

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## JANUARY 2024

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. 330 January 2024

Pastor:  
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &  
Youth Ministries:  
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:  
Lois Callender

Director of Music:  
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:  
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:  
Childcare is  
temporarily  
unavailable

Beloved,

Greetings in Christ, and Happy New Year! I give God thanks each day for you and for my call to serve with you. I'm grateful for you and for your faithfulness.

As Presbyterians, we don't spend much time on fostering our spirituality. Yet that aspect is critical to our faith and our intentional connection to God. Perhaps tending to your spirit is on your list of New Year's Resolutions; if not, maybe it should be!

This year, Ash Wednesday is February 14—so soon! In preparation for Lent, we will have a Spiritual Practice workshop on February 3. We'll begin with a short worship service, then spend time exploring journaling, centering prayer, Lectio/Vizio Divina, and yoga (including chair yoga) with Liz Havey of Soul Rebellion Yoga. Lunch will be provided, as well.

Please take advantage of this workshop and invite friends! Hopefully you will find one or more practice to explore as you undertake the reflective season of Lent. I'm looking forward to this great event!

May God bless you deeply in the coming year, and may you know profound peace.

In Christ,

Rev. Susan



*First Presbyterian Church*  
OF MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

## Spiritual Discipline

Join us for an exploration of Spiritual Discipline. You will learn the various methods we use to form a closer connection with God.

**Saturday**  
**February 3, 2024**  
**10:00 AM-4:00 PM**  
**Catered Lunch**



*First Presbyterian Church*  
OF MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND



## Lectio Divina

5 Steps to Lectio Divina

- **Reading.** Read a passage slowly and carefully within the bible. ...
- **Meditation.** Thinking deeply or dwelling upon a spiritual reality within a text. ...
- **Prayer.** Having a loving conversation with God.
- **Contemplation.** Resting in Gods presence.
- **Action.** Go and do likewise.

### Podcast

Did you know that you can listen to *JUST* the sermon if you missed it on Sunday morning? Or maybe you wanted to re-listen to the message because you were moved by the Spirit. Check out our website ([fpcmilledgeville.org](http://fpcmilledgeville.org)) under 'Podcast' where you will find links to all the different streaming sites that carry it. **Take advantage of this opportunity to hear the message any day, any time!**



Everything we do as an organization and as a community is guided by our PW Purpose, and that includes ministry, resources and relationships.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Anyone who supports the Purpose in any way is participating in Presbyterian Women. So even if you're just learning about Presbyterian Women, there's a good chance you're already supporting Presbyterian Women—in spirit or in action!

Presbyterian Women are aligned under a shared Purpose, but the gifts of the Spirit allow us to live into the Purpose in our own, unique ways. Some individuals or groups find themselves particularly drawn to one or two points of the Purpose. Other groups or individuals consciously work toward fulfilling all points. There are many faithful ways to live out the PW Purpose!



### SAVE THE DATE

*No need to unfreeze that turkey and dressing*

Please join us at an Italian Bistro presented by the Homelessness Awareness Club on **Sunday, January 21, 2024, immediately following the service.**

All proceeds will assist the Club in sustaining their mission of feeding those in the downtown area, and as always, any additional meals will be placed in the Milly Free Fridge.

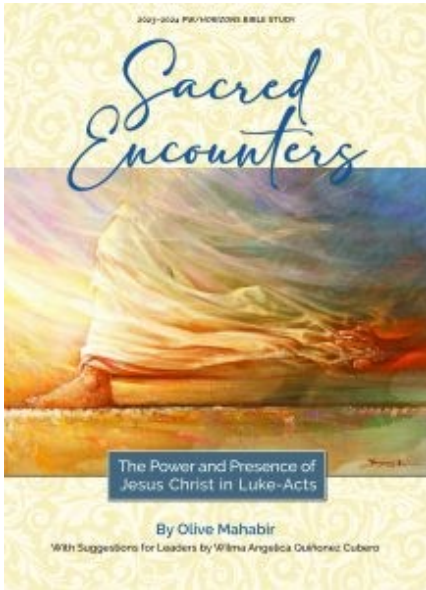
We look forward to you meeting this incredible group of young people who strive to make a difference in our community.

See you there, just bring your appetite! Where else can you sit down and enjoy a meal for just \$5.00?





# CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



The PW groups will resume their regular schedule this month, meeting at 11:00 AM on January 9 and again at 5:00 PM on January 14 in the Parlor Room. We hope you will join us.

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

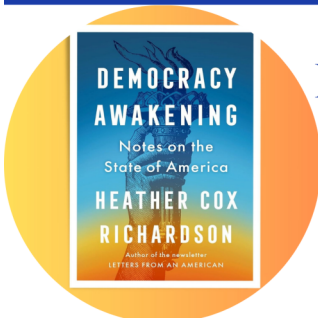
Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE  
Make yourself at home!

### After-Worship Receptions:

**Please consider signing up to contribute refreshments for the after service fellowship reception. If you need help setting up, let us know. We enjoy this time to reconnect with each other after worship. The sign up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen.**



## FPC BOOK CLUB

*Democracy Awakening; Notes on the State of America*  
by Heather Cox Richardson  
Thursday, January 11, 2024  
at 2:00 PM

The First Presbyterian Church book club will meet on **Thursday, January 11th at 2 PM** in the church parlor. We will be discussing the book *Democracy Awakening; Notes on the State of America* by Heather Cox Richardson. In this book, the author explains how over decades a small group of wealthy people have made



war on American ideals. By weaponizing language and promoting false history, they have led us into authoritarianism. The author reminds us that it is up to us to reclaim the principles on which the nation was founded. This dedication to the promises embodied in our history has awakened and renewed the people's commitment to democracy and in that commitment we will find the roadmap for the nation's future. Many books tell us what has happened over the last five years, but *Democracy Awakening* explains how we got to this perilous point, and what the future of democracy can be.

Please join us for our discussion about what is going on in the political arena and our society at this particular time in history and what we as concerned citizens can do to make a difference.

~Millie Murphy

Milly Free Fridge is in need of regular volunteers to clean the fridge and the area around it. The last time we went, it needed cleaning. So please join us Sunday, January 28th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge and cleaning out the fridge when we deliver our donations.



Please bring any of the following:

Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

The need is great in our community. **Thank you!**

**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 past month, we helped many people with their utilities thanks to several generous donations. One person in particular was able to move into an apartment from the hotel thanks to help with her deposit for both electricity and the apartment. She and her daughter are now in a much safer place as a result. The Samaritan Ministry is meant to assist those in need of utility assistance once a month. We thank you so much for your consistent and generous giving to this special outreach. It is very needed. Please consider helping Bill out on the third Tuesday of the month as he tries to help all those who come to the church looking for assistance. The next disbursement of funds will be on **Tuesday, January 16 at 9:30 AM.**







Food Pantry was busy during December. Though only two people came on the day after Christmas, we still distributed 47 bags during the month. We had numerous beautiful calendars to give out, thanks to several of you, and all were delighted to have them. Please continue to keep this ministry in your

prayers and on your shopping lists, as so many of these families truly depend upon your generosity. Remember that most of them prefer basic items rather than those many of us consider "special" - plain tomato soup beats tomato bisque or clam chowder every time. Thank you in advance for making 2024 a happier New Year for many!

~Donna



# January

	<p>1</p> 	<p>2 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry</p>
<p>7 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>8 6:30 PFLAG</p> 	<p>9 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 11:00 PW Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 5:30 Session Meeting</p>
<p>14 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Youth Group 5:00 PW Bible Study</p>	<p>15 Office Closed</p> <p>5:00 PM MSG Board Meeting</p> 	<p>16 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>
<p>21 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Youth Group 12:00 Italian Bistro by HAC</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>
<p>28 9:30 Sunday School 10:15 Children's School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive &amp; WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Milly Free Fridge</p>	<p>29 6:30 PFLAG Member Meeting</p>	<p>30 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p>



WE ARE A  
**MATTHEW 25 Church**

2023

**BE THE CHURCH**  
THE CHURCH SERVES

3	4	5	6
10 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	11 2:00 FPC Book Club 6:00 IOBI 	12	13 10:00 Removal of the Greens 
17 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	18 	19	20
24 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	25	26	27
31 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study			

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Wesley Applebury (At Large) Jennifer Flory (Worship)  
Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Joel Respass (Property)  
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.  
Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please call the office for an appointment.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



## YOUTH GROUP

### Sundays, 12:00pm



The Youth continue to meet weekly after the worship service for a time of reflection, fun and fellowship. Often, food is involved in the process. We will start our fundraising to go to Montreat soon, so be on the look out for those opportunities.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Sundays, 10:15am, in the Fellowship Hall

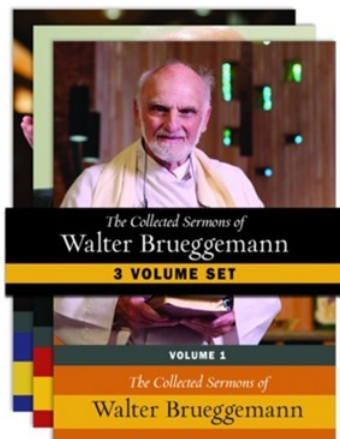
We have been having a blast with the Children's Sunday School Class each Sunday morning. There is always an interesting story with fun activities to engage the children in. And parents can even get supplemental materials offered on our website under 'Children's Sunday School.' Take advantage of all the materials available to round out our young saints' religious and spiritual education.





## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class continues to meet via ZOOM. This conveniently allows us to study and learn in an informal manner from the comfort of our homes or on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful conversations



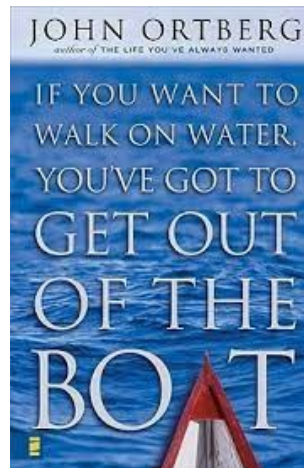
**every Sunday at 9:30 AM.** We are finishing the first volume of *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann* and will soon begin the second volume. Each of the sermons are thought provoking and fresh. If you have never encountered Dr. Brueggemann's work you are in for a treat. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable, he also has a great sense of humor. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link. ~Joel D. Burns

## Crochet Sunday School Class

We're trying something new! A Crochet Sunday School Class started the last week in October. The class has been focused on learning to crochet but we are now delving into meditation and explorations of faith. Join us in this new adventure on **Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM** in the library.



## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are studying *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg. This group meets in person in the

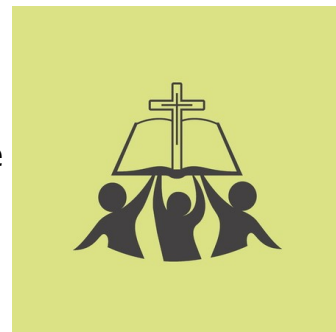
parlor room **every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM.** We would love to have you join us. ~Bill Werts

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

After taking a break over the Christmas holiday, the Wednesday night study group will resume meeting in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion beginning January 10th. We are reading and discussing, *The Other Evangelicals, A Story of Liberal, Black, Progressive, Feminist and Gay Christians and the Movement that Pushed Them Out.* John Lamsma has led the study and is doing a great job. The book is available on Amazon. This is a interesting history of the gradual effort by the conservative evangelicals to usurp the term "evangelical". **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



# LENT + MADNESS

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of

Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born on his blog "Clergy Family Confidential" which has subsequently moved locations and become "Clergy Confidential." The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. Along the way we've added celebrity bloggers, a poster-sized bracket, weekly Monday Madness videos, and the *Saintly Scorecard*, an annual publication containing all 32 first round bios, information about how to participate in Lent Madness as a congregation, and an essential Vocabulary List to decipher all things Lent Madness.

As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won't change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.

We hope you'll participate fully this Lent and vote with reckless abandon! (*Once* -- this isn't Chicago). **Lent Madness materials will be available in the church by Ash Wednesday. Check our social media and website for more information.**

(taken from: [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org))



## **TREASURER'S CORNER**

2023 has been a rough year for all of us. We have continued to struggle with disease and isolation. The world has been wracked by war. Through all of this we have made our church a better place by serving the community in the ways Jesus leads us. Our food pantry has served hundreds of individuals and the Samaritan fund has helped a number of people pay for their utilities. The word proclaimed has been strong and consistent. We now begin 2024 with high hopes for our mission.

May we continue to serve and show God's love.

God bless everyone ~Joel D. Burns

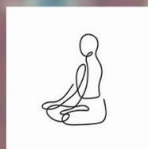
	October	November	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$15,691	\$26,317	\$205,100
Other Income	\$685	\$715	\$10,931
Total Income	\$16,376	\$27,032	\$216,031
Budgeted Expenses	\$13,711	\$20,190	\$210,721
Net (Loss)	\$2,665	\$6,842	\$5,310

This February, before the start of Lent, we will be hosting a Spiritual Discipline Weekend. It's open to all, but we will need a head count for the catered lunch. So be on the lookout for information on our Spiritual Discipline Weekend on February 3, 2024.

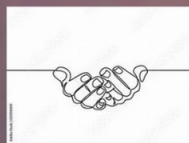
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO A

# Spiritual Discipline Workshop

## MINTER WEEKEND



*Yoga*



*Centering  
prayer*



*Lectio  
divino*



*Journaling*

FEBRUARY 3, 2024





# PRAYER REQUEST



### Church Family:

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta, **Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030**  
 Beth Baarda, in home hospice in La Grange, GA  
 Nan Carpenter, recovering from a fall  
 Nancy Lucik, recovering from car accident  
 John Sallstrom, from heart valve surgery

**Limited Mobility**  
 Martha Chappell  
 Helen Danuser

### Extended Family:

Etta Bentley, Jennifer Flory's father's wife, ongoing health concerns  
 Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident  
 Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns  
 Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment  
 Dear childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues  
 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  
 Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues  
 Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma  
 Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable  
 PJ Malagisi, former elementary student of Jennifer Flory, traumatic brain injury  
 Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns  
 Ben Morgan, Jenifer Flory's brother, ongoing health concerns  
 Janie Mullis, Bill Wert's 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, undergoing prostrate cancer treatment  
 Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis  
 Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns, recovering from a fall  
 Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns  
 Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis  
 Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns  
 Addie VanOrsdale, family friend of Cissy Lane, kidney failure  
 Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns  
 Johnny Wynne, friend of Sue Bennett's, bone marrow transplant

**Military Service**  
 Will Deason  
 Rebecca Elangwe  
 (Both are Reservists)



### 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  
 Eloise Lamb, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place  
 Maryann 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

## Anniversaries

January 29~ Dudley & Anne Weathers



## Birthdays

January 1~ Nan Rogers  
January 2~ Haywood Edwards  
January 7~ Grace Anne Azahar  
January 9~ Nancy Holbrook  
January 11~ Harry Beck  
January 21~ Frida Ituka  
January 24~ Ruby Werts  
January 31~ Rosemary Begemann

