



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
Church
Valdosta, GA

September 2018



First Family News

Acts of Kindness

As you likely know, our new multi-generational Sunday School Class, Generations of Faith, is up and running. It all began with a Kick-off Celebration on August 12th. In preparation for the big day, I built a playlist of celebratory songs, representing music from each decade since the 1950's. In addition to modern songs like Pharrell Williams, "Happy", the playlist included old favorites like Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York," Bobby Day's, "Rockin' Robin," and the Beach Boy's, "Surfin' U.S.A." While the background music was a fun addition to our morning activities, it was also great fun to create it—to take a trip down memory lane and retrieve songs of joy that have blessed my life and the life of so many others.

Oh, the power of music! Recently, Kinney and I watched the documentary, "I'll Be Me," which is a heartrending story about singer Glen Campbell's battle with Alzheimer's. The film provides medical details of Campbell's journey as well as poignant performances and interviews. While it was a tough movie to watch, it was also courageous and humorous and triumphant. Ultimately, one thing that really touched my heart was how Glen Campbell's family showed him such incredible kindness. Even when he and his children were on stage performing, even when he faltered, and the children and other band members had no idea "where this was going," they remained patient and gentle and kind.

Oh, the power of kindness! When the world seems to be spinning out of control—be kind. When life offers surprises that confound—be kind. When the child misbehaves—take a deep breath and be kind. When you disagree with someone politically or theologically—be kind. Truly, the value of kindness cannot be over-rated. Wonderful things can happen when we do things for people that make them feel appreciated, special, and loved. The actions don't have to be huge. They don't have to cost a lot of money. They can be random or more deliberate. Here are a few ideas for simple acts of kindness:

1. Smile.
2. Speak gently.
3. Say something encouraging to a store clerk.
4. Put away the cell phone.
5. Send a handwritten note to someone.
6. Compliment someone.
7. Ask, "How are you?" Mean it and really listen.
8. Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!
9. Make baked goods for a neighbor.
10. Buy Free-Trade coffee and tea.
11. Prepare a bag of goodies for a student—for no reason at all.
12. Plant a tree.
13. Invite someone for a walk.
14. Take along reusable bags with you when you shop.
15. Purchase an inspirational book for a friend who needs encouragement.
16. Invite a friend to the Generations of Faith Sunday School Class.

(Continued on next page)

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1094
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229.242.8376
www.FirstPresValdosta.org



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

Likely, you have ideas of your own about ways to express kindness. I hope you will share them—with me and with each other. After all, our acts of kindness can go a long way toward sharing God's love. Recall the saying commonly attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

Blessings,
Dr. Glenda



celebrating at fpc



Welcome New Members

We are thrilled to welcome new members, Ray and Peggy Chitty. Ray works at Guardian Bank as President. Peggy was an elementary teacher, then worked for 30 years as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines from which she recently retired. They enjoy spending time with family and friends, and with their new rescue dog, Bo.

Thank You! Thank You!

To help us purchase new plastic tables for the Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$2036, an anonymous donor offered a matching gift of \$1000. And you have already met the matching donation. In fact, you have exceeded it. Thank you for your generosity. You are the best!



Backpack Blessing

In worship August 5th, young folks of our church family came forward for a blessing of their backpacks. We are so proud of all of them! During this academic year, please hold in prayer our students, their schools, and their teachers.

The Adventures of Traveling Jesus

This event ends on Labor Day. A huge “Thank-you” to everyone who participated in The Adventures of Traveling Jesus. It was such a fun way to stay connected this summer.



September

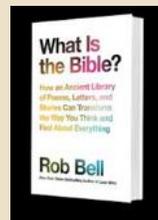
birthdays

- 8 Ree Plowden
- 10 Grady Folsom
- 13 Alan Stout
- 16 Judy Folsom
- 18 Laura Elliott
- 21 Joe Cordova
- 29 Bart Greer

September anniversaries

- 2 Michael & Deborah Taylor
- 8 Frank & Elsie Crane
- 11 Royce & Melissa Coleman
- 11 W Marcus & Diane Lewis

wednesday night supper & study



Following our meal each Wednesday, we are studying Rob Bell’s audio book, *What is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*. In keeping with the overall 2018-19 theme of the new Sunday School Class, *Generations of Faith*, this is another opportunity to learn to read the Bible literately, rather than literally. After listening to a segment of the book, we reflect on it. Then, we share how engaging in Scripture on our own throughout the week has impacted our lives (whether we have chosen to keep up with a favorite devotional, read the Bible through in a year, use *Lectio Divina* to work through a particular portion of the Bible, or some other practice of our choosing). Make plans to join us. Everyone is welcome.

September 5

Chicken Pot Pie
Broccoli
Tossed Salad
Yeast Rolls
Chocolate Pudding
Ice Cream

September 12

Grilled Beef Tenderloin w/
Mushroom Gravy
Rice
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Biscuits
Chocolate Cake
Ice Cream

September 19

Ham
Black Eyed Peas
Broccoli
Tossed Salad
Cornbread
Brownies
Ice Cream

September 26

Baked Chicken Breasts
Wild Rice
Black Eyed Peas
Corn Muffins
Tossed Salad
Cookies
Ice Cream

faith & nurture



Our new multi-generational class is up and running and we are having a blast!. In addition to learning more about Scripture, we are learning more about one another. Each Sunday a light breakfast is available at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At 9:45 a.m. we begin class with a time of prayer before listening to a chapter of Brian McLaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. Afterward, everyone is invited to participate in one of the three Learning Centers that help us engage with an aspect of the teaching of the day. This is an exciting opportunity for spiritual growth. So, come along and bring a friend!



Presbyterian Women

PW Circle News

Circle #1 – 3:00 pm Monday, September 10 in the Fellowship Hall

Circle #2 – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 11th at the home of Sherrida Crawford, 2867 Carroll Ulmer Rd., Valdosta

Starting in September, the two Presbyterian Women Circles will resume meeting after the summer break. Both of the Circles will be using the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible Study titled, "God's promise: I am with you." Participating in a Circle Bible study is another way to engage with scripture as we have been challenged to do so in "Reading to Live" the overall church education theme for this year. This Bible study affirms that God has, indeed, made and kept the promise of "I am with you," to individuals and communities. This nine lesson study seeks to show how God's promise of presence is true even for us today.

Before heading to Princeton Theological Seminary, the study's author, Amy Poling Sutherlun, taught in inner-city Dallas for two years. Currently, Amy is a co-pastor at First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, Texas. Reverend Sutherlun's introduction to the Bible study can be viewed at this link, <https://tinyurl.com/Horizons-Promise>.

If you haven't previously attended a Circle meeting, please know you would be warmly welcomed at the Bible study and fellowship time that is most convenient to your schedule, in the afternoon or evening.

upcoming events

First Presbyterian Church will once again participate in the Presbytery sponsored Rise Against Hunger event for our area. Mark your calendars for the afternoon of October 7th because this is something you really do not want to miss! The event will be hosted at Trinity Presbyterian Church this year and will start at 2 p.m.

World Communion Sunday
October 7th

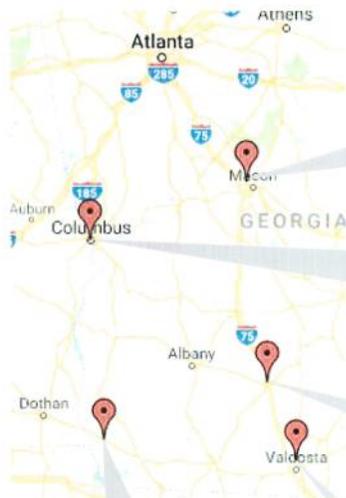


"FEED MY LAMBS"

RISE AGAINST HUNGER
Presbytery-Wide Mission Event



TOGETHER WE CAN PACK **50,000** MEALS!!!



NE CLUSTER EVENT | 2:00 P.M.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
565 Wimbish Road
Macon, GA 31210
478.477.6646

NW CLUSTER EVENT | 3:00 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church
1100 First Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
706.322.4523

CENTRAL CLUSTER EVENT | 3:00 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church
217 North Park Avenue
Tifton, Georgia 31794
229.382.6730

SW CLUSTER EVENT | 2:00 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church
Trinity Center
300 S. Tennille Avenue
Donalsonville, GA 39845
229.524.5138

SE CLUSTER EVENT | 2:00 P.M.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3501 Bemiss Road
Valdosta, GA 31609
229.242.3468



AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

We are a vibrant body of Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations who are committed to responding to God's call, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and nurturing congregations for effective ministry and mission.



Flint River Presbytery

826 Liberty Expressway S.E. | Albany, GA 31705
229.435.9726 | flintriverpresbytery.org

upcoming events

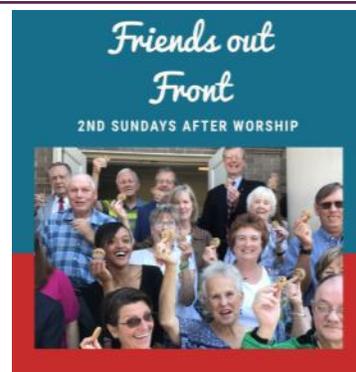


World Communion Sunday, celebrated on the first Sunday of October, began in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. After a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church and has become one of the "special" Sunday services of the year. On this day, as we share Communion together, we rejoice in our oneness in Christ and we remember that we are God's children called to serve a broken world— a world ever more in need of God's message of hope, peace, and love. We hope to see you October 7 for World Communion Sunday.



First Friday Contemplative Service

The First Friday Contemplative Service includes silence, Taize chants, Lectio Divina of Scripture, and a variety of hands-on prayer practices. Last month we welcomed several new visitors. Let's do it again! See you Friday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m.



Don't miss a chance to visit with your church family on the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship. Lemonade, cookies, and good conversation - what could be finer?

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



August 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
 New Hope Missionary Baptist
 Trinity Presbyterian Church
 Langdale Honda
 Park Avenue United Methodist Church
 Jodi & Vickie Stevens

In Memory of Norma Jean Corbett
 Jane Moore
 Catharine Minor

In Memory of Mr. Jonathan W. Oorlog, Jr.
 Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Memory of Mrs. Mary Brady
 Lee & Barbara Bradley

In Memory of Marie Phelps
 Anonymous
 Catharine Minor

In Memory of Dr. Briggs Smith
 Laura & Walter Elliott

September 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Worship 11:00 am Elder on Call: Jesse Spencer	3 Labor Day Holiday Office Closed	4	5 Worship 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	6 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 am - 1 pm	7 First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30 pm	8
9 Worship 11:00 am Friends out Front Elder on Call: Jennifer Shepherd	10 Circle #1 3:00 pm Fellowship Hall	11 Circle # 2 6:30 pm Sherrida Crawford's House	12 AF & Property 5:00 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	13 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 am - 1 pm	14	15
16 Worship 11:00 am Elder on Call: John Vick	17	18	19 Faith & Nurture 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	20 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 am - 1 pm	21	22
23 Worship 11:00 am Session Elder on Call: Eve Renfroe	24	25	26 Wednesday Night Supper & Study 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	27 Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 am - 1 pm	28	29
30 Worship 11:00 am Elder on Call: Sissy Almand						

notices & updates

Notes from the July 28, 2018 Session Meeting

Session examined and welcomed Barbara Tomlinson into membership.

At the recommendation of the Administration, Finance, and Property Committee, Session approved a motion to increase the compensation of the Administrative Assistant due to additional social media responsibilities.

Session approved a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for Break Bread Together on Monday, December 3, which is the 45th anniversary of this important ministry of our church.

Session approved a motion to accept an invitation from Maryville College (a Presbyterian college in Maryville, TN) to hold a concert at FPC on Sunday evening, March 10th, and to provide dinner and overnight housing for the group. It will be the final stop for the Maryville College Concert Choir Bicentennial tour "Make Our Garden Grow," on their return trip to Tennessee.

Session approved the following motions by common consent:

1. Ratify August 12, 2018 email vote to approve Art Baker's offer to purchase the church van for \$3200.00 in addition to paying the repair cost of \$833. Motion passed.
2. Motion to approve Jane Shelton as guest pastor for October 14, 2018.

Upcoming Dates

Sept 2	Blessing of the Hands
Sept 7	First Friday Contemplative Service
Sept 9	Friends Out Front
Sept 23	Next Stated Session Meeting
Sept 30	Stewardship Campaign Kick-off



Gathering Contact Information for Visitors

In the past, the red friendship pads have been used to help us keep attendance records. In more recent years, though, the ushers have recorded numerical attendance elsewhere. The only other way the information has been used is to help the church office gather contact information for new visitors. Rarely, however, do first time visitors leave their information. As a result, starting Sunday, September 9th, Session has decided to try something different. We are asking our Greeters to continue to give first time visitors a Welcome Bag (something you are already in the habit of doing). In addition, we are asking Greeters to hand the visitor a "Welcome" note card (located on the tables in the narthexes), and ask them to please fill it out and drop it in the offering plate. Completed note cards may be kept with the offering – for the administrative assistant to retrieve later. Finally, since the information on the red friendship pads will no longer be needed, they will be removed from the sanctuary.

Thank you so much for helping us gather contact information for first time visitors. This is a very important next step toward building a relationship with those whom God sends our way.

Blessings,
Dr. Glenda

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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Sabina Bennett Custodian

Christal Dudley Nursery Worker

