

Church Currents



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
210 S. Wayne St
Milledgeville, GA 31061



A Note from the Pastor

I hope you all had a wonderful and safe holiday weekend! Having just marked the monumental 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, our community is likely still feeling the echoes of the parades, fireworks, and historic reflections. It was a remarkable milestone, offering us a chance to look back with gratitude at the profound gift of liberty and the ideals framed two and a half centuries ago.

Yet, now that the picnics have wrapped up and the sparklers have gone out, a civic celebration of independence invites us as people of faith into a deeper, more lasting reflection.

While our culture often defines freedom as total self-reliance—the idea that we are entirely self-made and stand alone—the Gospel tells a very different story. Grounded in our Reformed tradition, we are reminded that we were never actually created for isolation. We are created for interdependence. We belong to God, and we belong to one another.

In Christ, freedom is never just about individual rights or the license to do as we please. Rather, true Christian freedom is the liberty to love, carry one another's burdens, and serve our neighbors. It is the grace-filled realization that our lives are woven together in a complex, beautiful tapestry. We need each other to truly thrive.

As we move into the rest of this summer season, let us carry the spirit of that historic milestone forward—not by standing apart, but by leaning into our sacred connection. Our strength as a community comes from the ways we bind up the brokenhearted, lift up the weary, and ensure that all are invited into a space of mutual care and grace.

Thank you for the ways you live out this beautiful interdependence every day.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Session
Updates

General
Assembly recap

Committee
Highlights

Summer Youth
Retreat Info

Photo Gallery

Treasurer's
Corner

Peace,
Rev. Mari

Update from the 227th General Assembly (GA227)

From June 22 through July 2, 2026, Presbyterian teaching elders, ruling elders, and advisory delegates gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and online for the 227th General Assembly. Through prayer, worship, and discernment, the assembly shaped our shared denominational mission, governance, and theological witness.

Look for a detailed insert with more specific information in our July 19th bulletin!

Here are some of the key actions of the General Assembly:

- New Co-Moderators: Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and Rev. Dr. Kris Schondelmeyer were elected to lead our denomination for the next two years, and they will moderate the General Assembly (GA228) in Puerto Rico in 2028.
- Theological Education & Ordination: I had the privilege of serving on this committee. The wider assembly approved our recommendations to:
 - Affirm the Parity of Elders: Reaffirming that there is no hierarchy between teaching elders (ministers) and ruling elders; both carry equal voice and value.
 - Support Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs): Establishing clearer educational baselines in Reformed theology, polity, and sacraments for CREs, and creating paths to recognize Certified Christian Educators for limited pastoral service.
 - Study Collaborative Ministry: Creating a special committee to develop recommendations for innovative, team-based leadership models over isolated roles.
- White Christian Nationalism: Officially labeled White Christian nationalism a "Theological Error," affirming that our primary allegiance is to Christ.
- Israel and Gaza: Voted overwhelmingly to recognize the war in Gaza as a genocide, voted to divest denomination funds from companies with ties to Israel's military (Palantir Technologies and GE Aerospace), and urged an arms embargo.
- Gender-Affirming Care: Voted to declare explicit denominational support for access to medically necessary, evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare.
- "Beyond Changing Families" Initiative: Approved a comprehensive study to develop theological frameworks and resources that offer equity, dignity, and pastoral support to modern family and relational structures.
- Commission on World Mission: Formed a special 7-member commission to investigate recent national restructuring and financial oversight, aiming to rebuild a transparent, accountable model for global partnerships.

As a connectional church, these national decisions remind us that we belong to a much larger tapestry of faith. While some of these topics invite deep debate, they reflect our shared desire to live out the gospel with courage, integrity, and grace.

To read full overtures or daily briefings, please visit pc-biz.org or let me know!



Missions & Ministry



FPC Food Pantry

Thank you for your ongoing support of Food Pantry! We continue to have people waiting for us to open every Tuesday morning as they have learned we frequently distribute all we have within the first 15 minutes. Unfortunately, we do have to turn people away at times even though we prepare 12 bags each week. Each one costs about \$35, including a balance of kinds of food which cooks can add to other items to stretch their budgets. If you have garden surplus, consider offering it to our folks. Recently, someone provided fresh green beans, taken gladly by about half a dozen of our guests. Over the five Tuesdays in June, we served 57 households, 6 of which were new. Thanks to you!



Food pantry items:

- Canned soups
- Canned pasta
- Canned ham, tuna, salmon, and chicken
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Grits, oatmeal, and/or cereal
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned fruits and vegetables

Snack & Hygiene Pack Ministry

Multiple visitors rely on this ministry for relief. Donations of the following are greatly appreciated:

- Disposable utensil sets
- Bottled or boxed water

Due to the heat, water is a main request! We have a small cooler of cold water out when temperatures are above 90 degrees.

Use the QR to the left to browse our Amazon wishlist. These items come directly to the church and can be donated anonymously.



Samaritan Ministry

We helped five households in June through Samaritan Ministry! Clothing donations are being accepted; we now have a clothing rack in the Fellowship classroom at the end of the hall. Clean socks and underwear are a main request from our visitors.

Please contact Pat Henry or Bill Werts if you are interested in supporting this ministry. Thank you for your continued help.

The next disbursement of funds will be on **Tuesday, July 21 at 9:00 AM.**

Sandwich Squad

VBS edition! Youth made sandwiches and Jennifer King dropped them off at the community fridge at Midway Hills Primary.

Join this ministry by staying after service on the last Sunday of the month. All are welcome!

Christian Education



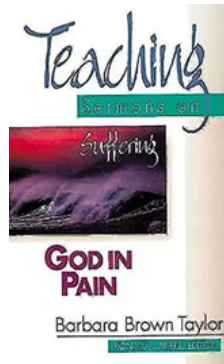
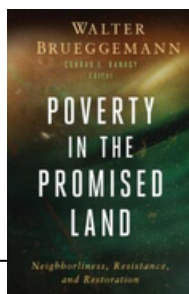
Bible Sunday School

The Bible Sunday School class is in the midst of an intensive study of the Book of Jeremiah. One of the longest books in the Bible, Jeremiah is critical to understanding the Judaism of Jesus' era. Before the exile in 587 B.C.E., the time when the book of Jeremiah was set, one theology was predominate and after that date, a totally different theology prevailed.

We will have a break in July while Gloria and I are out of town. Our class will not meet on July 12, 19 and 26. The study will resume the first Sunday in August.

Our class meets in person (in the church parlor) every Sunday at 9:45 AM.

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



Fellowship Sunday School Class

We are studying *Teaching Sermons on Suffering: God in Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor. This group meets in person every Sunday morning at 9:45. We would love to have you join us.

~Bill Werts

Wednesday Night Potluck & Study

The Wednesday night group meets in person for a great pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. Reverend Mari is leading us in a study of *Poverty in the Promised Land* by Walter Brueggemann. This book is a perfect fit for our "Matthew 25" church.

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.



d365

d365 is a daily devotion written for youth and adults. The devotion follows a five-step format – **Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go.**

The **Pause** step remains the same all week and is designed as a centering tool as you begin the devotion.

The **Listen** step is the scripture passage for the day, using the Common English Bible translation. The **Think** step is the devotional thought by the week's writer.

The **Pray** step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God. The **Go** step is a call to action – launching you from this moment toward acting on what you have heard.

As you read the thoughts of the writers, think about your own response to the scripture for the day. Let the writer's words serve as background for your own conversation with God.

Youth Group News

A Standing Ovation for Our Youth!

Wow! I am still bursting with delight over the incredible talent, energy, and dedication our youth displayed in their performance of Godspell following Vacation Bible School.

Our youth didn't just put on an amazing show and share lessons from Jesus' life; they provided true leadership by welcoming, mentoring, and incorporating our younger children into the production seamlessly. The talent, maturity, and heart you all demonstrated showed exactly what it means to be a community that lifts one another up. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us and for leading our younger disciples with such grace!



"Beloved and Known"

The excitement doesn't stop there. We are officially counting down the days until our youth retreat at the Calvin Center, happening July 20–23! Our theme for the week is Beloved and Known, and it's going to be a fantastic few days of deep connection, rest, laughter, recreation, and spiritual renewal.

The Logistics



- **Departure:** Monday, July 20th. Meet at the church at 10:00 AM sharp.
- **Return:** Thursday, July 23rd, around supper time (we will text parents with a precise ETA when we are on the road).
- Here is the link to the full Youth Retreat Information Form [\[https://bit.ly/26YouthRetreatInfo\]](https://bit.ly/26YouthRetreatInfo)



Action Item for Parents

Please make sure your youth's paperwork is complete before we head out. You can access the digital form here:

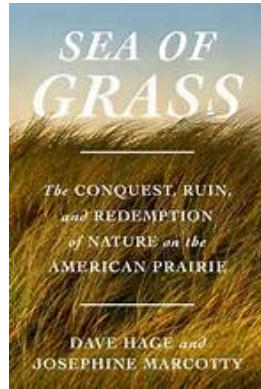
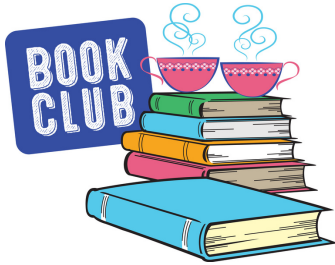
[\[https://bit.ly/youthretreat26form\]](https://bit.ly/youthretreat26form).

Please fill it out and sign it, then either bring it to the church by June 12th, email a copy to revmariturner@gmail.com, or take a clear photo of each page and text it to 706.424.6354.

Thank You to Our Church Family!

An adventure like this doesn't happen without a village. We want to extend a massive, heartfelt thank you to everyone in our congregation who supported our youth fundraising efforts and generously donated money to make this trip possible. Because of your financial support and your prayers, our youth have the opportunity to attend, grow, and experience God's love in a unique camp setting. We are so grateful for your investment in our young people!

Congregational Fellowship



First Presbyterian Book Club

Thursday, July 9 @ 2:00 PM in the Parlor

The book selection for the month of July is *Sea of Grass, the Conquest, Ruin, and Redemption of Nature on the American Prairie* by Dave Haig and Josephine Marcotty. *Sea of Grass* is a vivid portrait of the American prairie. This book describes one of the world's greatest and most important landscapes in North America. The Prairie is an ecological marvel, a lush carpet of grass that stretches to the horizon, but the constant expansion of agriculture threatens what remains. Today, industrial agriculture continues its assault on the prairie, plowing up one million acres of grassland a year. The authors provide a vivid portrait of a miraculous ecosystem that makes clear why the future of the region is of essential concern far beyond the heartland.

The book selection for the month of August is *How Doctors Think* by Jerome Groopman, MD, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. The author presents a profound view of twenty-first-century medical decision making, pinpointing the forces and thought processes behind the decisions doctors make. *How Doctors Think* reveals an important approach to today's medical practice, improving doctor-patient communications, and giving doctors and patients a way to make better judgements together.

Join us for an interesting discussion of an ecological marvel, the American prairie.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women

Hello, all ladies of our church. Presbyterian Women are now officially on summer break! But we need to know if you might be interested in joining come September when we start back. There is a group that meets on the second Sunday at 5:00 p.m. And our other group meets the second Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Our study book is from the Horizon magazine and we will be working through 1st Corinthians. If you decide to check us out and would like a study guide, they come in regular print and large print. They have been costing \$20. Please either call the church office and tell Jessica that you want to be included or email me at **nancymiller76@hotmail.com**.

I have heard from 8 ladies so far, we meet in the Parlor which is comfy and conducive to lively conversation. Please consider joining with us.

Blessings,

Nancy Miller



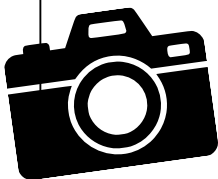
Session Notes

- A motion was approved to baptize Jakob Freeman during worship on July 12th, 2026.
- A motion was approved for Session to follow the Trustee of the Sibley Trust's recommendation and offer the seven coins, valued at \$73, to beneficiary Horace H. Sibley.
- A motion was approved for the Fellowship Sunday School class to study *Teaching Sermons on Suffering: God in Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor.
- A motion was approved to issue a proclamation recognizing the Congregational Care and Fellowship Team for its outstanding work on the Bicentennial Celebration.
- A motion was approved to move communion from July 5th to July 12th.
- A motion was approved to issue a proclamation thanking Susan McGill, the Bicentennial Planning Committee, Rev. Mari Turner, and Jessica McQuain for their work on the Bicentennial Celebration.
- Session agreed to continue including Moments in Church Life segments in worship through the end of the year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, SUSAN
MCGILL, CLERK OF SESSION

Bicentennial Celebration

Send us your photos from the bicentennial celebrations! We want to feature all our church family in the digital scrapbook we're working on. Send your photos via email to milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com or text message to 478-443-5203 to be part of this effort.



Bicentennial Recognition from the City of Milledgeville

We are waiting to hear the date for the city council meeting that will include the proclamation honoring FPC's 200 years of faith in action. Stay tuned!



Contact the office if you missed your chance to purchase an ornament or get a swag bag from the bicentennial celebration!

Committee Highlights



Care & Fellowship

The Fellowship Team has taken a short break after a busy Bicentennial celebration, but WE ARE BACK! On July 5th a churchwide picnic is planned following the VBS presentation of selections from Godspell. Weather permitting, the picnic will be outside in the playground area so dress comfortably for food and fun.

The Care Team is continuing to be available. The team has reached out to Elaine Goggans after the death of her son, Don. Millie and Donna prepared a salad lunch for Elaine and her daughter. The team has also been in touch with Kym Thomas who recently had surgery. Melba and Charles took a meal for her family.

It is vacation time, but you are encouraged to join us on July 5 to support our VBS participants and enjoy a picnic lunch. Please contact any member of the Care and Fellowship Team or call the church office to keep us informed of care needs.

THE TEAM: Becky Humphrey, chair, Donna Gautier, Harry Beck, Jane Tipton, Margaret Ivester, Melba Burrell, Millie Murphy, Ruby Werts, Sherry Henry, and Will Humphrey.



Christian Education Committee

Our church has exciting times ahead as we move forward with hiring a Christian educator to work with our youth and children. Pastor Mari is actively seeking the right candidates to be interviewed for this part-time position. Please pray that God leads us to the person who will serve our church in teaching and leading our youth and children as they grow in His service.

Sunday School at our church will be gearing up in September with plans to expand the existing classes and add a new adult class and youth class. We currently have two adult classes with dedicated, long-term teaching every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM and our children's class continues weekly with dedicated teachers.

Stay tuned and pray for the committee and leaders as we consider plans for new teachers, the best space for new classes, the right curriculum, and most of all, new Sunday School class members. Sunday School is the heart of teaching Christian beliefs, values, and commitment to Christ and promoting fellowship. We look forward to reaching new members and for having long-time church members join Sunday School as we grow together in Christ.

If you are reading this news about Sunday School, please consider becoming a part of Sunday School. Commit to praying for our program. Plan to join in the personal growth and the church-wide growth that will come about as we seek God's will and study together in His name.

Blessings

The Christian Education Committee

Frida Ituka, Elder and Melba Burrell, co-chair

Presbyterian Women Honor Nancy Miller

Nancy Miller was recognized and celebrated in our morning worship service recently for her dedicated service to Presbyterian Women. Nancy's name was added to the plaque of many other women who have served our church over the years in PW. Nancy joined PW in 1984 in her home church in Xenia, Ohio and continued her participation in PW wherever her family lived.

Nancy has worked with the Presbytery in helping to create a new mission statement. Nancy currently serves as the moderator of Presbyterian Women for the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. The meeting for the Presbyterian Women will be held at our church on August 29. Thank you to Nancy for her service in PW in our church and on the Presbytery!



Thank you!

Committee Highlights



Worship Committee

New worship service volunteer assignments are now available through the rest of 2026! Please check [here](#) or scan below for more information!



Property Committee

Thanks to Melba Burrell and the PW for organizing and leading the work days on June 6 and June 9 in advance of our Bicentennial Celebration.

There is much work to be done and the Property Committee will be meeting in the next week or so to set the priorities for the remainder of the year.



Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will be meeting in early July to review the church's finances from the first six months of 2026 and to plan for the remainder of the year.



<i>Teri Anne Bradley - 7/15</i> <i>Jennifer Flory - 7/16</i> <i>Bill Werts - 7/24</i> <i>Joel Burns - 7/25</i> <i>Romanus Elangwe - 7/28</i>	<i>John & Cissy Lane - 7/22</i>
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Please send the church office your birthdays and anniversaries so we can celebrate with you.

Photo Gallery



**The fellowship hall was
packed for our
bicentennial luncheon!**

Tag us on social media or send
your photos to 478-443-5203 or
milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com
to be featured next month!

First Presbyterian

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
28	29	30	1
9:45am - Adult Sunday 10:15am - Children's 11am - Sunday Service 12pm - Sandwich Squad 12pm - Youth Group	VBS 7pm - ORC All Recovery	9:30am - FPC Food Pantr 12pm - Kiwanis 7:30pm - NA Meeting	
5	6	7	8
9:45am - Adult Sunday 10:15am - Children's 11am - Sunday Service	7pm - ORC All Recovery	9:30am - FPC Food Pantr 12pm - Kiwanis 7:30pm - NA Meeting	10am - Mug with Mari 6:30pm - Potluck & Study
12	13	14	15
9:45am - Adult Sunday 10:15am - Children's 11am - Sunday Service	7pm - ORC All Recovery	9:30am - FPC Food Pantr 12pm - Kiwanis 6:30pm - Session meeting 7:30pm - NA Meeting	10am - Mug with Mari 6:30pm - Potluck & Study
19	20	21	22
9:45am - Adult Sunday 10:15am - Children's 11am - Sunday Service	Youth Retreat 7pm - ORC All Recovery	9am - Samaritan Ministry 9:30am - FPC Food Pantr 12pm - Kiwanis 7:30pm - NA Meeting	6:30pm - Potluck & Study
26	27	28	29
9:45am - Adult Sunday 10:15am - Children's 11am - Sunday Service 12pm - Sandwich Squad	7pm - ORC All Recovery	9:30am - FPC Food Pantr 12pm - Kiwanis 7:30pm - NA Meeting	10am - Mug with Mari 6:30pm - Potluck & Study

Jul 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Thu		Fri		Sat	
2		3		4	
7:30pm - NA Meeting				7:30pm - NA Meeting	
9		10		11	
2pm - FPC Book Club				7:30pm - NA Meeting	
7:30pm - NA Meeting					
16		17		18	
7:30pm - NA Meeting				7:30pm - NA Meeting	
23		24		25	
7:30pm - NA Meeting				7:30pm - NA Meeting	
30		31		1	
7:30pm - NA Meeting				7:30pm - NA Meeting	

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

By appointment-
Call
(478) 452-9394

Call or Text!
(478) 443-5203

**Check our website for
the church Google
calendar and add
events to your own
calendar!**

Prayer Requests

CONDOLENCES:

To the friends and family of Leta “Frankie” Holder

CHURCH FAMILY:

Runette Pounds, recovering from hospitalization
Gini Wilkerson, recovering from surgery
Kym Thomas, recovering from surgery
Min Lindsay, recovering from surgery
Sherry Henry, recovering from surgery
Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Rachel Putnam, Gini Wilkerson’s sister, high-risk pregnancy
Rebecca McQuain, Jessica McQuain’s grandma, cancer diagnosis and surgery
Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell’s father, dealing with a cancer diagnosis
Murray Nelson, homelessness, financial struggles, better relationship with Jesus
Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen’s father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Foster with serious health issues
Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner’s mother, in memory care
Kandace Allen Bivins, friend of Margaret Foster, heart attack
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan’s daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory’s father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll’s mother, health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll’s father, recovering from kidney operation
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman’s daughter-in-law, at home with health concerns
Bob Smart, Anne Smart’s husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards’ son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers’ husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodward, Ruby Werts’ brother, diagnosed with Parkinson’s

IN ASSISTED LIVING:

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210



Treasurer's Corner

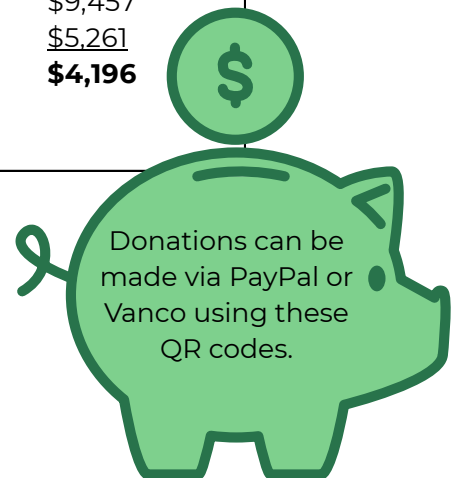
	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>		
Contributions	\$16,478	\$28,672
Other Income	\$339	\$349
Total Operating Income	\$16,818	\$29,022
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$18,525</u>	<u>\$19,553</u>
Net Operating	(\$1707)	\$9,468
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>		
Contributions	\$4,677	\$9,457
Expenses	<u>\$19,260</u>	<u>\$5,261</u>
Net Designated	(\$16,290)	\$4,196

Summer is a tough time for church finances. We have been very fortunate this year to have a cushion from your monetary faithfulness, but we will need continued support to avoid depleting our reserves.

Please remember that your support of the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry is the only way these ministries are possible. All of our work follows the example of Jesus.

Joel D. Burns
For the Finance Committee

Thank you for reading!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MILLEDGEVILLE	478-452-9394 478-443-5203 (CELL)
www.fpcmilledgeville.org milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com	210 S WAYNE ST MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061