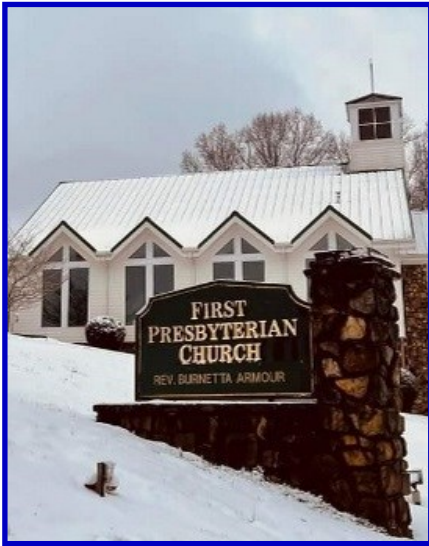


FEBRUARY 2025

The *View*

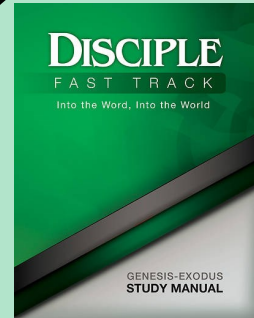
from the Church on the Hill

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday
February 9, 2025
immediately following Worship
Come enjoy some good soup,
sandwiches, and fellowship
with your church family
and
contribute to a worthy cause.

Please sign up in Upper Narthex
or call the church office at
706-865-6499.



Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study meets at 12:30. The winter study will be *Disciple Fast Track Into the Word, Into the World Genesis - Exodus*.

Bring your lunch and join us for this study.

Remember your loved ones

Valentine's Day

February 14



First Presbyterian Church

147 N. Main Street
 Cleveland, GA 30528
 info@fpcleveland.org
 www.fpcleveland.org
 www.facebook.com/
 fpcleveland.org

**FEBRUARY 2025
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Pastor Burnetta Armour

Pastor's Corner
What is Love?

In 1993, Trinidadian-German musical artist Haddaway asked an important question to all those on the dance floor (and listening on the radio), "What is Love?"

According to my Google search, *Love* is defined as the following: 1) "an intense feeling of deep affection" and 2) "a great interest and pleasure in something." The Greeks were smart as they had four words for *love* that described different ways of loving: *storge* (affection), *philia* (friendship), *eros* (sexual love or "being in love"), and *agape* (charity). In English, the word *love* can describe our intense feelings about anything. We love our cars, our children, our favorite TV shows, and even our favorite type of French fry. We throw the word love around to the point that it loses all its meaning . . . all its intensity, passion, and "great interest."

So, that brings us back to the question raised by Haddaway: "What is love?" In our faith, we talk a lot about love, but we don't necessarily talk a lot about what it means to love. Of course, the best definition of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13, known as the love chapter. This beautiful statement on love, which is frequently read at weddings, was written to a church that couldn't get along to save its life. The members of the church at Corinth were divided over who was their favorite preacher, who had the most wisdom, and even, whose spiritual gifts were better. To this conflict-ridden church, Paul writes these words:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ *Love never ends. (1 Cor. 13:4-8).*

The way Paul describes love is that it is not so much an adjective, describing how we feel, or a noun, the thing or one we love. It is a verb, an action. Love is feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison. Love shows kindness to the unkind. Love listens

continued on page 3

An invitation to Realm



Several years ago, FPC subscribed to Realm Church Management Software with the goal of improving the record-keeping and financial management of the church. As with most other “apps” available today, Realm makes it possible for the church to keep records up to date with less time and expense.

The Realm system also can benefit members of the church family. By logging on at your Realm account, you can:

- ◆ See the **online church directory** with photos, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The information in the online directory is updated regularly.
- ◆ View a **summary of your giving** for the current year. If you have made a pledge, a graph will show how much of the pledge

has been fulfilled. Only you can see this record. You also can make one-time donations to the church from your page on Realm.

- ◆ Update **your profile** and your contact information.
- ◆ If you are in the Realm database but have never logged on, you will receive an email from the church office early in February. The email from info@fpcleveland.org will invite you to set up a password so you can access your account on Realm.

If you have set up a password in the past but have forgotten it, you can reset it yourself:

Go to <https://onrealm.org/FPCCleveland/Account/Start>;

Click *Sign In*;

Type in your email address; and
Click *Forgot Password*.

Pastor's Corner

continued from page 2

to another, even if we disagree. Love practices mutual forbearance in an age of divisiveness. Love lasts forever.

My siblings in Christ, love is a choice we make every day. If we believe God is love, then we the children of God are called to mirror that love. We are to choose love, the love that “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” when the world chooses the easier path of hate and fear. We are called to choose love, even if we don’t feel it, even if we don’t want to do it, or even if we don’t believe the other deserves it. “What is love?” It is the choice to live as children of our God who is love and whose love endures forever and ever. Amen.

*Peace and Love in Christ
Pastor Burnetta*



FEBRUARY 2

Scripture: Luke 4:21-30
Hard of Hearing

FEBRUARY 9

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
By the Grace of God

FEBRUARY 16

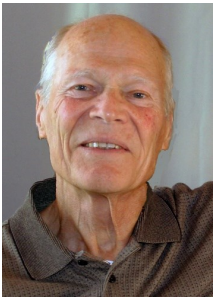
Scripture: TBD
TBD (Pastor Burnetta on study leave)

FEBRUARY 23

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38
Hard to Hear

Leaders installed in January

Four new officers of the church were installed and ordained on Sunday, Jan. 26. Debbie Wessely also was installed for another term as deacon. Many thanks to these individuals who have stepped up to leadership positions in our congregation.



Roy Ficklin

My family moved to Gwinnett County, Georgia in 1959. My parents raised me in the Southern Baptist denomination. Before retiring I worked as a maintenance mechanic in a plant. My wife, Rachel, and I

lived in Buford, Ga., for 38 years. We moved to White County in 2022. We are not within the city limits, but our mailing address is Cleveland.

We have been members of FPC for two years and I have been serving on the Building and Grounds Committee.



Bernice Cheeley Rogers

My family and I lived in East Tennessee and Augusta, Ga., from my early childhood until I married in 1960. We were members of the Presbyterian church, and we all took an active part in the worship, work, and

fellowship of the church.

My entire occupational career was as an Allied Healthcare Professional, first as a Radiologic Technologist, then as an administrative assistant in Obstetrics/Gynecology, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and Urology.

My husband, John, and I live in Cleveland. Our son, Shawn, died of a heart attack in 2012. We joined FPC in January 2005. I have served one term as a deacon. Along with other ladies of the church, and encouraged by Paula Callaway, I helped to organize our chapter of the Presbyterian Women of PC-USA. I served as

the first moderator and since then have served in several positions on the Coordinating Team. I have also served as moderator of Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women.



David Cook

I grew up in Dublin, Ga., on a farm near town. I attended Olivet Baptist Church as a child. I was on active duty in the Navy for six years and remained a member of the Naval Reserve for another 20-plus years.

Outside the Navy, I held a variety of positions in finance, accounting, and contract management with U. S. government contractors. I retired in Nov. 2019, and relocated to Sautee Nacoochee, Ga., with my wife Cheryl. We have one son, Ben, who lives in Columbia, S.C.

We joined FPC three years ago. Cheryl has been active in the choir and the Presbyterian Women. I have supported her and responded to requests for help with specific events, particularly from PW or PM. I have been a member of the Administration & Finance Committee for about a year.



Susie Allen

Ministry Spotlight

School Mentoring Program



This year, as part of the Year of Action, opportunities for service will be highlighted during the worship service on the third Sunday of each month.

On Jan. 19, Lindalee Walters shared her experiences as a volunteer for the White County Family Connection Mentoring Program. She has lunch, once a week, with a kindergarten student at Mossy Creek Elementary. Although Lindalee has just begun as a mentor, she expressed her surprise and pleasure at how the child's eyes light up when she sees Lindalee waiting for her.

The Mentoring Program asks volunteers to commit to giving 30 minutes a week for one school year to help an elementary, middle, or high school student. The next mentor training is **Tuesday, Feb. 11**, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Board of Education, 136 Warriors Path, Cleveland. For more information, contact Haley Hobson at 706-969-5066.



Potluck Brunch

This year, instead of having a traditional worship service the Sunday after Christmas, there was a Potluck

Brunch and casual worship service. Those who attended enjoyed the delicious and creative use of leftovers, and worshipping in an informal atmosphere with our church family.

Thank you to all who shared their culinary talents and brought many tasty dishes, and for the meaningful worship.



the
**growing
place**
A Preschool for the Littlest Ones!
Cara Jackson

Yay! We got snow! Although we got only a few inches, between school snow days, icy mountain roads, and sickness, the school schedule has been in an upheaval. Those little ones who did attend when school was in session, enjoyed the cold weather, the snow, and getting to know our substitute leader, Kyrie Jacobs.



Christmas at Friendship

Melody Thomason

Christmas at Friendship Nursing Home was made a little brighter because of the efforts of several individuals from FPC.

Retha Purvogel, (part-time resident of White County and FPC, who winters in Florida) recruited several of her neighbor friends to put on a Christmas party at Friendship. The ladies brought tasty and appealing goodies and decorated for days unlike anything I've ever seen there before. If you've ever been around Retha, she brings fun and excitement to whatever she does, and this event was no exception. Bob and I strolled among the residents singing Christmas music to add to the festivities. Everyone was served wonderful party food and all leftovers were left for the staff to enjoy. Much appreciation was expressed by the residents and staff. It was truly a day of laughter, good food and fun!


FPC also bought Christmas gifts for four residents whom we were told we're in need. Some clothing, an article of necessity or fun, a warm throw, and a bag of snacks were purchased for each of our people. One resident even got a stuffed animal, a Scottish Highlander cow to celebrate her Scottish heritage. (I wonder who would have thought of that?)



Judy Massengale and I had the privilege of delivering the gifts just before Christmas. Ms. Felicia, the activities director, took us to meet the residents and deliver the gifts. Each one of our folks were overwhelmed when we delivered several unexpected gifts. We received smiles, tears, and many thanks for the gifts.


We also delivered another Keurig coffee maker and several boxes of coffee for the enjoyment of the staff.

Judy and I both agreed this visit was one of the highlights of our Christmas season.




*In Loving Memory
of
Wes Clonts*

*November 19, 1940
January 8, 2025*



FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 8 RACHEL ROMFO
- 10 CHERYL COOK
- 11 LINDALEE WALTERS
- 26 BRUCE MORGAN
- 26 DOUG RICHARDSON
- 27 NATALIE LEONARD
- 28 NANETTE BAUGHMAN



*If we missed your birthday,
please let us know.*



Session Summary

Bruce Morgan

At the January meeting, your Session:

- ◆ Examined the Elders-Elect and approved them for installation,
- ◆ Chose ministry areas for existing and new Session Members,
- ◆ Received "Thank You" note from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,
- ◆ Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation,
- ◆ Elected a Treasurer for 2025,
- ◆ Will follow up on the desire for an onsite worship service at two shelters in the county,
- ◆ Elected Commissioners to the February Presbytery Meeting,
- ◆ Elected a Clerk of the Session to a three year term,
- ◆ Heard a report from Pastor Burnetta on her plans for study leave,
- ◆ Prayed for needs in the Church Family and set the next meeting for Feb. 23.



Elaine Wiegert

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

- FEBRUARY 2 Luke 4:14-21
Transforming Hope
- FEBRUARY 9 Luke 4:21-30
Liberating Words
- FEBRUARY 16 Luke 5:1-11
Deep Discipleship
- FEBRUARY 23 Luke 6:17-26
The Plain Gospel

Diaconate Details

Rita Morgan

As we bring a new year, your Deacons, Kim, Adele, Bob, Debbie, and Rita, have welcomed one new member, Susie Allen.

Each deacon has a portion of our membership as a "flock." Our role is to be a point of contact between members and the church. We ask each deacon to let the members of their flock know who they are and how they can be reached. As deacons come and go, we may have to make some changes to their flock assignments, and you may have a different deacon in 2025. Please look for your deacon to contact you in the coming days.

Each of us has a spirit of service and we truly want to be aware of your need for support from your church family. If you have any questions or concerns, or if your deacon is unavailable in a time of need, please do not hesitate to contact me.

This space is where we usually list the ushers for the month, but no one signed up. We're all busy during the holiday season, but it's also a time when visitors are more likely to come to church. How will they know we are a friendly church if no one is there to greet them with a smile and hand them a bulletin? This is an important job! If you can help, please contact the church office or Charles Massingale at: [\(massingale@windstream.net\)](mailto:massingale@windstream.net).



Liturgists for FEBRUARY

- FEBRUARY 2
- FEBRUARY 9
- FEBRUARY 16
- FEBRUARY 23

Thank you for your willingness to serve.



Elaine Wiegert

Coordinating Team

The PW will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m.

PW Bible Study

Presbyterian Women will gather for Bible Study at 12:30, on Feb. 11. A Lenten study based on 3:16 Numbers of Hope will be introduced. Bring a lunch and join us. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Knit and Stitch

Knit and Stitch will meet on Feb. 12, 19 and 26 immediately following Bible Study. Every-

one is welcome to join us. If you are working on a particular project, feel free to bring it and work on it as we work and fellowship together. We are looking for ideas for new crafts, especially for Christmas crafts.

Save the Dates

Presbyterian Women from the Northeast Georgia Presbytery will meet on Mar. 15 here at First Presbyterian Church Cleveland. Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. and worship begins at 10:00 a.m. A box lunch will be provided after worship. More information to follow.

The Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of South Atlantic will take place Oct. 17-19 at Epworth by the Sea. The registration information will be shared at a later date.

Chili Charcuterie

The Presbyterian Women hosted a Chili Charcuterie luncheon following worship on Sunday, Jan. 19. The weather was chilly, but the fellowship was warm. Four different Chili recipes were the main course, along with cornbread, chips, crackers, and other fixings, and, of course, desserts.

The main purpose of the meal was to highlight the annual Thank Offering for PW. This Offering was established to benefit local, national, and international humanitarian projects. The Offering this year was over \$650.

Thank you to all who contributed the food, and for all the donations received.



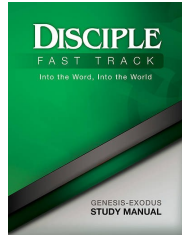


Discipleship

Elaine Wiegert

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study will meet at 12:30. The winter study will be *Disciple Fast Track Into the Word, Into the World Genesis - Exodus*. Bring your lunch and join us for this study.



Ministry Spotlight

White County Food Pantry

The Ministry Spotlight for February is The White County Food Pantry (WCFP). The White County Food Pantry is located at 1342 GA-254, Cleveland. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 10 am – 12 pm. The food pantry is currently staffed by 40+ volunteers. There is no paid staff, the building is owned by the food pantry, and the property, upon which it is located, is leased from the White County School District for \$1 per year. To provide neighbors experiencing food insecurity with eggs, milk, frozen meat, fresh fruits, and vegetables, as well as shelf-stable foods, the food pantry relies on financial contributions from the community. Approximately 93% of each dollar donated is used to purchase food. Families who are experiencing food insecurity often have needs

that the food pantry can't fill; only food items can be purchased with financial donations. These needs include cleaning supplies, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish detergent, shampoo, bar soap, liquid soap, etc.

In addition to providing financial support, the Session has voted to support the White County Food Pantry by collecting one specific needed item on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in February. In February, The item we will be collecting is **TOILET PAPER**. When you are shopping, please consider purchasing an extra package of toilet paper. Place your donation in the container in the lower narthex.

On Feb. 9, we will be celebrating Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting donations after the worship service or, if you would like to join us for a soup and sandwich lunch after worship, you may make a donation then. Of course, you may continue to make donations of shelf stable food items as you have done in the past.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

Souper Bowl of Caring

We hope that you will be able to join us for soup, sandwiches, and dessert after worship on Feb. 9.. All donations will benefit the White County Food Pantry. See the front page.

God's Garden or Filler



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
Sooper Bowl Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service and 11 am	Sunday, February 9 <i>Immediately following worship</i> Please sign up in Upper Narthex			6 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	7 	8
9 Sooper Bowl Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship & Communion 11 am and Online		4	5 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 In-Person CT MEETING 2 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	13 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	14 	15
16 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online Session Meeting 12:15 pm		11 PW BIBLE STUDY 12:30 PM LUNCH Noon	12 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 In-Person Choir Practice 6:30 pm	20 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	21	22
23 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online		18	19 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 In-Person Choir Practice 6:30 pm	27 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	28	
		25	26 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 In-Person Choir Practice 6:30 pm			
		24				
		17 				

THE VIEW

Publisher..... Penny Murdoch

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Nancy Webber—Chair

Kim Ciriello Penny Murdoch
Dick Frost Adele Page
Bruce Morgan Elaine Wiegert
Lindalee Walters

THE SESSION

Clerk..... Bruce Morgan
Moderator Rev. Burnetta Armour
Clerk Emeritus..... Jim Hiers

CLASS OF 2025

Admin. & Finance..... David Cook
..... Bruce Morgan
Discipleship..... Elaine Wiegert

CLASS OF 2026

Communications Nancy Webber
Congregational Care Judy Massingale

CLASS OF 2027

Building & Grounds..... Roy Ficklin
Congregational Care ? ... Bernice Rogers

THE DIACONATE

Moderator Rita Morgan
Session Liaison Judy Massingale

CLASS OF 2025

Rita Morgan
Adele Page
Debbie Wessely

CLASS OF 2026

Kim Ciriello
Bob Thomason

CLASS OF 2027

Susie Allen



FREE

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday starting at 10:45 a.m.



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