



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Church  
Valdosta, GA

April 2019



## First Family News

Every Day Easter



The Lenten journey is almost over. Our Christ Walk has been amazing with twenty-three people participating in the Facebook group—plus others who are reading the book and/or accumulating miles on their own. Our goal is to accumulate 3000 miles (an estimate of how far Jesus may have walked during his ministry). We are not there—but we are getting closer—so keep tracking those miles!

In addition to our Christ Walk experience though, we will take other journeys together. On Maundy Thursday we will travel to the upper room with Jesus and his disciples. We will hear Jesus say those familiar words, “This is my body given for you. This is my blood shed for you,” as we celebrate Holy Communion. Then, we will journey forth as a group,

singing “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley.” Our destination will be the sanctuary which will be stripped bare (to represent Good Friday). As followers of Jesus, through song and story, we will witness those who saw Jesus breathe his last breath and heard him cry out, “It is finished!” For your spiritual enrichment, The Stations of the Cross will be available Good Friday from 10-5:30 p.m. Finally, Sunday, our travels will take us to the tomb to hear about the women who traveled there early on the first day of the week—only to find it empty. Once more, we will rejoice and proclaim for all the world to hear: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Now what shall we do? The Season of Easter offers a perfect opportunity to remember that Easter is more than just one day. Easter is an “every Sunday” celebration and every day holds “a little Easter” since, because of Christ, we rise as new people every day. Because of Christ we are forgiven. Because of Christ we are transformed. Because of Christ we are promised eternal life that begins here and now.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Now what shall we do? Maybe we can follow the example of the women at the empty tomb. After their encounter with the angels, “they remembered Jesus’ words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.” The women went forth from the tomb changed by the resurrection. They went forth from the tomb to share all they had seen and heard. Let us join them. Let us participate in the resurrection of Jesus. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us go forth from the empty tomb as witnesses for Christ because every day holds “a little Easter.”

Grace & Peace,

Dr. Glenda

First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 1094  
Valdosta, GA 31603  
229.242.8376  
[www.FirstPresValdosta.org](http://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.*

# celebrating at fpc

In the words of Sherrida Crawford: “GO TEAM VALDOSTA FIRST!”

The Maryville Concert Choir event was tremendous—all thanks to you! Nearly 60 college students and Maryville College faculty were fed a delicious meal at the church. (Actually, we were informed it was the best meal they had eaten on the tour!) Then beautiful voices filled the sanctuary to bless the hearts and souls of all who were in attendance. Afterward 52 students were welcomed into the homes of the FPC family and offered incredible hospitality. Finally, the Maryville crew were provided breakfast in the homes of their host families or at the church prior to their departure. What an amazing display of God’s abundance. Way to go, church family! Let us give thanks for this opportunity and for all the opportunities to come that will help us share the love of Christ—within the walls of the church and far beyond them!



## CHOIR SHOUT OUTS

What fun to see such encouraging words on our “Choir Shout Out” board. Things like:

Everyone is amazing! So many beautiful voices! Like Angels singing! Love Donna’s piano playing! Beautiful voices! We are so happy to have new VSU students join the choir! Love Donna’s music!

Keep up the words of encouragement!



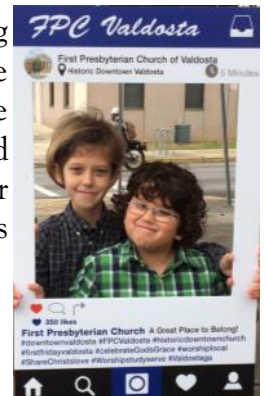
## LIVE STREAMING



Have you heard the news? Our worship service is now being live-streamed each Sunday. Please keep this new evangelism ministry in your prayers! And be sure to share our good news with your family and friends.

## FRIENDS OUT FRONT

Have you been thinking about inviting a friend to church? If so, consider the 2nd Sunday of the month when we gather after worship for lemonade and cookies. It’s the perfect opportunity for new folks to get to know us and for us to get to know them.



## PALM SUNDAY PICNIC & EASTER EGG HUNT

The Palm Sunday Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 14 in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. The Faith & Nurture Committee will provide the fried chicken and drinks. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

A photo opportunity with the Easter bunny will be provided.

Also, Easter egg hunting will be in the sanctuary after the meal.

Join us for baskets full of fun.



## MEMORIAL PRAYER GARDEN



Several months ago the session formed an Ad Hoc Memorial Garden Committee to explore ideas and options for improving and beautifying the cremains internment area located on the south side of the sanctuary off Patterson Street. Upon investigation the committee concluded that this area is no longer suitable for this solemn purpose due to several reasons. The area is isolated and removed from the life of the church and there are storm water drainage issues hampering expansion and beautification. More significantly, the area experiences off hour foot traffic and loitering to the extent that even with security improvements it would be vulnerable to ongoing desecration. The committee unanimously decided as an alternative that the courtyard space between the Fellowship Hall and Centennial Building be converted into a Memorial Prayer Garden, a sacred space for our saints and living. Such a conversion would also improve the walking surface, lighting and overall aesthetics of this area. It was while working on this plan that we experienced the gasoline leaks which independently created a need to redo the courtyard floor.

The Memorial Garden Committee, consisting of Dick Shelton (Moderator), Walter Elliott, Bart Greer, Eve Renfroe and John Vick submitted plans and proposals to the session at the March meeting which the session approved. A design of the improvements will be available for viewing on the white board railing in the Fellowship Hall. The work and funding was approved in two phases: Phase I provides for the basic surface work, drainage, lighting, landscaping and cremains placement area. Funds for this phase will come from the endowment. Phase II provides for the addition of functional improvements such as a Celtic cross, pergola and benches. These items are available for funding support from our church family. Examples of these items are shown on the drawings although these are not the exact items we may select. We will be offering to relocate the cremains of anyone in the former memorial area to the new Memorial Prayer Garden at the expense of the church, if the family consents to the move.

Please take the time to view the drawing and proposals. This project represents a substantial investment of our resources. It also provides us with an opportunity to create a meaningful and functional sacred space to be enjoyed for a long time. To learn more, make plans to attend our Wednesday night program, April 10, when I will provide a presentation on the Memorial Prayer Garden.

Sincerely,  
Dick Shelton

## worship & prayer at fpc

### HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS

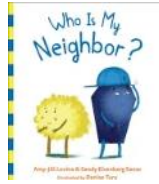
Instead of the usual Wednesday Night Supper, on Thursday, April 18, we will gather for a Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service. We will begin with a meal, hear the stories of “The Other Twelve Disciples,” and celebrate Communion around the tables. Then, just like Jesus and his disciples, who left the Upper 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.

On Good Friday you will have an opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross which will be set up from 10-5:30 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.

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.



## YOUNG LEADERSHIP SUNDAY



The young folks of our church will lead worship April 28. This is sure to be an amazing experience! So make plans to attend and bring a friend!

## 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 21, you are encouraged to bring flowers and help decorate the large cross that will be in front of the church. Come, let us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

## CENTERING PRAYER



Centering Prayer, which is a form of prayerful meditation, is held each Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Overflow Room, prior to regular Wednesday night programming.

## FIRST FRIDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE



The First Friday Contemplative Service continues to be a deeply moving experience for our church and the wider community. Routinely, the service is attended by folks from our church family as well as those who are Episcopal, United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Baptist, and of no religious affiliation whatsoever. The service includes instrumental music, silence, a variety of readings and prayers, Scripture engaged through the ancient practice of Lectio Divina, prayer stations and Holy Communion. We hope to see you April 5 and May 3 at 5:30 p.m.

## *study at fpc*

<p>April 3</p> <p>Potato Soup Vegetable Soup Sandwiches Tossed Salad Dessert Assortment Ice Cream</p>	<p>April 10</p> <p>Meatloaf Garlic Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Tossed Salad Yeast Rolls Double Chocolate Cake Ice Cream</p>	<p>April 18</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>Ham Black Eyed Peas Wild Rice Carrots Green Beans Grilled Vegetables Rolls Dessert Ice Cream</p>	<p>April 24</p> <p>Smoked Boneless Pork Chops Sweet Potatoes Baby Lima Beans Tossed Salad Corn Bread Banana Pudding Ice Cream</p>
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Class of One Accord/Ladies Sunday School Class, led by Florence Cole starts at 9:45 am, in the Ladies Sunday School room in the Centennial Building.



Our multi-generational class is going strong! A light breakfast is available at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with class starting at 9:45 a.m. If you are not already attending Generations of Faith, please give it some prayerful consideration. This is an exciting opportunity for us to pool our resources and grow a vibrant Christian Education Program at FPC — together!



YOU CAN'T MISS THIS!

# LIP SYNC BATTLE 2019

JOIN THE BATTLE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A  
7 NIGHT CARNIVAL CRUISE FOR TWO  
PROCEEDS BENEFIT BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

**MAY 14, 2019 | 6PM**  
**SALTY SNAPPER | GENERAL ADMISSION \$40**

**BRING YOUR LIP SYNC BATTLE SKILLS!**  
**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**  
**DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS MAY 3, 2019**

# April

## birthdays

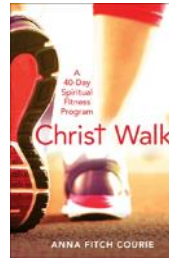
- 3 Deborah Taylor
- 10 Jesse Spencer
- 15 Charles Powers
- 21 Eve Renfroe
- 21 Evan Phelps
- 22 Robert Simpson
- 25 Randy Collins
- 28 Kerri Routsong
- 29 Jeff Stewart

# April

## anniversaries

- 17 Ralph & Donna Gosnell
- 28 Bryan & Sissy Almand

## CHRIST WALK



The Christ Walk Lenten Experience is well underway. With 3000 miles as our overall goal, already we have accumulated 2281.52 miles! Here is how to track your progress:

- A mile covered by walking, running, biking, hiking, etc., equals 1 mile.
- 15 minutes of other exercises like weight training, stretching, dancing, gardening, etc., equals 1 mile.
- Additionally, 15 minutes of prayer and meditation counts as 1 mile.
- A basket, pencils, and small strips of paper will be available in the narthex each Sunday. Simply jot down your “number of miles for the week” on a piece of paper and toss it into the basket. You don’t have to write your name or even how you arrived at the number. (Katie Altman is keeping a running tally for us in the church office.)

Thanks to everyone who is participating!

## memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC



### March 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 and First Presbyterian Church

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
 Trinity Presbyterian Church  
 Nancy Hobby  
 Elks Club  
 New Harvest United Methodist Church  
 Tillman-Callendar  
 Mary Kay Corbitt  
In Memory of Betty Tillman  
 Henry & Janet Restarick  
 Lynn & Diane McRaney  
 Linda Uzee  
 Nick & Dorothy Noriea  
 Dick & Jane Shelton  
 Lawrence & Jane French  
 Nelda Harris  
 Juie Magruder  
 Betty Sanders  
 Joe & Pat Cordova  
 Louis & Sheryl Bolin  
 Ladies Sunday School Class  
 Alice McDuffie  
 Betty Ann & Harold George  
 Sherrida & Mark Crawford  
 John & Maria Vick  
 Bion & Jenny Williams

Marcus & Diane Lewis  
 Nell John  
 Murdick & Jean Johnson  
 John & Eva Plowden  
 Sallie & Charlie Barnes  
 Ron & Beverly Giles  
 Eleanor Gum  
 Ron & Patti Cranford  
 Judy & Grady Folsom  
 Lamar & Florence Cole  
 Circle #1  
 Thomas & Cathy Egan  
 Grayson Powell  
In Memory of Margaret Nisbet  
 Alice McDuffie  
 Murdick & Jean Johnson  
 Lamar & Florence Cole  
In Memory of Elizabeth Biles  
 Alice McDuffie  
In Memory of Charles Templeton  
 M.A. Griffin  
In Memory of Reva Rollins  
 M.A. Griffin  
In Memory of Hibbard Cassleberry

Brett & Kelly Williams  
In Memory of Coach Jon Hazelip  
 Marcus & Diane Lewis  
In Memory of Lane Renfroe  
 Murdick & Jean Johnson  
In Memory of Ree Plowden  
 Mark & Sherrida Crawford  
 Bion & Jenny Williams  
 Libby & Eric Clanton  
 Judy & Grady Folsom  
 Lamar & Florence Cole  
 Circle #1  
 Alice McDuffie  
 Sallie Lou Cranford Sunday School  
 Marcus & Diane Lewis  
 Grayson Powell  
 Dick & Jane Shelton  
In Memory of Bette Dean  
 Lamar & Florence Cole  
In Memory of Dr. Neal O'Neal, Sr.  
 Grayson Powell  
 Nancy Garnet  
In Honor of FPC Church Family  
 Brett & Kelly Williams

# April 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
					First Friday Contemplative Service 5:30 pm	
7 Worship 11:00 am  Mission, Evangelism & Media Committee Meeting after worship	8  Circle #1 3:00 pm Fellowship Hall	9	10  Centering Prayer 5:15 pm  Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	11  Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 am - 1 pm	12	13
14 Worship 11:00 am  Palm Sunday Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt after worship	15	16  Circle #2 6:30 pm Sherrida Crawford	17 Admin, Finance & Property 4:00 pm  NO Centering Prayer	18 NO Coffeehouse Office Hours  Maundy Thursday Meal w/ Communion & Tenebrae Service 6:00 pm	19 GOOD FRIDAY  Stations of the Cross 10 am-5:30 pm	20
21 Worship 11:00 am  Easter Flowering of the Cross	22	23	24 Centering Prayer 5:15 pm  Supper & Study 6:00 Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	25  Coffeehouse Office Hours 11 am - 1 pm	26	27
28 Worship 11:00 am  Youth Leadership Sunday  Session Meeting	29	30				

## Notes from the March 24, 2019 Session Meeting

Session approved the following:

1. A motion from Administration, Finance & Property to approve a policy for Love Funds.
2. A motion from Administration, Finance, & Property to approve purchasing a TV console for the New Ventures classroom for \$350.
3. To place on the church calendar the Presbyterian Women Birthday Potluck for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 22 in the Fellowship Hall.
4. To place on the church calendar Young Leadership Sunday for April 28, 2019.
5. Dick Shelton presented the Memorial Prayer Garden Concept, from Quality Companies, Inc. on behalf of the Memorial Garden Ad-Hoc Committee. The project is proposed to be completed in 2 phases with phase 1 budgeted to cost \$28,430 and phase 2 to cost \$12,625. Phase 1 will primarily consist of necessary repairs and renovation to the courtyard area, while phase 2 will consist of landscaping and other materials for the memorial garden itself. Motion passed to approve funding of phase 1 and phase 2 from the endowment, with opportunities for individual contributions, especially for phase 2.

Other News:

- A church member has volunteered to pay for the painting of the nursery and adjacent classrooms.
- The Palm Sunday Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday April 14 in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. The church will provide chicken while members will be asked to bring accompanying side dishes and desserts.
- The Commissioning Service for CRE Jane Shelton was held on February 24, 2019. She has assisted with worship services, accompanied Reverend Hollingshead on hospital visits, promoted church events with local media, and preached at the 11 a.m. worship service on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Reverend Hollingshead discussed the Maryville Concert Choir event noting that it was well attended and the students appreciated their warm welcome and the hospitality provided by their host families. Reverend Hollingshead also discussed the upcoming Summer Sermon Series that will be entitled Faces of God. It will be a series of 12 sermons beginning May 5 and will include material Dr. Hollingshead plans to include in a book she has committed to write.

Upcoming Dates:

April 5	First Friday Contemplative Service at 5:30 p.m.
April 14	Palm Sunday Picnic & Egg Hunt after Worship
April 18	6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meal with Holy Communion in Fellowship Hall & Tenebrae Service to follow in Sanctuary
April 21	Easter Sunday with Flowering of the Cross
April 28	Young Leadership Sunday
April 28	Next Stated Session Meeting
Wednesdays	Centering Prayer at 5:15 (follows Wednesday program schedule)

Did you know that ONLINE GIVING is available through our website? If you are interested in giving to the church online, just go to our website at [www.firstpresvaldosta.org](http://www.firstpresvaldosta.org) and scroll to the bottom of the home page, or you may scan the QR code above with your smartphone app. The process is fast and easy!

To access Online Giving or for more information about First Presbyterian Church you may visit our website at [www.firstpresvaldosta.org](http://www.firstpresvaldosta.org) or scan this QR code with your smart phone app.



## Save the Date

April 14	Palm Sunday Picnic & Egg Hunt
April 18	Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service
April 19	Stations of the Cross
April 21	Easter— Flowering of the cross
April 28	Young Leadership Sunday
May 14	Lip Sync Battle
May 22	PW Birthday Potluck at 6 p.m.
July 20	Break Bread Together Bun Run

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@firstpresvaldosta



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## The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Glenda Hollingshead Pastor  
revhollingshead@gmail.com  
229-242-8376

Jane Shelton Commissioned Ruling Elder  
jane@sgatravel.com

Dr. Donna Gosnell Music Director & Organist  
dgosnell@valdosta.edu

Beth Mathis Break Bread Together  
breakbread@firstpresvaldosta.org

Katie Altman Administrative Assistant  
office@firstpresvaldosta.org

Julie Stout Financial Administrator  
jstout@cmppca.com

Sabina Bennett Custodian

Christal Dudley Nursery Worker

Benjamin Dudley Technology Intern

