

CHURCH CURRENTS

FEBRUARY 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

Dear St. Valentine,
help us learn to
love unselfishly
and to find great
joy in giving.
Enable all true lovers
to bring out the best
♥ in each other. ♥





First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 307 February 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, I pray for you all each day, and I give thanks to God for you, and for the love and support you show to my family. You are each God's own blessings, and I'm grateful.

When I visited Israel/Palestine, I waded into the Dead Sea, Teva sandals on my feet. By the time I was knee deep, I was already finding it hard to keep my feet on the sea bed. I sat down and pushed off, deeper into the water. From the shore, it looked like I was using pool noodles under my arms and knees; the density of the water forces you to the surface. A few times I shifted my body in the water, trying to push my feet down to the seabed. Each time, the buoyant water refused to cooperate, and my legs swept out from under me again.

The last two months have felt like that for me. A quick vacation to celebrate Thanksgiving with family turned buoyant with Mom's unexpected, eleven-day hospital stay. With her discharge, it was time to put our feet down again, but the water turned buoyant again, with news of my aunt's death. A few days at home, trying to get our feet on solid ground, but the funeral swept our legs up again. Another few days at home, trying to put our feet down, only to find ourselves floating again with another hospital stay, and another. And now we are home again, but hospice and uncertainty are keeping our feet off the ground.

Eventually, I gave up trying to force my feet through the dense water. I stopped trying to force my way into an upright position, planted on the seabed. I laid back and let myself be in the moment. The sensation of the water holding me up was surreal, but I knew I wouldn't drown. The only struggle I experienced in that moment was when I tried to control the position of my body in the water. I relaxed, feeling my head pillowed atop the impossible water, and I struck out. Swimming in the Dead Sea is remarkably easy, requiring very little effort, once you accept that the water will decide your disposition. And at some point, when you've made your way back to waters shallow enough to bear your weight, your feet will once again plant firmly on the ground, and you will feel the breeze and hot sun dry you off, the water's rich minerals forming a rime on your skin.

The last two years have felt like those buoyant waters, thwarting our every attempt to firmly plant our feet back on the ground. Every time we've tried to replant ourselves and gain our balance, the pandemic has floated us anew. It's hard to say how far we are from the shore as yet, but the next thing is to get our feet grounded. The thing after that is to stand up. And we'll do it all together, with God's help.

Yours, in Christ,

Rev. Susan

It's that time again! If you are interested in ordering Fair Trade Coffee, please contact Joel at (478)414-6516.

Good coffee for a good cause



The Presbyterian Coffee Project offers a special link between congregations and communities around the world. Churches can now reach out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings we give, but with the goods and products we purchase. A warm cup of coffee (or tea) in our hands is perhaps the most tangible daily connection we have with farmers around the world. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life's pleasures both fine and simple.



Buying fair trade through the Presbyterian Coffee Project ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it. Support small-scale farming cooperatives through the Small Farmer Fund, administered by the Presbyterian Hunger Program.







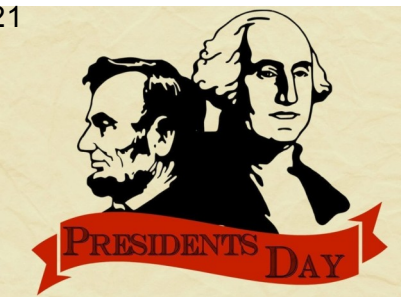


Farewell From the Green Market

From pandemic to local farms stretched thin and our own uncertainties in sustaining a weekly market with fewer local farms and fewer customers, we haven't been living up to our mission of supporting and connecting the local food economy. In light of these challenges the Green Market board voted last week to dissolve the organization, and in accordance with our bylaws will be donating our remaining funds to Chard Wray Food Pantry here in Milledgeville.










February

		<p>1 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry</p> 
<p>6 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan's Ministry</p> 
<p>13 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry</p> 
<p>20 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM</p> 	<p>21</p> 	<p>22 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry</p> 
<p>27 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive&WKZR102.3FM</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>For more information on what it means to be a Matthew 25 congregation, head to this link: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/</p>



2022



<p>2 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7:00PM</p> 	3	4	5
<p>9 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7:00PM</p> 	<p>10 2:00 PM FPC Book Club</p> 	11	12
<p>16 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7:00PM</p> 	17	18	19
<p>23 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7:00PM</p> 	24	25	26



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 PRESBYTERY

Actively Engaged in the World

Elders on Session

Class of 2021 ~ Grace Anne Azahar (Finance) Catherine Dean (Congregational Life) Marianne Edwards (Personnel) Class of 2022 ~ Lee Gillis (Property) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Doris Moody (Worship) Anne Smart (Christian Education)

Operations: The church office is now open
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Food Pantry



We have continued to serve our neighbors inside the building, socially distanced, but glad to be out of the January weather! We have served 20 families in January, 4 of them new to us. As I mentioned in the previous month's report, 25 families received a cash Christmas gift. I have seen

two of those again, and received a thank you card from one, a profuse verbal thanks from the other. Thank you for making this extra surprise possible along with their food bags. Continue to keep this ministry in your prayers and in your budgets. We need both. Thank you. -Donna Gautier

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.

Neighbor Care Packs:

Waters, Vienna sausages/pouch tuna, fruit cups, PB or Cheese crackers, protein bar, and a sweet candy! Soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, razor, socks, washcloth, chapstick, wet wipes, tissues, etc.

Samaritan Ministry

There continues to be an oversized need for help paying utility bills within our community. We helped 5 people this month, for a total of \$720.00. In doing so, we have exhausted the funds for the Samaritan Ministry. We are grateful for your continued financial support. 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.



TREASURER'S CORNER



February 2022, and the Omicron variant of Covid 19 has once again kept us away from one another. As I said last February "this has been the most challenging time for First Presbyterian Church in my lifetime." Church is essentially community, and we have not been able to meet in person. It is a tough job to keep a community together without being together in person. We need to continue our mission. We must feed people, help those that can't pay their utilities and spread the Word of God to the world. In order to do these things we need your financial support. Please, Holy Spirit guide us through this time.

Help us to remember that a Church can do great things when we follow the Spirit. Help us show the love of God in Milledgeville.- Joel D. Burns

	November	December	2021 YTD
Contributions	\$23,035	\$20,316	\$176,906
Other Income	\$683	\$1,724	\$11,853
Total Income	\$23,718	\$22,040	\$188,759
Budgeted Expenses	\$12,868	\$15,780	\$184,477
Net (Loss)	\$10,850	\$6,260	\$4,282

The church has been declared open again for services and meetings. So, the FPC Book Club will hold their

February meeting on February 10th at 2:00 o'clock. We will be discussing the book, *The Great Bridge; The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge* by David McCullough. Please come and also bring your suggestions for future books to read. -Millie Murphy



Greetings from Nancy Holbrook, who wants the congregation to know just how much she appreciates the cards and gifts you have sent her. Thank you, thank you. Thank you, All!



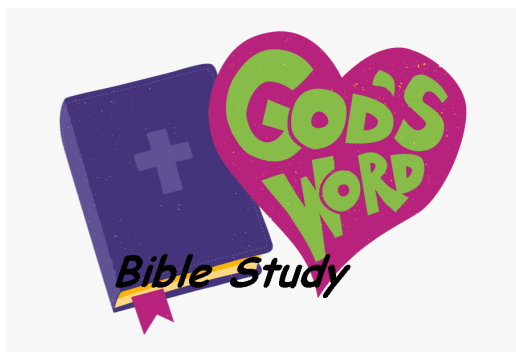
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE/BOOK STUDY

Our group has completed its study of Paul, at least for now. We are meeting **via ZOOM at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday nights** to study *God and the Pandemic, A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath* by N. T. Wright. This short book helps us to make sense of the crazy times in which we live.

Meeting ID: 836 4575 8846

Passcode: 057482

Joel D. Burns



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Due to the Omicron surge, we are meeting **via ZOOM** every **Sunday at 9:30 AM** to study the second part of Walter Brueggemann's series on Exodus, *Delivered into Covenant*. *Delivered into Covenant* offers a guide to the second half of Exodus—from Israel's journey through the wilderness to Mount Sinai to the establishment of the tabernacle—drawing out "pivotal moments" in the text. Throughout, Brueggemann shows how Exodus consistently reveals a God who is in radical solidarity with the powerless and who is dedicated to cultivating a covenant people who act to repudiate the powers of empire. Questions for reflection and discussion are included at the end of each of the fourteen chapters, making it ideal for individual or group study. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link. Joel D. Burns



Prayer Request



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
 Dr. Joe Edwards, ongoing health concerns
 Peter Piro, bone cancer recurrence

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
 Paula Mitchell Murray, Anne Smart's sister, Stage 4 Melanoma
 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



Anyone who does not love does not
 know God, because God is love.

1 JOHN 4:7

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, Highland Hills Village, 1660 Jennings Mill Road Watkinsville, GA 30677
 Suzy Smith, Savannah Court, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

Anniversaries

February 8~ Jack & Deanna Bivins
February 17~ Robby & Julie Deason



Birthdays

February 1~ John Lane
February 2~ John Lamsma
February 9~ Mary Jordan
February 12~ Louise Sallstrom
February 19~ Sunda Coleman
February 21~ William Applebury
February 22~ Nan Carpenter
February 27~ Isabel Garcia
February 27~ Lee Gillis

