

CHURCH CURRENTS

MARCH 2023

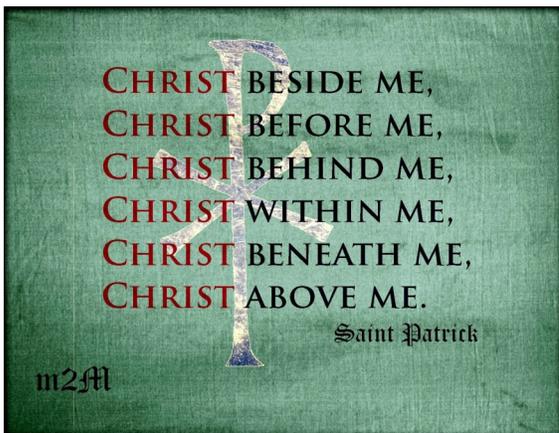
210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

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. 320 March 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

Hello friends,

Your Session has been at work continually, even though we try to be diligent and quiet in our efforts. We have had a few property issues recently, but they have been taken care of and/or we are working to resolve the issues.

We have welcomed new elders to our group and we rejoice in having Margaret, Joel and Wesley among us and look forward to working with them in the coming months.

As Susan mentioned last Sunday, we had our retreat and decided on several issues we want to address in the coming year. We approved our Youth to hold some fund raising projects in the coming months to help them defray the costs to attend Montreat. They hope to hold a potato bake March 17; a Silent Auction during the whole month of April; and a Taco Night on May 5. These dates are tentative, and further information will be forthcoming as we go forward with planning. Session will also be studying a Presbyterian Mission unit on "Developing the 7 Marks of Congregation Vitality" to inform and help us as your Session to seek God's will for all of us. Again, we will be sharing information with you as we go forward this year.

We have received a letter from Gloria Burns sharing with us her retirement date for the end of June. The session will be planning a celebration of her work; we will have a cook out on June 25 after church to congratulate and celebrate Gloria and all that she has done for our children and youth. ~Nancy Miller, Clerk of Session



A heartfelt thank you to all who came to enjoy our soup and sandwich luncheon following the reading and hymn festival February 12. From the selections of hearty soups to the wonderful fellowship we shared—both truly warmed tummies and hearts. A special thanks to all those who assisted with special preparation of timeless recipes and those who graciously helped with set up and clean up. I can't do anything alone, it truly takes a village and I'm blessed to be a small part of this one!



Mark your calendars for June 25th for a very special event following our service. Details to follow.
Yours in Christ, Margaret Foster Ivester, Congregational Care

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.



Milledgeville Singer's Guild

After a long absence caused by COVID, Milledgeville Singers Guild is preparing to reconvene to sing

beautiful music together to share with the community.

We will have a meet and greet with our new director, Lyman Hinson, on March 20 at 6PM at FPC Fellowship Hall.

Rehearsals will be Mondays in the FPC Sanctuary. All old, new, and interested singers are invited. (Contact rubywerts@hotmail.com for more information) ~Ruby Werts

Food Pantry



I have been thinking about Food Pantry and the need in our community, which will grow so much as the government's Covid emergency funding measures expire. We must continue this ministry, no question.

Some thoughts on how:

I took a couple of friends out for a very modest lunch recently. Our check was about the same as the cost of one of our food bags. If I forego eating out one or two meals a month, I can donate a bag. If your family does the same, we can keep this effort solvent, even thriving.

When I look over the weekly grocery ads, I often see BOGO specials. If the item is something Food Pantry uses, I buy it; you can, too.

If Kroger's ad says "Buy 5 cereals and get a dollar off each", I buy it, one for me and 4 for the Pantry. You can, too.

During February, we have served 39 families. Thank you for making this possible. Keep up the good work! ~Donna Gautier



CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



Join us on
Saturday,
March 25 at
10:00 AM to



beautify the church before Easter Sunday services. We will, as usual, have donuts and coffee. We look forward to working together to make the church as beautiful outside as her congregation is.

Join us on **Friday, March 17 at 6:00** for fellowship and food! This fundraiser will help our youth attend the summer Montreat Youth Conference. Last year, Elliot and Quincy attended and had a wonderful time. It's an amazing experience that helps to grow their faith. The Potato Bar is **\$5 per person, \$15 per family.**



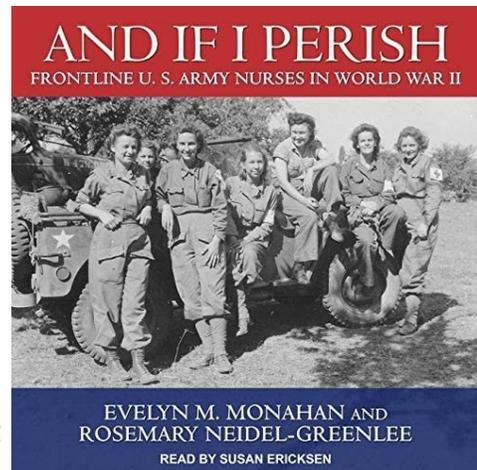
Join us in supporting our youth!



And if I Perish: Frontline US Army Nurses in WWII by Evelyn M. Monahan and Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee. For more than a half century, the story of women nurses in WWII remained untold. After years of research and interviews, the authors have written a narrative that brings to light the role that women nurses played through out the war.

The book selection for April is *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know* by Malcolm Gladwell. Gladwell, also author of the best selling book *Outliers*, offers an examination of our interactions with strangers and why they often go wrong. He argues that some things are very wrong with the strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know and the resulting conflict and misunderstanding.

Come join us for a stimulating conversation about interesting reads. ~Millie Murphy



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study meets on the second Sunday at 4:00 pm and the second Tuesday at 11:00 am. Both groups meet in the Parlor Room.

Please join us.



Have you joined us after church in the Fellowship Hall for a small snack and conversation? If you have, are you interested in helping us continue this fun gathering by hosting one Sunday? The sign up sheet is in the kitchen, on the refrigerator.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Make yourself at home!



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Thanks to your generosity of time and money, we continue to make sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge each month. Join us Sunday, March 26th to help feed our neighbors and ourselves.



Volunteers making sandwiches in February 2023

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!



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



Youth Ministry Update



The youth meet every Sunday to fellowship and learn more about how we can be supportive of each other in the community. One of the many projects that they do is cards to the shut-ins. One

person who receives cards wrote to us saying: 'It remains on my bookcase, visible around the living room, until the next card arrives. When I look at the card I thank God for the children. Your ministry is appreciated.'

Samaritan Ministry

This month, we were able to help 4 families with their utilities. Your donations helped one person, whose electricity had been cut off for more than a month, to get their electricity turned on. Thank you for helping to make that happen.

The Samaritan Ministry help is scheduled for March 21 at 9:30 am. Please consider giving regularly to this mission as we often have many people who are in need each month. Also please consider giving of your time once a month. Bill would appreciate the company.



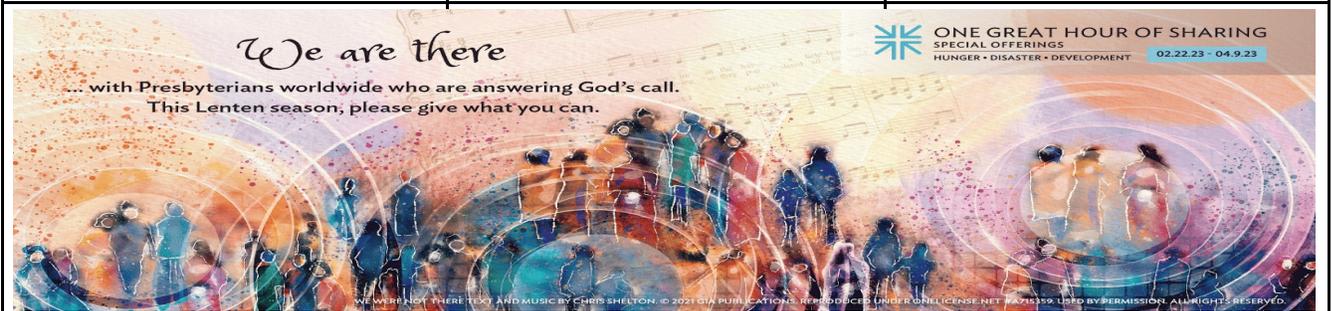


March

Lent



<p>5 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM Informal Congregational Meeting Re: Sabbatical Planning</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry  12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 2:00 Matthew 25 Book Study</p>
<p>12 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group 4:00 PW Bible Study</p>	<p>13 6:30 PM PFLAG</p> 	<p>14 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry and Samaritan Ministry 11:00 PW Bible Study 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 2:00 Matthew 25 Book Study</p>
<p>19 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group</p>	<p>20 6:00 PM Milledgeville Singers Guild Meet and Greet</p> 	<p>21 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry  12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 2:00 Matthew 25 Book Study</p>
<p>26 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Puppets 11:00 Worship Service FBLive & WKZR102.3FM 12:00 Milly Free Fridge 2:00 S.T.A.R.S 3:00 Youth Choir/Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:30-10:30 Food Pantry 12:00 Kiwanis Luncheon 2:00 Matthew 25 Book Study</p> 



2023



<p>1 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>2 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Cafe</p>  <p>MATTHEW 25</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>8 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>9 2PM FPC Book Club 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Cafe</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>15 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>16 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p>  <p>MATTHEW 25</p>	<p>17 6:00PM Potato Bar Fundraiser</p> 	<p>18</p>
<p>22 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>23 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p>  <p>MATTHEW 25</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 10:00AM Church Work Day</p> 
<p>29 6:30PM Wednesday Study</p> 	<p>30 5:30 Matthew 25 Study at Metropolis Café</p>  <p>MATTHEW 25</p>	<p>31</p>	

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



Our schedule is:

Puppets (1-12) **Sunday 10am** to perform at 11 am worship

S.T.A.R.S.(K-5th) **Sunday 2:00-3:00**

Sunday Youth Group (6th -12th) including prep for Montreat (9th - 12th)

Sunday 3:00 – 4:30

As we begin Lent we think ahead to Easter. Our **Easter Egg Hunt** this year will fall on **Saturday April 1, 2-4 PM**. We have traditionally used the Saturday before Palm Sunday for a number of years, allowing our children singers to rehearse the day before they sing. By March 26 there will be empty eggs available in bags of 24 so stop by my office and pick them up to return them filled for the Hunt. Please remember we do not want any nuts (because of allergies) or chocolate (because it melts while hidden on warm sunny days). Small toys, and stickers make good egg fillers as

well as individually wrapped candy. If you are interested in helping us with refreshments please talk with Gloria Burns or Anne Smart.



Montreat Youth Conference

June 4-10, 2023

We are excitedly planning for some of our youth to go to Montreat this year. It has been several years since any of our youth have been, so we have been offered substantial scholarships by Montreat to enable us to be there. Even with all the help we still need to raise \$600 per youth and adult to go. We are asking each family to pay \$200 of that amount and we need to fundraise the remainder. At this point we have several things planned, but are still thinking so please share your ideas but don't be upset if we choose something more comfortable for us.

If you are interested in providing a scholarship to one or more of our youth please talk with Susan or Gloria. Remember these are the same people we promise to help grow in faith as they were baptized and Montreat Youth Conference is one of those rare events that forms life long faith and spiritual growth.

Planned Fundraisers:

March 17, Saint Patrick's Day Baked Potato Bar \$5.00 per person

For the **Month of April** we will have a silent Auction in the Fellowship Hall. If you have art or craft work, services, outdoor work or food items you would like to donate please contact Reverend Susan (478)452-9394 or fpchurch@windstream.net. Beginning in early April we will display the items in the Fellowship Hall with sheets on which to place a bid. At the end of April the highest bidder will take the item.

May 5, Cinco De Mayo Taco Bar

May Car Wash TBA

We are thinking about offering Soup and Sandwich lunches after worship some days so watch for date and details in the bulletin and your email.



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.

MATTHEW 25 EXPLORATION

Rev. Susan continues to explore the Matthew 25 themes with a book study. She hosts discussion at **Metropolis on Thursdays at 5:30** and also on

Tuesdays at 2:00 in the church parlor. The basis of our study is *Covenant Economics: A Biblical Vision of Justice for All*, by Richard A. Horsley. If you'd like a copy of the book, it's \$27 on Amazon and \$30 on Barnes & Noble.



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We have returned to our study of *A Call to Die* by David Nasser. 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



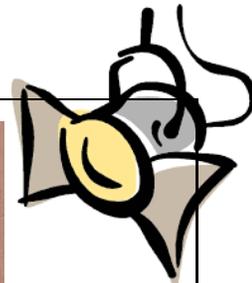
WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets for a pot luck supper and lively discussion. We have started and enjoyed the book, *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. Please join us whether you have the book or not! The book is available on Amazon. ~Joel Burns

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. Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we meet for thoughtful conversations. We have been studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann* and every one has been a gem. 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





Wesley Applebury

We congratulate Wesley Applebury on his acceptance to Columbia Theological Seminary! Wesley was baptized, confirmed and ordained as an elder in our church. We've watched him grow up with great pride and we look forward to supporting him as he takes this next step on his faith journey.



TREASURER'S CORNER

Our financial reports for January 2023 show a deficit. In addition, we paid for a stained glass window repair out of designated funds. Although this did not come out of budgeted funds, it does lower our checking account balance. We need to bring our giving into balance with our spending.

Please review the financial reports attached and help us to do better this month. Please give to the general fund, Samaritan's Fund and Food Pantry. Our church depends on our giving. Open your hearts and your checkbooks. ~ Joel Burns



	December	January	2023 YTD
Contributions	\$23,212	\$14,504	\$14,504
Other Income	\$1,823	\$686	\$686
Total Income	\$25,035	\$15,190	\$15,190
Budgeted Expenses	\$18,119	\$19,373	\$19,373
Net (Loss)	\$6,916	(\$4,183)	(\$4,183)

Lent is already upon us and if you haven't chosen a discipline to honor the season yet (which is understandable- life is pretty hectic and not everything gets done), consider these suggestions from the PC(USA):



Drink only water today. It takes 500 cups of water to produce a single cup of coffee, and 125 cups of water to produce a cup of tea. By giving up a cup of coffee each day of Lent, you could save roughly \$125, enough to donate an emergency food basket.



Give up bottled water. If you spend \$1 on a 16.9 -ounce bottle of water, you're effectively paying \$7.57 per gallon- 3,785 times more than you'd pay for the same amount of water from the faucet! Giving up one bottle of water every day during Lent could save you around \$60, enough to donate a sewing machine, a source of income for a person in need.



Give up food with high carbon footprint. Beef and cheese are two foods with a high carbon footprint. Hamburger averages \$#.95/pound. By eliminating this food once a week during Lent, you can save nearly \$25 and provide up to 10 jerry cans to help in the efficient transportation of water. Calculate your food footprint at eatlowcarbon.org.



Eliminate air travel. Aviation contributes ~2% of the world's global carbon emissions, and short flights produce a larger amount of greenhouse gas emissions per passenger compared to longer routes. The thousands of dollars you can save on a family vacation of four could provide a community farm bundle- including livestock, tools, and training.



Speak to the powerful. Urge elected officials to support legislation making justice a priority, such as welcoming refugees. Visit capwiz.com/pcusa/home to reach out to your representative.



Walk somewhere you would have driven. U.S. consumption of 500 gallons of gasoline every year per driver creates as much as 10,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. By walking instead of driving, you can save roughly \$175 this Lent, enough money to support a women's empowerment project in another country.



Set a goal of zero food waste today. 40% of U.S. food supply is wasted each year- that's 219 lbs per person! Food waste costs the U.S. around \$218 billion per year. When 12% of American households are food insecure. Reducing food waste by 15% could provide enough sustenance to feed 25 million people, annually.



Switch from single-use bags to reusable bags. The average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest end up in landfills or as litter. It takes 500+ years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.



Plant a tree. If every one of America's 85 million gardening households planted just one young shade tree in their backyard or community, those trees would absorb more than 2 million tons of carbon pollution each year. You can also help others plant trees with the gift of a sapling set for \$30.



PRAYER REQUEST



Church Family:

Harry Beck, ongoing medical concerns
 Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
 Helen Danuser, recovering from a fall
 Jenny Moore, recovering at home
 Joel Respass, recovering from knee surgery
 John Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns

Limited Mobility

Beth Baarda
 Martha Chappell
 Helen Danuser

Extended Family:

Julie Balfour, Susan Balfour's sister, recovering from knee surgery
 Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment
 Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery
 Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues
 Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma
 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
 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
 Suzy Smith, Lois Callender's mother, knee replacement surgery
 Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns
 Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
 Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns

Military Service

Will Deason
 Rebecca Elangwe



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

March 17~ Debbie & John Lamsma



Birthdays

March 1~ Marion Robinson
March 2~ Maria Ethridge
March 14~ Charles Morgan
March 21~ Gregory Thigpen
March 27~ Laura Burns-Tanner
March 29~ Elaine Goggans

