



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA



May 2018

First Family News

Traveling Jesus

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You may recall a popular children’s book series of the 1960’s, Flat Stanley. The story is about Stanley Lambchop who, through quite unusual circumstances, gets flattened and can travel from place to place in this altered state. He enters a locked room by sliding under a door. He travels the world in envelopes to embark on great adventures. The idea took on new life in the 1990’s when a school teacher started The Flat Stanley Project. Students created paper “Flat Stanleys” (representative drawings of the Stanley Lambchop character) and treated the figure as a visiting guest. They kept a journal to document the experience “Flat Stanley” had while in their midst.

In recent years, this traveling character has taken on new life in the church with the adventures of “Flat Jesus.” As an example of Christ’s constant presence church members are asked to take paper cutouts of Jesus with them: while working, on vacation, volunteering, golfing, hiking, dining out, attending a concert, gardening, the list is endless.

And guess what? We’re going to join the fun, but we are calling our project “Traveling Jesus.” To remind us of the ever-present nature of our Lord, we will take “Traveling Jesus” with us on our summer adventures. It all begins Sunday, May 20th, when everyone will be given a paper doll figure of Jesus. The instructions are simple: Take it home, cut it out, and then take “Traveling Jesus” with you wherever you go—being sure to document your adventures by taking photographs—the more selfies, the better! The summer adventures of “Traveling Jesus” will be displayed in two places.

Email photos to the church office via email at office@firstpresvaldosta.org and they will be posted to the church Facebook page. And /or bring hard copies of your pictures and put them on our “Traveling Jesus” bulletin board outside the church office.

Extra copies of “Traveling Jesus” will be available so please share them with your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends. Let’s get as many folks as possible to join the fun. What an exciting way to share our lives with Jesus and with each other! In fact, I’ve heard rumors that Jesus is already so excited, he has started packing to visit Texas and Washington, D.C. By the way, does anyone know if Jesus needs a passport to visit Switzerland and Germany? Stay tuned for some great adventures!

Shalom,
DrGlenda

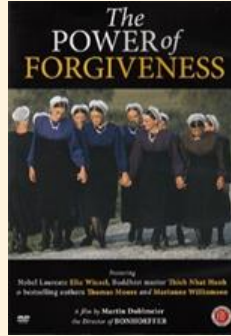


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The Mission of First Presbyterian Church is to celebrate God’s grace and to share Christ’s love through worship, study, and service.

wednesday activity at FPC



We are planning a Hymn Sing May 9th. Then, we will have our final Wednesday Night Program before summer break May 16th. Make plans to join us as we conclude our discussion of "The Power of Forgiveness."

Fellowship Dinner Menu

May 2

Smoked Boneless Pork Chops
Sweet Potatoes
Baby Lima Beans
Tossed Salad
Corn Bread
Banana Pudding
Ice Cream

May 9

Baked Chicken Breasts
Wild Rice
Black Eyed Peas
Tossed Salad
Corn Bread
Pineapple Cake
Ice Cream

May 16

Grilled Beed Tenderloin
w/Mushroom Gravy
Rice
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Yeast Rolls
Cookies
Ice Cream

May birthdays

1 Kinney Hollingshead
12 Donna Gosnell
15 Brett Williams
18 Kelly Williams
27 Whitney Williams
30 Dr. Neal O'Neal
30 Benjamin Dudley

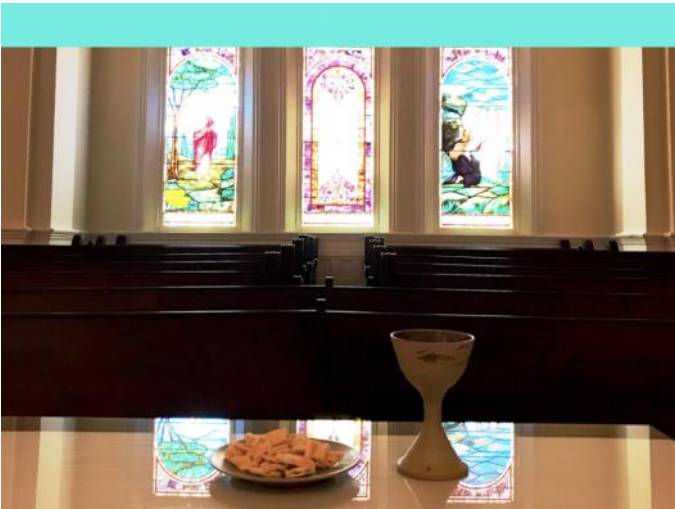
May anniversaries

1 Wesley & Julie Street
7 Ed & Emily Blalock
8 Alan & Julie Stout
14 Grady & Judy Folsom

worship



Last year's Pentecost Celebration was incredible, so let's do it again! Come, let us give thanks for God's Spirit coming upon the earth for all people. You may wish to wear red, orange, or yellow to mark the occasion. Following worship on May 20th, there will be a reception with a birthday cake, punch and other snacks. Please contact Sherrida Crawford if you would like to help.



First Friday Contemplative Service

June 1st and July 6th starting at 5:30 p.m.



These FPC Graduates will be recognized
Sunday, May 6th during worship.

- ◆ Christal Dudley- May, 2018 - Graduating from High School (Home School). She is planning to attend Wiregrass Technical College in the Fall.
- ◆ Benjamin Dudley- May, 2018- Graduating from Wiregrass Technical College with an Associate Degree in Computer Programming. Benjamin plans to attend VSU in the Fall.

christian ed

The "Turn Down the Volume" Day Retreat was fun and it was a great learning experience. Thanks to everyone who participated and/or assisted. Already, we are looking forward to our next retreat!



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.

mission & evangelism

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



April 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
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Perfectly Priscilla
Daniel Prigmore & Marcia Hayes
G.L. Haugen

In Memory of Mr. I. H. Tillman
Florence & Lamar Cole

In Memory of Alex McFadden
J Grady Lacy

In Memory of Mr. John Coleman
Cynthia Coats & Family

In Memory of Mrs. Renee Jackson
Cynthia Coats & Lauren Coats

In Memory of Gilbert Peppers
Florence & Lamar Cole

In Memory of Mr. Jackson Connell
Marcus & Diane Lewis

In Memory of Mr. Jeff Sermons
Marcus & Diane Lewis

In Memory of Betty Watson
Dee Dee Girardin

In Memory of Dr. Thomas Conrad Williams
Florence & Lamar Cole

In Memory of Merle Downing
Florence & Lamar Cole

In Memory of Jo Ann Wiley Price
Florence & Lamar Cole

In Memory of Jan Howell Burns
Florence & Lamar Cole

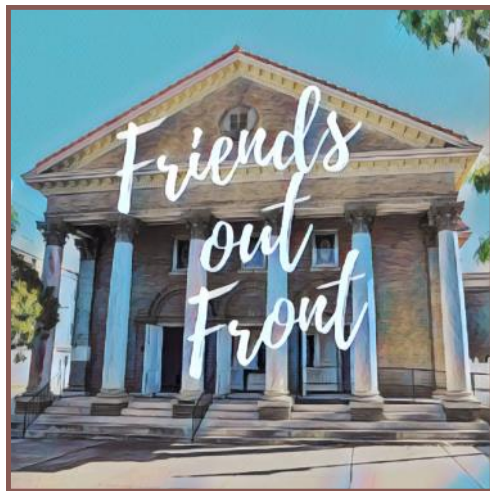


More than 200 Presbyterian churches along with hundreds of individual donors statewide participate in the annual Mother's Day Offering, which benefits the Caring Hands Fund. One of life's great blessings is the opportunity to honor those who touched our lives by giving back to God's most senior children. Your support enables Presbyterian Homes to provide exceptional care for our frail and aging residents. Give generously!



Break Bread Together has been selected by the Quota Club as this year's recipient of a generous donation. 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 week's vacation at a beach or mountain house. To purchase tickets, please see Beth Mathis or Laura Elliott. For more information, contact Beth Mathis at 229-249-0779. Thank you for your continuing support for this mission.

upcoming events



We will not meet for Friends out Front May 13th because of Mother's Day. Instead, make plans to stay after worship, May 20th, for our Pentecost Celebration/Reception.

PRESBYTERIAN women

In keeping with the 2018 Birthday Offering theme, "Welcome to This Place," you are invited to join us at our annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our traditional, casual potluck meal will be a time to relax and enjoy one another's company and just have fun.

There will be a brief offering dedication program focusing on the three PW birthday recipients "Cottage Village" in Oregon, "Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health" in Honduras, and "The Dwelling Place" in Minnesota. The PW coordinating team will provide chicken, biscuits, and tea. We ask, if you are able, please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert to complete the meal.

Even if you've never attended a circle or just haven't been in a while, please know that everyone is, "Welcome to This Place," and this time of celebration in recognition of the PW Birthday Offering.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16 NKJV).

Coffeehouse Office Hours with the Pastor

THURSDAYS FROM 11AM TO 1PM



* Subject to cancellation, updates will be emailed through News You Can Use and posted on Facebook.

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	3	4	5
6 Worship 11:00am Youth Sunday Elder on Call: Eve Renfroe	7	8	9 A & F 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	10	11	12
13 Worship 11:00am Mother's Day Elder on Call: Sissy Almand	14	15	16 CE 5:30 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30	17	18	19
20 Worship 11:00am Penecost Celebration Elder on Call: Sherrida Crawford	21	22	23 PW Birthday Potluck 6 p.m.	24	25	26
27 Worship 11:00am Session Elder on Call: Walter Elliott	28 Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i>	29	30	31		

notices & updates

Notes from the April 22, 2018 Session Meeting

Session ratified the March 8, 2018 email vote to approve Jane Shelton for Pulpit Supply Sunday, April 15 and Don Vollenweider for Pulpit Supply May 13. Motion passed.

Session ratified the Administration & Finance Committees email request for Session to approve \$775 be taken from the Endowment Fund to have the breezeway pressure washed (\$350) and to have the five doors and frames painted (\$425). Motion passed.

Session approved several motions:

1. Approve request for the Presbyterian Women Birthday Potluck, at 6 pm, Wednesday, May 23rd in the Fellowship Hall.
2. May 13 - cancel "Friends out Front" due to the Mother's Day holiday
3. May 20 - celebrate Pentecost Sunday with a reception following worship. (Red, yellow, and orange finger foods will be solicited for the reception with punch and red velvet cake provided. Becky Stewart will decorate the sanctuary.)
4. July 29 - Fifth Sunday Potluck with the church providing only the drinks.
5. Christian Education Committee recommends Session approve the following:
 - A. Grand Bay Wildlife field trip for children and youth date TBD either on April 29 or May 6 after church and to include lunch.
 - B. Children's Church to be temporarily suspended in June and July.
 - C. That Valdosta First accept Trinity Presbyterian Church's summer day camp invitation and share with appropriate families. (Trinity has offered to allow Valdosta First families with children to register for the summer day camps from 9 am to noon on June 19 - 21 for Grades 3- 5 and June 26-28 for K - 2)

Session decided to keep the position of Nursery Worker to provide child-care for visitors and guests who may have young children. Session felt that, although not all families need nursery, it can be key in the decision of whether a family with children feels welcome and continues to visit or decides to join a church.

UPCOMING DATES

April 28	"Turn Down the Volume" Day Retreat
May 4	First Friday Contemplative Service
May 4-5	Flint River Presbytery's TRE/CRE Retreat at FPC
May 6	Youth Sunday with Communion
May 13	Don Vollenweider, Pulpit Supply; Friends Out Front canceled
May 16	Last Wednesday Night Program before summer break
May 20	Pentecost Celebration



Why Share?

Two years ago, we had about 45 followers on the First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta Facebook page. We now have 130 followers. Isn't that exciting? Facebook is a great way for us to stay connected. It is also the perfect way to share the happenings of FPC with our friends.

Sometimes we receive 50 views or so on a particular post. Other times, more than 2000 people see our posts. So, what makes the difference? You! You make the difference! When you "SHARE" our posts with your Facebook friends, more people see the good things that are happening here.

So "SHARING" is good!

Yes, "SHARING" is good!

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.



The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

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