

CHURCH CURRENTS

JUNE 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. 311 June 2022

Pastor:
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Gloria Burns

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organists:
Kate Phillips
Jenny Moore

Child Care Providers:
Childcare is
temporarily
unavailable

Beloved,

As ever, I give thanks for you. Your faithfulness is a testament to the work God is doing through us in this time and place, as you show the love of Christ to our neighbors.

The latest internet puzzle game is Wordle. You have six chances to solve for a five-letter word. The first chance is a simple guess. With each solution you offer, the program gives you guidance: correct letters in the correct place are shaded green, correct letters in the wrong place are shaded yellow, and wrong letters that do not appear in the solution are shaded gray. And don't try random letters! The program does not suffer nonsense, so each of your proffered solutions must be real words.

Wordle provides a great approach to life in general. You may have an idea in your head that isn't quite right. But the world around you may offer guidance about where you're off the mark. You may find that part of your 'solution' is completely wrong; perhaps you're headed in the right direction, but need to shift where your pieces fit; and of course, nonsense is to be abandoned all together. The best approach to life, as with Wordle, is to come to it with sound ideas, and to allow yourself to be guided and corrected. That's the way we may come to the correct solution. Fortunately, unlike Wordle—which only allows you six chances to get it right—the world offers countless chances. Our best bet is to be open to the feedback that shows us where we need to correct course, and just keep trying to get it right.

And may God always be our teacher in finding the right path, which will lead to our solution in Christ.

Grace and peace to you.

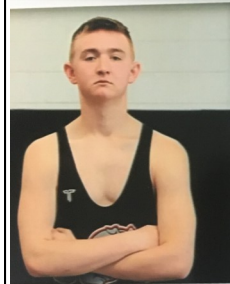
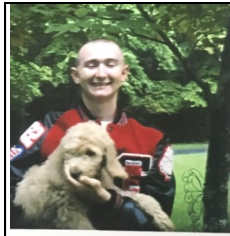
Rev. Susan



2022 GRADUATES



Elliot D. Callender graduates from BHS and will begin studying Music Therapy at GCSU. He wants to be a composer.



Will Deason is graduating from Georgia Military College Prep School on Friday, May 27 at 7:00 pm on the Parade Field at GMC. He will attend AIT School in August. He will then attend University of North Georgia in Spring of 2023.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Class of
2022





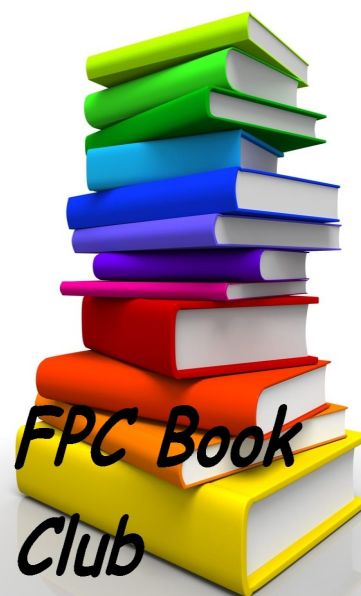
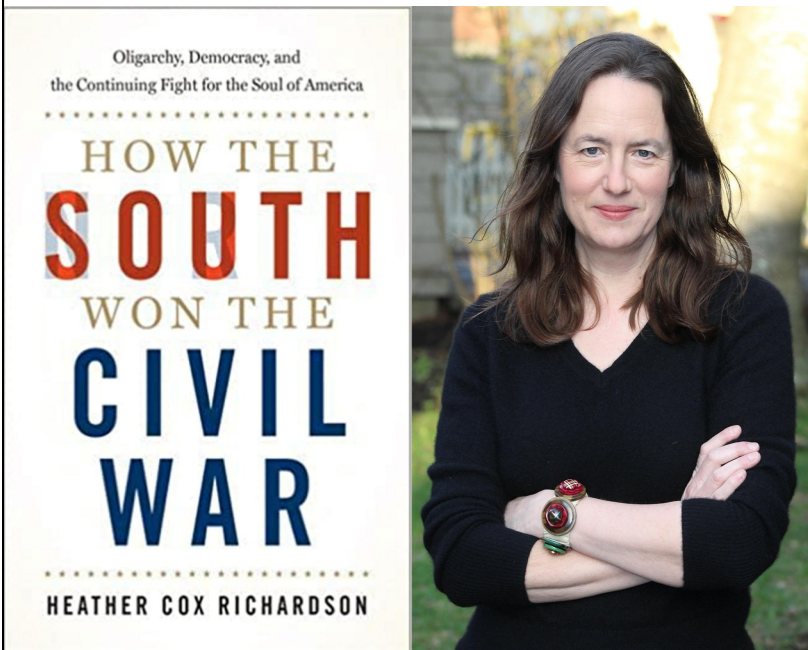
FPC BOOKCLUB



The FPC Book Club will meet on Thursday, June 9th at 2:00 pm. We will be discussing the book *How the South Won the Civil War* by Heather Cox Richardson. Although the North won the Civil War, ending slavery and giving the country a new birth of freedom, the author argues that the system that sustained the South moved West and established a foot hold, thus giving a new birth of white male oligarchy. Settlers from the East and South pushed into the West seizing lands from the Mexican-Americans and the Native Americans cementing new racial hierarchies. Later the Conservative Movement led by Westerners Barry Goldwater, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, worked with the Dixiecrats to embrace the ideology of the Confederacy.

A book was not selected for the month of July, but we did select an author. The group expressed an interest in reading a book by Secretary Madeleine Albright, but we did not know which one to choose. A decision was made to review books by Secretary Albright and come to the next meeting with suggestions. So many choices, so little time. Looking forward to seeing you June 9th.

Millie Murphy





SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Looking for a devotion that puts word into action? Join us the last Sunday of the month to help feed our neighbors and ourselves.

The last Sunday of the month, after church service, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to make sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge. We will join in community to prepare the food, break bread together then take the food to the Milly Free Fridge.

Milly Free Fridge is a local organization that provides prepared food for those in need. People are encouraged to leave what they can and take what they need. It helps feed the homeless community that cannot use the local food pantries, while also helping food insecure families to supplement their food supply.

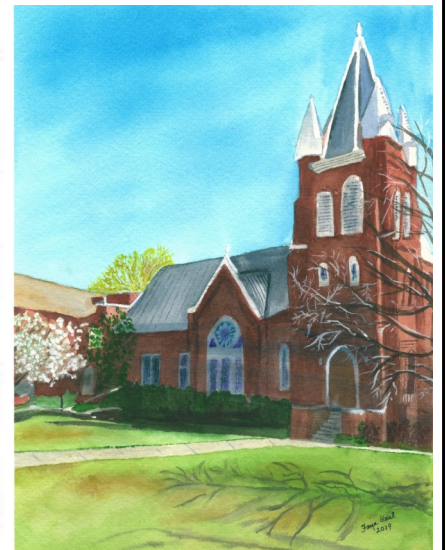
Let's work together to sustain those who need what we already have in abundance: love, food, fellowship.

Bring any of the following:

Sliced bread, lunch meat, peanutbutter, jelly, fresh fruit,
prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks












We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

Check out Milly Free Fridge online on FaceBook and Instagram





June

<p>5 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM</p> <p>Pentecost Sunday</p> 	6	<p>7 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>12 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM</p> <p>Trinity Sunday Graduates' Ceremony</p> 	13	<p>14 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>19 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM</p>  	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 5:30 Session Meeting</p> 
<p>26 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM</p> <p>12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity</p> 	<p>27 World AIDS Day</p> 	<p>28 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 



2022



1 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	2	3 	4
8 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	9 FPC Book Club 2:00PM 	10	11
15 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	16	17	18
22 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	23	24	25
29 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	30		

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.*



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Food Pantry

In the first four distributions in May, we have served 19 households. One week the pantry was almost "cleaned out" as we had 11 families needing assistance. Thank

you for your continued generosity in supporting this ministry for our neighbors!

As schools are dismissed for the summer, no doubt this need will increase to some degree, so we must not take a vacation from donation. Please remember to include some things from our list below as you shop, and bring them to church on first Sunday. We who have so much....you know the rest!- 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

Samaritan Ministry

This month, we did not have enough funds to help out our community. Please consider giving to the Samaritan Ministry to help us aid those in need in our community. Our application for more funds from PC(USA) has been sent in. We will know more in the next few months. There remains a need for another person to help Bill as he aids those who come to us for assistance. Please consider giving of your time once a month for this ministry.



Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

TREASURER'S CORNER

As we get into summer, it is very easy to forget church. Please don't let this happen. We need every person in the pew and supporting our mission. The regular expenses continue and many of us are not meeting the needs of the church.

Please make a special effort to keep our church strong.

God bless everyone. -Joel Burns

	March	April	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$10,389	\$15,890	\$53,733
Other Income	\$1,722	\$780	\$4,245
Total Income	\$12,111	\$16,670	\$57,978
Budgeted Expenses	\$25,091	\$21,554	\$78,014
Net (Loss)	(\$12,980)	(\$4,884)	(\$20,036)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class continues to meet via ZOOM. You can come to the class from the comfort of your home or if you are already at church, via your smart phone. Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we have a wonderful God filled experience in our conversations and study. We are enjoying Barbara Brown Taylor's book *The Luminous Web, Essays on Science and Religion*. The essays in this book have caused us to think about our faith in new ways. Far from weakening our dedication to the church and God, the lively and intriguing essays help us integrate all aspects of our life together. **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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make the Connection

We are continuing to study *The Living Word* by Elwood Worcester. 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



On Wednesday nights at six thirty (6:30 PM) a number of folks have been meeting **IN PERSON in the Fellowship Hall** to have a pot luck supper and to study N. T. Wright's book on the Gospel of John entitled *Broken Signposts, How Christianity Makes Sense of the World*. We have several chapters we plan to cover. The conversations are always interesting, and the insights about Christian life are great.

Everybody is invited, whether you want to read the book or not. Please join us. -Joel Burns

WHAT IS MORE LIGHT?



What does it mean to be a More Light Presbyterian church?

It means to be affirming and welcoming of people in the LGBTQIA+ community.

More and more biblical scholars and other Christians are convinced that the Holy Spirit, speaking through the Scriptures, is calling the church to full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons.

A few of the reasons:

Reading in literary and historical context: The texts often used to condemn homosexual practice were not dealing with the issues we address today – the morality of responsible sexual expression between persons who are not heterosexual in their sexual orientation. The Bible condones sexual practices that the church today rejects, such as polygamy, concubinage, and levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5); it condemns some practices the church now allows, such as intercourse during menstruation and remarriage following divorce. To be faithful today, we must try to understand the principles underlying specific biblical provisions, and seek to apply those principles to our circumstances.

The witness of Jesus Christ: Jesus consistently welcomed, indeed sought out, persons who were labeled outcast by his society. Criticized himself as a lawbreaker, he challenged self-righteousness, judgmentalism, and legalism, making it clear that the purpose of the Law is the protection of human welfare; human beings are not made to keep the Law regardless of its detrimental effects on the wellbeing of people (Mark 2:23-3:6). Jesus summarized the Law as loving God with one's whole being, and loving one's neighbor as oneself.

The rule of love: Even though it is not intended as such by Christians of goodwill, the presumption that same-sex behavior is always wrong does great damage to many, including some who have never engaged in it: young people unable to will or pray away the attraction they've been taught is evil (even if they don't act on their feelings, they may still grow up with self-loathing); parents despairing about where they "went wrong," when the explanation for anyone's sexual orientation is still a mystery; relationships torn apart by rejection; families which are not whole due to the dishonesty of remaining hidden in the closet. The taboo against homosexuality can lead to loneliness, both overt and subtle discrimination, and even verbal and physical violence. "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." Romans 13:10

The New Testament abolition of categories of "clean" and "unclean": In the Torah's Holiness Code, homosexual practice is a matter of uncleanness, along with eating blood and other dietary restrictions, contact with bodily discharges, wearing certain fabrics, and other prohibitions. Jesus challenged his culture and religion's focus on ritual cleanness by associating with women, lepers, "outcasts and sinners" (see also Mark 7). Jesus laid the foundation for the distinction between moral law - that which pertains to the rule of love - and purity law, which is culturally conditioned. The Book of Acts relates the early church's struggle to appropriate this principle. A good example is in Acts 10-11: Peter learns through a vision and an encounter with a Gentile, Cornelius, that "what God has called clean, you must not call profane." Witnessing the gift of the Holy Spirit to those his tradition has considered unclean, Peter concludes: "If then God gave them the same gift that God gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

(From "What Does the Bible Tell Us About LGBT Inclusion?" by Tricia Dykers Koenig, Covenant Network of Presbyterians)



prayer



Church Family:

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home
Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
Jenny Moore, broken pelvis
Peter Piro, bone cancer recurrence, in hospice

Extended Family:

Richard Applebury, Wesley Applebury's father, stage 4 cancer, in hospice
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 MonteJuneor, 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

Limited Mobility
Martha Chappell
Helen Danuser



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 Milledgeville 31061
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

- June 16~ David & Elizabeth Baarda
- June 25~ Bill & Jennifer Flory
- June 25~ Bill & Ruby Werts
- June 30~ Bob & Kathy Carroll



Birthdays

- June 4~ Nancy Miller
- June 8~ Gloria Burns
- June 12~ Jenny Moore
- June 17~ Deanna Bivins
- June 21~ Grayden Young
- June 28~ Anne Dennis

