



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Church
Valdosta, GA

March 2018



First Family News

HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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|----------------------------|---|---|
| Upcoming Events | 3 | Although we are still in the Season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter are just around the corner. With this in mind, I have been working diligently with the Worship Committee and a few other interested folks to make sure that Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church is especially meaningful this year. The result is a variety of opportunities for you to participate in during Holy Week—opportunities that may enrich you in your faith journey. Undoubtedly, we all have busy schedules and busy lives, but with several spiritual practices offered on different days at different times—hopefully, everyone will find time to participate in one or more options. |
| Mission & Evangelism | 4 | |
| Birthday's & Anniversaries | 5 | The beginning of Holy Week is Palm Sunday , March 25 th . We will gather for worship at 11 a.m. to celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem with palms and "Hosannas!" marking the occasion. Then, later in the evening, we will have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Church Picnic at 4 p.m. at McKey Park. This is such a fun event—you really do not want to miss it! |
| Memorials & Gifts | 5 | |

Christian Ed

6



Tuesdays at the Table will be held at 5:30 pm. in the Overflow Room. This Lenten service includes Centering Prayer, Taize-style Chant, Lectio Divina, and Holy Communion. Thus far, our time together has resulted in meaningful discussions about *The Gospel of Thomas* and the value of spiritual practices to help us broaden our focus and deepen our faith.

Calendar

7

Notices & Updates

8

Wednesday, a **Labyrinth** will be set up in the upstairs Youth Room from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. You may take the walk at your convenience and if you need help getting started, I will be available. (To care for the fabric, instead of shoes, please wear clean socks) The labyrinth is an ancient symbol of spiritual journeying that has existed 4000-5000 years. The labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France was built around 1100 AD. Likely, it was created to provide a space for a mini-pilgrimage because travel to the Holy Land was so unsafe during the time of the Crusades. Unlike mazes, labyrinths offer a single path from the entrance to the center. Labyrinth walkers often find that the physical act of moving along the path helps them to focus their minds on God. Some walk and commune with God in silence. Others like to repeat familiar prayers or Psalms. Some people bring a question to the labyrinth and find that some of the strands untangle and become clearer as they walk. Others come with an open mind and find they are directed to new insights. The labyrinth is a good place to consider the meaning of a dream, to sort out the pros and cons of an important decision, to pray for loved ones, or to mark an important occasion. ⁱ

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Photo of a Labyrinth at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania

(Continued on page 2)

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church is to celebrate God's grace and to share Christ's love through worship, study, and service.



Instead of the usual Wednesday Night Supper, on Thursday we will gather for a **Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service**. We will begin with a meal that includes foods similar to what Jesus and his disciples would have enjoyed in the Holy Land in the 1st Century. We will conclude by celebrating Communion around the tables. Then, just like Jesus and his disciples, who left the Upper Room singing a hymn on their way to the Mount of Olives, we will leave the Fellowship Hall singing a hymn as we move into the Sanctuary for the **Tenebrae Service**—a service of darkness to remember Jesus’ last hours.

Finally, on Good Friday you will have an opportunity to walk the **Stations of the Cross** which will be set up from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Stations—also called The Way of the Cross or Way of Sorrows—depict 14 images of Jesus on the day of his crucifixion—with an additional image added in recent years of the “Empty Tomb.” Long a feature of Roman Catholic Churches, the Stations have become increasingly popular with Protestant congregations, including Presbyterian congregations.



Our Stations of the Cross were painted by RaRa Schlitt, an artist from Maryville, Tennessee. On Good Friday, The Stations will be placed on a path leading from the Fellowship Hall, through the breezeway, and into the Sanctuary. While this self-guided experience may be taken at your convenience, please first stop by the Church Office to pick up a Stations of the Cross Prayer Booklet, designed especially for this occasion. Again, I will be available to answer questions and provide instructions.

Before you are a number of worship opportunities and prayer practices to help you prepare your heart and mind and soul for the most wondrous day of the church year—the Resurrection of the Lord. As you consider your own participation, you may wish to invite someone to join you in one or more of these Holy Week practices. If so, invitation cards will soon be available outside the sanctuary. Take one! Take a bunch!

May God’s abundant blessings be yours as you journey toward Easter!

Dr Glenda

¹Much of the information regarding the labyrinth was taken from the website of First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks @ www.firstpresgf.org/labyrinth.htm

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/25	Palm Sunday	Worship 11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Church Picnic 4-6 p.m at McKey Park
3/27	Holy Tuesday	Tuesdays at the Table at 5:30 p.m.
3/28	Holy Wednesday	Labyrinth available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
3/29	Holy Thursday	Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service at 6 p.m.
3/30	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



If you haven’t had your photograph taken for the new Church Directory, please make arrangements with Katie Altman or see Dr. Glenda. The deadline is Sunday, March 25.





upcoming events

WE WELCOME OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

Kim Dudley (and her husband, Ebb) have two children, Benjamin and Christal. Kim is the Parish Administrator at Christ Episcopal Church. She enjoys reading, walking and woodworking — not all at once — mind you! Also, she has been known to impersonate the Pope.

Benjamin Dudley is currently studying Computer Programming at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. After graduating in May, he will begin his studies at VSU. Eventually, he plans to join the Air Force and become a pilot. Although quiet by nature, Ben will talk your ear off, if you have an interest in aviation. He is thankful for the hospitality he has found at FPC!

Christal Dudley, who has been home-schooled, is a Senior in high school. Most of her time is spent doing school work, babysitting, or volunteering at Jacobs' Ladder Therapeutic Riding Center. When she isn't doing these things, she enjoys reading, hanging out in her hammock, spending time with friends, playing with her dog, and riding horses.

Welcome home, Dudley Family. Welcome home!



The theme for our April 28th Day Retreat is **TURN DOWN THE VOLUME**. Today, more than ever, we are inundated by the noise of the world. News from around the globe - so much of which is negative and detrimental - is available to us 24/7. Technology is advancing at breakneck speed and we are left racing to keep up. Jesus promised us his peace, but, too often, we feel anything but peace. As followers of Christ, are there ways we might become better equipped to live joyful lives? Are there steps we might take to turn down the volume of outer chaos to embrace inner peace? These are just a few of the questions that will guide our retreat leaders as they help us explore how to thrive emotionally, financially, and spiritually — even amidst the noise. Brochures containing more details, along with a registration form, will be available soon. But for now, save the date on your calendar and start thinking about who you might invite to this meaningful event.

wednesday activity at FPC

Please note we will have no regular Wednesday night activities March 28 and April 4.

In the weeks ahead, the focus of our Wednesday night program will be how we welcome visitors to our church. No doubt, visiting a new church can be an intimidating experience, so how can we help make the experience the best it can possibly be? Using a variety of video clips to guide our discussion, together we will explore how we are currently offering hospitality and how we might improve.

Fellowship Dinner Menu

March 7

Baked Chicken Breasts
Wild Rice
Black Eyed Peas
Cornbread
Tossed Salad
Pine Apple Cake
Ice Cream

March 14

Pulled Pork BBQ
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Slaw
Tossed Salad
Buns
Cookies

March 21

Ham
Creamed Corn
Black Eyed Peas
Broccoli
Tossed Salad
Cornbread
Brownies

mission & evangelism



Thank you to all the members of First Presbyterian for making the 22nd Annual Father Daughter Valentine Dance a success. Whether you participated as a volunteer or prayed for the success of the event, we want to say THANK YOU.

This year's event sold more than 4,400 tickets and touched many lives. May God bless our church, members, and the community for making this event a success.

-Jeff and Becky Stewart

CALLING ALL FOODIES

Do you love cooking? Do you enjoy trying new recipes? If so, please consider being a part of the team that will prepare our special Maundy Thursday meal. Using recipes from 1st Century Mediterranean dishes, the plan is to create a meal similar to one that Jesus would have eaten with his disciples. If this is something that you would enjoy, contact Sherrida Crawford, chair of the Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee.



Break Bread Together has been selected by the Quota Club as this year's recipient of a donation of \$5000. The money will be given May 17th at the annual Taste of Valdosta fundraiser. As a recipient, BBT is expected to donate items for the silent auction, help set up for the event, and help sell tickets. Donated items can be anything from a crystal vase, painting or pottery to a weeks' vacation at a beach or mountain house. More information to come. Thank you for your continuing support for this mission.

-Beth Mathis

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC

February 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 June be sustained."

Gifts to Break Bread Together

New Hope Missionary Baptist
Knights of Columbus 4913
Perfectly Priscilla

In Memory of Buddy Gaskins

Dee Dee Girardin

In Memory of Mrs. Olivia Curry Cowart

Bion, Jenny, Whitney, Jane & Meredith Williams

In Memory of John Tomlinson

Maria Vick

March 25th—Noisy Offering

Just a dime a day... then listen to the joyful noise those coins will make when you pour them into the buckets of our youngest members as they collect the Noisy Offering Sunday, March 25.

During March, please put a container (available in the Narthex) on your table and drop coins into it each day... or better yet... each meal. It will serve as a reminder to share our resources with others and help provide food for those who need our help in Valdosta, in Georgia, and around the world!

Easter Egg Hunt



Palm Sunday Picnic

Mark your calendars for our Annual Church-Wide Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 25 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at McKey Park, Shelter #1 (at the corner of Oak Street & Burton

Street). The church will provide the meat, condiments & drinks. Members are asked to bring a favorite picnic side item or dessert. Easter Egg hunting for both the young & the young at heart begins promptly at 4:15 p.m. - so don't be late! We hope to see all of you for a great afternoon of food, fellowship & fun.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

11:00AM - with Flowering of the Cross



Easter Sunday, First Presbyterian Church will once again display the beauty and majesty of this special Lord's Day through The Flowering of The Cross. Sunday, April 1, you are encouraged to bring flowers from your garden and help decorate the large cross that will be in front of the

church. Members will be available to assist you in placing the flowers on the cross when you arrive. Come, let us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

March birthdays

- 5 Betty Sanders
- 6 Eliza Elliott
- 14 Phillip Crawford
- 14 Rose Ware
- 16 Melissa Stewart
- 16 Sister Elliott
- 20 Kelsey Jepson
- 21 Conner Thomson
- 24 Ed Blalock

March anniversaries

- 8 John & Eva Plowden
- 14 Fred & Rose Ware
- 16 Kinney & Dr. Glenda Hollingshead
- 19 Brett & Kelly Williams
- 29 Mark & Sherrida Crawford

christian ed



Recently, the children of the church attended a play at VSU, “Planets View from the Hubble Space Telescope,” and had lunch at Marco’s. Thanks, Sherrida Crawford and Jennifer Shepherd, for putting together such a fun and educational experience.

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 classroom. 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.



The **FPC Handbell Choir** is hard at work. There’s still room for more so come along, and help us make a joyful noise. We practice after worship every other Sunday. If you have any questions, please see Gabby Ford.

March 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30	3
4 Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Sissy Almand	5 Circle #1 3:00pm Fellowship Hall Eve Renfroe Hostess	6 Tuesdays at the Table 5:30	7 Worship meeting 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	8	9	10
11 Worship 11:00am Friends out Front Elder on Call: Sherrida Crawford	12	13 Circle #2 6:30pm @ Sue Miller's House	14 A & F 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	15 No Coffee House Office Hours	16	17
18 Worship 11:00am Elder on Call: Walter Elliott	19	20 Tuesdays at the Table 5:30	21 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	22	23	24
25 Worship 11:00am Palm Sunday Session Meeting Elder on Call: Bart Greer	26	27 Tuesdays at the Table 5:30	28 Labyrinth 11am - 7pm	29 No Coffee House Office Hours Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae 6 pm Choir Practice 7:30	30 Stations of the Cross 11am - 7pm	31

notices & updates

Notes from the February 25, 2018 Session Meeting

Session approved several motions:

1. Request for approval of Dr. Glenda Hollingshead's Vacation April 9-15
2. Motion not to participate in leading a worship service during the Community Holy Week Services hosted by First Methodist Church. (As noted in a later church email, FUMC will not have a full schedule of Holy Week services this year.)
3. Request for approval of the use of the church for the wedding of Lauren Coats in November 2018.

UPCOMING DATES

March 2	First Friday Contemplative Service
March 4	Worship with Communion
March 9-11	Celebration of Faith
March 11	Friends Out Front
March 6, 20, 27	Tuesdays at the Table
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 28	Labyrinth
March 29	Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae
March 30	Stations of the Cross

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.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS starts March 11th so be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

The Lucy M Stewart Voice Scholarship



March 7, 2018 will be the 45th anniversary of the untimely death of my late sister, Lucy Stewart. Lucy was a member of FPC at the time of her death. For those of you who knew Lucy, you know how much talent she had and how she would have touched many lives with her voice.

But unfortunately, it was not to be, as she died in a single car accident on I-10 in 1973. Shortly after, FPC members, Conner and Georgia Thomson, started the Lucy M Stewart Voice Scholarship at Valdosta State College. In the beginning, auditions for the scholarship were held and one recipient was awarded a full tuition scholarship. With the addition of the Hope Scholarship in the 90's, the award was changed. Since then sometimes more than one recipient is named each semester at Valdosta State University. Currently, there are three young ladies who are benefiting from the scholarship. They are from Madison, GA; St. Simons Island, GA and Stockbridge, GA — two Juniors and one Senior. So after all these years, Lucy's scholarship has touched over 80 different students, who are pursuing a career in music using their talents.

The scholarship is strong and will continue to provide for many more students in the future. At this time, I just wanted to bring everyone up to date on her legacy. If you would like to donate to this scholarship now or in the future, please feel free to contact me about how to do so. Also, if you would like a CD of Lucy singing, please contact me as I love to share her recordings any chance I get.

Thank you,
Jeff Stewart

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