

# First Presbyterian Church



210 S. Wayne Street Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-9394, [milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com](mailto:milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com)

**Followers of Christ, called to serve our community  
and be an actively-engaging light to the world.**

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship, empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshiping community for LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

January 4, 2026  
Epiphany of the Lord

PRELUDE *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Johann Pachelbel  
CHIMING OF THE HOUR  
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Word has become flesh and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.

**Congregation: We rejoice in Christ, the Light of the World!**

*We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to the Pastor or an Elder.*

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

CHORAL INTROIT *Gentle Mary laid her child* GTG #146, vs. 1  
CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come! Let us seek the upside-down kingdom of God

**Congregation: where there is no king—except an infant child.**

Leader: How do we get to this upside-down kingdom of God?

**Congregation: We follow a star to society's outskirts. We dare to dream impossible dreams. We worship a baby born to those deemed "least."**

Leader: What is it like, the upside-down kingdom of God?

**Congregation: There the oppressed are precious and oppressed no more. There outsiders are welcomed in not as guests, but kin.**

Leader: When we worship together,

**Congregation: we practice what it will be like to live in the upside-down kingdom of God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Jesus of the guiding star, defender of the defenseless, let us revere no human leader, bow down to no king but you, who relinquished your crown to live among your people. As we seek you, illuminate our way until we realize your guiding light shining out of every face we meet and proceed to worship you by loving them. Amen.**

\*HYMN 147 *The First Nowell*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy Refugee of Israel, we would like to believe that we would be like the magi, that we would protect the innocent child, that we would stand up to power. But too often we have turned away from those who need us. Too often we have bent to the powers that be, resigning ourselves to the way it has always been. Forgive our lack of action, guide us back to your purposes, and help us be brave enough to do your will. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE *Angels sang about his birth*

GTG #146, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God calls to us from wherever we are.

**Congregation: God's love shines like a beacon.**

Leader: God's voice echoes in our souls, "You are forgiven!"

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 581

*Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!*

*Amen, amen*

THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Please greet those near to you with the peace of Christ.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES  
ANTHEM

*What Star is This?*  
Elise Naber-Allen, flute

*The Youth*  
Rachel Aarons

*What star is this, with beams so bright,  
more beauteous than the noonday light?  
It shines to herald forth the King,  
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.*

*and leads them on with power benign  
to seek the Giver of the sign.*

*True spake the prophet from afar  
who told the rise of Jacob's star;  
and eastern sages with amaze  
upon the wondrous token gaze.*

*O Jesus, while the star of grace  
impels us on to seek thy face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse  
the guidance of thy light to use.*

*The guiding star above is bright;  
within them shines a clearer light,*

*To God the Father, heavenly Light,  
to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost we raise  
our equal and unceasing praise.*

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1–6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

SERMON *Arise, Shine*

OT pg. 690  
NT pg. 2  
Rev. Mari Turner

### LITANY FOR EPHIPHANY

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Congregation: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

**Congregation: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

**Congregation: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

**Congregation: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

**Congregation: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

**Congregation: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Leader: God of endless light, you sent a star .... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

\*HYMN 145 *What Child is This?*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR HISTORY  
INVITATION TO OFFERING

Ruby Werts



*From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR code in your bulletin or visit our website at [fpcmilledgeville.org](http://fpcmilledgeville.org).*



OFFERTORY  
\*DOXOLOGY

*Dearest Emmanuel, Lord of the Devout*

J.S. Bach, arr. Blake

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*





### **CHURCH FAMILY:**

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall

Louise Sallstrom, recovering at Lynn Haven Health and Rehabilitation in Gray, Georgia

Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

### **EXTENDED FAMILY:**

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues

Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home

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

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

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

Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, in hospital, moving soon to Fellowship Home

Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

### **Nursery Volunteers**

January 4 ~ Anne Smart/Sherry Henry

January 11 ~ Nancy Miller/Susan McGill

January 18 ~ Joel Burns/Laurie Peebles

January 25~ Margaret Ivester/Gloria Burns

### **Liturgist**

January 4 & 11 ~ Joel Burns

January 18 & 25 ~ Melba Burrell



## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: January 4-11, 2026

Today	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	<b>10:15</b>	<b>Bicentennial Kickoff Reception</b>
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	6:30	Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	10:00	De-Hanging of the Greens
	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	<b>5:00</b>	<b>PW Bible Study</b>

### Time with the Young Disciples Cast & Crew:

Family – Teri Anne Bradley, Aubrey Cook,  
Heath Cook  
Mary – Maxime Tchamna  
Joseph – Nathan Tchamna  
Jesus – Owen Orock  
The Star – Jakob Freeman  
Magi – Hannah Nwankonta, Uriel Nwankonta,  
Bennett Orock

Camel - Jasper  
Herod – Emily Bradley  
Stage Manager – Emily Carson  
Producer – Mari Turner  
Music Director – Jennifer Flory  
Costumer – Ruby Werts  
Animal Handler – Jennifer King



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Even though Christmas 2025 has passed, Bicentennial Christmas Ornaments are still available for sale before worship or in the Church Office.

The cost is 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support the

Offerings in December \$ 29,351.47

Anticipated December expenses: \$21,014.00

(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

**Join us for worship in-person or online  
on Facebook Live every week.**



**9:45 AM Sunday School Class** (meets in Betty Newton Campbell parlor), we are studying *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. Please contact Joel Burns, joelburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

**Sunday: 9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class** (meets in small room next to office at end of hall), studying *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg.

**Sunday: 10:15AM Children's Sunday School Class**, singing, crafts and stories, (meeting in the Craft Room upstairs)

**Sunday: 12:00PM Youth Group** (Youth Room)

**Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

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## The First Nowell



1 The first Now-ell the an-ge-l did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -



shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop



their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.



Refrain



Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.



5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
 full reverently upon their knee,  
 and offered there in his presence  
 their gold, and myrrh, and  
 frankincense.

Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord  
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

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## What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)

D Bm A D G D A D G



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more  
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From  
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an  
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)

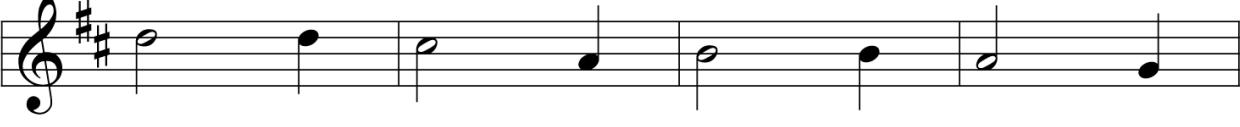
D A D G D A



love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis  
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and  
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and  
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)

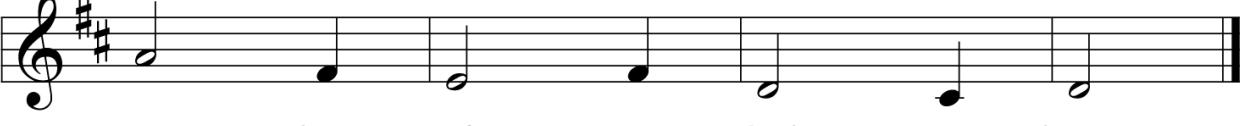
Bm E7 A D G D Em



sent to an - nounce a new born king, glad  
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to  
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to  
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)

A D A D G A D



ti - dings of our God to bring.  
 read in heaven the the Lord's com - mand.  
 seek the giv - er of of light the light.  
 guid ance of your light to use.