

CHURCH CURRENTS

MARCH 2024

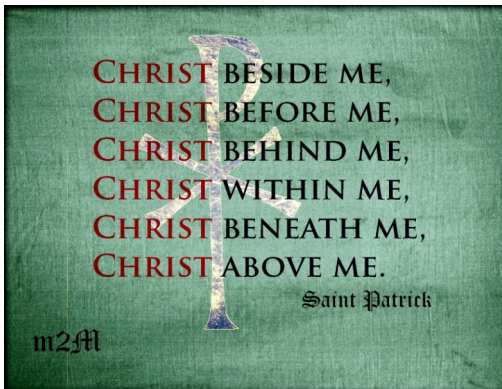
210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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





First Presbyterian Church



Issue No. 332 March 2024

Pastor:
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Vacant

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Childcare is
temporarily
unavailable

Beloved,

Grace to you, and peace! During this Lenten season, I pray that your spiritual life is being nurtured by the Holy Spirit each day.

Did you know that the Presbyterian Mission Agency has an Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender? It does! As March is Women's History Month, this is a great time to check out who they are and what they do.

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/advocacy-committee-for-womens-concerns

They advocate on existing and emerging issues of gender justice, monitor policies and procedures and the way they impact women, and advise the PC(USA) and Presbyterian Mission Agency regarding justice issue actions.

Right now, the health and wellbeing of women and trans men across the nation is being decided in the political arena, against the advice of physicians, scientists, sociologists, and psychologists. Such policy and legal decisions have demonstrably created consequences beyond the intentions even of those making the decisions, resulting in frightening ambiguity for those attending to the health and wellbeing not only of women, but of families and fetuses. I encourage you to speak to your representatives at state and federal level to advocate for science-based laws and policies that will protect women and their families.

Georgia Senators: Sen. Jon Ossoff (Ossoff.senate.gov);

Rev. Sen. Rafael Warnock (Warnock.senate.gov)

Georgia Representative (10th District): Rep. Mike Collins (collins.house.gov)

State Senate (25th District): Sen. Rick Williams (404-656-0082)

State House (133rd District): Rep. Ken Vance (404-656-0178)

We are called not just to personal piety, but to active engagement in polity at all levels, in order to show God's love and care in concrete ways. Perhaps this will be your Lenten discipline. And may the peace of Christ be with you.

In Christ,
Rev. Susan

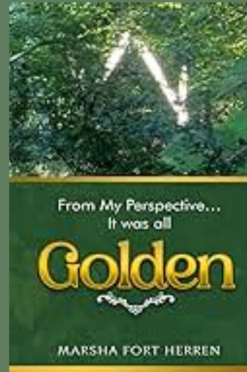
The First Presbyterian Church Book Club will hold its March meeting on Thursday, **March 14th at 2 PM**. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall in order to accommodate the expected increase in attendance, as our author, Marsha Fort Herren, is planning to attend to talk about her book, *From My Perspective...It Was All Golden*. Her book is an autobiographical account of her life growing up, and then as a parent, pastor's wife, and an educator and small business owner. She and her husband, Darryl Herren, owned the Olive Forge Herb Farm for many years.

Marsha is a well known, beloved member of our community. The FPC Book Club would like to show

Marsha love and support for this remarkable achievement and is inviting church people to attend and bring a friend. It will be a fun, entertaining way to spend an afternoon. Marsha will have copies of her book for sale.

The book selection for April is *The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church* by Rachel Swarns. This book has been selected as the best book of the year by several major publications. The author tells the story of a group of America's most prominent Catholic priests who in 1838 sold 272 enslaved people to finance their largest mission project, which is now Georgetown University. The author follows one family through nearly two centuries of indentured servitude and enslavement. The author's reporting on this one family's story has started a national conversation about reparation and reconciliation in America. **Please join us to welcome Marsha at our March meeting. We are delighted that she agreed to join us, as we discuss her book.** ~Millie Murphy

FPC BOOK CLUB PRESENTS:



AUTHOR TALK WITH MARSHA FORT HERREN

THURSDAY
MARCH 14,
2024
2:00 PM



Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith
with Peter

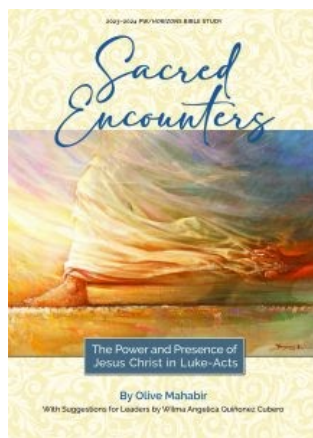
Lenten Midweek
Prayer Service

Wednesdays
at 12:15 PM



Join us on **March 16 at 9:00 AM** to clean up the church before Easter. We will focus on the outside

playground and south side of grounds, i.e. playground side between our church and St Stephens. Repairing the chain link fence under guidance from Charles B. and Joel R., assembling playground set, pressure washing, pruning and hedging, raking, litter pick up, etc. As usual, there will be sweets and coffee available. So, make plans to help us beautify the church and fellowship with each other.



The PW groups meet at **5:00 PM** on **March 11** and again at **11:00 AM** on **March 13** in the Parlor Room. We hope you will join us.

Maundy Thursday service on March 28 at 5:30 PM. Continuing the theme of our Lenten journey "Wandering Heart: Figuring out faith with Peter" we will be following a Stations of Peter, similar to the Stations of the Cross, but follows Peter's journey of faith. This interactive service will be a slight departure from what we are accustomed to, but promises to be a moving experience for everyone. We will also be observing communion at this service. We hope you will join us.

Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 AM we will be meeting to decorate the sanctuary with flowers for the Easter season. There will be coffee, sweets and good company available, so make plans to join us!



Palm Sunday will be a special celebration- a joint service with The Bridge United Methodist Church followed by a joint congregational luncheon and finally a Bunny Bash/Easter Egg Hunt. We are very excited about this ecumenical endeavor and hope you will make plans to join us both at the luncheon and for the fun and games for the youngsters.



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Milly Free Fridge is in need of regular volunteers to clean the fridge and the area around it. So please join us Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday) 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.

The need is great in our community. **Thank you!**

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

Samaritan Ministry

In February, thanks to several large donations, we helped eight families either keep their utilities from being turned off or turned them back on. Despite this, we still had to turn people away. The need for assistance is always great in the winter with the cold weather. The Samaritan Ministry is meant to assist those in need of utility assistance once a month. We thank you so much for your consistent and generous giving to this special outreach. It is very needed. Please consider helping Bill out on the third Tuesday of the month as he helps all those who come to the church looking for assistance. The next disbursement of funds will be on **Tuesday, March 19 at 9:30 AM.**



FOOD PANTRY



Food Pantry remains in demand, so your continued support is appreciated and needed. As noted in the last newsletter, we served 67 households over 5 Tuesdays. In February we assisted 65 families in just four weeks. Our "windfall" of vegetables noted last month is gone,

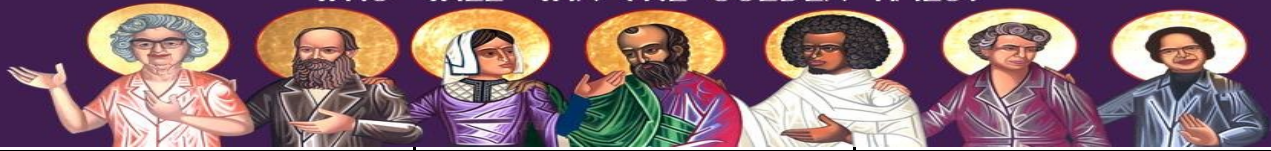
except for 5 dozen cans of corn. Hence, most items are being purchased again when not donated by our supporters (read "you all"), either on first Sunday or sometime during the month. Remember: you can donate anytime! Thank you for keeping our folks in mind when you shop and when you pray; they always need both. ~ Donna



March

LENT MADNESS

WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?



3 9:30 Sunday School
 10:15 Children's School
 11:00 Worship Service
 FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
 12:00 Youth Group

4 7:00 MSG



5 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon

10 9:30 Sunday School
 10:15 Children's School
 11:00 Worship Service
 FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
 12:00 Youth Group
 5:00 PW Bible Study



11 6:30 PFLAG
 7:00 MSG



2 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
 11:00 PW Bible Study
 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon

17 9:45 Adult & Intergenerational Classes
 10:15 Children's School
 11:00 Worship Service
 12:00 Baked Potato Bar
 Youth Fundraiser
 1:30 Homeless Awareness Club

18 7:00 MSG



19 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry
 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon
 5:30 Session Meeting

24 9:45 Adult & Intergenerational Classes
 11:00 Joint Palm Sunday Worship Service
 12:00 Congregational Lunch and Bunny Bash/
 Easter Egg Hunt

25 7:00 MSG





26 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry
 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon

31 9:30 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship Service



2024



		1 	2
6 12:15 Midweek Prayer Service 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	7 6:00 IOBI	8 	9
13 12:15 Midweek Prayer Service 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	14 2:00 FPC Book Club 	18	16 9:00 AM Church Clean-Up Day 
20 12:15 Midweek Prayer Service 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	21 6:00 IOBI	22	23
27 12:15 Midweek Prayer Service 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study	28 5:30 PM Worship Service with Communion  Maundy Thursday	29 	30 10:00 AM Decorating of Sanctuary 

Elders on Session

Class of 2026 ~ Wesley Applebury (At Large) Charles Burrell (Congregational Care) Jennifer Flory (Worship) Pat Henry (Finance) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Joel Respass (Property) Anne Smart (Christian Education)

Operations: The church office is now open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please call the office for an appointment.



YOUTH MINISTRY



YOUTH GROUP Sundays, 12:00pm

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays,
10:15am, in the
Fellowship Hall

Playing games is just one facet of the youth group. They also chat about the world, their faith, and how the two mix. The Youth room has been updated thanks to a generous monetary contribution; their room has been transformed into a comfortable place for the youth to fellowship. Check our website for the Youth Newsletter.



YOUTH GROUP POTATO BAR MONTREAT FUNDRAISER

\$10 per
person/
\$20 per
family

03.17.24 | FELLOWSHIP HALL | 12 PM

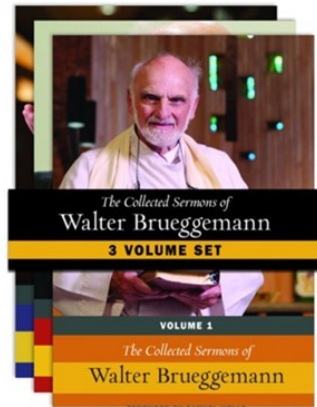


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



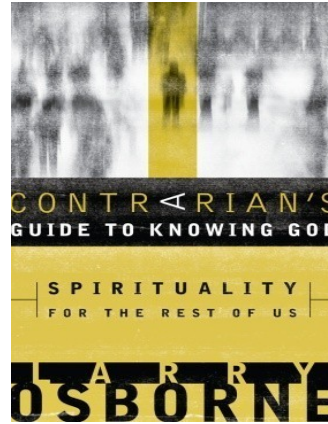
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 homes or on our smartphones. We meet for thoughtful



conversations **every Sunday at 9:30 AM.** We are discussing the sermons in the second volume of *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*. This collection is organized to match the seasons of the church calendar. The material is thought provoking and fresh. If you have never encountered Professor Brueggemann's work you are in for a treat. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable, he also has a great sense of humor. 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 *Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God: Spirituality for the Rest of Us* by Larry Osborne.

This group meets in person in the parlor room **every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM.** 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 reading and discussing, *The Other Evangelicals, A Story of Liberal, Black, Progressive, Feminist and Gay Christians and the Movement that Pushed Them Out.* John Lamsma has led the study and is doing a great job.

This is an interesting history of the gradual effort by the conservative evangelicals to usurp the term "evangelical". **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 whether you have the book or not! The book is available on Amazon.

~Joel Burns



Maker Sunday School Class



We're trying something new! A Maker Sunday School Class that started as a crochet class in October is in full swing.

The class has been

focused on learning to crochet but we are now delving into meditation and explorations of faith and new projects. Join us on **Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM** in the library.

Intergenerational New members and Confirmation Sunday School

STARTING
SUNDAY 17 MARCH
2024

AT 9:45 AM

Join us in learning about our faith- this class is for confirmands and new members and anyone else who wishes to participate



Make plans to join us in this new class for new members and confirmands- though everyone is welcome to join. The class begins on March 17 at 9:45 AM and will last 8 weeks. There will be no class Easter Sunday. Please let the office know if you plan to attend so we have enough materials for everyone.



CHRIST



CHURCH



COMMISSION



COMMUNITY

TREASURER'S CORNER

The finances of our church are now in the capable hands of a fine finance committee. New ideas are flowing and the progressive thinking of the committee will keep us going in the right direction. We are also blessed to have new members to supplement the hard working group of current members. If we listen to the voice of God in our midst, the future of our church will be bright.

God bless everyone ~Joel D. Burns

	December	January	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$128,565	\$13,396	\$333,665
Other Income	\$1,756	\$691	\$12,687
Total Income	\$130,321	\$14,087	\$346,352
Budgeted Expenses	\$22,183	\$19,373	\$232,904
Net (Loss)	\$108,138	(\$4,183)	\$113,448

Session welcomed our newest Elders at our February meeting. We are happy to have both Pat Henry and Charles Burrell joining our group. We also welcomed three new members, all by profession of faith: Carrie Cook and Andrew and Elise Allen.

The church is very busy as we head into the season of Lent and Easter; please see the newsletter or weekly bulletin for all of the current activities. There are planned

fund raising events for the next three months to help our Youth be able to attend the Montreat Summer Conference this June. We have had the pancake brunch after church (this was in lieu of Shrove Tuesday); there will be a Potato Bar on March 17th following worship service, on Youth Sunday, April 14, there will be a soup and sandwich lunch, and to celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 5th, a Taco bar. There will be a Maundy Thursday service on March 28 at 5:30 PM with communion.

I hope you have noticed how nice the grounds around the church are looking. Thanks to the Property Committee, led by Joel Respass and his crew of unsung helpers.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt as part of the Bunny Bash with The Bridge United Methodist Church after lunch on March 24, so if you can help out with plastic eggs filled with stickers and candy, (no chocolate-it melts-or peanuts-because of nut allergies-please do. The filled eggs can be turned into the office during the week or dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to our church family for also being extremely welcoming to our friends of The Bridge United Methodist Church as they seek how they will be going forward as a new church. Keep them and their interim pastor, Tyler Flowers, in prayer. They have been supporting our Food Pantry which is always needed. ~ Nancy Miller, Clerk of Session



Bunny Bash - March 23rd

First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

The Bunny Bash is the kick off for their monthly Children and Youth group that will meet every third Sunday. They will have candy, food and a special activity centering us on the true meaning of Easter. All children and Youth of the Bridge UMC and First Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville are welcome and encouraged to invite friends.



Easter Community Picnic

Easter Sunday March 31st. 12-2

The Bridge UMC will be hosting a picnic at Huley Park, 1180 N Wayne St, Milledgeville, GA 31061. They will serve food starting at 12:00 PM and will have worship in the park at 1:00PM. All are welcome on this holiest of days.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Church Family:

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta, **Columbia Theological Seminary, D.**

Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030

Beth Baarda, at home in hospice care in La Grange, GA

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Greg Jones, congestive heart failure

Extended Family:

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

Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Heather Brooks, Susan Balfour's cousin, stage 4 cancer

Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment

Margret Ellen (Meg) Clark, Margaret Ivester's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues

Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, stage 4 cancer

Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable

Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns

Mildred Moore, Sundae Coleman's aunt, in hospice care

Ben Morgan, Jenifer Flory's brother, ongoing health concerns

Janie Mullis, Bill Wert's son-in-law's mother, ongoing health concerns

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, undergoing prostrate cancer treatment

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns, recovering from a fall

Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis

Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Addie VanOrsdale, family friend of Cissy Lane, kidney failure

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns

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

Eloise Lamb, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Jackie Northington, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 3303

Suzy Smith, Savannah Court, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

Limited Mobility

Helen Danuser

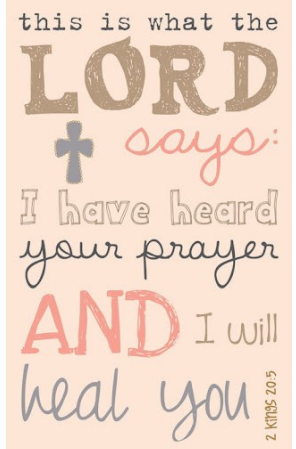
Military Service

Will Deason

Rebecca Elangwe

(Both are

Reservists)



Anniversaries

March 17~ Debbie & John Lamsma



Birthdays

March 1~ Marion Robinson

March 2~ Maria Etheridge

March 14~ Charles Morgan, Jr.

March 21~ Gregory Thigpen

March 27~ Laura Burns-Tanner

March 29~ Elaine Goggans

