

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## NOVEMBER 2025

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET**  
**MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061**



# First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 351 November 2025

Pastor:  
Rev. Mari Turner

Coord. of Children &  
Youth Ministries:  
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:  
Amy VanderGroef  
(Temp)

Director of Music:  
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:  
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:  
Volunteers

My first month here in Milledgeville has been truly wonderful—thank you so much for the incredible welcome I have received! I'm especially excited that our Session is actively working and organizing this month; I am enjoying partnering with them as we move forward with the mission of our church

November is naturally a time for gratitude. One crucial way we live that out is through our annual Stewardship campaign. Please save the date for our Stewardship Celebration Lunch on Sunday, November 16th, right after worship! It's a great time to share a meal and look ahead together.

We are also mindful that this month brings a big challenge for our neighbors: many families will lose Federal Food Assistance (SNAP) benefits starting on November 1st. Because we are called to feed the hungry, we ask you to prepare for our First Sunday Food Donation on November 2nd. We encourage you to be especially generous this month to help stock our food pantry for those facing sudden hardship.

Finally, enjoy a beautiful Thanksgiving with your loved ones later this month. Let's keep walking together in faith, always grateful and always ready to serve! It is truly my privilege to serve as your Pastor.

With gratitude and hope,

Mari





## Answering God's Call with Our Time, Talent, and Treasure

As we enter our Stewardship season please take time to consider the blessings we have received and the ways we can respond to Christ's call to serve. Our theme for this year is Love in Action: Answering God's Call With Time, Talents and Treasure.

You will soon receive a packet with a letter from Rev. Turner and one from the Stewardship Committee along with a Pledge Card and a Time and Talents survey.

Rev. Turner will present sermons on stewardship on November 9 and November 16. Please plan to attend a Steward Luncheon immediately following the November 16 worship service. November 30 will be Commitment Sunday when pledges and the Time and Talents survey can be brought forward and placed in the offering plates. The pledges and the survey can also be brought or mailed to the church office. We are encouraging all pledges to be turned in by November 30 so we can begin to prepare next year's budget.

John H. Bradley, Stewardship Chair

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**The new Session has been Ordained and Installed:**

**Elders ~ Andrew Allen, John Bradley, and Becky Humphrey  
(3 year term)**

**Elders ~ Frida Ituka, Susan McGill, and Bill Werts (2 year  
term)**

**Youth Elder ~ Josefa Tchamna-Kouna (1 year term)**

**It is the nature  
of *grace*  
always to fill  
spaces that  
have been  
empty.**

Goethe



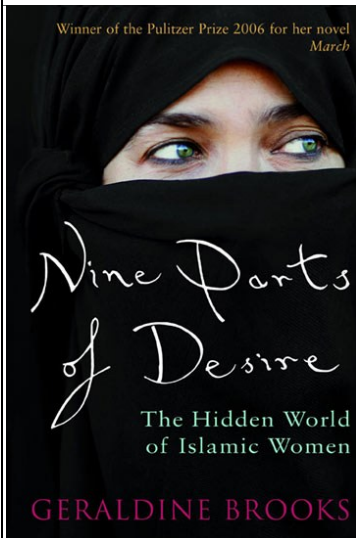
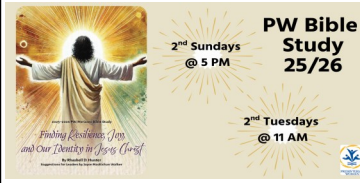
# CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



## Worship Committee

The **Worship Committee** is looking for volunteers for key rolls in our church! Do you want to become more involved in our weekly worship? Then volunteer to be a Liturgist! Love meeting and welcoming new people and long-time friends? Then let us know that you'd like to be a Greeter! Email Andrew Allen at [saxophoneric@gmail.com](mailto:saxophoneric@gmail.com), and he will arrange for occasional service in these important roles!

The Presbyterian Women are starting their yearly bible study again this fall. The group meets each month on the **second Sunday at 5:00 PM (November 9th) and the second Tuesday at 11:00 AM (November 11th)** so that people who are unable to meet during work hours have the opportunity to join at a different time. This year's Bible Study is about finding resilience and joy in Christ. Make plans to join them!



The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet **Thursday, November 13th at 2:00pm** in the church parlor. The book we will be discussing is *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women* by Pulitzer Prize winning correspondent for the *The Wall Street Journal* Geraldine Brooks. In this book she presents stories of a wide range of Muslim women in the Middle East and their reaction to the tightening of women's freedoms by the men in the resurgent of fundamentalism in the Muslim world. The author's analysis of the world's fastest growing religion illustrates how Islam's holiest texts have been misused to justify repression of women and how male pride and power have warped the original message of a once liberating faith.

The book selection for **December** is *The Afterlife of Malcolm X: An Outcast Turned Icon's Enduring Impact on America* by Mark Whitaker. Published to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of his birth, this book in the first major study of Malcolm's influence in the sixty years since his assassination. The author writes less about Malcolm's life and more about his enduring impact on culture, politics, and civil rights. The author also retraces the long road to exoneration for the two men who were wrongfully convicted of Malcolm's murder.

Please join us for a stimulating discussion concerning the treatment/role of women in the Muslim religion as we discuss *Nine Parts of Desire*.

~ Millie Murphy

The church  
has left  
the building.



# MISSION AND MINISTRY

The church  
has left  
the building.



The Milly Free Fridge continues to help those families and individuals who experience food insecurity in our community. With such hot weather, consider filling the fridge with bottled water.

**Make plans to join us Sunday, November 30th to help feed our neighbors by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge .**

Please bring any of the following: Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks.

We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

## Samaritan Ministry

We helped four families this month through Samaritan Ministry. We hear so many stories of lost jobs, lowered wages and illness that have negatively impacted these families searching for help.

Please contact Pat Henry or Bill Werts if you are interested in supporting this ministry. Thank you for your continued help.

**The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, November 18 at 9:00 AM.**



## **FPC FOOD PANTRY Tuesday's 9:30am—10:30am!!**

During October, the Food Pantry served 43 households, 13 for the first time. With the current government shutdown affecting EBT (food stamps) as of the first of November, we can expect that ratio to rise. On 3 of the 4 distribution days we ran out of food well before the hour was out, once in just 12 minutes.

As you have been reminded in recent bulletins, we collect in-kind donations at worship on first Sundays. We do not have the crowd of youngsters bringing the baskets forward that we used to have, but the practice is a valuable example for those who are here. Let's give them plenty to carry! If you want to drop things off at the church anytime during the month, we will use them. We only ask that the items be in line with the list provided so your money is well-spent. Look for sale prices and BOGO items, too, as they stretch dollars.

A check annotated for Food Pantry in the offering plate will do much good, as prices rise along with the need we try to help meet. Thank you for your generosity!

~Donna

## **Food Pantry staples list:**

Canned soups;  
canned pasta;  
canned ham;  
tuna; salmon;  
and chicken;  
boxed mac & cheese; grits;  
oatmeal; and/or cereal; peanut butter & jelly;  
canned fruit and vegetables














# November

<p>2  <b>9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship—All Saint's  <b>12:00</b> Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>	<p>3 <b>7:00</b> Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p><b>All Recovery Meeting</b></p>	<p>4 <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis  <b>7:30</b> NA</p> 
<p>9  <b>9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service  <b>1:30-3:00</b> Homeless Awareness Club  <b>5:00</b> Presbyterian Women Study</p>	<p>10 <b>7:00</b> Oconee Recovery Commission</p> <p><b>7:00</b> Milledgeville Singers Guild</p>	<p>11  <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>11:00</b> Presbyterian Women Bible Study  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis  <b>6:30</b> SESSION Meeting  <b>7:30</b> NA</p> 
<p>16  <b>9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service  <b>12:00</b> Stewardship Luncheon</p>	<p>17 <b>7:00</b> Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p><b>All Recovery Meeting</b></p> <p><b>7:00</b> Milledgeville Singers Guild</p>	<p>18  <b>9:00</b> Samaritan Ministry  <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry    <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis  <b>7:30</b> NA</p> 
<p>23  <b>9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service  <b>12:00</b> Milly Sandwich Squad</p> 	<p>24 <b>7:00</b> Oconee Recovery Commission</p>  <p><b>All Recovery Meeting</b></p> <p><b>7:00</b> Milledgeville Singers Guild</p>	<p>25 <b>9:30-10:30</b> Food Pantry  <b>12:00</b> Kiwanis  <b>7:30</b> NA</p> 
<p>30 <b>9:30</b> Sunday School  <b>10:15</b> Children's School  <b>11:00</b> Worship Service</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

# 2025



<p>5 <b>6:30</b> Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>6 <b>2:00</b> FPC Book Club</p> <p>6:00 IOBI 7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>12 <b>6:30</b> Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>13 <b>2:00</b> FPC Book Club</p> <p>6:30-7:30 PFLAG (parlor)</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>19 <b>6:30</b> Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>26 <b>6:30</b> Wednesday Potluck and Study</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 NA</p>	28	<p>29</p>  <p>Narcotics Anonymous</p>

**Operations:** The church office is open Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please call the office for an appointment (478) 443-5203

**Liturgists for October:**

November 2 & 9 Andrew Allen

November 16, 23 & 30





# YOUTH MINISTRY



## YOUTH GROUP (Youth Room)

The holidays are coming fast, and the youth group is already deep into planning and organizing our Christmas Program for the Joy Gift Offering Sunday.

Join us! We meet every Sunday right after worship with Laurie Peebles and Mari Turner, and we need every single middle and high schooler involved. This group is loaded with talent, and we guarantee there's a job for you, whether you like the spotlight or not.

Whether you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or acting on stage, or if you prefer to grab a crucial role behind the scenes helping with sets and props, your energy is needed on the team! Come lend your energy and let's make this year's program truly special!!



GOZO de NAVIDAD  
OFRENDAS ESPECIALES  
LIDERAZGO: PASADO, PRESENTE Y FUTURO



## BICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

October was a productive month for the Committee! The budget and proposed schedule of activities were approved by the new Session and the AC; we received our first outside donation for the Bicentennial (from the Monticello Presbyterian Church); and we have a new logo for our event next year (see above). Our beloved friend Bob Wilson has agreed to return to Milledgeville next June for a special "Talk with Bob," an evening of historical storytelling about FPC and its role in Milledgeville history. As other events are confirmed, we need your help moving forward. Our first fundraiser, a hammered glass Christmas ornament with the Bicentennial logo, will go on sale later this month; each one is \$15 or two for \$25. These will make wonderful additions to any Christmas tree, home décor, or serve as stocking stuffers; AND the sale of these ornaments will begin to promote our Bicentennial celebration next year. (Wouldn't it be wonderful if our first order sold out?!?) Secondly, our Fall Stewardship season is approaching; please thoughtfully consider how you can help with the preparations for the Bicentennial—as the saying goes, "many hands make light work" and we really would like everyone to be able to enjoy the celebration and not be overburdened by responsibilities. --Susan McGill, Chair

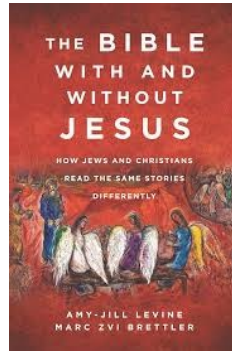


# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class continues its study of *The Bible With and Without Jesus* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. This book helps us start to see the Jewish perspective on many of the best known stories in the holy scriptures we call the Old Testament.

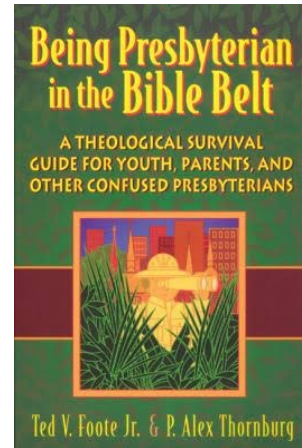


Our class is meeting in person (in the church parlor) and via ZOOM, allowing us to choose whether to come to class to interact or study from the comfort of our home computer, on a tablet or on our smartphones. We join in lively conversations every Sunday at 9:45 AM .

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 Burns

## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are studying *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg. This group meets in person **every Sunday morning at 9:45**. We would love to have you join us. ~Bill Werts



## d365

d365 is a daily devotion written for youth and adults. The devotion follows a five-step format - **Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go**.

The **Pause** step remains the same all week and is designed as a centering tool as you begin the devotion.

The **Listen** step is the scripture passage for the day, using the

Common English Bible translation.

The **Think** step is the devotional thought by the week's writer.

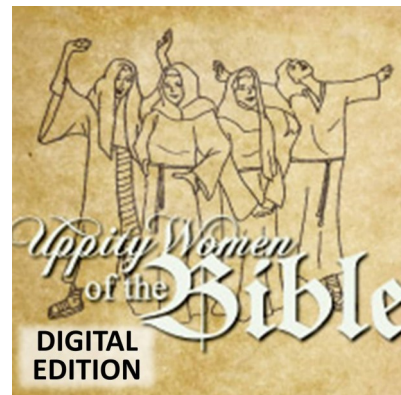
The **Pray** step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God.

The **Go** step is a call to action - launching you from this moment toward acting on what you have heard.

As you read the thoughts of the writers, think about your own response to the scripture for the day. Let the writer's words serve as background for your own conversation with God.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night group meets in person for a great pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. We are beginning *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe. This video series takes a fresh look at the books of Ruth, The Song of Songs, Esther and Judith. With humor and fresh insights the professor makes the study a joy.



**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!



## A Call for Creative Expression: Mari's Office Wall Project

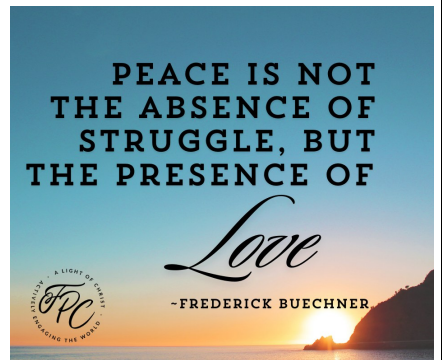
I'm looking forward to transforming the large, blank wall in my office into a living tribute to our church family!



I invite all members and friends to share artwork, photos, poems, or any creative expressions that capture what Milledgeville First Presbyterian Church means to you. We will be taking these unique pieces and printing them on beautiful canvases, turning the space into a shared gallery that constantly reminds us of our journey and connection.

Please prayerfully consider sharing your gift. I can't wait to see your expression of our church family celebrated on the wall!

Thank you! Mari



## Stewardship



## TREASURER'S CORNER

First Presbyterian is almost two hundred years old and it is still going strong. Funding a new pastorate and facility repairs will need all of us to rededicate ourselves. We must increase our giving to make sure we can fund everything. Please support the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry. We try to follow the example of Jesus in all we do.

Joel D. Burns ~ Acting Treasurer

OPERATING BUDGET	August	September	2025 YTD
Contributions	\$19,029	\$13,335	\$157,818
Other Income	\$689	\$688	\$6,196
Total Operating Income	\$19,718	\$14,023	\$164,015
Total Operating Expenses	\$16,775	\$18,242	\$183,907
<b>Net Operating</b>	<b>\$2,942</b>	<b>(\$4,219)</b>	<b>(\$19,892)</b>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>			
Contributions	\$2,318	\$2,839	\$32,022
Expenses	\$1,674	\$1,982	\$21,853
<b>Net Designated</b>	<b>\$644</b>	<b>\$857</b>	<b>\$10,169</b>

### **November Newsletter Session Update**

Your newly elected Session and covenant pastor held several meetings in October, primarily to get organized. The Administrative Commission agreed to continue functioning as our session until we are fully operational, hopefully within the next month or so. Activities at the two meetings (October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) included discussing Rev. Turner's role as moderator, identifying and examining the goals of the Session, classification and grouping of the major activities of the church, and selecting committee assignments.

<b>Andrew Allen</b>	<b>Worship Committee</b>	<b>Class of 2028</b>
<b>John Bradley</b>	<b>Administrative Committee</b>	<b>Class of 2028</b>
<b>Becky Humphrey</b>	<b>Congregational Care Committee</b>	<b>Class of 2028</b>
<b>Frida Ituka</b>	<b>Christian Education Committee</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
<b>Susan McGill</b>	<b>Clerk</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>
<b>Josefa Tchamna</b>	<b>Young Adult Elder, CE Co-Chair</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
<b>Bill Werts</b>	<b>Missions</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>

Each elder will chair their respective committee, and each is in the process of identifying necessary subcommittees, potential committee members, and finalizing the formal name of the committee. Other business included determining a day for stated meetings for the rest of the year (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor), approving the proposal and budget submitted by the Bicentennial Committee (with AC providing final approval), and electing Commissioners (Gloria Burns, Susan McGill) to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting on October 21 at Nacoochee Presbyterian Church (see below). Our next stated meeting will be Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Turner, Gloria Burns and Susan McGill traveled to Nacoochee Presbyterian Church in the north Georgia mountains for a very lively (and long) Presbytery meeting. Several important motions were approved: 1) created an Endowment of about \$1 million that will remain untouched for three years earning roughly 5% that could be used to partially fund administrative work of the Presbytery beginning in 2028; 2) set an increase (up from \$9.40) per capita rate \$12.40 for the Presbytery (combined with \$11.26 for the General Assembly and \$2.00 for the Synod of the Atlantic) for a total of \$25.66 in 2026—these are the base rates each church is responsible paying for each member in their congregation; 3) set 2026 minimum salary standards for ministers; and 4) routine business such as 2026 budget, transfers, dissolved calls, new members, enrolling inquirers (prospective teaching elders), and new committee members. We also enjoyed a wonderful worship service by CeCe Armstrong, Co-moderator of the General Assembly (and from Belle-Terrace Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA).

Susan McGill, Clerk



# PRAYER REQUESTS



## **CHURCH FAMILY:**

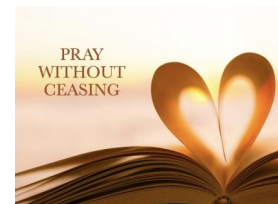
Gini Wilkerson, upon the loss of her mother, Kathy Hall  
 Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns  
 Charles Burrell, recovering from knee surgery  
 Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns  
 Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall  
 Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

## **Military Service**

Will Deason  
 Rebecca Elangwe  
 (Both are Reservists)

## **EXTENDED FAMILY:**

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns  
 Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues  
 Wesley Applebury, hospitalized after reconstructive neurosurgery on Sept. 10.  
 Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home  
 Bob Bishop, Mari Turner's father, recovering from fall  
 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  
 Paul Schrage, Carrie Cook's father, ongoing health concerns  
 Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ongoing health concerns  
 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  
 Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place  
 Runette Pounds, The Cottages, 1010 Fernwood Dr, Rm 206, Milledgeville, GA 31061  
 Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210



## ***Birthdays***

November 1 ~ Kate Phillips  
November 6 ~ Margaret Ivester  
November 9 ~ Lois Callender  
November 12 ~ Elliot Callender  
November 14 ~ Chigozie Odihe  
November 18 ~ Katy McGill  
November 25 ~ Debbie Lamsma  
November 29 ~ Barbara Rowe

