

Church Currents



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
210 S. Wayne St
Milledgeville, GA 31061



A Note from the Pastor

October brings a meaningful convergence in our life together. This month, we celebrate World Communion Sunday—a day when we join siblings across continents and cultures at the Lord's Table, reminded that in Christ, we are bound together across every boundary, distance, and difference.

It is also especially meaningful because this October marks one full year since my arrival among you, as well as the one-year anniversary of the installation of our current Session.

Looking back over these past twelve months, there is so much for which to give thanks. Together, we have traveled an incredible distance. Under the faithful guidance of our Session, our committees are once again active and functioning with purpose. We have launched new programs, established financial stability, updated our bylaws, and worked diligently toward greater transparency in how we communicate and share decisions with the congregation. We have made intentional room at the table for more voices, welcoming more people into the active leadership and ministries of our church, while also undertaking significant, much-needed care and maintenance for our historic building.

As a congregation, we have had moments of deep joy and celebration, marking our bicentennial and honoring the rich

(Continued on next page)

heritage that has brought us to this place. We have watched our communal life flourish, seeing growing participation across diverse ministries, in our classrooms for Sunday school, and gathered together in worship each week.

At the communion table, all are invited to partake of God's grace and be nourished for the journey ahead. And our journey, while already so full of blessings, is just beginning. We still have meaningful work before us. We know that clear and open communication is an ongoing commitment we must continually nurture.

Looking ahead to the new year, we will formally begin an official mission study this January. This will be a collaborative, spirit-led season of conversation for our entire congregation. Together, we will prayerfully examine who we have been, who we are today, and where we believe God is calling us into the future.

As we break bread this October, we celebrate how far God has brought us—and we step into this next chapter with hope, dedication, and open hearts for all that lies ahead.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Mari



Mug with Mari

Wednesdays
10:00-11:00 AM

Introducing Our Elders-Elect

On Sunday, September 13th, the congregation voted to elect five members to serve as ruling elders on our Session. We celebrate the gifts of leadership, dedication, and faith they bring to the life and ministry of our church:

Class of 2028:

Teri Anne Bradley and Nathan
Tchamna Tchakounte

Class of 2030:

Carrie Cook, Holley Cowan, and
Laurie Peebles

*Many thanks to our
Nominating Committee:
Susan McGill (chair), Pat
Henry, Glory Nwankonta, Anne
Smart, and Bill Werts for their
hard work in putting together
this wonderful slate of faithful
leaders.*

Our elders-elect are currently meeting weekly for a season of study, reflection, and officer training as they prepare for the responsibilities of ordered ministry within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

They will be ordained and installed during worship on Sunday, January 11th. Please keep Teri Anne, Carrie, Holley, Laurie, and Nathan in your prayers as they prepare to answer God's call to lead and serve our church family.



In a continuation of our Bicentennial celebration, we will recognize past church members and staff who are buried locally for All Saints Day, November 1st. If you have a relative or loved one you wish to be honored, please send the names and local cemetery information to the church office no later than October 20. Details of the recognition ceremony will be shared later this month.

Missions & Ministry

FPC Food Pantry

Since there were 5 Tuesdays in September, we served a few more households than usual. We had 60 families seeking assistance, 9 of whom were new to us. Thank you for your generosity in providing for these very appreciative people!

We had a large food donation from the Presbytery-wide PW event attendees early in the month. Staples for the Pantry served as their "price of admission" and they were wonderfully generous. Our community donor brought in all the peanut butter and jelly and canned pasta we needed for another week. Thank God for filling the need!

Some of you have already donated 2027 calendars for distribution beginning in October. We welcome those as well as the cards and notepads, etc, that may also come your way. Any "freebies" will be accepted and offered to our folks.

Thanks again for keeping this ministry in your prayers and on your shopping lists!

-Donna Gautier



Food pantry items:

- Canned soups
- Canned pasta
- Canned ham, tuna, salmon, and chicken
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Grits, oatmeal, and/or cereal
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned fruits and vegetables



Did you know? Our food pantry also includes pet food! Thank you for keeping local pets fed.

Missions & Ministry



Samaritan Ministry

We assisted 13 families with utility bills in September. Power and water bill increases present a burden to many in our community.

Please contact Pat Henry, Bill Werts, or the church office if you are interested in supporting this ministry. More volunteers to assist guests with paperwork would be helpful!

The next disbursement of funds will be on **Tuesday, October 20 at 9:00 AM.**

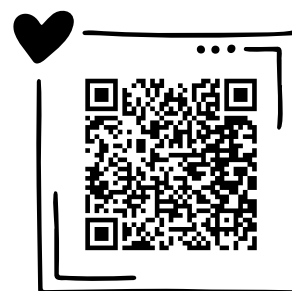
Snack & Hygiene Pack Ministry

Every day the church is visited by those living on the streets of Milledgeville, which lacks a shelter or resources for the homeless. Visitors say FPC is one of the only places people can receive help.

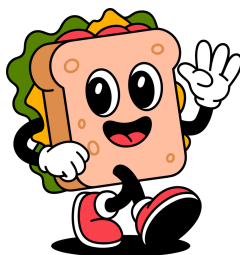
Donations of the following are greatly appreciated:

- Disposable utensil sets
- Bottled or boxed water

Use the QR below to browse our Amazon wishlist. These donations come directly to the church and can be anonymous.



Sandwich Squad



Join this ministry by staying after service on the last Sunday of the month. All are welcome!

A Note from the Missions Chair

Many families in the communities we serve live on the edge of despair. They simply do not have the resources to pay water and electric bills and still purchase food for family meals or gas for the family car needed to get parents to jobs and children to school or family members to doctor appointments. So they juggle payments until their utilities are shut down. Then they are burdened with additional reconnection fees and late fees.

At this point we have not mentioned home rental payments or the expenses that occur when a family member becomes seriously ill. It is truly a miracle a family survives. The truth is that many families do not.

BUT, know this: The food items YOU brought and the funds YOU gave HELPED families.

-Bill Werts

How to support:

Donations for Samaritan Ministry can be made by check or cash (write "Samaritan Ministry" in the subject line or on the envelope) as well as online. Vanco has a tile specifically for Samaritan's Ministry.



The Good Samaritan

Sunday School Class Offerings for Children & Youth

- Children's Sunday School

- **Location:** Upstairs Craft Room
- **Leaders:** Anne Smart & Gloria Burns
- A fun, creative space where our youngest disciples encounter scripture through engaging stories, crafts, and foundational faith lessons.



- Youth Sunday School

- **Location:** Youth Room
- **Leader:** Rev. Mari
- Our youth are currently diving into a series exploring the relationship between faith and science. From examining the wonders of the cosmos to biology and environmental stewardship, this class tackles big questions, showing that curiosity, scientific discovery, and deep Christian faith go hand in hand.



We need volunteers to provide light refreshments (donuts, muffins, etc.) and set up the coffee for our 10:40 AM fellowship gathering each week. If you or your family would like to host, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall!



ADULT

Sunday School

Adult Class Offerings



- Bible Study Class
 - **Location:** Betty Newton Campbell Parlor
 - **Leader:** Joel Burns
 - For those seeking a deep, rich exploration of scripture. The class is currently walking through an in-depth study of the prophetic wisdom in the Book of Jeremiah.
- The Fellowship Class (*Note the new location!*)
 - **Location:** Church Library
 - **Leader:** Bill Werts
 - Focused on practical discipleship, this group reads and discusses contemporary Christian works that offer insight, encouragement, and challenge for daily faithful living.
- The Engage Class (*New Offering!*)
 - **Location:** Upstairs Classroom (to the right of the stairs near Fellowship Hall)
 - **Leaders:** John Bradley, Carrie Cook, & Melba Burrell
 - The Engage Sunday School Class will continue its study of discipleship in October. In September we explored the question, "What does it mean to be a disciple?" In October we will explore deepening our relationship with God, strengthening our life together as a community of believers, and following Christ into mission.

Christian Education



Bible Sunday School

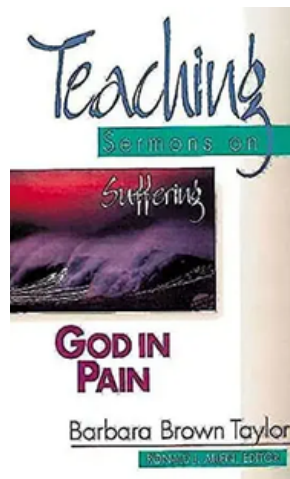
The Bible Sunday School class is carefully studying of the Book of Jeremiah, which is critical to understanding the Judaism of Jesus' era. In the years before the exile in 587 B.C.E., the time when the book of Jeremiah was set, a royal theology was predominate and after that date, a totally different theology, based on the book of Deuteronomy prevailed..

Our class meets in person (in the church parlor) every Sunday at 9:45 AM.

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



Fellowship Sunday School Class

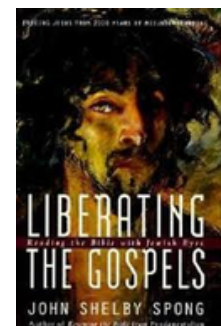
We are studying *Teaching Sermons on Suffering: God in Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor. This group meets in person every Sunday morning at 9:45. We would love to have you join us.

~Bill Werts

Wednesday Night Potluck & Study

The Wednesday night group meets in person for a great pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. This month we are reading and discussing John Shelby Spong's book *Liberating the Gospels, Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes*. This interesting and thoughtful work puts forth the theory that the Gospels were shaped by the Jewish liturgical year and that we miss the point when we read them literally.

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.



Youth Ministry in October: Fellowship, Sabbath, Service & More!

October 4 — Breaking Bread & World Communion (12:00 – 1:30 PM):

On World Communion Sunday, we'll gather around the table for lunch to talk about what it means to practice radical Christian hospitality and welcome everyone into fellowship. We will also finish up ongoing projects and take our first look at the script for our upcoming Christmas Joy Gift presentation.

October 11 — Unplug & Breathe: The Gift of Sabbath (12:00 – 1:30 PM):

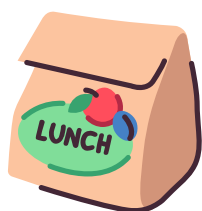
Wrapping up Fall Break, we're slowing down to explore what Jesus meant when he said the Sabbath was made for us. We'll enjoy a relaxed lunch and take part in hands-on rest stations designed to recharge our batteries before heading back into busy school schedules.

October 18 — Joy Gift Presentation Workshop (12:00 – 1:30 PM):

Following lunch, we will prepare our presentation on the Christmas Joy Offering to share with the congregation on the day we receive the offering. We will choose parts, run lines, and walk through staging in the sanctuary.

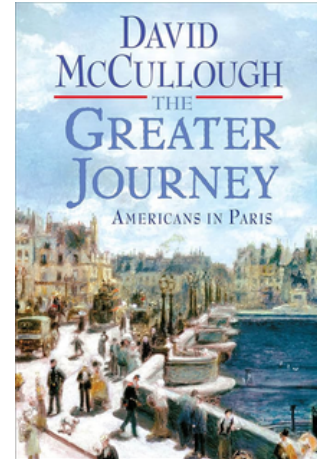
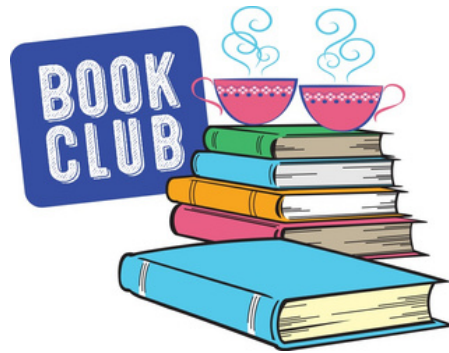
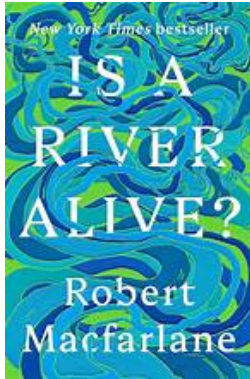
October 25 — Reformation Sunday & Faith in Action (12:00 – 1:30 PM):

We celebrate the Reformed tradition by putting faith into motion! Before eating our own lunch, we will assemble sandwiches to stock the Milly Free Fridge. Afterward, we'll dive into the concept of the "priesthood of all believers" and talk about how youth are called to lead, serve, and minister in their everyday lives right now.



Sign up to provide a meal:
<https://bit.ly/FeedYouth>

First Presbyterian Book Club



Thursday, October 8 @ 2:00 PM in the Parlor

The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet on Thursday October the 8th at 2:00 pm in the church parlor. The book we will be discussing will be *Is a River Alive?* by Robert Macfarlane. This award winning, *New York Times* best seller is a joyful, mind-expanding exploration of three rivers in different parts of the globe. Macfarlane takes readers on an unforgettable journey to the miraculous cloud-forests and the mountain streams of Ecuador, to the wounded creeks and lagoons of India, and to the spectacular wild rivers of Canada, each one imperiled respectively by mining, pollution, and dams. Macfarlane explores the concept of rivers as living beings, examining their ecological significance and legal rights.

The book that the group will be reading for November is *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* written by America's master historian David McCollough. In this No.1 best seller, the author tells the story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, hungry to learn and excel in their work. What they achieved would profoundly alter American history. This book is enthusiastically recommended by the people that have read it.

We would love to have you join us in our discussion of *Is a River Alive?* at our October meeting.

-Millie Murphy

Presbyterian Women @ FPC

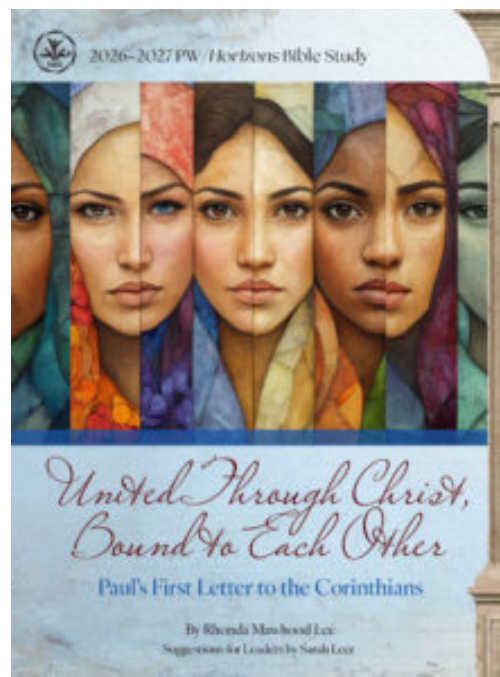
Hello, all ladies of our church! Presbyterian Women will meet this month on **Sunday, October 11 at 5:00 PM** and **Tuesday, October 13 at 11:00 AM** in the church parlor.

Our study book is from the *Horizon* magazine and we will be working through 1st Corinthians. If you wish to join PW, there are 4 regular print study books in the office (\$14). Please either call the church office and tell Jessica that you want to be included or email me at [**nancymiller76@hotmail.com**](mailto:nancymiller76@hotmail.com). Books can be paid for using cash, check, or online via Vanco or Paypal. You can also download the e-book on your device if you'd rather. Please contact the church office if the cost of a book is prohibitive to your participation!

We meet in the Parlor which is comfy and conducive to lively conversation. Please consider joining us!

Blessings,

Nancy Miller





Session Notes

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
SUSAN MCGILL
CLERK OF SESSION

The Session approved a proposal from Comfort Systems to replace the boiler system air flow proving switch at a cost of \$908.

The Session approved a motion to accept *Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes* by John Shelby Spong for the Wednesday night group.

The Session approved a motion to accept the job description for the Coordinator of Children and Youth; dissemination of the job description through appropriate channels will begin.

The Session approved a motion to administer the sacrament of baptism to Henry Ethan Sligar on October 18, 2026.

The Session discussed possible dates for the Fall Retreat, where Elders will review committee progress from the past year and set future goals.

The Session reviewed the current committee structure and considered realigning duties and expanding responsibilities by adding several new committees.

Congregational Meeting—September 13, 2026

The Congregation approved wording changes to two sections of the By-Laws, designating the Church Treasurer as the Corporation Treasurer.

The Congregation also approved the election of Carrie Cook, Holley Cowan, and Laurie Peebles (Class of 2030) and TeriAnne Bradley and Nathan Tchamna to serve one-year terms as Class of 2028.

Committee Highlights

Stewardship Committee (Joel Burns, Holley Cowan, John Bradley, and Rev. Mari – ex officio)

The Stewardship Committee met on September 23 to discuss the upcoming stewardship season. In October or early November a letter will be sent from the committee and Rev. Mari further discussing stewardship. Please begin to prayerfully consider your commitments of time, talents, and pledges for 2027. In the meantime, please add the following dates to your calendar:

November 15: Stewardship Dinner and Presentation following church service

November 22: Dedication Sunday



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Personnel Committee (Lee Gillis, Carrie Cook, John Bradley and Rev. Mari – ex officio)

The Personnel Committee met on September 22 to discuss priorities and projects for the remainder of the year. The committee will work with the Christian Education Committee and Rev. Mari to hire a part-time Coordinator of Children and Youth. Review of the Personnel Policies is ongoing with a goal of updating those policies.

Committee Highlights



Worship Committee



Please click [here](#) or scan above to view the 2026 worship volunteer schedule.

Property Committee (Charles Burrell, Robert Carroll, Bill Werts, and John Bradley)

Phase 3 on the roof is scheduled for the week of October 5. Phase 3 will encompass the roof over the choir loft and create a new water diversion system. We do not expect that the parking area will be blocked off for any period of time. Access will most likely be through the playground area of the church.



Work on the boiler system will continue with the installation of a new airflow proving switch as we work toward being ready for winter.



Finance Committee (Holley Cowan, Pat Henry, Melba Burrrell, Joel Burns, and John Bradley)

Over the next few months the committee will meet to review the 2026 fiscal year before beginning to work on the budget for 2027.

Photo Gallery



Women across the presbytery donated canned goods as their price of admission for the PW Workshops. Donna returned from her much-needed vacation to find the pantry well-stocked.

Did You Know?

Donna has 4 GCSU students doing service hours with food pantry this semester as part of their LEAD 2020: Leadership Practicum course. 3 other students regularly volunteer on their own in this ministry, receiving no credit from the college but taking much responsibility every week, two of them for a second year. Another is a graduate, but still coming every week. Be sure to give them a warm welcome if you see them around the church on Mondays and Tuesdays. We love our volunteers!

Photo Gallery



**Youth Group: Crafting No-Sew
Blankets for our Homebound
Members on 9/27/26**

Tag us on social media or send
your photos to 478-443-5203 or
milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com
to be featured next month!

October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 9:45 Sunday School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship  1:00 PFLAG Potluck 5:00 Elder Training	5 7:00 MSG 7:00 All Recovery 	6 9:30 Food pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 Never Alone	7 6:30 Potluck & Study 
11 9:45 Sunday School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth group 5:00 PW 5:00 Elder Training	12 7:00 MSG 7:00 All Recovery 	13 9:30 Food pantry 11:00 PW 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 Never Alone	14 6:30 Potluck & Study 
18 9:45 Sunday School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth group 5:00 Elder Training	19 7:00 MSG 7:00 All Recovery 	20 9:00 Presbytery Meeting 9:00 Samaritan's Ministry 9:30 Food pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 Never Alone	21 6:30 Potluck & Study 
25 9:45 Sunday School 10:40 Fellowship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth group 5:00 Elder Training	26 7:00 MSG 7:00 All Recovery 	27 9:30 Food pantry 12:00 Kiwanis 7:30 Never Alone	28 6:30 Potluck & Study 

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

By appointment-
Call (478) 452-9394

Call or Text (478) 443-5203

2026

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:30 Never Alone	2	3 7:30 Never Alone
8 2:00 FPC Book Club 7:30 Never Alone	9	10 7:30 Never Alone
15 7:30 Never Alone	16	17 7:30 Never Alone
22 7:30 Never Alone	23	24 9:00-3:00 Session Retreat 7:30 Never Alone
29 7:30 Never Alone	30	31 7:30 Never Alone



Bob Smart - 10/1
Linda Bradley - 10/4
Astrid Callender - 10/8
Craig Callender - 10/8
Holley Cowan - 10/8
Millie Murphy - 10/9
Laura Baarda - 10/10

Bill Flory - 10/12
Mary Baker - 10/24
Emily Carson - 10/24
Becky Henderson - 10/24
Kim Booth - 10/27
Doris Moody - 10/30

Prayer Requests

CHURCH FAMILY:

Lisa Thomas, in the hospital
Harry Beck, at home recovering from surgery
Debbie Lamsma, dealing with Parkinson's
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Lindsey Jones, friend of Gini Wilkerson, awaiting medical diagnosis
Bob Bray, Ann Hotchkiss' friend with a heart blockage, and his care team at Emory
Jax Bastow, dealing with child cancer round 2, and parents Catherine & Jason
Bastow, family friends of Pat & Sherry Henry
Don Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, in the hospital
Oscar Jude Hall, Gini Wilkerson's nephew, born prematurely
Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, dealing with a cancer diagnosis
Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Foster with serious health issues
Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, in memory care
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, at home with 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 Woodward, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING:

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, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210



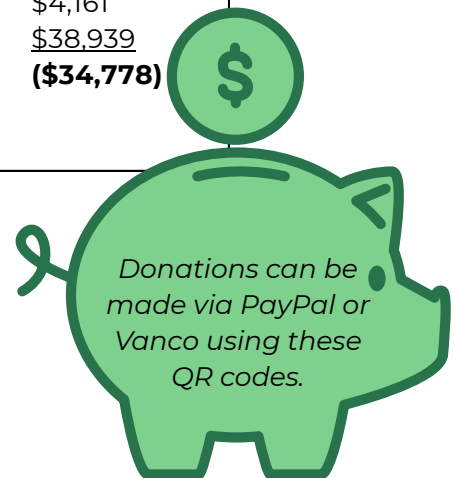
Treasurer's Corner

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>		
Contributions	\$16,507	\$21,052
Other Income	\$1,356	\$303
Total Operating Income	\$17,863	\$21,355
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$23,710</u>	<u>\$18,162</u>
Net Operating	\$(5,847)	\$3,193
<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>		
Contributions	\$7,982	\$4,161
Expenses	<u>\$4,573</u>	<u>\$38,939</u>
Net Designated	\$3,409	(\$34,778)

Our giving has not matched our spending. We are very fortunate this year to have a cushion from your previous gifts, but we will need increased giving to avoid depleting our reserves.

Please remember that your support of the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry is the only way these ministries are possible. All of our work follows the example of Jesus.

Joel D. Burns
For the Finance Committee



Thank you for reading!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MILLEDGEVILLE	478-452-9394 478-443-5203 (CELL)
www.fpcmilledgeville.org milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com	210 S WAYNE ST MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061

Celebrating Reformation Sunday: October 25

On Sunday, October 25th, we celebrate Reformation Sunday in worship. We will remember the reformers whose faith and convictions shaped our heritage, giving birth to the Reformed tradition.

We honor the legacy of those who insisted that God's grace is a free gift and that Scripture belongs to all people. Rooted in the call to be "reformed and always being reformed by the Word of God," we celebrate our history while listening for how the Spirit is shaping our church today.

All are invited to join us for great hymns of our faith and shared worship! You are welcome to wear red in honor of the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in the church.

