



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Church
Valdosta, GA

November 2017



First Family News

Birthday's &
Anniversaries

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Perhaps you heard the story about a Sunday school teacher who began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air and a voice called out, "He is an artist!"

Upcoming
Events

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"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "Because we say it every Sunday: Our Father, who does art in heaven..."

Christian ed

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Or how about this one? While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand-printed sign that read, "Energy efficient vehicle. Runs on grass and oats. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Mission &
Evangelism

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Another one? A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons; Kevin, the oldest, was five and Ryan, the youngest was three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus was sitting here," she said, "he would say, 'Let your brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Without hesitation, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Memorials &
gifts

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Calendar

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Psalm 2:4 tells us God laughs. I am convinced that Jesus had a sense of humor, too. Think about it. Would people have been drawn to Jesus if he was grumpy all the time? No. Jesus embodied a spirit of joy and welcome. Surely this includes a healthy sense of humor. Which brings me to my point (I know you hope I have one): As I make preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday, I find myself giving thanks for the usual things such as my kind and fun-loving husband, our gainfully employed children (Thank you Jesus!), our precious granddaughters, and the opportunity to serve First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. But these days, I am also giving thanks for the fun of being with you. I am grateful for your sense of humor—something you share with me, often! And, I am grateful for the joy I see you having just being with one another. It reminds me of the passage from Psalm 126 (*The Message*):

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*It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when God returned Zion's exiles.*

*We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.*

*We were the talk of the nations—
"God was wonderful to them!"*

*God was wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.*



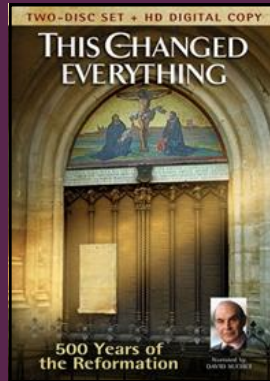
Truly, God has been wonderful to us! For this and so much more, let us continue to give God thanks and praise—long after the turkey has been sliced and the pumpkin pie has disappeared.

Happy Thanksgiving,
DrGlenda



wednesday activity at FPC

Wednesday Night Supper & Study



We are currently watching the video, “This Changed Everything,” about the fruits of The Reformation. Along the way, we are exploring questions about the cost of division and dreaming about our responsibility over the next 500 years as those who are “Reformed and always reforming.”

Some special programs are coming up, too:

- † November 8th, Melissa Coleman and a few VSU students will be dropping by to share about life and ministry at THE CENTER.
- † November 15th, a group of students majoring in Mass Communications will present a video they have created (as their Senior Project). The video highlights the ministry of Break Bread Together and it will be made available via Facebook and YouTube.
- † November 29th, we will gather around the tables after a delicious meal to package goodie bags to be given out at the Valdosta Christmas Parade.

Great things are happening around here! Come along and join the fun!

Fellowship Dinner Menu

<i>November 1</i>	<i>November 8</i>	<i>November 15</i>	<i>November 29</i>
Lasagna	Pork Tenderloin Medallions w/Mango Lime Chutney	Chicken Alfredo	Grilled Beef Tenderloin w/Mushroom Sauce
Green Beans	Fried Cabbage	Buttered Carrots	Rice
Tosses Salad	Buttered Carrots	Baby Lima Beans	Green Beans
Garlic Bread	Tossed Salad	Tossed Salad	Apple Salad
Variety of Cookies	Corn Muffins	Bread Sticks	Tossed Salad
Ice Cream	Chocolate Pudding	Fresh Fruit	Biscuits
	Ice Cream	Ice Cream	Brownies
			Ice Cream

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there will be no church activities Wednesday, November 22nd.

upcoming events



FIRST FRIDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Make plans to attend our next **First Friday Contemplative Service** November 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Afterward, you might consider other First Friday activities that are offered downtown - like going out to eat with friends you just so happened to invite to the service!

Thanks to Becky Stewart for the beautiful Celtic Cross at the Magnolia Street entrance. It is incredible!



November birthdays

- 2 Zachary Routsong
- 3 Betty Ann George
- 6 Cathy Alday
- 6 William Daughtrey
- 7 Becky Stewart
- 7 Taylor McQuaig
- 15 Florence Cole
- 18 Alice Crawford
- 19 Natalie Munro
- 20 Dick Shelton
- 22 Ivey Harris
- 26 Robert Sheridan
- 27 Sherrida Crawford

November anniversaries

- 10 Jeff & Becky Stewart



CHRIST THE KING CELEBRATION

November 26, 2017



A week before Advent begins, the Christian calendar ends with Christ the King Sunday. The day offers an opportunity to give thanks and praise for the sovereignty and lordship of Christ as we look back through the church year to remember his birth, his life and ministry, and his death, resurrection and ascension. We also remember the promise that Christ will one day return in victory to reign supreme over all creation. During worship on November 26th we will celebrate Christ the King. Similar to Christmas Eve services that are formatted as Lessons & Carols services, *The Story* will be told using Scripture and hymns. Join us, along with your friends and loved ones. Let us gather and rejoice in the glory of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords for in Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled.



Our first FRIENDS OUT FRONT gathering was loads of fun. Plan to stick around for a few minutes after worship November 12th for a cookie, lemonade, and good conversation. (If weather does not permit an outside gathering, we will meet in the Overflow Room)



The Children of FPC- Raisin' Cane

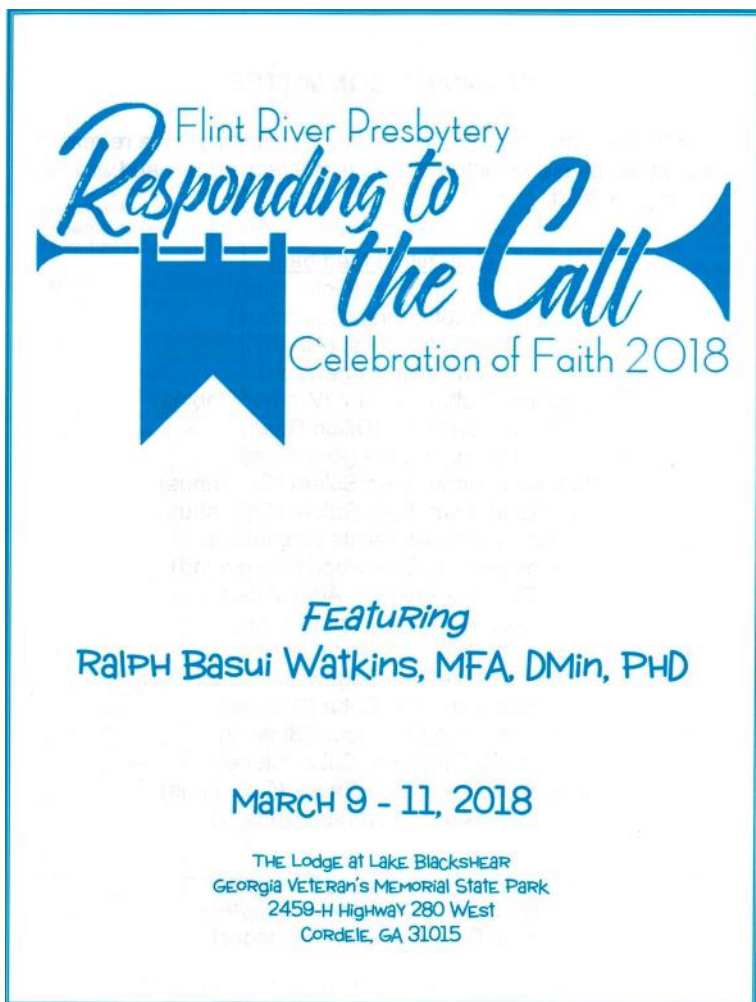
christian ed

Sunday Morning Classes

Please join us for Sunday School:

- **The Ladies Sunday School** meets at 9:30 for singing, 9:45 for the lesson in the Sally Lou Cranford Room. Julie Magruder is the teacher.
- **New Ventures** meets in the New Ventures/Library room. This class, for both men and women, begins at 9:45 a.m. and is taught by Sherrida Crawford.
- **The Men's Sunday School Class**, taught by Lamar Cole, begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- **The Class of One Accord** meets at 9:45 a.m. with Florence Cole and Eve Renfroe as teachers.

Children's Church is held during the worship hour on Sunday morning using the Sunday School curriculum (in place of Sunday School). On the first Sunday of the month; however, children are invited to remain in worship to celebrate Communion with their church family.

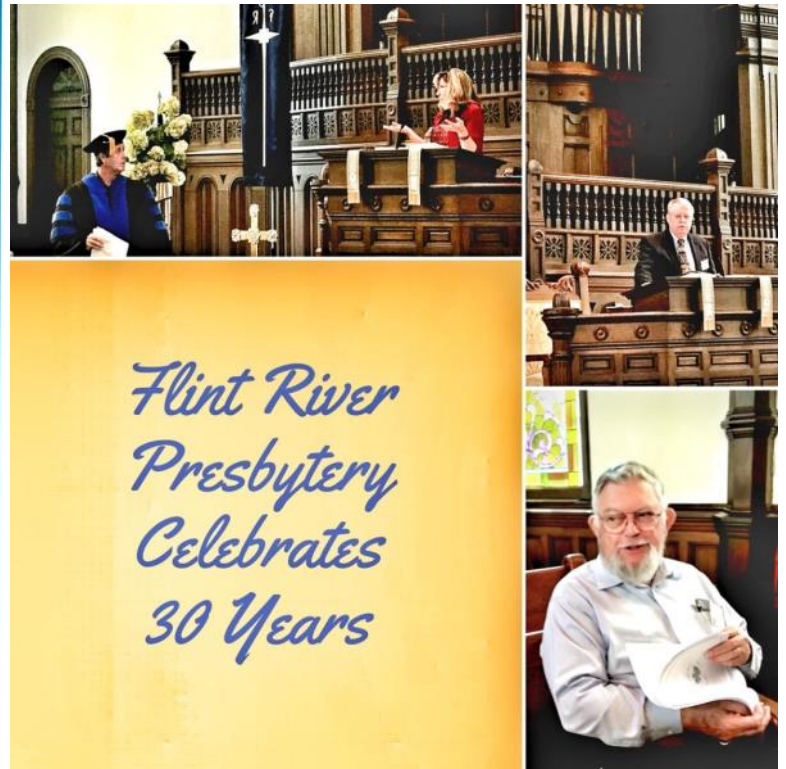


Flint River Presbytery
Responding to the Call
Celebration of Faith 2018

Featuring
RALPH Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PHD

MARCH 9 - 11, 2018

THE Lodge at Lake Blackshear
GEORGIA VETERAN'S MEMORIAL STATE PARK
2459-H Highway 280 West
CORDELE, GA 31015



*Flint River
Presbytery
Celebrates
30 Years*

*Packets are available on the tables in each Narthex

mission & evangelism

Santa Claus Express 2017
Gifts requested by Sunday, Dec. 3rd

You are invited to join Presbyterian Women in supplying the Santa Claus Express with the “Suggested Gift Items” destined for the Presbyterian Home in Quitman. All gifts are to be placed in clear sandwich or larger plastic storage bags. Gifts should be deposited no later than Sunday, December 3rd, in the specially decorated collection boxes located in the entrances to both the Centennial Building and the Church Sanctuary. The 2017 Suggested Gift Items list is enclosed. A copy will also be posted on the bulletin board in the Centennial Hall.



Thanks to everyone who helped make our RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT such a huge success!
(Previously STOP HUNGER NOW)

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



September Gifts

“Distributing food is a unique act of love because food is the basis for life. When the church can distribute food, it can allay one of people's most primal fears – that of going hungry – as a way of helping people come to peace. When sources of food are close at hand, peace may be sustained.”

Gifts to Break Bread Together

Alice McDuffie
Perfectly Priscilla
Trinity Presbyterian Church
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

In Memory of John Tomlinson

Bion & Jenny Williams
Class of One Accord
Eve Renfroe
Grady & Judy Folsom
Alice McDuffie
Dick & Jane Shelton

In Memory Katie Scott Landrum

Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Honor of Florence & Lamar Cole

Lee & Barbara Bradley

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Worship 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	2	3 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30	4
5 Worship 11:00am All Saints' Day Service Elder on Call: Nelda Harris	6 Circle #1 3:00pm Fellowship Hall	7	8 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	9	10	11
12 Worship 11:00am Veterans Day Recognition Friends out Front Elder on Call: Keri Routsong	13	14 Circle #2 6:30pm @ Jane Shelton's House	15 A & F 5:00 C.E. 5:30 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	16	17	18
19 Worship 11:00am Session Meeting Elder on Call: Dick Shelton	20	21	22 No Wednesday Night Supper	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 Worship 11:00am Christ the King Sunday Session Meeting Elder on Call: Jesse Spencer	27	28	29 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	30		

notices & updates

Notes from the October 22, 2017 Session

Session approved several motions:

1. Administration & Finance Committee moved Session to approve proposal from Waller Heating & Air to replace all 14 thermostats in the church with programmable thermostats at a cost of \$155 each for a total of \$2,170.
2. A & F moved Session to approve the following improvements to the New Ventures classroom to be paid from the Endowment Fund:

Painting	\$1,200
Remove electrical conduit	200
Remove/relocate bookshelves	270
Furniture & accessories	<u>1,572</u>
	\$3,242

Furniture and accessories include a love seat, two chairs, rug, tables, lamps, pillows, and bookcase accessories.
3. Worship Committee moved Session to approve Don Vollenweider as Pulpit Supply November 12 when Dr. Hollingshead is on vacation.
4. Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee moved Session to approve the start-up of FPC on the Go-- a ministry that will encourage nature outings & other outdoor activities.
5. The Ad Hoc Memorial Garden Committee moved Session to approve an agreement with Livingston Design, LLC, to redesign the church's Memorial Garden.

Session also approved an invitation for PCUSA mission co-workers Sandi and Brian Thompson Royer to preach on Sunday February 11, 2018

Session reviewed and approved upcoming dates:

- November 3: First Friday Contemplative Service at 5:30 p.m.
November 5: All Saints' Worship Service
November 6-12: Dr. Hollingshead's vacation
November 12: Friends out Front following worship
November 23-24: Church office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
November 26: Christ the King Sunday, Stated Session Meeting



New Music to Enjoy

Hopefully, during worship recently, you have enjoyed the Choir singing a Taize song entitled, "Glory to God," for the Introit as well as "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" for the Choral Benediction. Soon, the entire church will get to sing these lovely songs since we will begin alternating the Taize, "Glory to God" with the "Gloria Patri" and "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" with the "Doxology." This is just one more opportunity for FPC to embrace new music styles while, also, holding onto the traditional music we know and love.

Let us sing with joy!



USHER/GREETER MEETING

If you serve as an Usher or Greeter, please plan to stay after worship, November 19, for a brief meeting in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, see Sissy Almand.

To access **Online Giving** or for more information about **First Presbyterian Church** you may visit our website at www.firstpresvaldosta.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone app.



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