

CHURCH CURRENTS

OCTOBER 2022

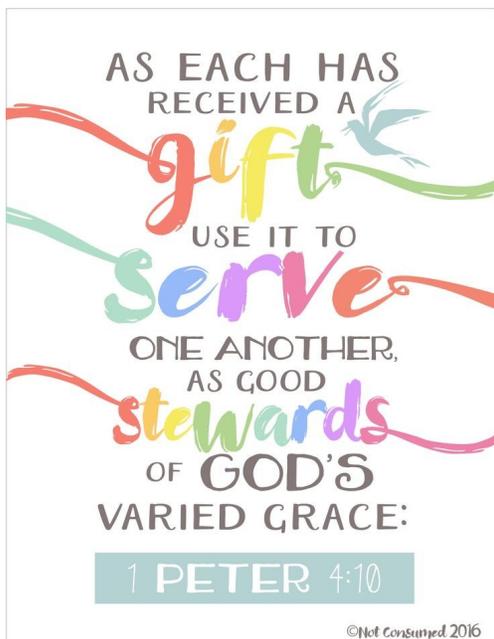
210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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





First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 315 October 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,

I greet you in the name of Christ, the One who is and who was and who is yet to come! I give thanks to God for you each day, and I am proud of the faithful love you display for one another and for our community.

Many of you know that my mother and I are great anglophiles. One of our shared hobbies is the lore of the Plantagenet dynasty, and when King Richard III was reinterred in 2015, we traveled to Leicester to pay our respects. Our travels in England were just one of our greatest shared adventures. On Mom's birthday this year, I got up at 6:00 a.m. to watch the proceedings of Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, grateful that I was at my cousin's home on the river and that I could see the sun coming up over the cypress forest as a backdrop for the pageantry and worship—a truly unique and apt way to spend a very emotional day in a place where we had spent so much time together. It hasn't been quite six months since Mom died, and of course I'm still grieving. Having spent my entire adult life living a liturgical rhythm, it has been disorienting to navigate such holy time on a secular schedule. Instead of marking time according to Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, my mile markers in the past year have been Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Spring and Summer. I went without my church family for two months; I went without school for nearly a year. In more ways than one, I'm disoriented, and trying to regain a sense of meaning in the rhythm of my days, weeks, and months. I look forward to Advent, when I can reclaim a liturgical rhythm.

I know you have felt my disorientation, too. I know that the time I was away caring for Mom—especially in the first two months of her hospice journey, as well as the time and space I have needed for grieving—has been upsetting. Nonetheless, I have never doubted your love for me, and I hope you have never doubted my love for you. Please know that I am committed to this relationship. Mom's death, my doctoral studies, and my plans for sabbatical are not harbingers of a change in God's call to me to serve with and among you. I am right where God wants me, here with you. Besides, our 200th anniversary is coming up in a few years, and I am certainly looking forward to that!

Echoing Queen Elizabeth's words about Prince Philip on their 50th anniversary, my mother was quite simply my strength and stay all these years. I, and the people I serve, owe her a debt of gratitude she would never claim, nor that we can ever know. I am grateful that you knew and loved her.

My beloved, we yet have work to do together. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, Rev. Susan



Halloween is the end of this month and we are looking to celebrate with the community through the **Second Annual Trunk or Treat Event at Walter B. William's Park on Friday, October 28, starting at 5pm**. Bring a bag of candy (preferably no chocolate) to the church by Sunday, October 23rd. Join Reverend Susan to decorate the trunk and pass out candy. The decorating will begin at 4:30. We can't wait to see you there!

Pastor appreciation ideas

Showing pastors appreciation isn't about stroking the ego. It's deeper than that. Appreciation affirms the holy call to serve all of God's children. Showing appreciation also renews one's creativity and energy. Viktor Emil Frankl, an Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, saw that humans were motivated by a "will to meaning," that is, we flourish when we have a sense of meaning and purpose.



While October has been set aside as Pastor Appreciation Month (also known as Clergy Appreciation Month), congregations often put aside the second Sunday in the month for a time of celebration. Here are some ideas to show appreciation to your pastor:

- This is not a novel idea but one that is often forgotten by congregations. Pray for not just the pastor, but for their significant other and their families, too.
- **Step up and show up.** Commit to showing up to worship. Become more active in the life of the church. Find ways to serve that use your talents.
- **Write a note of thanks.** A letter or a card with a personalized note is priceless.
- **Encourage self-care.** Could your pastor use a gift certificate to a day spa or a gym membership? Would the offer to babysit the children one evening or make a meal for the family be appreciated?
- **Thank your pastor — publicly.** Create a video with members sharing their thanks or have elders speak words of appreciation during a worship service.
- **Get a cake!** Hold a time of fellowship and celebration after worship — that is, if COVID-19 numbers are low in your area and it is safe to gather — for members to personally thank the pastor for service.

- **Give the gift of restoration.** Think about extending your pastor's study leave time, even if it means just a few extra days for the pastor to read, nap and recharge.

— Donna Frischknecht Jackson

(<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0921-pastor/>)





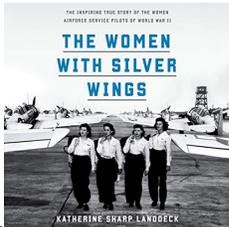
CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Join us for an Intergenerational Peace Fair after the Stewardship Luncheon on November 6. There will be music, games, story telling, places for contemplation and more. Check the bulletin and our social media for updates!



FPC BOOK CLUB



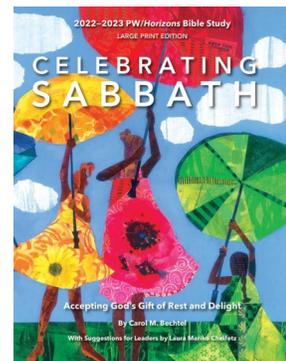
The FPC Book Club will meet on October 13th, the second Thursday of the month. We will be discussing *The Women with Silver Wings* by Catherine Sharp Landdeck. This is a soaring tale about women pilots that went aloft to serve their nation during World War II. Although they were trained and experienced pilots, they were not allowed to fly in combat. They served by training male pilots and ferrying military planes around the country to different military bases. At long last these daring WW II pilots get the credit they deserve.

The book selection for November is *Broken News: Why the Media Rage Machine Divides America and How to Fight Back* by Chris Stirewalt, a former Fox News political editor. It is a fascinating, deeply researched study of how the news is made and how it must be repaired, with surprising takeaways about who is to blame. Please join us for a stimulating discussion every second Thursday of the month. ~Millie Murphy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study continues this month. There are two groups, both led by Rosemary Begemann, which meet the second Sunday and second Tuesday of the month. Both groups will meet in the Parlor Room. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and community.

This year's book, *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol Bechtel has proven interesting from the very start. There are still books available, so contact the office at (478)452-9394 or fpchurch@windstream.net if you need one.



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, peanut butter, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials.



Food Pantry

September was an eventful month for the Food Pantry: new folks coming in, Kiwanis donating many pounds of food, 44 families served, and a new volunteer joining me to help fill bags on Mondays! We served many of our "regulars", but had 6 new families and several who had not come in several months. The expected increase in need has begun to materialize.

Thank you for keeping these neighbors in your prayers and budgets. Kiwanis Club, which meets in our Fellowship Hall each week, joined a challenge with other civic clubs to donate a certain number of pounds of food per member to a food bank of their choice during the month. We received a generous donation, which allowed us to conserve our funds. They plan to continue adding to our pantry each month. If you know a Kiwanian, thank them. Our new volunteer is Johnny Parker, husband of the former Anna Young, who has been a member of our congregation for several years. He is a hard and willing worker, who even cleaned up the back entrance we use for Food Pantry. That included pulling out poison ivy that has worried me because I am so sensitive to it. Please remember that first Sunday is food offering day and add some items from the list of staples below to your shopping cart. Donations are accepted anytime, but the children do so enjoy bringing the baskets forward!

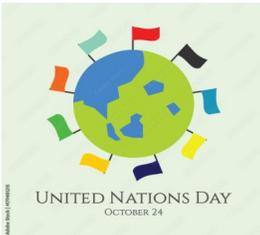
Food Pantry staples list:

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

This month, thanks to several generous donations, we were able to help four people pay their utility bills. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry. We get multiple calls from those in need every month and it is heartbreaking to turn them away when we don't have the funds to assist. We should get word if we will get the extra funds from PC(USA) this month. Please consider giving of your time once a month for this ministry.

October

		
<p>2 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 4:00 PW Bible Study WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>9 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 5:00 Domestic Violence Awareness Candlelight Vigil</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 PW Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>16 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S World Food Day</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>23 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>30 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity</p>	<p>31</p> 	

2022



			1
5 5:00PM Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 	6	7	8 10:00AM Baldwin County Domestic Violence Vigil 
12 5:00PM Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 	13 FPC Book Club 2:00PM 	14	15
19 5:00Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 	20	21	22
26 5:00Youth Group 6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 	27	28 4:30 Trunk or Treat Event at Walter B. Williams' Park 	29

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Catherine Dean (Congregational Life) 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

S.T.A.R.S., Puppets and Youth Group have started up again! You don't have to choose just one group, so feel free to join in the Youth Group (grades 6-12) and Puppets, or join S.T.A.R.S and Puppets. Or join just one. We look forward to seeing everyone again!

Puppets- Sundays 10:00AM

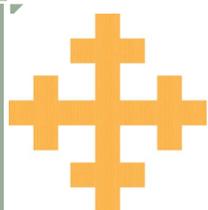
S.T.A.R.S- Sundays 2:00PM-4:00PM

Youth Group- Wednesdays 5:00PM-6:30PM



Youth Group

The Youth Group meets every Wednesday evening starting at 5pm and will be creating Blessing/Prayer journals. October 5, we will be painting rocks with Ms. Marion and Buddy. It should be loads of fun!



transforming generosity

TREASURER'S CORNER

Last month our expenses and revenues were almost the same. This is great news, even if it is for just one month. Please keep up the good work. 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

	July	August	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$10,851	\$14,592	\$98,578
Other Income	\$683	\$683	\$8,114
Total Income	\$11,534	\$15,275	\$106,692
Budgeted Expenses	\$15,657	\$15,214	\$142,875
Net (Loss)	(\$4,123)	\$61	(\$36,183)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets for a pot luck supper and discussion of *Bullies and Saints* by John Dickson. This book is a fascinating review of the history of the good and evil it 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



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 great Biblical thought 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



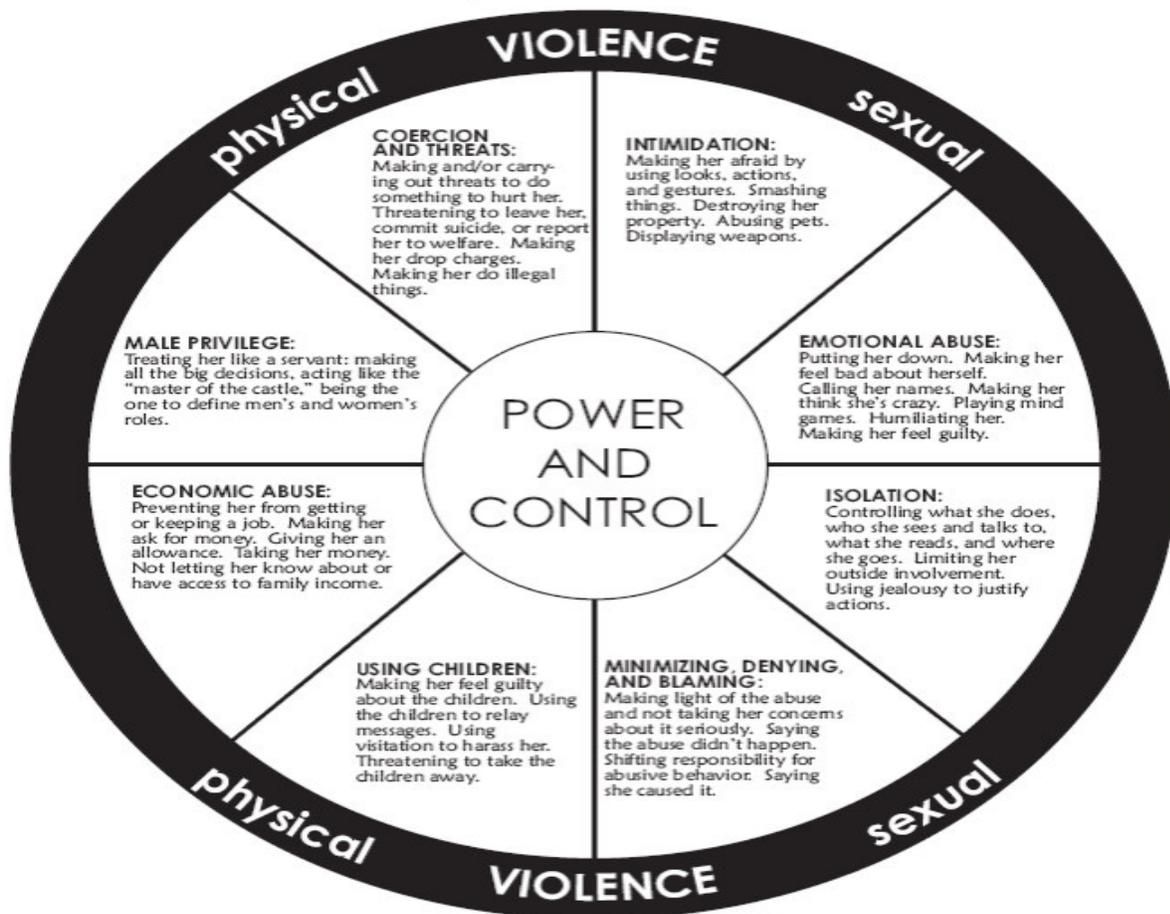


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. On October 9th at 5:00PM, we will have a candle light vigil to remember the victims of domestic violence. So it is important that we ask the question: What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence can be defined in different ways, but there is general agreement that it is a recurrent pattern of assaultive and controlling behaviors directed against an intimate partner. The violence can be actual or threatened and can cover a wide range of behaviors. Many people think of physical, sexual, or verbal assaults, but subtle forms of abuse are also common: isolation, humiliation, ridicule, threats...These behaviors are used to control the victim and they cause physical and psychological damage. What domestic violence is NOT is losing control. Abusers are very much in control and choose how, when, and with whom they will use these behaviors.

The Power and Control Wheel, created by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project of Duluth, Minnesota, is a visual way of seeing the types of behaviors used by perpetrators. Offenders may use only one method or many to control their partners.



The key concepts to understanding the dynamics of domestic violence are...

PATTERN of behaviors ~ POWER and CONTROL



THE REFORMATION

Reformation Sunday

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

The history of the Presbyterian Church traces back to John Calvin, a 16th-century French reformer, and John Knox (1514–1572), leader of the protestant reformation in Scotland. Knox's unrelenting efforts transformed Scotland into the most Calvinistic country in the world and the cradle of modern-day Presbyterianism.



In the United States, the Presbyterian Church derives its origin primarily from the Presbyterians of Scotland and Ireland, along with the influence of French Huguenots, and Dutch and German Reformed emigrants. Presbyterian Christians are not bound together in one large denomination but in an association of independent churches. John Calvin trained for the Catholic priesthood, but later converted to the Reformation Movement and became a theologian and minister who revolutionized the Christian church in Europe, America, and ultimately the rest of the world.

Calvin dedicated a great deal of thought to practical matters such as the ministry, the church, religious education, and the Christian life. He was more or less coerced into leading the Reformation in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1541, the town council of Geneva enacted Calvin's Ecclesiastical Ordinances, which set forth regulations on issues related to church order, religious training, gambling, dancing, and even swearing. Strict church disciplinary measures were enacted to deal with those who broke these ordinances.

Calvin's theology was very similar to Martin Luther's. He agreed with Luther on the doctrines of original sin, justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, and the sole authority of the Scriptures. He distinguishes himself theologically from Luther primarily with the doctrines of predestination and eternal security.

The Presbyterian concept of church elders is based on Calvin's identification of the office of elder as one of the four ministries of the church, along with pastors, teachers, and deacons. Elders participate in preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments.

As in 16th-century Geneva, Church governance and discipline, today include elements of Calvin's Ecclesiastical Ordinances, but these no longer have power beyond the members' willingness to be bound by them.

(By Mary Fairchild- <https://www.learnreligions.com/presbyterian-church-history-701365>)



PRAY
to one
for another
JAMES 5:16

Submit
your
prayer request.

Will Deason is in AIT until October 18, 2022. Letters for him can be sent to:
PFC Deason, Williams, 3rd Platoon, D. Co. 554th en Bn 1st en Bde,
6221 Iowa Ave, Fort Leonardwood, MO 65473

Church Family:

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home
Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
Helen Danuser, recovering from a fall
Rebecca Elangwe, in basic training
Jenny Moore, recovering at home
Jackie Northington, ongoing health concerns

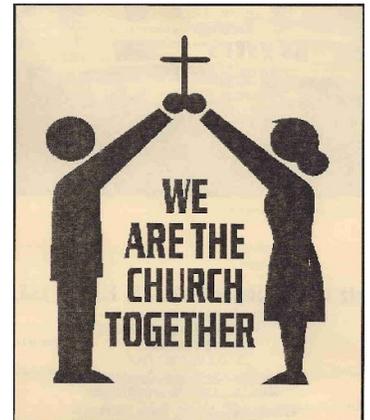
Extended Family:

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
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

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
Martha Chappell
Helen Danuser



Anniversaries



Birthdays

- October 1~ Bob Smart
- October 4~ Linda Bradley
- October 8~ Craig Callender
- October 8~ Quincy Callender
- October 8~ Holley Cowan
- October 9~ Millie Murphey
- October 12~ Bill Flory
- October 23~ Tammi Ritchie
- October 24~ Mary Baker
- October 24~ Becky Henderson
- October 28~ Helen Danuser
- October 30~ Doris Moody

