

# CHURCH CURRENTS

## AUGUST 2022

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  
102.3 FM or via Facebook Live


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET**  
**MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061**





# First Presbyterian Church

## Issue No. 313 August 2022



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,

Greetings in the name of Christ! You are truly a blessing to our community and to me, and I am grateful. Thank you for your faithful dedication to embodying God's love.

I spent the last week in July in class at Columbia Theological Seminary. It's a Bible class that explores biblical definitions of and attitudes toward justice in its many forms. We mined both Testaments and explored the ways in which God moves in our world.

One of the key phrases we discussed is "fear of the Lord". I have always found this phrase unfortunate because of its translation and the connotations we read into "fear". This word in Hebrew does not carry quite the same meaning as our understanding of fear.

Dr. Bill Brown, professor of Old Testament at CTS, offered some insight on this translation. Perhaps you're familiar with the three "f" responses to fear: freeze, flight, and fight. Perhaps there is some "freeze" before God—the feeling of standing awe-struck, such that moving might precipitate something beyond our control. But there's no connotation of "flight"; "fear of the Lord" is not something that inspires us to run the other way. In fact, rather than avoiding God, the wisdom of "fear of the Lord" is to take that fear more as fascination, motivating us to draw nearer to God. But I prefer the "fight" response. Not so much in terms of being adversarial, let alone hostile, but more in terms of "contending". When Jacob wrestles (or "contends") with the angel of the Lord, resulting in a draw, he receives a new name: Israel, or "he contends with God". In many ways, Jacob is hardly a paragon of virtue. That does not mean, however, that we can't learn things from him. One of those things is fighting (or contending) with God.

The beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord—an adage we get from Psalms and Proverbs. I think the beginning of wisdom is the willingness to engage God, pushing back a little, listening for the blessings that come in the morning when we have wrestled with the divine presence. Fear is not terror—it is confidence in engaging God; it is trust; it is joy; it is even security. Fear of the Lord is the trailhead for our hike toward wisdom.

May we fear the Lord in this way, walking wisdom's path.

Grace and peace to you.

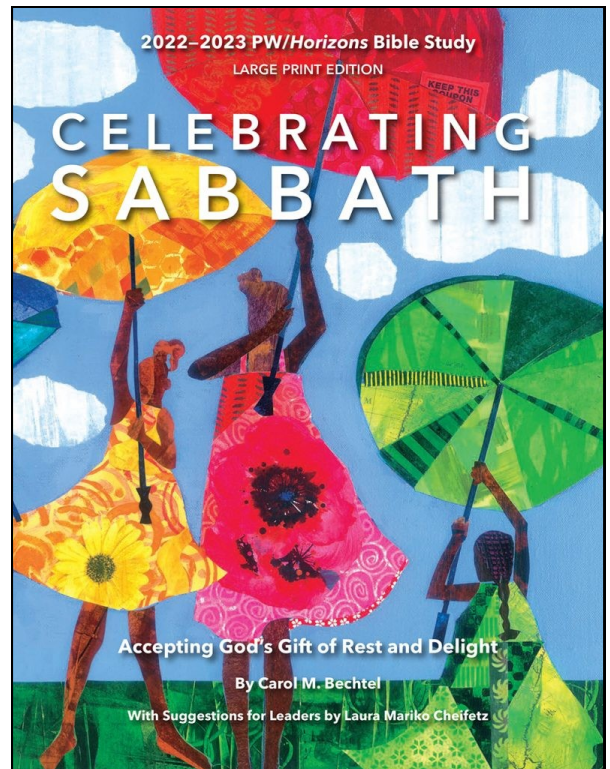
Rev. Susan

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will start again next month. There will be two groups, both led by Rosemary Begemann. We are really excited about reviving this opportunity for fellowship and community.

One group will meet the second Sunday of the month at 5:00PM and the other will meet the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00AM. Both groups will meet in the Parlor Room. The first meetings back will be on September 11 at 5:00PM and September 13 at 11:00AM.

We can't wait to meet and discuss this year's book, *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol Bechtel. If you would like to order a copy, feel free to contact the office at (478)452-9394 or [fpchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fpchurch@windstream.net).



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women circa 2017

Let's get this started again!





# FPC BOOKCLUB

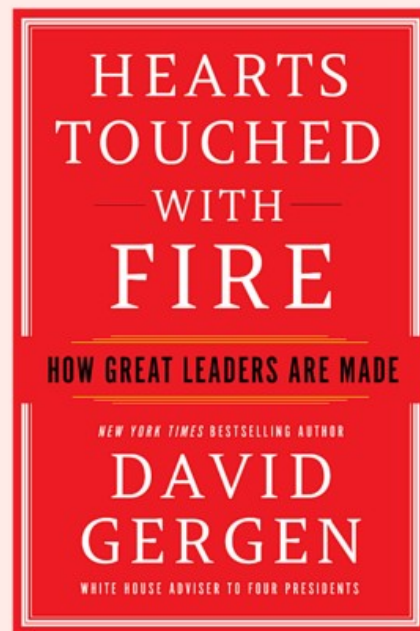


The FPC Book Club will meet on Thursday, August 11th at 2:00 pm. We will be discussing *Hearts Touched with Fire: How Great Leaders are Made* by David Gergen. Gergen has served as a White House advisor to four presidents: Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. He has served as editor of the news magazine *U. S. New & World Report*. He is currently a senior political analyst on CNN. In *Hearts Touched with Fire*, Gergen reveals the secrets and common traits of the world's most transformative leaders by tracing the journeys of some famous trailblazers. Filled with stories, humor, and wisdom, the book is an indispensable leadership manual.

The book selection for September is another Madeleine Albright book, *Fascism: A Warning*. In this book, Albright shows that fascism has endured through the course of the twentieth century, and now presents a more dangerous threat to international peace and justice than at any other time since the end of WWII. The momentum toward democracy that once swept the world has gone into reverse, not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. Many factors are weakening the political center and empowering the extremes of the right and left. She outlines the warning signs of fascism and offers concrete actions for restoring America's values and reputation.

Come join us for a stimulating discussion and fellowship with like minded people.

Millie Murphy





# MISSION AND MINISTRY



Thanks to your generosity of time and money, we made sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge last month. It was a great success with quite a few people helping out.



**Join us the last Sunday of the month to help feed our neighbors and ourselves.**

Please bring any of the following: Sliced bread, lunch meat, peanut butter, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials.



## Food Pantry

We have had a busy Food Pantry lately, serving 30 families from the last June distribution through the end of July. Several were new, some returned after a long absence; the need is surely still with us. My thanks to Joel and Gloria Burns who filled in for me while I was on vacation and also to our new volunteer Margaret Ivester, who helped a lot during VBS and plans to continue as needed in future.

Thank you to all who have made contributions to the Pantry, including those who sent items for our shelves by the children during VBS. In-kind donations always enhance our supplies, sometimes providing items I would not have thought to purchase: I had never seen canned mac and cheese, but it will likely be a hit! Remember, too, that we have reinstated our first Sunday offering of staples for this ministry.

Thanks be to God for your generosity and for the new volunteer I have needed! -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

## Samaritan Ministry

This month, we were able to help two people with their utilities in the amount of \$408.84. We continue to wait on word if we will get the extra funds from PC(USA). The VBS Kids made a generous donation of over \$60 to the Samaritan Ministry. There remains a need for another person to help Bill as he aids those who come to us for assistance. Please also consider giving of your time once a month for this ministry.



# August

	1	2 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 
7 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM	8	9 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 
14 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM	15 	16 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 <b>Puppets</b> 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 <b>S.T.A.R.S</b>	22	23 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service on FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S  <b>12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity</b>	29	30 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 
		



# 2022



3 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	4	5	6 
10 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	11 FPC Book Club 2:00PM 	12	13
17 Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	18	19	20
24 <b>Youth Group</b> 5:00-6:30PM  Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM	25	26 	27
31 Youth Group 5:00-6:30PM  Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM			

## 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.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



## PUPPETS

Our puppeteers will begin rehearsing to present the Children's Time on Sunday August 21 at 10 am. The group is for students first grade and older and requires good reading skills. This group will present most



Sunday mornings so it is important to be on time and willing to present during worship each week. This group offers many different skill sets and opportunities to help: scripts must be selected, puppets must be costumed, sets must be designed and made. Leadership within the group is important. We look forward to seeing the puppets return to our worship service.



## S.T.A.R.S.

Students That Always Rejoice and Serve is for our Kindergarten through fifth grade students and meets on Sunday afternoon 2 til 4 pm. Our activities include bible learning, choir, games, crafts and fellowship. This children's group provides music for worship on special occasions, and presents our Christmas Joy program in December.

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Our middle and high school students will meet on Wednesdays from 5 til 6:30pm beginning August 24. Many Activities for this group will be planned by the students. It will include singing opportunities, and Bible study. Come be a part of the fun and fellowship!



## TREASURER'S CORNER



Recently we had a wonderful Vacation Bible School. The uplifting spirit of the music and the happiness of the children help us remember the reason we have a church.

Our mission is to bring Christ's love to our community. This mission is in jeopardy if we don't get our financial house in

order. We spent \$6,000 more in June that we took in. We really need to turn this around.

I hope that everyone takes the steps necessary to close this gap. We need to help bring God's love to our community now as we have in the past. -Joel Burns

	May	June	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$10,755	\$8,647	\$73,135
Other Income	\$683	\$1,820	\$6,748
Total Income	\$11,438	\$10,467	\$79,883
Budgeted Expenses	\$17,592	\$16,398	\$112,004
Net (Loss)	(\$6,154)	(\$5,931)	(\$32,121)





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible Sunday School class continues to meet via ZOOM. This permits us to study and learn without risk of COVID exposure and several of us enjoy the experience. Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we meet for our conversations and study. We continue to study the Walter Brueggemann book, *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Uncertainty*. This very thoughtful analysis of the scriptures as they relate to the pandemic is incredibly timely and necessary.

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



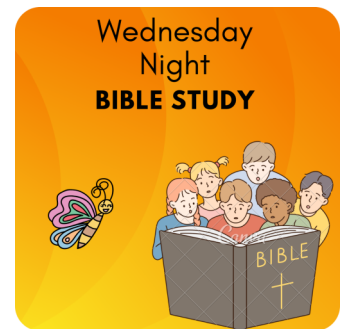
We are studying *The Martyr Song* by Ted Dekker. This group meets in person in the

parlor room every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM. We would love to have you join us.-Bill Werts

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets for a pot luck suppers and the continued discussion of the N. T. Wright book *Broken Signposts*. 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. 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.



**Drawing on the wisdom of the Gospel of John, 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

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

# Make Waves

WHAT YOU DO TODAY CAN  
CHANGE THE WORLD AROUND YOU







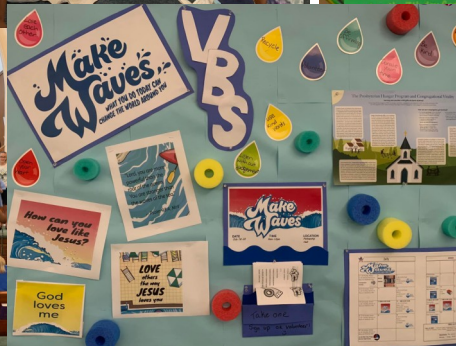
Once again, VBS was a huge success! We had about 25 children attend everyday to make waves and learn about why God created us and how to spread God's love in the world. This would not have been possible without the help of our many volunteers! Christian Education wishes to thank all those involved with our successful VBS. Make Waves was directed by Kathy Carroll with assistance from Gloria Burns, Margaret Ivester, Nancy Miller, Laurie Peebles, Linda Bradley, Susan Balfour, Lois Callender, and Anne Smart. AV- Joel Burns

Snacks were provided by Nancy Miller, Melba Burrell, Margaret Ivester, and Catherine Dean.

Pool Party Hosts- Holley Cowan and Sunda Coleman

A big thank you to all of our young people!

~Anne Smart, Christian Education





# Prayer Requests



## Church Family:

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home  
Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home  
Rebecca Elangwe, in basic training  
Jenny Moore, recovering at home

## Limited Mobility

Martha Chappell  
Helen Danuser

## 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 MonteAugustor, 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



**The things that are  
impossible with men  
are possible with God.**

Luke 18:27

## 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  
Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place  
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

August 2~ John & Louise  
Sallstrom  
August 5~ Amy & Jason Smith  
August 30~ Gloria & Joel Burns



## Birthdays

August 2~ Jared Brown  
August 2~ Carolyn Morgan  
August 3~ John Hunter Lane  
August 5~ Beth Baarda  
August 7~ Jane Tipton  
August 16~ David Ritchie  
August 16~ Suzy Smith  
August 17~ Clyde Tipton  
August 18 ~Rebecca Elangwe  
August 25 ~ Sarah  
Applebury

