

CHURCH CURRENTS

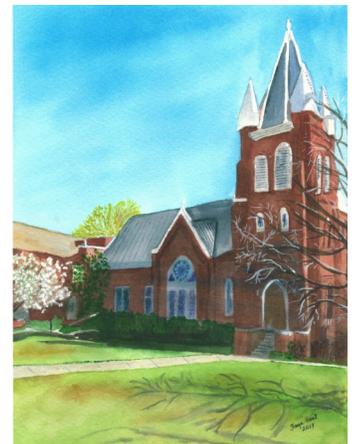
APRIL 2022

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061
478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpchurch.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. 309 April 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,

Greetings in the name of God Most High! May the peace of Christ fill you with every good thing. I give thanks for you each day, often to the envy of my colleagues. You enact Christ's love in this time and place, and you are a blessing to one another and to the stranger alike. I've been pondering the text of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, thinking about this whole "pray without ceasing" thing. Perhaps we assume that it's an impossible thing. Even if we could rest on our knees, mumbling infinite words behind closed eyes, our humanness and mortality could not sustain it. But if prayer goes beyond that, we can get a little closer to ceaselessness. I had a friend who talked about waking each morning and grabbing the broom before any other thing. His first act of each day was to sweep his apartment, clearing out the actual and metaphorical clutter and dust of the previous day before so much as brushing his teeth in preparation for the present day. That is prayer. Lovingly practicing culinary arts to feed and nourish loved ones is prayer. Looking up—however fleetingly—at a beautiful sky is prayer. Exercising our civil rights is prayer. Washing an ailing parent's body is prayer. Holding someone's hand is prayer. Watching the miracle of inspiration and exhalation is prayer. Even getting rest is prayer.

Lutheran Pastor Nadia Boltz-Weber recently recorded a conversation with actress Jennifer Garner. In it, Nadia spoke of prayer as a reminder of our God-connection. We are already always connected to God; prayer just reminds us of that. Even for one who doesn't believe God hears or cares, even for one who simply doesn't believe, we are connected to God. Even the unbeliever's prayer—and whether such a one acknowledges it or not, they're praying—reminds us of that connectedness. At some point in our lives, we do speak into the cosmos that which we most want to say to God. So Nadia poses this question regarding prayer: what is the most honest thing I can say to God right now?

It doesn't have to be eloquent or pious or even polite. Prayer doesn't rely on ancient formulae or seminary degrees or intricate wordcraft or good manners. It relies on God, who invites us to be—sometimes brutally—honest. There's no point in dishonesty in prayer; God has our number. Maybe it's uncomfortable for us to be out-loud-honest. It's especially uncomfortable when our liturgy speaks the reality that only those prayers that are pleasing to God should be granted. We all utter prayers at least in our hearts that we know darn well are not pleasing to God. And that's part of the honesty. At the end of the day—at the end of our lives—God is eternal and we are not. No matter what our hearts desire, it is fleeting; yet we are connected with God in the most intimate, most subatomic ways. Prayer reminds us of that. Yes, even if we don't really believe in prayer.

Pray without ceasing. Even if it's hard.

In Christ, Rev. Susan



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Cafe Central, Milledgeville's only "soup kitchen", has continued to operate during the pandemic. Employing a drive-through system, they have served upwards of 500 plates each Tuesday. As Covid danger decreased, plans were made to reopen the dining room, and the date has finally been set: April 12! This will be a "soft"

opening with volunteers and some new procedures to be tested and tweaked as the celebratory Grand Reopening on May 24 approaches.

During the pandemic, several of the regular volunteers, many of whom were in the "at risk" age and health groups, notified that they would not be returning at reopening. **This is where FPC has another opportunity to serve God's children in this community.** If you are interested, please contact Doug Shelton (shelton_doug@yahoo.com) for information. He does a great job of coordinating our volunteers and will be pleased to hear from you. A tentative plan is for volunteers new and old to gather at noon on April 4 for lunch and training, so consider getting in touch before that. New volunteers will be welcomed anytime, however, so keep it in mind.

Looking to engage more in the community? Overview Inc. provides services in our community: utilities and rent/mortgage assistance, safety and nutrition education, senior citizens aid, and the Foster Grandparents Program. They are preparing for a Pop-up Community Action Event in May where they'll distribute food, personal hygiene items and diapers. They are looking for monetary donations to buy the items needed for the event, but you can also volunteer to help distribute the boxes. To get involved, call Shantel Yale at 478-453-4111, or email her at syale@overviewinc.com. If you would like to donate financially, you can mail donations to: Overview, INC., Attn: Pop-Up Event, PO Box 693, Milledgeville, GA 31059 Or you can go to the following site to donate online: <https://overviewinc.networkforgood.com/projects/116242-help-us-help-those-in-need>



Easter Egg Hunt

April 9, 2-4 pm

Join us for crafts, singing, games and fun on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. We will prepare for Palm Sunday by rehearsing our part in the Worship Service as well as hunting Easter Eggs, enjoying snacks and playing games.

We ask our high school students to come help hide the Easter eggs.

If you did not pick up plastic eggs to fill at our covered dish lunch last Sunday, there are still eggs available this week. See Gloria after worship. Remember to fill the eggs with wrapped candy. No chocolate or nut products please. Small toys or stickers also make nice fillers. Please return the eggs before 2 pm on April 9. Thank you for your help.

If you would like to help with refreshments please let Gloria know.





April



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 PRESBYTERY

Actively Engaged in the World

<p>3 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00</p>  <p>ADVOCACY Justice Advocacy Sunday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>10 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00</p>  <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>11 Walking Through  Holy Week</p>	<p>12 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>17 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM</p>  <p>Easter Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>24 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM</p>  <p>Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

2022



		1 	2 9:00AM Yard Clean up Day Lenten Service Opportunity 11:00AM 
6 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	7	8 	9 Lenten Service Opportunity 11:00AM 2:00PM-4:00PM Easter Egg Hunt 
13 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	14 2:00PM Book Club 	15 Good Friday 	16 Great Vigil of Easter 
20 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	21	22 	23
27 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	28 	29	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



This has been an unusual month for the Food Pantry, aside from having five Tuesdays. One week I ran out of bags and had not enough on the shelves to make more. Hence, I have determined to always have 12 or more bags prepared. Ten have

sufficed for months, and there were always some left over. But it appears demand is increasing, as I had anticipated it might. Thanks to your generosity, providing enough to meet the need will not be a problem, I just need to be better prepared! We have shared God's abundant blessings with 25 families in March. Thank you!- Donna Gautier

Samaritan Ministry

This month, we were able to help 3 people with their utilities in the amount of \$524.98. Thank you so much for your generous support of this ministry. We are applying for more funds from PC(USA) to hopefully expand and help more people. We will keep you posted on that possibility. 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.



Lounsbury Cross

The Lounsbury Cross will be in place for Easter morning. Please bring flowers to decorate it beginning at 9am. We could use people to help arrange the flowers on the cross.

This is a cherished tradition of First Presbyterian Church which both members of the congregation and the community enjoy. We look forward to seeing what beauty will be created this Easter from everyone's flowers.



TREASURER'S CORNER



As I said last April "Easter is upon us again. This time of remembrance of the life and death of Jesus is a good time to take stock of our lives." As you already know from the Appeal which I sent out recently, we need to take stock of our financial support of our Church and its mission. We have run into unexpected expenses and giving has been below expectations. Please think about these issues and dig deep to help.

We know you love and support the mission of this church. Please show it. God bless everyone.

Joel D. Burns

	January	February	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$11,940	\$15,514	\$27,454
Other Income	\$1,060	\$683	\$1,743
Total Income	\$13,000	\$16,197	\$29,197
Budgeted Expenses	\$14,100	\$17,269	\$31,369
Net (Loss)	(\$1,100)	(\$1,072)	(\$2,172)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The First Presbyterian Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, April 14th to discuss our book selection for the month, *The President and the Freedom Fighter: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglas, and Their Battle to Save America's Soul* by Brian Kilmeade, New York Times Bestselling Author and cohost of Fox News Channel's morning show *Fox & Friends*. This book follows the lives of Lincoln and Douglass until their paths converge in Washington, D.C. in their effort to save the Union and free the slaves. Through their principles, patience, and challenges, these two men not only became friends, but guided America through the Civil War and the ending of slavery. The book selection for May is *Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, U-2 Incident, and a Controversial Cold War Legacy* by Francis Gary Powers, Jr and Keith Dunning. Francis Gary Powers, Jr is the son of the famed U-2 pilot Gary Powers, whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia while on a spying mission for the CIA. The book, based on newly available information, presents the facts and dispels misinformation about the crash of the plane, the trial for spying, and the resulting prison sentence of Powers to a Russian prison. The authors have written this new account of Powers' life based on files that had not been previously available. An interesting side bar is that the subject of the film, *Bridge of Spies*, starring Tom Hanks is about the controversy over the swap of an American-held Russian spy for Gary Powers. We have some interesting discussions coming up in the next two months. Please join us. You won't be disappointed. -Millie Murphy

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE/BOOK STUDY

Beginning on **April 6 at 6:30 P.M.** the **Wednesday night study group will return to the church for a pot luck supper** and a discussion of the N. T. Wright book *Broken Signposts*. We hope a number of folks will join us in this study. If you do not wish to participate in the pot luck, the discussion will begin about 7:00 P.M. Please join us! The book is available on Amazon, but a few books will be available for purchase. If you wish to reserve one, call Joel Burns at (478) 414-6516.



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will begin a new book in April, *The Living Word*, by Worcester. It is based on writings by Gustav Fechner.

This group meets in person in the parlor room every Sunday morning at 9:45.

-Bill Werts



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class has been meeting **via ZOOM every Sunday at 9:30 AM** for quite a while and it has been a convenient format. Therefore in April we will continue to meet by Zoom. In April we plan to study Barbara Brown Taylor's book *The Luminous Web, Essays on Science and Religion*. In this edifying collection of essays, she presents her contribution to the growing rapprochement between science and religion. She posits that it is time to move beyond the enmity of the past and emphasize dialogue instead. Taylor is convinced that faith in an incarnational God will not allow Christians to ignore new insights into the nature of the physical world. The structuralist version of evolutionary biology, the EPR paradox, and David Bohm's vision of quantum unity deepen our appreciation of creation's mystery and complexity. Taylor shows how the new science has given her new metaphors for life in community and enriched her sense of wonder. It is no longer possible for Christians to keep scientific and religious truths in separate compartments. The luminous web of creation affirms the connections between the visible and invisible realms. 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



PRAYER *Requests*

Church Family:

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home
 Sandra Balfour, stage 4 pancreatic cancer, in hospice care
 Harry Beck, immunotherapy; Clear of Cancer
 Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
 Sunda Coleman, surgery and ongoing health concerns
 Peter Piro, bone cancer recurrence, currently in Macon Navicent

Limited Mobility

Martha Chappell
 Helen Danuser

Extended Family:

Judy K. Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, possible surgery
 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 Montemayor, 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

Weeping may last
 through the night,
 but **joy** comes
 with the morning.

-Psalm 30:5



BibleVerseImages.com

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

April 5~ Andrew & Min Lindsay



Birthdays

April 4~ Donna Gautier

April 9~ Jennifer Carroll Morris

April 9~ Anne Smart

April 10~ Jose Garcia

April 17~ Jacqueline Northington

April 18~ Roy Phillips

April 21~ Marianne Edwards

April 22~ Mary Lucik

April 22~ Stevens Powell

April 23~ David Baarda

April 25~ Vera Bales

April 28~ John Sallstrom

April 30~ Wesley Applebury



Make Much of Your Share of The Lord
 Ephesians 5:1-2