

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## JUNE 2023

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; [fpchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fpchurch@windstream.net); [www.fpcmilledgeville.org](http://www.fpcmilledgeville.org)



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

Join us on Sunday mornings on WKZR  
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET**  
**MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061**





# First Presbyterian Church

## Issue No. 323 June 2023



Pastor:  
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &  
Youth Ministries:  
Gloria Burns

Admin. Asst.:  
Lois Callender

Director of Music:  
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:  
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:  
Childcare is  
temporarily  
unavailable

Beloved,

As always, I give thanks to God for you. Your faithfulness in caring for our neighbors, nurturing our young saints, and supporting one another shows God's love through us in wonderful ways.

At our last session meeting, we discussed the upcoming month, and approved a statement regarding the LGBTQIA+ community, and the support and affirmation we offer to such individuals, particularly in light of the harm that the broader church has often inflicted on them. The session has approved the following statement:

As we begin Pride Month, we witness to the divine origins of creation in all its wondrous diversity. The Gospel of John proclaims that not one thing came into being apart from the Son, that every human being is therefore a precious gift from God. We believe that no human being exists apart from God's loving, creating hand. While many voices are raised in opposition to and condemnation of LGBTQIA+ people, we affirm the personhood of each individual, complete with and in their gender and sexual identity. We especially witness to the truth of trans individuals of all ages and affirm their right to live in the fullest expression of who God created them to be: one of the many and beautiful manifestation of divine imagination and will. We are committed to being a safe place for LGBTQIA+ persons. You are seen; you are loved; you are affirmed.

Signed this first day of June, 2023,  
by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville, GA

I encourage you to humbly seek out the testimony of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and otherwise gender non-conforming. There are many strong opinions that come from places and people who do not live this experience, and we can learn a great deal more about the wideness of God's love and the nuances of human existence.

In Christ, Rev. Susan

## Our June 25th Appreciation

**Celebration** is almost here. It's a wear your shorts to church day, bring a blanket and have "dinner on the ground" day or come ready to just have fun being together day!

Personally, I can't wait for that burger off the grill.

The church will be providing the burgers, dogs and buns. Please contribute to the day by bringing the following according to your last name and give me a quick call or text (478)316-4345 to let me know what you will be bringing.

- A-J** Chips/Baked Beans/Potato Salad  
**K-S** Lemonade/Mustard/Mayonnaise/Ketchup/ Sliced Cheese  
**T-Z** Lettuce/Tomato/Onion (sliced, diced)/Pickles



I look forward to seeing everyone there!  
Yours in Christ, Margaret



## Food Pantry

Food Pantry has been busy during the past month with 50 households served including 8 new ones. Twice we distributed all 15 prepared bags and one of those times scrounged about the pantry to come up with 2 more not-quite-as-generous ones. We were so glad to be able to do that as some in-kind donations had exceeded our need for the day. Thank you for making that possible.

This ministry was blessed as the beneficiary of one member's generosity in shopping just for it, thus conserving funds for other weeks. We are most thankful for this incredible wind-fall! In a month with 5 Tuesdays, it came at a very appropriate time. Not advertising, of course, just asking: Did you know that Ollie's carries some of the staples we need at very good prices? And have you checked out your drug-store's food items (when they run special sale prices)? One recent afternoon I was shopping for myself and happened upon a closeout on grape jelly, something we always include. I had in my wallet enough cash donated by Kiwanians in the past couple of weeks to buy a dozen jars. Please do keep our needy neighbors in mind every time and place you shop - you might be surprised at what you can provide for the Food Pantry! Thank you for having this ministry in mind and in your prayers. ~Donna and Margaret



**We will welcome Joan Browning to the pulpit on June 18th** in honor of Juneteenth, the date the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached the last enslaved people in the United States. Browning was born and raised in rural Georgia, and started

college in 1959 at Georgia State College for Women at the age of sixteen. While there she began to be involved in the Freedom Rider movement, and her involvement in the movement ultimately led to her 1961 dismissal from the college because of her decision to attend a black church. At the age of eighteen, she decided to move to Atlanta, where she worked in the library of Emory University and was attending classes at night. At the age of nineteen she became one of the Freedom Riders who traveled the south in 1961, joining a racially mixed group of people. She was arrested in Albany, Georgia, the only white woman to be put in jail where she spent a total of five days. After being released from jail, she spoke to the group about her feelings and noted, "It's a funny, mixed-up feeling to hate being in a dirty place — but to be glad that you're there for a good reason." Browning's role in the civil rights movement was also detailed in the book *The Road South*, B. J. Hollars's book about the Freedom Riders. Browning would go on to graduate from West Virginia State College, now known as West Virginia State University in 1994. She shares her experiences in the Civil Rights movement in public events as a means to engage young people, and she writes on the historical details of the Civil Rights movement using biographies such as her article on the activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

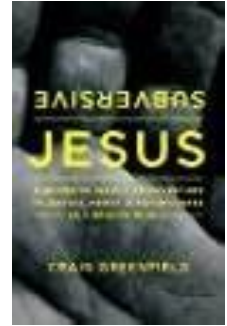




# CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



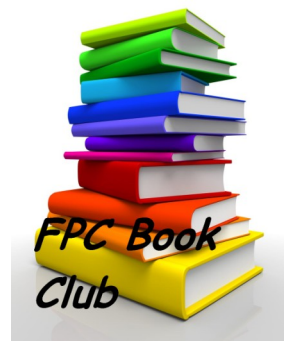
Starting June 1, the Thursday Matthew 25 group will return to meeting at Metropolis at 5:30 PM. This time, Lois will lead the group in a discussion of the book *Subversive Jesus* by Craig Greenfield. She will have four copies available the week before, so feel free to drop by and pick up a copy. It's also available on Hoopla from the library in e-book form. This book is a testament to living out the call to radically love our neighbor. While it might not be possible to do all that the author has, we can take lessons on how to incorporate this unconditional love into our daily life. Join us in this exciting and challenging journey.



Make sure to join us the last week of **June (26-30)** for a **Food Truck Party!** VBS 2023 will be full of fun and learning as we explore the role we play in the world to bring the Good News to everyone! Open to kids K-5.

**Contact the office for information on how to sign up for VBS Food Truck Party 2023.**

The June meeting of the First Presbyterian Church book club will be held on the second Thursday, June 8th, at 2:00 pm in the church parlor. We will be discussing the book *Cheap Land Colorado: Off Gridders at America's Edge* by Ted Conover. Conover went to Colorado to the San Luis Valley to explore first hand a rural way of life that is about living cheaply on your own land in order to keep clear of the mainstream and the government. Five acre lots can be purchased for five thousand dollars. These lots are totally off grid with no electricity, no water, and no sewage. Conover bought his own five acres and lived among these off-gridders in order to immerse himself in their life style. He wanted to report first hand concerning the challenges faced by people living this life style on the margins of society. He found an unexpected diversity of people, most of them spurning charity and aiming, and often failing, to be self sufficient. Many are predicting that they will be the last ones standing after society collapses. Please join us and bring your recommendations for books to be considered for future reads. Looking forward to seeing you at our next book discussion. ~Millie Murphy





# MISSION AND MINISTRY



Join us Sunday, June 28th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves by making sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge.



Please bring any of the following:

Sliced bread, lunch meat, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

**Thank you!**

As the weather turns warmer, please consider donating water for the Milly Free Fridge to help those who are un-housed and those whose water has been turned off. The need is great in our community.



## 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



## Snack Packs

Did you know that we provide snack packs for the un-housed and food insecure in Milledgeville? Every weekday, we place at least two bags filled with a protein, fruit, water and carbs on the front stoop. This ministry has been sustained by one individual who has faithfully supplied the necessary foods. Would you like to join them and help us put out more than just two bags a day? **Needed: Tuna fish or chicken pouches, Vienna sausages in BBQ sauce, fruit cups/applesauce, granola bars, crackers, water bottles.**



## Samaritan Ministry

This month, we were only able to help 1 family with their utilities due to lack of funds. Please consider giving regularly to this mission as we often have to turn people away. There are so many in need.

The Samaritan Ministry help for this month is scheduled for June 18 at 9:30 am. Also please consider giving of your time once a month. Bill could really use the company.



Visit Milledgeville is excited to announce that they will be partnering with the Georgia Trust on **Saturday, June 10th**, to welcome guests in exploring Milledgeville through a 2023 Summer Expedition. The Georgia Trust Summer Expedition event will include an estimated 250 guests from across the state who are interested in exploring our community's grand homes, churches, landmarks and public buildings of interest. **First Presbyterian Church will be on this tour with the building open from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM.** If you are interested



in helping showcase our lovely sanctuary, please contact the office for more information.



# June

4 **9:30** Sunday School  
**11:00** Worship Service  
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM



5 **6:00** MSG Board Meeting  
**7:00** Milledgeville Singers  
Guild



6 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry  
**12:00** Kiwanis  
Luncheon



11 **9:30** Sunday School  
**11:00** Worship Service  
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM

12 **6:30** PFLAG



13 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry  
**12:00** Kiwanis  
Luncheon



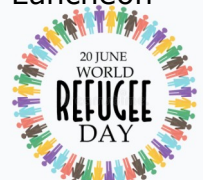
18 **9:30** Sunday School  
**11:00** Worship Service  
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM  
Guest Speaker  
Joan Browning  
in honor of  
Juneteenth



19 **Office Closed**  
**7:00** Milledgeville Singers  
Guild



20 **9:30-10:30** Food Pantry  
and Samaritan Ministry  
**12:00** Kiwanis Luncheon  
**5:00** Session  
Meeting



25 **9:30** Sunday School  
**11:00** Worship Service  
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM  
**12:00** Congregational  
Luncheon/VBS Kickoff



26 **9:00-12:00** VBS



**VBS Starts!**

27 **9:00-12:00** VBS  
**9:30-10:30** Food Pantry  
**12:00** Kiwanis Luncheon





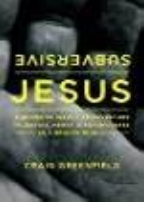

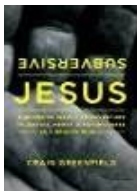
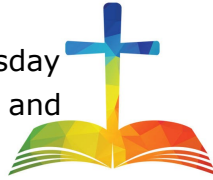
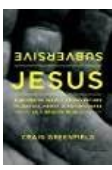



## Our hands, God's work



# 2023



	1 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café 	2 	3
7 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	8 2PM FPC Book Club 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café 	9	10 11:00AM-4:00PM Georgia Trust Expedition 
14 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	15 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café 	16	17
21 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	22 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café 	23	24
28 9:00-12:00 VBS 6:30 Wednesday Potluck and Study 	29 9:00-12:00 VBS 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café 	30 9:00-12:00 VBS	

## Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Wesley Applebury (At Large) Jennifer Flory (Worship) Margaret Ivester (Congregational Care) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Joel Respass (Property) 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.  
Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please call the office for an appointment.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



Yahoo! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and friends during our fundraising events, four of our Youth will attend the Montreat conference June 4-10: Uriel Nwankwonta, Masoma Odihe, Josefa Tchamna, and Elliot Callender. They, along with Teri Anne and Emily Bradley, put in many hours to make the fundraisers successful. Thanks also to our shopping team of Gloria Burns, Margaret Ivester, Melba Burrell, and Anne Smart. We are pleased that our Youth will have this wonderful experience to help them grow in faith.  
**THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU**

THE YOUTH MINISTER GETS SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HER RECTOR.



After Worship receptions: Our Youth can take the refreshments you provide, set up your reception, monitor it during the hour and cleanup for a donation to our fund. Please talk with Gloria Burns to make arrangements.



VBS 2022

VBS will be this month, June 26-30. Be sure to invite your friends and join us on June 25th for a special congregational gathering. We're looking forward to the Food Truck Party!





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## Bible Study Crash Course

Rev. Susan will be holding a crash course in how to study the Bible **Mondays, July 17- August 7 at 5:30 PM in**

**the Parlor Room.** This study will help you learn the best ways to read and interpret the Word, something not always easy to do. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Bible.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets in person for a pot luck supper and lively discussion. Please join us. We

continue working on *Bullies and Saints* by John Dickson. This book is a fascinating review of the history of the good and evil the institutional church has caused and how it occurred. 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. and finish by 8:00 P.M. Please join us whether you have the book or not! The book is available on Amazon. ~Joel Burns



## FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are studying *When Godly People do Ungodly Things* by Beth Moore.

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

## 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 studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann* and every one of the sermons has been thought provoking. 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





**Shelby R. Lucik, Class of 2023, Georgia Military College Prepschool, Granddaughter of Mary A. Lucik and the late Dr. Thomas Lucik**

**Accomplishments:** National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society, President's List, Beta Club, Marching Band Flag Corps, Varsity Tennis

Shelby will be attending Flagler College in the Fall to pursue a degree in Psychology



### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE  
Make yourself at home!

### After-Worship Receptions:

**Please  
consider  
signing up  
to  
contribute**

**refreshments for the after service fellowship reception. If you need help setting up, let us know. We enjoy this time to reconnect with each other after worship. The sign up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen.**



### Podcast

Did you know that you can listen to *JUST* the sermon if you missed it on Sunday morning? Or maybe you wanted to re-listen to the message because you were moved by the Spirit. Check out our website ([fpcmilledgeville.org](http://fpcmilledgeville.org)) under 'Podcast' where you will find links to all the different streaming sites that carry it. **Take advantage of this opportunity to hear the message any day, any time!**



## TREASURER'S CORNER

Summer is beginning. This is always a challenging time for church finances. We need to sustain our giving to keep our services strong.

Please remember to contribute to the general fund, Samaritan's Fund and Food Pantry.

God Bless everyone. ~ Joel Burns

	March	April	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$41,960	\$22,729	\$91,017
Other Income	\$2,609	\$687	\$4,608
Total Income	\$44,569	\$23,416	\$95,625
Budgeted Expenses	\$22,931	\$16,477	\$78,077
Net (Loss)	\$21,638	\$6,939	\$17,548

# HAPPY Retirement



Gloria Phillips Burns was born in Denver, Colorado, to the late Marguerite Everett Phillips. She attended Union University in Jackson, Tennessee and graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Music Therapy. She became active in the Girl Scouts and in the youth programs at the church which ignited a desire to

become a Christian Educator. She attended the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia (now part of Union Presbyterian Seminary) and received a Master of Arts in Christian Education. She is a certified Christian Educator and a member of the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators. She has served twice as Christian Educator at First Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville and was the Christian Educator at Monticello Presbyterian Church for several years between the two times she worked at FPC.

Gloria has served the youth of our community and church in many selfless ways. She has given of her time and talents to Girl Scouts and to the children and youth of our church through S.T.A.R.S., the puppet ministry and Vacation Bible School. She believes in the potential of each child and promotes his/her/their abilities to be a contributing member of our world as a child of God.

Gloria will be missed as our director of Christian Education, but we wish her many happy days ahead in her retirement.

Gloria, **we thank you.**

Gloria will officially retire after VBS ends on June 30, 2023.





# prayer



## **Church Family:**

Harry Beck, ongoing medical concerns  
Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home  
Helen Danuser, recovering from a fall  
Debbie Lamsma, recovering from a fall  
Jenny Moore, recovering at home  
Jackie Northington, ongoing health concerns

## **Extended Family:**

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns  
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery  
Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues  
Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, double amputation  
Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma  
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable  
Joanne Lambertson, family friend of Jennifer Flory, fighting cancer  
Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns  
Janie Mullis, Bill Werts' son-in-law's mother, ongoing health concerns  
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, mass on her colon- at Carlyle House in Macon  
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  
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns  
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards's son-in-law, ongoing health concerns  
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers's husband, ongoing health concerns

## **In Assisted Living:**

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  
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

## **Military Service**

Will Deason  
Rebecca Elangwe  
(Both are Reservists)



## Anniversaries

June 4~ Brandon & Jennifer Morris  
June 16~ David & Elizabeth Baarda  
June 25~ Bill & Jennifer Flory  
June 25~ Bill & Ruby Werts  
June 30~ Bob & Kathy Carroll



## Birthdays

June 4~ Nancy Miller  
June 8~ Gloria Burns  
June 12~ Jenny Moore  
June 14~ Michael Phillips  
June 17~ Deanna Bivins  
June 28~ Anne Dennis

