

CHURCH CURRENTS

MAY 2022

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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102.3 FM or via Facebook Live

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061





First Presbyterian Church



Issue No. 310 May 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 Risen Christ! I am grateful for you, and for the love and support you have shown me. This liturgical year has been so difficult, and it's been heartbreaking to miss Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter with you. I assure you, however, that I would not have wanted any other church family by my side as I have cared for my mother through hospice and death. It is a mark of a loving church that you have shown me such grace, and I praise God for bringing together such a wonderful family of faith.

In lieu of the usual pastoral reflection, I simply want to thank you all for the cards, flowers, calls, and treats. Mom's last hours surrounded her with the delicate fragrance of roses and the soaring joy of your voices singing Easter's good news. Though I so wished to be present with you as we celebrated the Resurrection, please know that you were present with us as we celebrated, our family gathered around Mom. I can't think of a better soundtrack for one's final hours than the one you provided. It's a precious memory I will carry with me the rest of my days.

You are precious to me, my beloved. May the good news of the Resurrection sustain you all your days.

In Christ,

Rev. Susan

Thanks to your generosity, First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville is donating over \$1,200 to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. These funds help people affected by disaster in the United States and around the world. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing allow for an immediate response from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) when emergencies first occur, often responding to crises that never make it into the news.

YOU SHALL BE CALLED
REPAIRERS
of the BREACH

— ISAIAH 58



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

01/02/22
04/17/22

Session Update



The Session met in March and April. We have been working on resolving some back issues and continuing to move forward. Communion was served on March 6, April 3, 14, & 17.

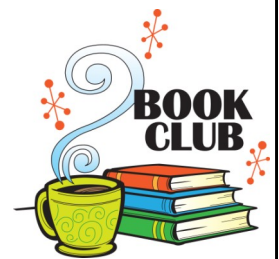
We promoted the One Great Hour of Sharing through a “blue-out” day and inserts in bulletins. There was an Easter egg hunt held for the children on April 9, 2022; the children had palms to wave on Palm Sunday.

We had a “clean-up day” prior to Easter Sunday with several church members helping around the church building. Our website has been updated, but we are still waiting to get an official domain name. We are in the process of updating the streaming service for us to be able to continue to stream the Sunday morning and other important days over Facebook Live.

We recently had a luncheon after church to honor our employees and have a wonderful time of fellowship with those in attendance. Susan has decided to wait until 2024 for her Sabbatical leave. She is working with the Presbyterian foundation to come and speak with us.

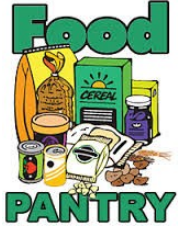

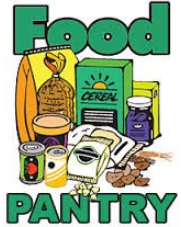
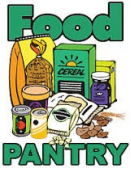

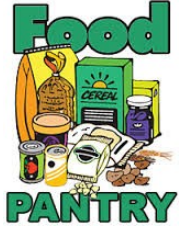

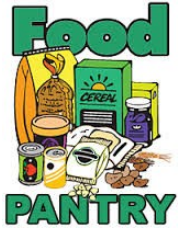
The stained glass repair is scheduled to start in June or July. It is a very specialized process that can be affected by weather and availability of technicians. The surge protection device has been installed. The internet cable in Reverend Susan’s office will be moved to the sanctuary for better internet access in the sanctuary.

The FPC Book Club will meet on May 12th at 2:00 pm in the church parlor. The book we will be discussing is *Sky Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, The U-2 Incident and a Controversial Cold War Legacy* by Francis Gary Powers, Jr and Keith Dunnivant. Francis Gary Powers, Jr is the son of the famed U-2 pilot Gary Powers, whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia while on a spying mission for the CIA. The book, based on newly available information, presents the facts and dispels misinformation about the crash of the plane, the trial for spying, and the resulting prison sentence of Powers to a Russian prison. The authors have written this new account of Powers' life based on files that had not been previously available. An interesting side bar is that the subject of the film, *Bridge of Spies*, starring Tom Hanks is about the controversy over the swap of an American-held Russian spy for Gary Powers. The book selection for June is *How the South Won the War* by Heather Cox Richardson. Although the North won the Civil War, ending slavery and giving the country a new birth of freedom, the author argues that the system that sustained the South moved West and established a foothold, thus giving a new birth of white male oligarchy. Settlers from the East and South pushed into the West seizing lands from the Mexican-Americans and the Native Americans cementing new racial hierarchies. Later the Conservative Movement led by Westerners Barry Goldwater, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, worked with the Dixiecrats to embrace the ideology of the Confederacy. Looking forward to seeing you May 12th for another interesting discussion. Our book this month has a Milledgeville connection that will be fun to explore. -Millie Murphy





May

<p>1 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00</p> <p>Pentecost Special Offering Starts</p>	2	<p>3 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>8 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00</p> 	9	<p>10 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>15 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00</p>	16	<p>17 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 5:30 Session Meeting</p> 
<p>22 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00 12:00PM Church Luncheon</p> 	23	<p>24 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 
<p>29 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM S.T.A.R.S.2:00-4:00</p>	<p>30 Office Closed</p> 	<p>31 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon</p> 



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS




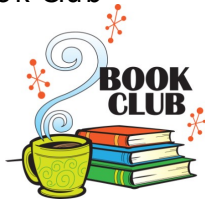


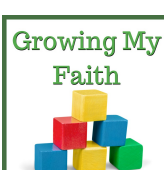

Building a Life of Faith

"God, from my youth
you have taught me"

—PSALM 71:17

2022



<p>4 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM</p> 	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p><i>Happy Friendship Day!</i></p>	<p>7 3:00PM Funeral for Sandra Balfour at Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church, Rutherfordton, NC</p>
<p>11 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM</p> 	<p>12 FPC Book Club 2:00PM</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> 
<p>18 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM</p> 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>25 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM</p> 	<p>26</p>  <p><i>Ascension Day</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Catherine Dean (Congregational Life) Jennifer Flory (Worship) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Anne Smart (Christian Education) Bill Werts (Missions and Outreach)

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



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Food Pantry

Food Pantry served 19 families during April, none for the first time, though some returned after long absence. All express their appreciation and many remark that this food is a real blessing. We are, of course, back to in-person worship and the children are eager to begin bringing forward your food offerings on first Sundays. They get as much joy from doing that

as we do from watching! If you have items to donate (please observe the guidelines below), drop them at the entry door and the youngsters will "see to them". Also, you may bring things whenever the office is open or you have occasion to be in the building. In-kind donations are important as grocery prices continue to rise and we, as well as our guests, need to stretch our dollars. Continue to keep this valuable ministry in your prayers and your budgets. Bless 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.

Cafe Central, Milledgeville's only soup kitchen, has resumed serving in the dining room at Freedom Church. A hot meal once a week is important to so many, as is the fellowship they may not regularly have. Your prayers, your financial support, and even your volunteered time are coveted. You may contact me for information: gautierdonna@gmail.com.



Samaritan Ministry

This month, we were able to help 3 people with their utilities in the amount of \$421.57. Thank you so much for your generous support of this ministry. Our application for more funds from PC(USA) has been sent in. We will know more in the next few months. 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

In May we start to feel the heat of Milledgeville's summers. We generally think of graduations, vacations and leisure. We lose some of the drive that we have at the start of the year and often attendance and contributions at church suffer. This year we need to fight these tendencies. As most of you are aware, our church serves the community during every part of the year and if we fail to attend, work and contribute to its financial well being all of us are hurt. Please make a special effort to keep our church strong.

God bless everyone.- Joel D. Burns

	February	March	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$15,514	\$10,389	\$37,843
Other Income	\$683	\$1,722	\$3,465
Total Income	\$16,197	\$12,111	\$41,308
Budgeted Expenses	\$17,269	\$25,091	\$56,460
Net (Loss)	(\$1,072)	(\$12,980)	(\$15,152)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Wednesday Night
Come Join Us
Potluck Dinner at 6:30
Bible Study at 7:15

All are Welcome!

POTLUCK DINNER & BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night study group returned to the church for pot luck suppers and a discussion of the N. T. Wright book *Broken Signposts* in April. This book has been fascinating and we are taking our time to savor it. We hope a number of folks will join us in this study. 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.

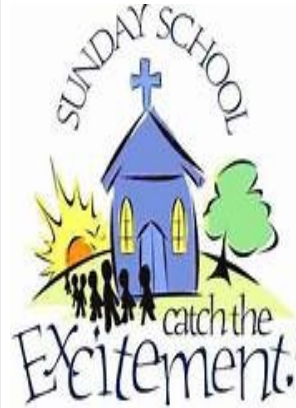
Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World:

N. T. Wright argues that every world view must explain seven "signposts," indicators inherent to humanity: Justice, Spirituality, Relationships, Beauty, Freedom, Truth, and Power.

If we do not live up to these ideals, our societies and individual lives become unbalanced, creating anger and frustration—negative emotions that divide us from ourselves and from God, he contends. Using the Gospel of John as his source, Wright shows how Christianity defines each signpost and illuminates why we so often see them as being "broken" and unattainable.

Drawing on the wisdom of the Gospels, Wright explains why these signposts are fractured and damaged and how Christianity provides the vision, guidance, and hope for making them whole once again, ultimately healing ourselves and our world. -Joel Burns

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are Continuing to study *The Living Word* by Elwood Worcester. This group meets in person in the parlor room every Sunday morning at 9:45. We would

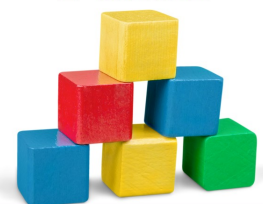
love to have you join us.
-Bill Werts

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class meets via ZOOM. You can come to the class from the comfort of your home or if you are already at church, via your smart phone. **Every Sunday at 9:30 AM** we have a wonderful God filled experience in our conversations and study. We are enjoying Barbara Brown Taylor's book *The Luminous Web, Essays on Science and Religion*. The essays in this book have caused us to think about our faith in new ways. Far from weakening our dedication to the church and God, the lively and intriguing essays help us integrate all aspects of life together. 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

Growing My Faith





Prayer Request



Sandra Balfour has passed away, entering the Church Triumphant. Please keep Reverend Susan and her family in your prayers as they grieve.

Church Family:

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home
Harry Beck, immunotherapy; Clear of Cancer
Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
Jenny Moore, broken pelvis
Peter Piro, bone cancer recurrence, at home

Extended Family:

Richard Applebury, Wesley Applebury's father, stage 4 cancer, in hospice
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

Limited Mobility

Martha Chappell
Helen Danuser

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

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Anniversaries

May 17~ John & Linda Bradley

May 17~



Birthdays

May 8~ Dorothy Elangwe

May 9~ Catherine Dean

May 12~ Masoma Odihe

