

CHURCH CURRENTS

MARCH 2025

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgeville.org



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Join us on Sunday mornings
in-person or on Facebook Live

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061



First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 343 March 2025

Pastor:
Vacant

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Volunteers



Administrative Commission

Rev. John McCrosky, the AC Moderator, plans to be at the church every Thursday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Here are the names and contact information of the members of the **Administrative Commission First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville:**

Kent Burel 678.525.9683 mkentburel@gmail.com,
Corey Ingold 770.490.6831
coreyingold62@gmail.com,
Meg Jackson Clark 770.301.6165
megjacksonclark@gmail.com,
Lynne Jordan 706.476.2951
lynneq.jordan@gmail.com,
John McCrosky 706.339.1559
johnemac6@gmail.com



Coming in 2026: 200th Anniversary

Did you know that our church was founded on June 11, 1826? What a long and rich history we have to celebrate! Our celebration could feature a big party, a special mission emphasis, a sprucing up of our property and more. If you would like to be involved in planning for our celebration, please email fpchurch@windstream.net.

Rooted in Love, Growing in Faith Leadership Training: Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Do you want to see First Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville grow in faith and become a healthier congregation? Are you ready to help launch the next chapter in our long history? This event is designed to provide information on leadership in the PC(USA), tools for healthy congregations, and times for prayerful reflection and worship.

All who have previously served as elders are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone who is interested in becoming an elder. **The event is also open to anyone who would just like to learn more about our church's foundations and leadership.**

Please sign up by contacting the church office at (email, phone) Please include name, contact info and any dietary restrictions. **Registration deadline is Friday, March 28.**

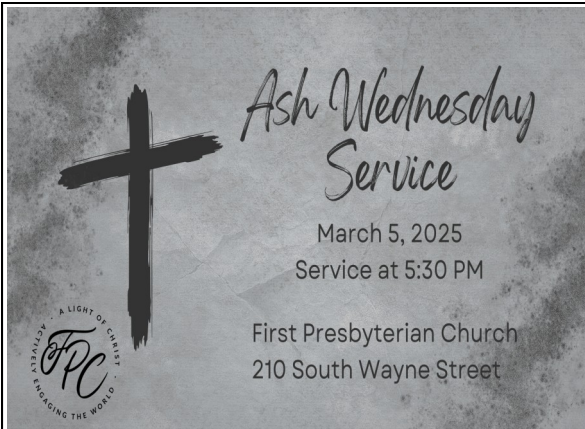


This event is designed to provide information on leadership in the PC(USA), tools for healthy congregations, and times for prayerful reflection and worship.

Leadership Training: Rooted in Love; Growing in Faith

*Join us on Saturday,
April 5, 2025
8:30 AM- 3:00 PM*

*Continental
Breakfast and
boxed lunch
provided*



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality.

Join us March 9, 2025!

The first Sunday in Lent every year is designated **“Wear your blue t-shirt to church Sunday”** as a



testament of one of the ways One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference. Participate by sending your Blue Shirt Selfies to us at pda@pcusa.org! Will you be a part of this joyful manifestation of hope? Help us remind others that gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support disaster recovery efforts in the United States and around the world. Please take a photo of your Blue Out creativity! Send it to pda@pcusa.org so we can share with others. Together let's tell the story of hope out of chaos.

Lenten Devotionals are available in the Narthex and at the bulletin board. This year, we are using the Presbyterian Outlook's 2025 Lenten Devotional, *Grieving Change and Loss*. Grief touches every corner of our lives — not just in moments of death but in quiet farewells, conflict, and lost health. *Grieving Change and Loss* invites you to embrace the wilderness of loss and rediscover the horizon of hope offered by Christ's resurrection. Rooted in the wisdom of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler's six stages of grief outlined in their seminal work *On Grief and Grieving*, this daily 2025 Lenten devotional offers a pathway through the heartache of life's goodbyes, guiding you toward the promise of resurrection.

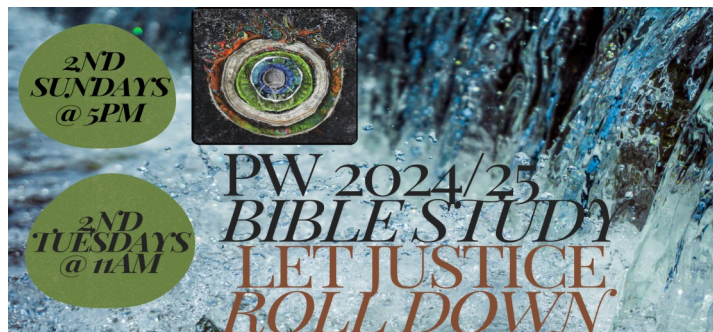
Grieving Change and Loss:

The unpredictable, non-linear, faith-filled journey toward resurrection

2025 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



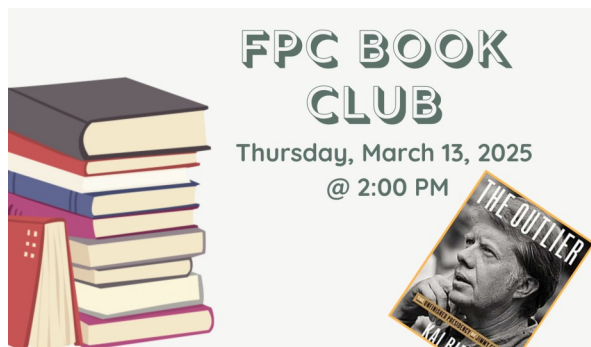
CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Make plans to join the Presbyterian Women on the second Sunday or second Tuesday of the month. This group meets only once a month, but shares much in community with each other. Let's continue to build community and understanding of the scripture.

After-Worship Receptions:

Sign up to contribute refreshments for the after service fellowship reception. We enjoy this time with each other after worship. The sign up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen.



The First Presbyterian Book Club will hold the March meeting on the second **Thursday March 13th at 2:00 pm in the church parlor.**

The Outlier: The Unfinished Presidency of Jimmy Carter by Kai Bird is the book selection for the month of March. Bird is a Pulitzer Prize winning historian and journalist. Drawing on interviews with President Carter, members of his

administration, and recently declassified documents, Bird delivers a clear-eyed evaluation of a president whose legacy has been deeply misunderstood. As president, Carter was not only an outsider, he was an outlier. Carter brought to the White House qualities that neither Washington nor America was ready to embrace. *The Outlier* is an account of a presidency as it really happened and how it is remembered by the American public.

A book choice for the month of April was not made at our last meeting, so please bring your suggestions for a book that you would like to recommend to the group for their consideration. ~Millie Murphy



Mark your calendars for VBS! **June 23-27, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm.** Sign up sheets and more information about VBS will be available in the coming weeks. **If you would like to help out**

by volunteering, please contact Kathy Carroll at (770)815-8643 or the church office at (478)452-9394.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

The Milly Free Fridge continues to help those families and individuals who experience food insecurity in our community .

Make plans to join us Sunday, March 30th 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.



Samaritan Ministry

Yet again, we had over 10 families come for assistance this month. Thanks to your help, we were able to help 6 families keep their utilities on. With the weather colder, there are more people in need of help with their utilities.

The next disbursement of funds will be on Tuesday, March 18 at 9:30 AM.

Food pantry has had some generous in-kind donations during February. Thank you to those who choose this method of giving, thus conserving budget funds. Do keep our "needs list" in mind as you shop.

BOGO at Publix halved our large soups cost for the last week in the month. Walgreen and CVS have dry cereals at \$3 or less most weeks.

Ollie's and Family Dollar often have items we need at lower prices. Aldi always has the best price on most of the canned veggies we use. Jelly (18 oz) is the most elusive item on the list, usually requiring partial purchases at 2 or 3 places to get 12 for the week.

We were able to provide food assistance to 43 households during February, and every one of them was appreciative. Thank you for making this ministry possible! ~Donna Gautier



Feeding the Community

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





March



WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World

2 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship with communion
12:00 Youth Group
1:00 UMC Bridge

3 7:00 MSG



7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission

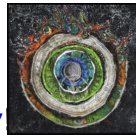


4 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis



Feeding the Community

9 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Youth Group
1:00 UMC Bridge
5:00 PW Bible Study
Blue Shirt Sunday



10 6:30 PFLAG
7:00 MSG



7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission

11 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
11:00 PW Bible Study
12:00 Kiwanis



16 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Potato Bar Fundraiser
1:00 UMC Bridge
1:30 Homeless Awareness Club



17 7:00 MSG



7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



18 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry
12:00 Kiwanis



Feeding the Community

23 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Youth Group
1:00 UMC Bridge

24 7:00 MSG



7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



25 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis



Feeding the Community

30 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Youth Group
12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity
1:00 UMC Bridge

31 7:00 MSG



7:00 Oconee Recovery Commission



TRANS GENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

"Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LGBTQIA+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world."

On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church, 223rd General Assembly (2018)

2025



PRAYER



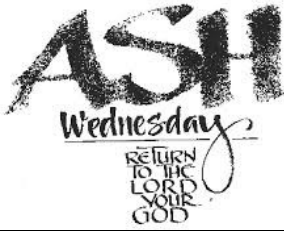
FASTING



ALMSGIVING

1

5 5:30 Ash
Wednesday Service



6 6:00 IOBI

7



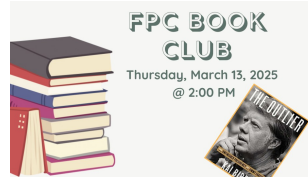
8 International
Women's Day



12 6:30 Wednesday
Potluck and Study
6:30 UMC Bible
Study



13 2:00 FPC Book
Club



14

15

19 6:30 Wednesday
Potluck and Study
6:30 UMC Bible
Study



20 6:00 IOBI



21

22 6:30 PFLAG Movie



26 6:30 Wednesday
Potluck and Study
6:30 UMC Bible
Study



27

28

29

Operations: The church office is open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pastor John McCrosky will be in the office Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Please call the office for an appointment



YOUTH MINISTRY



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15am, Craft Room Upstairs YOUTH GROUP 12:00pm, Youth Room



While Gloria Burns and Anne Smart are presenting the Children's Time during worship, **others are welcome to share in this ministry.** If you are interested, please contact Anne or Gloria.

Nine members have volunteered to help on a rotating basis to staff the nursery. Two adults must be present per our church policy.

Nursery Schedule for March:

March 2- Gloria Burns/Susan McGill

March 9- Anne Smart/Margaret Ivester

March 16- Charles Burrell/Nancy Miller

March 23- Joel Burns/Melba Burrell

March 30- Anne Smart/Susan McGill

If no young children are present, adults do not need to go to the nursery. If adult volunteer cannot attend said date, please contact another volunteer to switch.

Thank you to the volunteers for helping with this ministry.
~Anne Smart



A youth get-together is planned for **March 9 at 5:00 PM in Madison** for the youth from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens and First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville to meet and get to know one another. They have offered free lodging for our youth while at Montreat. Please contact Laurie Peebles for details.



YOUTH GROUP POTATO BAR MONTREAT FUNDRAISER

03.16.25 | FELLOWSHIP HALL | 12 PM

**\$10 per person/
\$20 per family**

Make plans to join us on **Sunday, March 16** after worship service for the **St. Paddy's Day Potato Bar!** With large potatoes and a host of toppings, this filling lunch will also serve to help fund the youth going to Montreat again this summer.

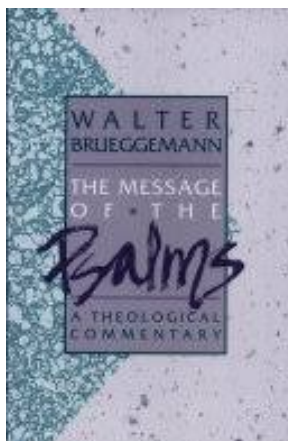


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

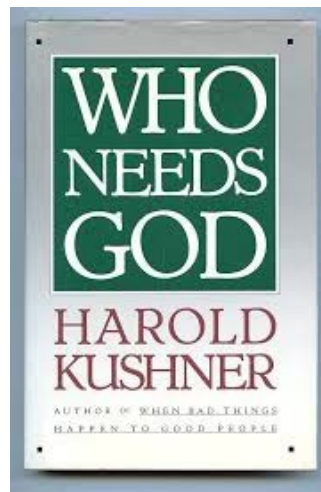


ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 home computer, on a tablet or on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM.** We are studying *The Message of the Psalms* by Walter Brueggemann. Professor Brueggemann makes the Psalms come alive. Our journey through the Psalms has taught us how sophisticated these ancient poems are. 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

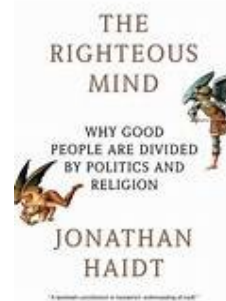


We are studying *Who Needs God* by Harold Kushner. This group meets in person in the parlor room **every Sunday morning at**

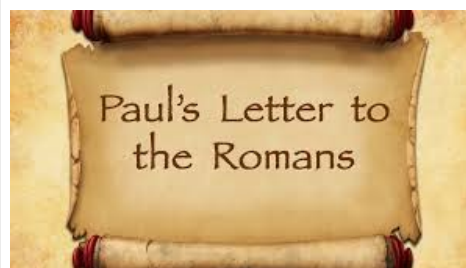
9:45. We would love to have you join us. ~Bill Werts

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion every week. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans. John Lamsma has studied Romans for many years and is leading the study. After we complete Romans, we plan to discuss *The Righteous Mind, Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt.



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. ~Joel Burns



The **DAILY RIPPLE** is an app developed as part of the PC (USA)'s 1001 New

Worshiping Communities initiative. Every weekday, the app and website publish a "100-150-word droplet" reflecting on Scripture. Each droplet creates a "ripple" through a question that prompts a positive action. Engage with the app a few minutes (1% of your day) each day to find ways to strengthen and grow your faith and discipleship.

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, promote development through the **Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People**, and assist in areas of disaster through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



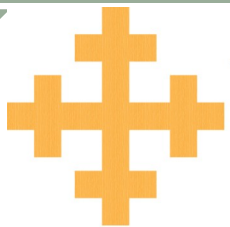
36% Supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which is committed to ending hunger globally.

32% Supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is committed to helping others repair from disaster during and beyond the initial aftermath globally.

32% Supports Self-Development of People, which is committed to helping communities around the world gain the skills they need to improve their communities.

This offering will be collected from March 5- April 20, 2025.

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



*transforming
generosity*

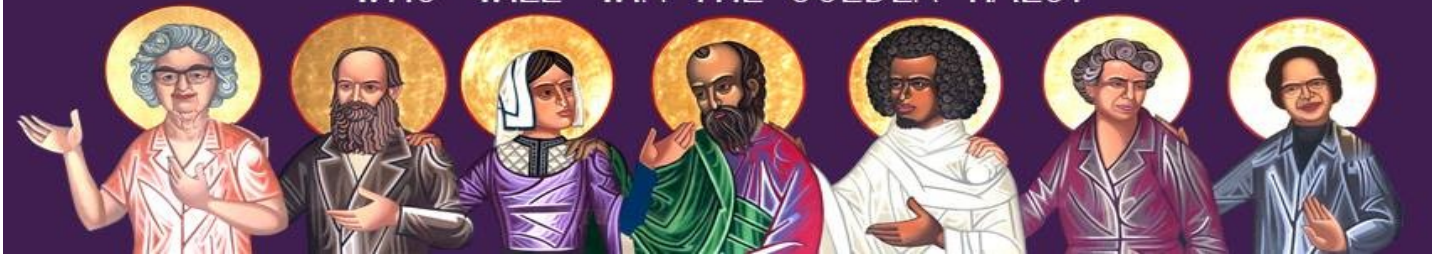
TREASURER'S CORNER

Recently we have made a number of changes in our routine services in order to conserve our funds. We hope these changes do not cause too much disruption. This careful stewardship of our resources is necessary to try to align our expenses with our income. Please support the general fund, the Samaritan's Ministry and the Food Pantry. All of our work is an effort to follow the example of Jesus. ~Joel D. Burns, Acting Treasurer

	December	January	2025 YTD
Contributions	\$33,058	\$37,091	\$37,091
Other Income	\$1,745	\$689	\$689
Designated Funds Received	\$1,858	\$3,377	\$3,377
Total Income	\$36,661	\$40,468	\$40,468
Budgeted Expenses	\$121,066	\$27,933	\$27,933
Designated Funds Spent	\$1,858	\$2,004	\$2,004
Total spent	\$23,648	\$29,937	\$29,937
Net (Loss)	\$13,013	\$10,531	\$10,531

LENT MADNESS

WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?



As a reminder, or if you're new to this online devotion, here's how Lent Madness works: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen 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 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.

Unlike professional and collegiate sporting events, there is no admission cost for Lent Madness, but souvenirs and study aids are available in the Lentorium.

This year's saints include a mix of heavyweights and lesser-known saints, all of whom followed Jesus faithfully in their own day and in their own way. Closer examination of the bracket, will quickly reveal an...alphabetical theme. Needless to say, we love all the saints, from A to Z.

Saintly Scorecards will be available in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. Read up on the saints and turn in your bracket before Ash Wednesday with a donation to the Food Pantry of \$5. Who will win the bracket this year? Will Laurie Peebles receive the Certificate of Award again this year or will someone else be better at discerning who will win the Golden Halo?

We look forward to engaging in saintly shenanigans with you all in the days to come.



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25
Church



Prayer Requests



Church Family:

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall
Ellen Thompson, recovering at home from broken hip

Extended Family:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Wesley Applebury, completed cancer treatments and showing no sign of the disease, attending seminary in Atlanta, **Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030**
Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
Blake Connolly, Mary Lucik's great grandson, ongoing health concerns
Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Kathy Hall, Gini Wilkerson's mother, knee replacement surgery
Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma
Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Donald Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, recovering from back surgery
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon
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

Limited Mobility

Helen Danuser

Military Service

Will Deason
Rebecca Elangwe
(Both are Reservists)

*When you can't put
your prayer into
words, God hears
your heart.*

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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
Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Oaks at Lake Wildwood, Rm 109, 6191 Peake Rd, Macon, GA 31220
Suzy Smith, The Haven, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

Anniversaries

March 17~ Debbie & John Lamsma



Birthdays

March 1~ Marion Robinson
March 2~ Maria Etheridge
March 14~ Charles H. Morgan, Jr.
March 18~ Cindy Phillips
March 27~ Laura Burns-Tanner
March 29~ Elaine Goggans

