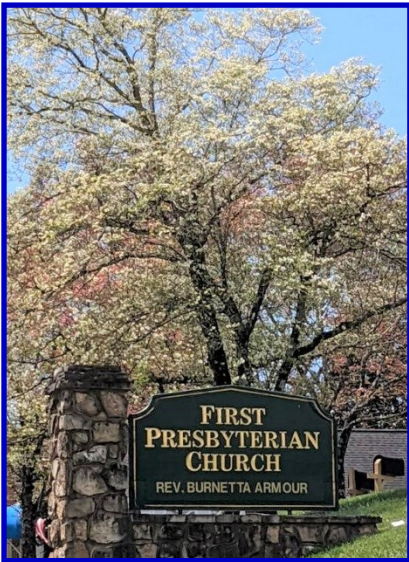


AUGUST 2024

The *View*

from the Church on the Hill

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Y'all come now, ya hear?

The Presbyterian Women
invite Y'all to the

Thanks Y'all BBQ

An evening filled with delicious food,
entertainment, and great fellowship.

Saturday evening
August 3rd
6:00 pm

Please sign up in the Narthex



Congratulations, Burnetta.
(See page 3)



*Wednesday
Night
Supper*

August 21
Wednesday Evening
5:30 p.m.

Potluck
Dinner

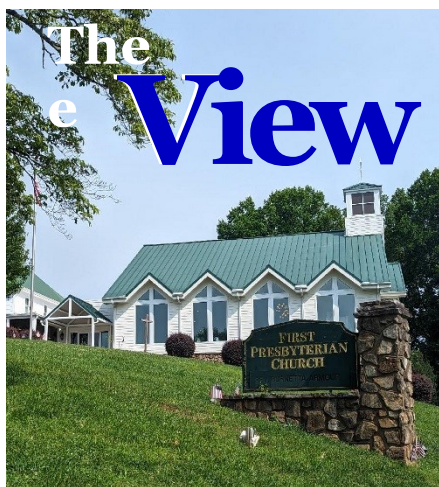
**Family
GAME
Night**

We will play Phase 10,
Mexican Dominoes,
Scrabble, Mah Jongg or
you can bring your favorite game. (No gambling,
please!) Please sign up in the Upper Narthex!

Join us for a fun night together!

147 N. Main Street / Cleveland, GA 30528 / 706-865-6499

Email: info@fpcleveland.org / www.fpcleveland.org / Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Cleveland GA



Pastor Burnetta Armour

Pastor's Ponderings The Compassionate God

Sirach 18:8-9, 11-14: "What are mortals? What are they worth? What is the good in them, and what is evil? The number of their days seems great if it reaches a hundred years. That is why the Lord is patient with them and pours out his mercy on them. He sees and understands that their death is wretched, and so he forgives them all the more. Their compassion is for their neighbor, but the Lord's compassion reaches all flesh, reproofing, admonishing, teaching, and turning them back, as a shepherd his flock. He has compassion on those who accept his discipline, who are eager for his precepts."

I know some of you are frantically searching for the book of Sirach in your Bibles, but unless you have a copy of the Bible with the Apocrypha, you won't find it in our Protestant Bibles. The Book of Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach is part of the Bible (or the Canon) for our Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox brothers and sisters. However, it was left out of the Protestant Bible; of course, if Martin Luther had his way the Book of James would have been left out, too. In the Presbyterian Church, we believe that the books of the Apocrypha are not the same as the books in our Bible in that they aren't authoritative teachings that we have to follow, like the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes. However, we do believe that these books, of which Sirach is but a part, are useful for teaching us lessons about God and the life of faith. In the spirit of learning from these ancient words, we look at this passage from Sirach 18:8-9, 11-14.

"Their [the people's] compassion is for their neighbor, but the Lord's compassion reaches all flesh, reproofing, admonishing, teaching, and turning them back, as a shepherd his flock."

Compassion is defined as "sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others." It comes from a Latin word meaning "to suffer with." Compassion is "suffering with another." It is being concerned about another's life and well-being. Sirach says that we have compassion — "sympathetic pity and concern"— only on those who are near to us. We have compassion on our neighbor, on those we love, on those for whom we care. We have compassion only when we know the person for whom we are feeling compassionate. But, according to Sirach, God's compassion is different. God has compassion on all people. God is concerned with everyone. He is seeking to bring everyone to him as a shepherd gathers his flock. Yes, God has compassion on

(continued on page 3)

First Presbyterian Church

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AUGUST 2024

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Congrats, Burnetta!



Pastor Burnetta with her certificates, presented by Sarah Erickson and Pat Baker. - Photo by Rev. Arch Baker

Pastor Burnetta received well-deserved accolades on Sunday, June 30, for her advanced work in Older Adult Ministries. She recently completed her Level II certification in the field from Columbia Theological Seminary. She received both Level 1 and Level 2 certificates during the worship service on June 30.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Erickson, who served for more than 20 years as Director of Lifelong Learning at the seminary, delivered the sermon for the service. The certificates were presented

by Pat Baker, former president of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network. A special litany was read by Rev. Arch Baker, who served as an interim pastor at FPC, just prior to the calling of Pastor Burnetta.

Pastor B also was featured in an article in the July 11 issue of the *White County News*. The article highlighted her recent capstone project, a training session for caregivers of people with dementia and dementia-related illnesses.

AUGUST Birthdays

- BETH CHAMBERS
- TONY CLARK
- JEANIE GEORGE
- GAIL ROLLINS
- BETTY SMITH
- ERIC WALL
- ELAINE WIEGERT
- SEBASTIAN WILEY



If we missed your birthday, please let us know.

Pastor's Ponderings

(continued from page 2)

those who desire to keep his commandments, who are eager to know him, who accept his discipline, and he, also, has compassion on those whom he has to reprove, whom he has to admonish, whom he has to teach and turn back to him.

Here are some thoughts to ponder:

1. Are we compassionate for only those near us: our neighbors, our community, or our state?
2. How often do we pray for our giving to missions outside of our community and our nation?
3. Are we compassionate toward those whom we don't like, who have hurt us, who are our enemies, and with whom we disagree?

God's compassion is on **all** flesh. We are called for our compassion to be the same.

*Peace and Love in Christ
Pastor Burnetta*

Sermons & Scriptures for AUGUST

AUGUST 4

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-5:2
Rules for a New Life

AUGUST 11

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-20
Living as Children of the Light

AUGUST 18

Scripture: TBD
Lily Geiger to Share Mission Experience

AUGUST 25

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Being Subject to One Another

Our Church Family



Sally from the Valley ...

You'll usually find Sally Kaltenbach participating in most of the activities at Laurel Lodge, including the 4th of July festivities. Her winsome smile shows her enjoyment and she brightens everyone's day.

Jim Crawford braved sweltering weather to participate in the Annual Peachtree Race on July 4. Jim has been running in this race for the last 41 years. Jim, you're awesome!



The Presbyterian Women were represented at the Cleveland Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 6. Elaine Wiegert and Bernice Rogers greeted folks at the table, which was full of items created by the women of FPC. They also gave out free bottles of water, courtesy of the church.



Session Summary

Bruce Morgan

At the July meeting, your Session:

- ◆ Received "Thank You's" from Pastor Burnetta and the AA group that uses our facility,
- ◆ Planned a Session Retreat for Aug. 27,
- ◆ Discussed the work that needs to be done to preserve the Mauney House and approved a plan for short- and long-term projects to be part of this year's Stewardship program,
- ◆ Approved the June Financial Report and an article for the newsletter,
- ◆ Elected two Commissioners to the August Presbytery Meeting,
- ◆ Heard reports from the Called Presbytery Meeting of last week,
- ◆ Began early planning for hosting the October Presbytery Meeting at our church,

- ◆ Agreed to join the White County Chamber of Commerce,
- ◆ Approved Lily Geiger leading worship and giving her testimony, Aug. 18,
- ◆ Prayed for needs in the church family and set the next meeting as part of the Session Retreat in August.



American Mah Jongg
Do YOU want to learn?
You are invited to come to the church Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. To learn this fascinating and fun game.

Presbyterian Women

Judy Winski

Knit & Stitch/Farmer's Market

Knit & Stitch will meet Wednesday, Aug. 7, to prepare for attending the Farmer's Market on Saturday, Aug. 10. Bring your ideas and your additions to our inventory on Wednesday and then come visit us at the Farmer's Market.

PW Bible Study for 2024-25

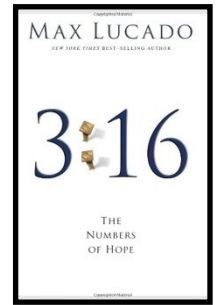
Our Bible study will begin Tuesday, Sept. 10. The PW Bible Study will be *3:16 – The Numbers of Hope* by Rev. Max Lucado.

This examination of John 3:16 opens new insights into the scripture.

There will be a DVD and study guide to help us dive deeper into this scripture.

All women are invited to join us in exploring these numbers.

Please sign the list on the upper narthex table to have a book ordered for you. The cost is \$10, cash or check made payable to FPC/ PW, given to Betty Royds.



Thanks Y'All BBQ

All are invited to our annual BBQ. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to our church. (See front page.)

Musicale Group dazzles at afternoon concert



The Georgia Musicale Group (GMG) did not disappoint on Sunday, June 30, as three very accomplished pianists performed in a free concert at FPC. The group includes both amateur and professional musicians who are seeking opportunities to perform and to make it possible for more people to experience and enjoy classical music.

Mary Marshall Dekkers, a private piano teacher and former elementary school music teacher, played two pieces, "Etude Op. 25, Number 7" by Frederic Chopin and "Valse Etude" by William Gillock.

Dr. Utako Tanigawa, a computer systems professional, played pieces by Handel, Chopin, and Beethoven. She earned advanced degrees in data engineering and computer science after immigrating from Japan and held executive positions for more than 30 years. Dr. Tanigawa founded GMG in 2015 when a health crisis reawakened her interest in music.

Dr. Michelle Nam completed the afternoon's program. She is a professional pianist who has performed with symphonies across the world. After playing pieces by Bach and Beethoven,



From left: Tom Slavicek, the MC for the concert, Dr. Utako Tanigawa, Mary Marshall Dekkers, Dr. Michelle Nam, and Kenneth Park.

she performed "Korean Rhapsody," a modern piece by Kenneth Park. It was the first time the piece had been played in public and the composer was in the audience.

The afternoon concluded with a dessert reception in Fellowship Hall. All of those in attendance enjoyed the concert and said they hoped GMG would come to FPC again. The group sent a generous donation to the church following the event.

100 years young and still going

Penny Murdoch

Andy Negra, a frequent ONEsie, and a WorldWar II veteran, is like the EverReady battery as he keeps going and going. He turned 100 a few days before he flew to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. He landed on the Utah Beach in 1944 at the age of 19.

Attending the ceremonies was French President Emmanuel Macron and afterward, he personally pulled Negra aside to speak to him. Then Andy received two hugs from First Lady Brigitte Macron, which I know he thoroughly enjoyed. At this 80th Anniversary there were 24 world leaders, two million participants in the week long activities honoring the last survivors of WWII.

In addition to meeting President and First Lady Macron, he met or saw the President of Norway, the mayor of Utah Beach, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Prince William of England, President Joe Biden, officials from Delta and Michelin (both sponsors of this trip), and other dignitaries.

During the week he gave a speech at Utah Beach, in Normandy, France. He said his trip was the “most wonderful you’d ever believe.” He is already planning to return to Normandy for the 81st anniversary next year.

We hope to have Andy Negra come and speak to our FPC family again sometime in the near future.

(Source: White County News, June 30, 2024)



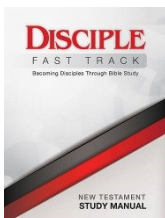
Andy Negra chats with French President Emmanuel Macron. (Photo/Rank Studios via Delta Air Lines)



Andy Negra meeting some of the fans during a parade on June 9, 2024. (Photo/Jerome Pollos Photography)



Discipleship
Elaine Wiegert



Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study will begin again on August 14, at 12:30. The Fall study will be *Disciple Fast Tract: New Testament*. Bring your lunch and join us for this New Testament Study.



Youth ... Our Future

Emily Hassell was named to the Dean's List for the Spring

2024 Semester at GCSU (Georgia College & State University). Congratulations, Emily. We are so proud of you!





Ushers and Greeters for AUGUST

- AUGUST 4 Phil Baughman
- AUGUST 11Becky Clark
- AUGUST 18 Judy Massingale
- AUGUST 25 Mary Ann Clyburn

Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Liturgists for AUGUST

- AUGUST 4 Bruce Morgan
- AUGUST 11 Judy Massingale
- AUGUST 18 Mary Ann Clyburn
- AUGUST 25Becky Clark

Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Elaine Wiegert

Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Coffee and Conversation. During AUGUST we will be discussing texts from Mark. The topics for discussion will be:

- AUGUST 4Ephesians 4:1-16
Unity in the Body of Christ
- AUGUST 11Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Directions for a New Life
- AUGUST 18Ephesians 5:15-20
Thanksgiving in All Things
- AUGUST 25Ephesians 6:10-20
God's Splendid Armor

Administration & Finance

Mid-year financial update

As we begin the second half of our year, it is a good time to take a look at where we stand on our budget. We could wish that the plans that we made at the beginning of the year were a perfect forecast of what would occur. Well, some of the numbers are close to the plan and some are not. Just as we have seen increases in cost in our own personal budgets, the same pressure is on the expense side of our church budget. The Building and Grounds team really buckled down on our utilities costs and successfully reduced the kilowatt hours we used, but Georgia Power increased its rates and our hard work resulted in essentially no reduction in our bill. Similarly, just as we have experienced in our own costs at home, our insurance premium increased by over \$4000 this year.

Even with these increased costs, we have managed all our expenses very carefully and

spent less than our earlier estimates by 5 percent. Unfortunately, on the income side we are about 15 percent below the forecast. Most of those who pledged to give during our stewardship campaign are close to maintaining their commitment. The deficit that we are experiencing at mid-year is primarily due to a shortfall in our forecasted income from unpledged giving. This consists of offerings from those who choose not to pledge but still support the work of the church, and donations from visitors and other friends of the church.

We are still a very generous congregation when needs arise and our special funds and appeals are well-supported. We also have maintained a reserve that makes us very solvent even with the recent expense of a new roof on the Fellowship Hall.

Given the current economic times, as costs increase, we want you to be aware of where we stand financially, and how important it is to keep an eye on spending and also on giving.

- Your Session

A Patriotic Celebration

Penny Murdoch

Sunday, June 30, a record number of people enjoyed a truly wonderful concert at the Gainesville First United Methodist Church. There was standing room only as the Chancel Choir and the Believers Concert Band, directed by our David Arvold, shared their musical talents at the 10th Annual Patriotic Celebration.



The Lyman Hall Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented The Colors at the beginning, which gave you a sense of being in the days of the original colonies.

David Arvold directed the Concert Band and during selections with the Choir, he played



with the band. His lovely wife, Clair played in the percussion section.

This concert gave us all a tremendous boost in the American spirit, at a time when we needed it most. Thank you to all the musicians.

The Believers Band offers numerous free concerts throughout the year which are all so worthwhile to attend.

Focus Groups Report

Approximately 30 people attended the Wednesday Night Supper on July 17 and participated in a focus group session.

The purpose of the focus groups was to gather answers to some “big questions” about FPC. The responses will help your Session as they review and evaluate the many ideas and suggestions that have been submitted by members of the congregation during this Year of Discernment.

The five groups responded to these three questions:


- What is the purpose of our church?
- What makes our church unique?
- What are the unmet needs in our community?

The Session will meet in late August to look at all of this information. They will prayerfully consider the current and future activities and ministries of the church in light of where God is leading his people in this place and time. A report will be prepared for the congregation.

We expect that another congregational meeting will be held during the fall so members of the church family can respond to the Session’s work and discuss our next steps.

Thanks to all who participated in the focus groups and who have submitted ideas and suggestions over the past year.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Friday, August 2



THE GROWING PLACE
Tuesday, August 6

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL BUSES.

BACK TO SCHOOL

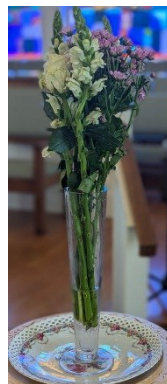
From God's Garden

Thank you to those who have contributed flowers and displayed them, brightening the sanctuary for our Sunday worship services. If you'd like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please sign up in the Upper Narthex.



This arrangement on June 30 was to wish America a very Happy Birthday. God bless America!

The flowers on June 30 were donated by Ross DeMeritt to the Glory of God.



These flowers on July 14 were donated by Ross DeMeritt for the Glory of God.



These flowers on July 9 were donated by Ross DeMeritt for the Glory of God.



These beautiful flowers on June 30 came from Judy Massingale's garden, in celebration of Burnetta's completion of Level II in Older Adult Ministry.



The flowers on July 21 were donated by Elaine Wiegert in memory of Hans-Jürgen Wiegert.



We hope you all have had a wonderful summer!

We still have spots available for the 2024-2025 school year! If you know of anyone that would like to have their 3-4 year old be a part of a loving, three day a week, Christian preschool, please contact Britt at the front office or Cara at tgp@fpcleveland.org!

Our preschool **Open House is on Friday, August 2, from 10:30-12:30!** Our first day of school is **Tuesday, August 6 at 8:00 AM!** We can't wait to see what the new school year brings! God bless!

- Our teachers: Adele Page and Cara Franklin



The story of one heart attack

Roy Ficklin

On the morning of June 16, I was sitting, drinking coffee, and reading. A dull ache developed under my sternum. I was led to believe that heart attacks knocked you to your knees. I walked through our bedroom, heading for the bathroom, and then had a dizzy spell – I lay down on the bed.

Rachel came in and was surprised to see me lying in bed. I said that I was having chest pains and dizziness. She said she would call 911. I asked her to wait a few minutes because the discomfort was so minor. After discussing the situation more, she insisted on calling 911. I said the fire station was close by and we should drive there. I did not want sirens and flashing lights. We drove to the Cleveland fire station, which took less than 15 minutes.

By the time we arrived, all the symptoms had vanished, and I was feeling foolish for coming. The man on duty asked me why I was there. When I answered that I had chest pains, he ordered me to sit down and got out some equipment. He and a female EMT ran some checks, which showed nothing. They called White County EMS because they have more sophisticated equipment. They arrived quickly and hooked up their equipment to me. It produced an EKG printout. The EMT said something looked suspicious in the waveforms

and that I should go to the ER in Gainesville. So we did.

I approached the ER desk and was asked what my problem was. When I told them I had chest pains, I was immediately hooked up to test equipment and blood was drawn. In a few minutes, the results came back showing a definite heart attack. I was put on a gurney and taken into the coronary care unit. The end result was four coronary bypasses. The recovery in the coronary care unit was unpleasant. I kept telling myself that I had not been singled out. Plenty of other people had experienced this before me. I was released from the hospital on June 27.

I cannot express enough how helpful and supportive my wife, Rachel, has been during all of this. I could not have made it without her. I thank the Heavenly Father for giving me some more time. I hope I can spend that time in a positive and constructive way.

I never, during all of this, experienced any of the classic heart attack symptoms. There was no real pain, just a nagging ache behind the sternum. There were no sweats, shortness of breath, pain down an arm, or nausea. My message to you is: ***when in doubt, go get checked.***

Thanks, Roy, for sharing this important information. We're praying for your speedy recovery and are looking forward to seeing you and Rachel back in the sanctuary in the near future.



Our in-house food pantry is in dire need of ready to eat foods such as microwaveable soups, ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti, individual cans or pouches of proteins such as tuna or chicken, small jars of peanut butter, crackers. We are also in need of toilet paper.

Please help keep our pantry well-stocked. This is a difficult time of year for our brothers and sisters who find themselves in need of assistance. Thank you so very much in advance for your help with this important ministry.



SUNDAYS
Coffee & Conversation 10 am
Worship Service 11 am
(In the sanctuary and on Facebook)
Valet Parking available Sunday mornings starting at 10:45 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online		the growing place TGP starts today	Knit 'n' Stitch 2 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	the growing place OPEN HOUSE 10:30-12:30	The Presbyterian Women Invite Y'all to the Thanks Y'all BBQ Saturday evening August 3rd 6:00 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online			BIBLE STUDY 12:30 In-Person Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm		WHITE COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET PW at the Farmer's Market
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online Session Meeting 12:15 pm		PM Luncheon Noon	Family's Family Night Potluck Dinner 5:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm		NEGA Presbytery Meeting FPC Gainesville 10 am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online			BIBLE STUDY 12:30 In-Person Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm		

THE VIEW

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Publisher.....Penny Murdoch

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Debbie Wessely

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Rita Morgan
Adele Page

CLASS OF 2026

Kim Ciriello
Bob Thomason




FREE VALET PARKING
Every Sunday starting at 10:45 a.m.




First Presbyterian Church
147 N. Main Street
Cleveland, GA 30528

