Join us in representing the church at the Deep Roots Festival this October 21. We will have children's activities available as well as a prayer booth. We need volunteers to help man the booth, but have no fear! We are looking for people willing to volunteer just two hours of their time that day.

Please contact the office if you are able to do this with us. (478)452-9394.



We welcome Valentine, Sarah, and Bennett Orock into membership! We're delighted that they've joined our growing church family! Bennett

will be baptized October 22, 2023. Be sure to join us that day in welcoming him to our church family.

The Homeless Awareness Club, run by Teri Anne Bradley, will be hosting a spaghetti luncheon fundraiser. For just **\$5 per person** or **\$15 per family**, you can have a homemade spaghetti lunch with salad, drink and bread. This is to help the club continue their effort to feed and help those in the community who are un-housed. Please join us after the worship service on **Sunday, October 15.**



Grades 6-12







#### **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

Margaret Ivester, ongoing health concerns

Gini Wilkerson, upcoming surgery

#### **Extended Family:**

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

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

Joellen Gunsauley, Nancy Miller's sister, internal bleeding

Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues

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: Macon

Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, undergoing prostate cancer treatment Chris

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

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

Susan Patrick Renfroe, dear friend of Margaret Ivester, caretaker of husband after hip replacement surgery

Timbo Renfroe, 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

Johnny Wynn, son of friend of Sue Bennett's, Lukemia

#### **Limited Mobility**

Martha Chappell

Helen Danuser

#### **Military Service**

Will Deason

Rebecca Elangwe

(Both are Reservists)

I am with you

*Always*

Matthew 28:20

HolySpirit1.Com

#### **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

### **Anniversaries**

October 4~ Don & Jane Braxley



### **Birthdays**

October 1~ Bob Smart

October 4~Linda Bradley

October 8~ Astrid Callender

October 8~ Craig Callender

October 8~ Holley Cowan

October 9~ Millie Murphy

October 12~ Bill Flory

October 23~ Tammi Ritchie

October 24~ Mary Baker

October 24~ Becky Henderson

October 28~ Helen Danuser

October 30~ Doris Moody

