



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church

Valdosta, GA



June 2020

First Family News

A Letter from the Pastor's Desk



“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). So begins the story of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. The birthday of the church is cause for celebration, yet, because of a global pandemic, it is not possible for us to be “all together in one place.” But being unable to gather does not stop us from worshipping; nor does it keep us from showing love for one another. While some restrictions are being lifted in some places, the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 global pandemic requires that we return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

As the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Valdosta makes decisions to move us toward public activities as a church, please know that we will do so through a careful process of discernment, with an abundance of caution, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge available, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with trust in our Loving God. No doubt, along the way, there will be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. While there will be countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control, there will also be blessings as we glimpse the new thing God is doing, even now.

During a recent virtual meeting, Session approved a document: “A Model for Returning to Church.” Currently, we are practicing “Safer at Home,” by offering all worship and small group activities online, continuing Break Bread Together with added precautions, while, as much as possible, our staff works remotely. Once we see declining case counts, and widespread testing availability, Session may decide to enter Stage 1 of returning to church. At such time we will continue worship services and small group activities online only, but we will livestream from the sanctuary with minimal staff present. The church office will open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. with masks available for our staff. The business of committees and session will continue through email and Zoom, and extra cleaning precautions will continue. More information regarding Stage 2 will be available once we enter Stage 1 of our process.

This is a new journey for us all, but we do not journey alone. Let us be faithful as we work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. And guided by the Holy Spirit, let us remember that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead

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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.

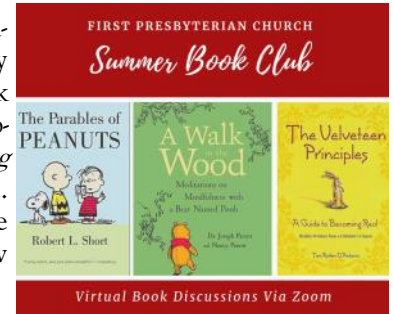
NEWS FROM BETH MATHIS (Break Bread Together Coordinator)



Throughout the pandemic, God has continued to bless Break Bread Together and we are so grateful. The following have provided food: O'Neals Buffet, Chick-Fil-A, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Covington's, Diggidee's and Friend's/Woodstack. We have also had generous donation's given by Bush Wealth Management, Dr. & Mrs. Wynn Miller, Giovanni Panizzi at Team Temps, The Barnes Foundation, Georgia Power and The United Way. Then, there are the numerous donations you have provided. As they say, "It takes a village," and because of our village, Break Bread Together has been able to breathe a little easier. A huge thanks to our volunteers, who have been so dedicated to their routes, while taking extra safety precautions. Stay safe, everyone!

SUMMER BOOK CLUB, ANYONE?

If you love to read, if you enjoy books that are uplifting, if you love to share what you read with others, and if you are able to meeting virtually via Zoom, you are invited to a Summer Book Club led by Jane Shelton and Dr. Glenda. June's book is *The Parables of Peanuts* by Robert L. Short. The book for July is *A Walk in the Wood: Meditations on Mindfulness with a Bear Named Pooh* by Dr. Joseph Parent and Nancy Parent. August's book is *The Velveteen Principles: a Guide to Becoming Real* by Toni Raiten-D'Antonio. Our first Zoom discussion is already set for June 30th at 5:30 p.m. Dates for July and August virtual discussions will be determined later. So, go ahead and purchase your book through your favorite vendor and start reading! In addition, sometime in the next few weeks, reach out to Katie Altman, who is creating an email list for Zoom invitations.



PRAYING JESUS



Plans were underway for us to enjoy "Traveling Jesus" again this summer, but because of the pandemic, many of us will be traveling less. What to do? Well, even if we are not traveling as much as we like, Jesus is still with us. He is certainly with us as we pray, so in the next few days expect a cut out of "Praying Jesus" in the mail. The artwork was created by Kelly Williams (Thank you, Kelly!). Keep "Praying Jesus" with you and share pictures of him in various settings. Get creative! Then, email your photos to Katie at office@firstpresvaldosta.org to be posted to our Facebook page. In advance, thank you for participating in this fun summer activity!

memorials, honorariums & gifts to Break Bread Together or FPC

Gifts to Break Bread Together and First Presbyterian Church

Guardian Bank
Tommy Thomas
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Mary K Corbitt
Jerry & Norene Bennett
Tillman Callendar CWF-First Christian Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Nathaniel & Erma Baker
Anonymous
Grady Folsom
Ms. Barbara Ward
Bush Investment Group
Park Avenue United Methodist Church
Carla & Donald Penny
William & Sandra Davis
Steve Wansley
Estol & Elizabeth Bellflower
Georgia Power
Kristine Smith
Terry Peacock
Community Foundation
Jennifer Shepherd
Team Temps Personal Staffing
Susan & Ray Ring
G L Haugen
Alice McDuffie




In Memory of Catharine Minor
Tom & Sue Miller
Grady Folsom
Donne & Roy Cannon
Ann Lackey
Dick & Jane Shelton
Jan Carter
Owen & Joanne Youles
In Memory of Harold George
Lauren Emerson
In Memory of John David Waldron, Sr
Ray & Peggy Chitty
Buddy & Sharon Coleman
In Memory of Archie Waldron
Buddy & Sharon Coleman
In Memory of James Wilson Bowen
Ray & Peggy Chitty
In Memory of Linda Winters
Grayson Powell
In Memory of Winston Carroll
Diane Lewis & Kendal Daughtrey
In Memory of Don Simmons
Marcus & Diane Lewis

In Memory of Betty Tillman
Art & Janice Baker
In Memory of Mary Odum Jeter
Joe & Pat Cordova
In Memory of Lena Bosch
Joe & Pat Cordova
In Memory of Pio Alberto Seco
Joe & Pat Cordova
In Memory of Gary & June Coleman
Cindy Fann
Nellie John
In Memory of Grady Folsom
Dick & Jane Shelton
Bion & Jenny Williams
In Memory of Charles Cutshaw
Bion & Jenny Williams
In Honor of Dr. Andrew Woods
Lee & Barbara Bradley
In Honor of Sammy Pride
Marionette & Michael Marks



Virtual Home Communion June 7th at 11 a.m. To celebrate, you will need bread or crackers and juice of your choice.

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Facebook Live Centering Prayer 5:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Facebook Live Special Music 10:45 a.m. Worship w/ Home Communion 11:00 a.m.	8 Dr. Glenda Vacation	9	10 Facebook Live Centering Prayer 5:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Facebook Live Special Music 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.	15 Dr. Glenda Study Leave	16	17 Facebook Live Centering Prayer 5:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Facebook Live Special Music 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.	22	23	24 Facebook Live Centering Prayer 5:30 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Facebook Live Special Music 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.	29	30 Zoom Summer Book Club 5:30 p.m. 	Fireflies in the Garden by Robert Frost Here come real stars to fill the upper skies, And here on earth come emulating flies, That though they never equal stars in size, (And they were never really stars at heart) Achieve at times a very star-like start. Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.			

Notes from the May 11, 2020 Session Meeting

- Session ratified previous email votes for all worship and other church-related gatherings to continue via ONLINE platforms only. All motions passed.
- Session ratified the April 2, 2020 email vote for First Presbyterian Church to make application for a loan under the CARES Act Payment Protection Program, and to continue to pay all applicable church employees in accordance with the Cares Act. Motion passed.
- Session ratified April 21, 2020 email vote from the Administration, Finance & Property Committee to approve Square -One to redesign the church website at a cost of \$800, \$250 to be paid up front and \$550 upon completion. Motion passed.
- Session ratify April 26, 2020 email vote to approve the online/virtual celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper via Facebook Livestream Worship on the first Sunday of each month until we are able to resume worship in the sanctuary. Motion passed.

Session approved several motions:

1. To change our Wifi provider to Hargray (200 mbps) at a cost of \$340 per month (including phones).
2. To approve "A Model for Returning to Church," a document that outlines stages for returning to worship in the Sanctuary and includes practices the church will implement to maintain the safest environment possible for all who choose to attend.
3. To approve the motion from AF&P regarding future handling of funds designated to The Center at VSU. (See Changes in Online Giving Opportunities for details.)
4. To approve the Pastor's vacation June 8-14, 2020 and study leave June 14-21, 2020.

All Committee and Session work will continue to be done via email and Zoom meetings until we are able to safely gather at the church. Date for next Session Meeting: TBD

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.



June birthdays

1 Sissy Almand	18 Glenda Hollingshead
3 Lamar Cole	20 Meredith Williams
8 Ebb Dudley	23 Sue Miller
11 Mark Crawford	28 Michael Taylor
15 Eva Plowden	

June anniversaries

6 Lamar & Florence Cole	22 Justin & Keeley Collins
8 Ebb & Kimberlee Dudley	23 Joe & Pat Cordova
12 Trent & Carol Busch	26 Matthew & Katherine Phelps

CHANGES IN ONLINE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

We have recently switched to Presbyterian Foundation for our online giving platform. Whether you already give online or wish to do so in the future, please visit our website at www.firstpresvaldosta.org, click on the "Give Now" button at the bottom of the page, and register for this new option.

Some confusion has resulted from individuals sending to the church checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with "VSU" or "The Center" indicated on the Memo or For line. At the session meeting held Monday, May 11, 2020 the session unanimously resolved:

1. to discontinue accepting checks or other gifts designated for The Center at VSU,
2. to publicize in the bulletin and newsletter that future donations to The Center at VSU should be made payable to and delivered directly to The Center at VSU, and
3. to continue to use existing funds that have been designated for The Center at VSU to pay the costs of meals the church provides to The Center at VSU.

Any questions regarding this change may be directed to Dr. Glenda or Dick Shelton.

The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

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Sabina Bennett Custodian

Christal Dudley Nursery Worker

Benjamin Dudley Technology Intern

