

CHURCH CURRENTS

MARCH 2022

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

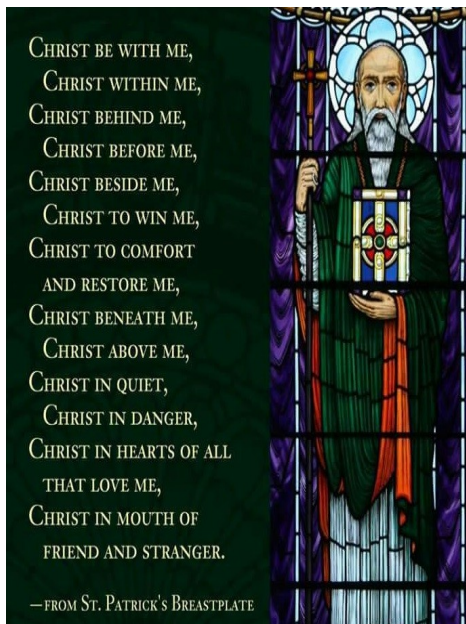
478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpchurch.org



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Join us on Sunday mornings on WKZR
102.3 FM or via Facebook Live

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061





First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 308 March 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,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I pray for you daily, and I give thanks for your love, support, and forbearance. You are a blessed community of believers, and I love being able to worship with you in person again!

Every Olympic Games displaces everything else in our household. There's the awe at the potential of the human body. There's the potential of the human will and capacity for disciplined excellence. But my favorite part is what happens when the athletes leave the field, pool, ice, or snow. It's the love and admiration. Sure, there are always those who harbor hard feelings born of their own disappointment in themselves. But the best moments are the ones the athletes share.

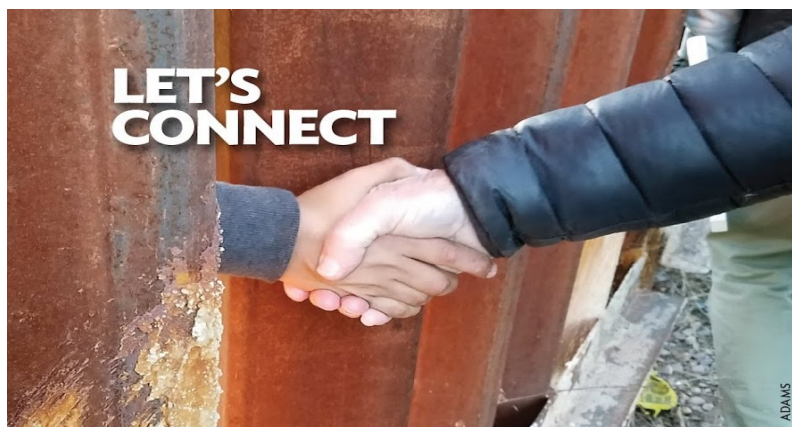
During the women's Big Air competition, there was this wonderful dogpile I call "The International Hug." These young women were in competition with one another, each trying to outdo the others. But this wasn't a rivalry so much as it is a mutual celebration. These women were in awe of one another, cheering each other on, even if it means they, themselves, will not reach the podium. They simply saw themselves in one another, and they inspired each other, and they celebrated the greatness they achieve—not as individuals, but together. Each of them recognizes that none of them would be there without the others, and when one lands that spectacular trick, it's the work of the whole community that got her there. It is the picture of what is best about humanity: our capacity to love and celebrate, to encourage and support, to find one's own potential realized only in the energy and imagination of others.

Lurking behind this, however, was the speculation about Russia's intentions for the military build-up at Ukraine's borders. That speculation was soon put to rest when we saw Russian forces crossing those borders. This is not the best of humanity. This is a terrible let-down after an inspiring display of mutual respect and admiration at the Olympics. But we also see ordinary Ukrainians, knowing that the world is supplying them but leaving them to fight on their own, standing firm in the face of an overwhelming force. Even their president has chosen to take the field rather than run for cover. Whatever opinion we might have of him, it's worth noting that it has been a very long time since the US president's first move is to be whisked away to a secure bunker. When we see a leader fighting *beside* their people, we see that spark of the human spirit that chooses to locate itself among others in mutual respect and admiration. We see that even in the face of war, the human spirit retains the capacity for love—love of their homeland, but also that sacrificial love for one another. The kind of love Jesus commended in John 15:13.

The Syfy channel's *Resident Alien* is a show about an alien bent on the destruction of the human race as he learns about humanity. In the first season finale, Harry (the Alien) says, "Everyone has to die eventually. What matters is what you do while you're alive...true strength comes from choosing not to kill. Maybe what makes you truly human is to choose to love." That's a great lesson to bring home.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Susan



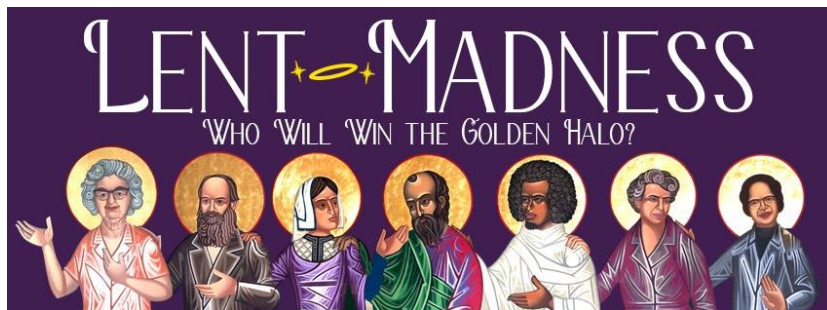
03.02.22-04.17.22
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Matthew 25 teaches us that,
in every time and season
the Church finds itself and its Savior
through relationships with those in need.



One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with "those who have the least" — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about. People who experience oppression, need, loss, or lack; those are the people Jesus connected with, the Bible says, and they are the people we are invited to connect with today. This Special Offering will be collected from March 2-April 17, 2022. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all 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.



Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of

sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born on his blog "Clergy Family Confidential" which has subsequently moved locations and become "Clergy Confidential."

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elite Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted 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.



March



6 9:30 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive&WKZR102.3FM
S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00
*PDA blue Sunday- wear
something blue!*

7

1
9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



8
9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



13 9:30 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive&WKZR102.3FM
S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00



14

15
9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
and Samaritan's
Ministry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



20 9:30 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive &
WKZR102.3FM
S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00



21

22
9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



27 9:30 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive&WKZR102.3FM
**Congregational Luncheon
12PM**



28

29
9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

2022



<p>2 6:00PM Ash Wednesday Service 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> 	<p>17</p> 	18	19
<p>23 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7:00PM</p> 	24	25	26
<p>30 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7:00PM</p> 	31		

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Catherine Dean (Congregational Life) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Jennifer Flory (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

During February we served 23 households, providing about \$35 worth of staples to which they can add fresh or frozen foods of their choice. Several picked up 2022 calendars and a warm fleece scarf or two provided by Milledgeville Cares. I continue to get a heartfelt "thank you" from some who have not returned since receiving their December cash gift. My thanks again to the generous donor who made this possible. God has indeed blessed many through your gift! Thanks to Gloria and Joel Burns for filling in at distribution when I was in COVID-19 quarantine. Please continue to keep this ministry, and the people it serves, in your prayers. I was reminded by one of our "regulars" that this congregation has long been a Matthew 25 church, since way before there was an official designation. God is at work through you! -Donna Gautier

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate \$405 for the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Samaritan Ministry

This past month, there was no Samaritan Ministry as we continued to be low on funds. This month, we expect to help more people than before thanks to 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.



ALL OF US TOGETHER



TREASURER'S CORNER

Two years into the pandemic, and I want to thank you for your faithfulness. Remarkably, we are still in decent financial shape. Recently I had an opportunity to participate in distributing food from our food bank. It gave me a warm feeling to know that we are helping people avoid hunger. The interaction with the recipients was a very positive experience. This is the kind of service your donations permit.

Please remember to send your tithes and gifts to make sure that all of our services can continue.

May God Bless everyone.- Joel D. Burns

	December	January	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$20,316	\$11,940	\$11,940
Other Income	\$1,724	\$1,060	\$1,060
Total Income	\$22,040	\$13,000	\$13,000
Budgeted Expenses	\$15,780	\$14,100	\$14,100
Net (Loss)	\$6,260	(\$1,100)	(\$1,100)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The FPC Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 10th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the book, *The Betrayal of Anne Frank; A Cold Case Investigation* by Rosemary Sullivan. The author explains how the cold case team, made up of an international group of experts led by a retired FBI cold case investigator, using new technology, recently discovered documents and sophisticated investigative technologies was able to determine who betrayed the Frank family. After successfully hiding for over two years, the family and four other people hiding with them were betrayed, arrested and sent to a concentration camp. Otto Frank, Anne's father, was the only one out of the eight that survived. Anne's diary survived, and after the war, Otto Frank had it published. Several of our group are reading the diary of Anne Frank as background for the book. A used copy can be found on Amazon very inexpensively. The title is *Anne Frank; the Diary of a Young Girl*. The book selection for April is *The President and the Freedom Fighter; Abraham Lincoln, Fredrick Douglass and their Battle to Save America's Soul* by Brian Kilmeade. This is the story of how these two people steered America through the crisis of saving the nation and ending slavery. Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 10th. -Millie Murphy



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning in March, we will be studying Tom S. Rainer's book *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive*. This group meets in person in the parlor room every Sunday morning at 9:45.

-Bill Werts



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Currently the Bible Sunday School class is 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. Following the conclusion of this study we plan to study Barbara Brown Taylor's book *The Luminous Web*. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link. Joel D. Burns

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. We may decide to meet in person soon, so please look for emails from the church.

Meeting ID: 836 4575 8846

Passcode: 057482

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
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



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, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 1110
Suzy Smith, Savannah Court, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

Anniversaries

March 17~ John & Debbie Lamsma



Birthdays

March 1~ Marion Robinson

March 2~ Maria Ethridge

March 21~ Gregory Thigpen

March 24~ Joe Edwards

March 27~ Laura Burns-Tanner

March 29~ Elaine Goggans

