

First Presbyterian Church

Serving Christ in Milledgeville

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg

Like us on Facebook

Wandering Heart

"Here's my heart"



Second Sunday of Easter

Followers of Christ, called to serve our community
and be an actively-engaging light to the world.

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship, empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshiping community for LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter
Here's my heart

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ, Our Lord Redeemer

J. S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to Rev. Susan. Restrooms & changing table are at the end of the hall to the left. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

Lord, the light of your love is shining

(GTG #192, vs. 1)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said,

Congregation: "Follow me."

Leader: Jesus said,

Congregation: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Leader: Jesus said,

Congregation: "Forgive seventy times seven."

Leader: Jesus said,

Congregation: "Feed my sheep."

Leader: In response, we say:

Congregation: "Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above." Let us worship God with all our hearts.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Anne Smart

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus of Nazareth, thank you for calling ordinary people to be your disciples. Peter was a mix of belief and unbelief, always trying to follow in your footsteps without tripping on his own two feet. So often we feel the same. Peter's story is our story. Peter's journey is our journey. So thank you again for showing us that kingdom work can happen with ordinary human hands. We believe. Help our unbelief. In your name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 828

More Love to Thee, O Christ

CALL TO CONFESSION

For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter. Despite being one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes. He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious. Friends, we're a lot like Peter. Despite our faith, we make mistakes. Despite our belief, we carry unbelief. Despite our love, we can cause hurt. So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives. God's grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple. God's grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

***Please stand as you are able.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHORAL RESPONSE *Lord, I come to your awesome presence* (GTG #192, vs. 2)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 581

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen***

THE PEACE
ANTHEM

*His Moste Holy Lyfe
Almighty God, who hast given
thy only Son to be unto us
both a sacrifice for sin,
and also an example of godly life;
Give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
that his inestimable benefit,
and also daily endeavor ourselves
to follow the blessed steps
of his most holy life. Amen.*

arr. Carlton Russell

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of second chances and God of new life, we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 4:32-35
PSALM Psalm 133
NEW TESTAMENT 1 John 1:1-2:2
GOSPEL John 20:19-31

Pew Bible Page #
NT P 122
OT P 575
NT P 238
NT P 115

SERMON

We Walk in the Light

Reverend Tyler Flowers

*HYMN 673

Jesus, Light of Joy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives— surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways. We believe in a God who cares for God's people— a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended. We believe in a God who took on flesh— a God whose love changed the world as we know it. We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat, calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community. And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING



We become who we are called to be not through getting, acquiring and possessing but in our giving. To that end, let us worship God by giving our good gifts. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR Code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY

I know That My Redeemer Lives
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Richard Wienhorst

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other, and to live charitably with all. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ's kingdom comes. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 720

Jesus Calls Us

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go in Peace. AMEN!

CHORAL BENEDICTION

As we gaze on your kingly brightness

(GTG #192, vs. 3)

*POSTLUDE

Christ, the Lord is Risen

Henry J. Markworth

Thank you to Reverend Tyler Flowers for leading our worship today.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Youth Sunday
APRIL 14, 2024

**\$10 per person/
\$20 per family**

Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser

The poster features a stylized illustration of a church with a yellow cross on top, a bowl of soup, and a sandwich. In the foreground, a group of diverse young people are shown from behind, standing in a line with their arms around each other's shoulders. The background is a textured, crumpled paper effect.



Our deepest condolences to the family of Eloise Lamb on her death on March 21, 2024. Please be in prayer for her family as they grieve this deep loss.

LIMITED MOBILITY
Helen Danuser

Congratulations to Susan McGill and family on the birth of granddaughter Annie on Easter Sunday!

CHURCH FAMILY:

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta
Beth Baarda, at home in hospice care in LaGrange, GA
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Greg Jones, congestive heart failure

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Joseph Bennett, Joe Bennett's father, in hospital
Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
Heather Brooks, Susan Balfour's cousin, lung and brain cancer
Peggy Deschermeier, Jennifer Flory's aunt, stage 1 pancreatic cancer, recovering at home from Whipple procedure
Margret Ellen (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
Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, stage 4 cancer
Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma
Velma Kelly, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Mildred Moore, Sundae Coleman's aunt, in hospice care
Janie Mullis, Bill Werts' son-in-law's mother, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon
Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns,
Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall
Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, in rehab
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

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
Maryanne 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

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: April 7- April 14

Today 9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Intergenerational/Confirmation Class
10:15 Children's Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Youth Group

Monday 6:30 PFLAG
7:00 MSG

Tuesday 9:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis

Wednesday 6:30 Potluck and Bible Study

Thursday 10:30 UMC Planning Committee
6:00 IOBI

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Intergenerational/Confirmation Class
10:15 Children's Sunday School
11:00 Youth Sunday Service
12:00 Soup and Sandwich Youth Fundraiser

Offerings in March	\$16,599.00
Anticipated March expenses:	\$24,456.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



Join us for worship in-person, online at Facebook Live or on the radio at 102.3 WKZR radio every week.

Sunday: 9:30AM **Zoom Sunday School Class**, we are studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*
www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 852 8172 1781
Passcode: 085809

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Contrarians Guide to Knowing God: Spirituality for the Rest of Us* by Larry Osborne, meeting in the Parlor Room

9:45 AM **Intergenerational/Confirmation Sunday School Class**, studying *Confessing Our Faith*, for new members and confirmands meeting in the Fellowship Hall

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, Wandering Heart curriculum by Sanctified Art, singing, crafts and stories, meeting in the Craft Room Upstairs

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, *The Other Evangelicals, A Story of Liberal, Black Progressive, Feminist and Gay Christians and the Movement That Pushed Them Out*, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

828 More Love to Thee, O Christ

1 More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
 2 Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.
 3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;

Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee.
 Now thee a - lone I seek; give what is best.
 this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise.

This is my ear - nest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;
 This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
 This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;

more love to thee, more love to thee!

Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.

673 Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

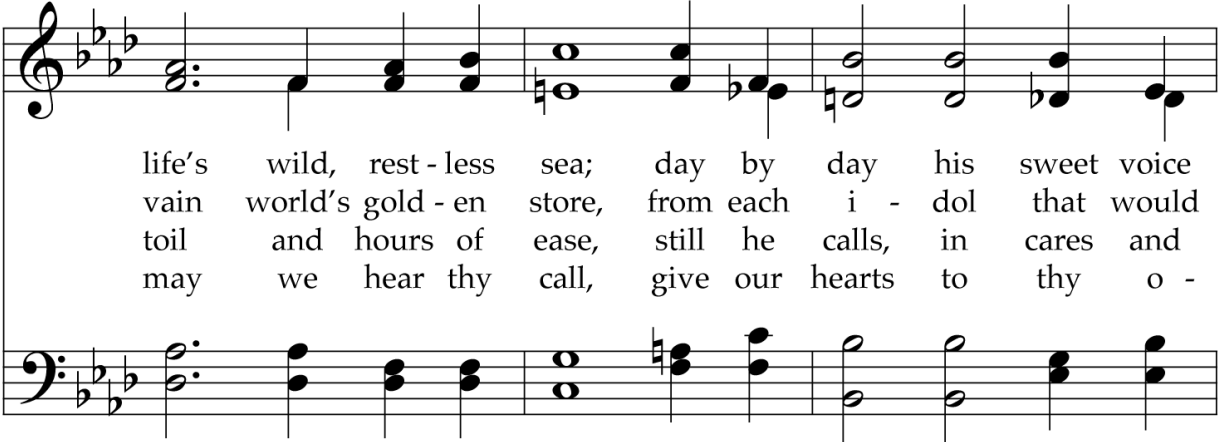
The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

Jesus Calls Us

720



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.