

First Presbyterian Church



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

210 S. Wayne Street Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-9394, milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

**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.

November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Come Though Long-Expected Jesus

Edward Broughton

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the time the Savior draws near.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in his presence.

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 the Pastor or an Elder.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

GTG #129, vs. 1

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Andrew and Elise Allen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, we confess that waiting wears us down. Our patience thins, our vision clouds, and sometimes our hope is only a faint ember. Yet you do not despise small beginnings; you breathe on our weakness with your Spirit, kindling the flame of faith we thought was gone. Renew us, O Lord, as we learn to wait in you. Amen.

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kingdom.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Isaiah 'twas foretold it

GTG #129, vs 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Christ comes into our world—Christ comes into our lives—to purify us and give us another chance. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Congregation: We rejoice in the hope Christ offers us! Thanks be to God!

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

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Please greet those near to you with the peace of Christ.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

Arise with Joy

Mark Schweizer

*Arise with joy, O faithful band,
And come to meet the Lord most high!
Arise, the kingdom is at hand,
The glorious King is drawing nigh.
Look up, all souls, weighed down with care,
And see, the Sov'reign is not far;
Look up, faint hearts, from your despair,
Behold the bright and Morning Star!*

*Rejoice, all weary hearts today,
Our Lord and King is very near,
So cast your grief and fears away,
For your deliverance is here!
Redeemer, come, with us abide,
let us your holy presence feel,
our hearts to you we open wide,
your grace and love to us reveal.*

*O brighter than some glorious morn
shall this new day of wonder be,
when Christ, our King, in beauty comes,
and we at last His face shall see.
For this we raise a joyful voice,
On high we sing to you alone,
And evermore with thanks rejoice,
And bow before your glorious throne.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 11:1-10
NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 15:4-13
GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-6

Pew Bible Page #
OT p. 640
NT p. 163
NT p. 2

SERMON

"Live Into Hope"

Rev. Mari Turner

*HYMN 765

May the God of Hope Go With Us

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Confession of 1967, 9.19)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MOMENT FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. 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. You may also bring forward your pledge card and time and talent card and place them in the plate in front of the communion table.



OFFERTORY

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

Flor Peters

*DOXOLOGY

***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!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Accept our pledges and our promises to continue the work to which you have called us. May they be a blessing to this church, this community, and your world. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION This flower, whose fragrance tender

GTG #129, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Flor Peters

Liturgy provided by *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts* and is used with permission.

*At this time all are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall
Louise Sallstrom, recovering from a fall
Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma
Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation
Paul Orman, Barbara Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, 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
Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
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, in hospital, moving soon to Fellowship Home
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Nursery Volunteers

November 30 ~ Susan McGill, Margaret Ivester

Liturgist

November 30 ~ Andrew Allen
December 7 ~ Andrew Allen



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: November 30-December 7

Today	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Milly Free Fridge
	12:00	Youth Group (Youth Room)
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
	7:00	Milledgeville Singers Guild
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	6:30	Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	9:00	Youth (Joy Gift Practice)
	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service (Joy Gift)
	12:00	Joy Gift Reception

Please join us to help make sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge after worship today in the Fellowship Hall. Many hands make light work.

Donations for the Food Pantry are next Sunday, December 7th. Please check the December Newsletter for a list of requested items.

Offerings in November \$35,354.28

Anticipated November expenses: \$17,147.00

(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)



**Join us for worship in-person or
online on Facebook Live every week.**

Sunday: 9:45 AM **Sunday School Class** (meets in parlor), we are studying *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. Please contact Joel Burns

joelburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

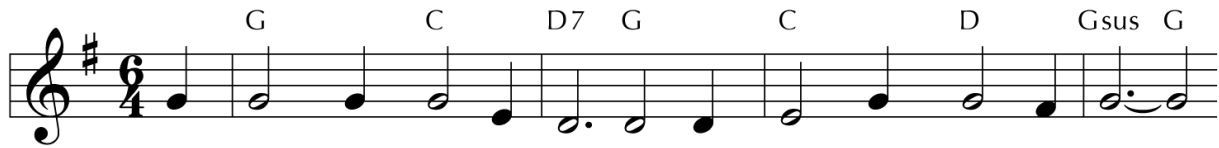
Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in small room next to office at end of hall), studying *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg.

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, singing, crafts and stories, (meeting in the Craft Room upstairs)

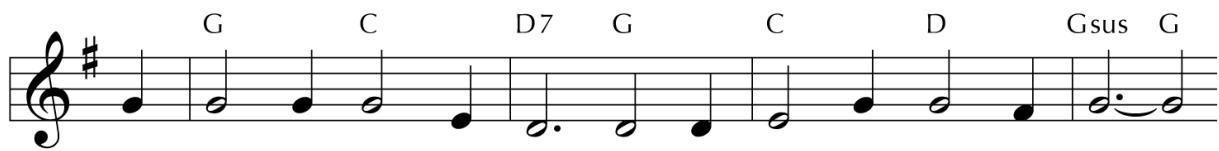
12:00PM **Youth Group** (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

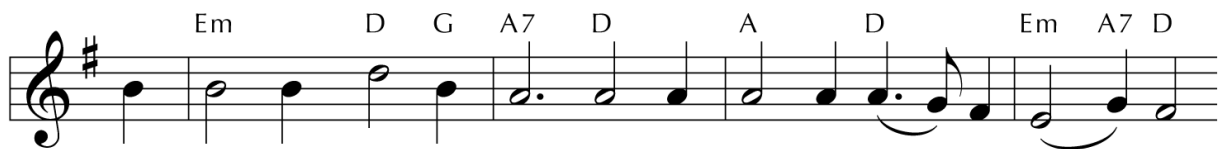
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



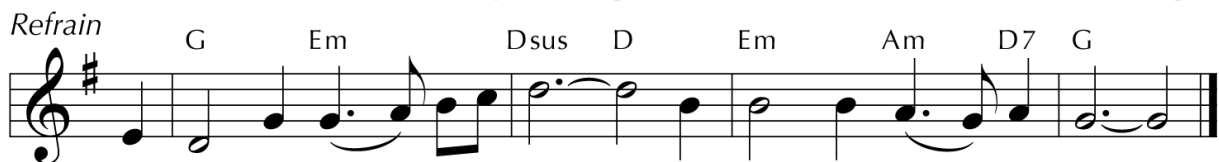
- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en



lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -



on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.



Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.



work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing,
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

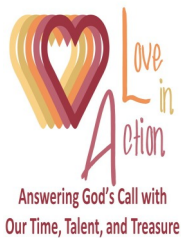
This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Bicentennial Christmas Ornaments are available for sale before worship or in the Church Office. The cost is 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25. Make sure to bless your tree with this monumental treasure! All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support the Bicentennial celebration in 2026.

A printed Advent Devotional is available in the narthex as well as online at https://bit.ly/Advent_Devotional_2025.



Dedication Sunday is today November 30th. With joyful response to God's abundant grace, we pledge our financial gifts to support the vital mission and outreach of our church. Please return your pledge card today during the offering, mail to the church, or drop off in the Church office.

Joy Gift Offering & Christmas Program will be held on December 7th during the worship service at 11:00am. Please bring a holiday treats to share for the light reception to follow the service.



Presbyterian Women will meet at 5 p.m. Sunday December 14 at Mary Baker's House for Bible Study and Fellowship. Please bring your favorite holiday side dish to accompany ham or a dessert.