



May 2020



# The Loveletter

*Sharing the Love and Joy of Christ*

Many times during weather disasters, floods, and other unusual phenomena someone will be interviewed and say, "Never in my life have I experienced ....". I am usually skeptical of such statements. But I find myself today uttering the words, "Never in my life ...", too. The coronavirus is presenting us challenges unlike anything we have experienced. My emotions are mixed about the entire ordeal.

I worry about: those who have lost their jobs, been laid off, and lost all sources of income; families who are trying to homeschool their children while working from home; the small businesses which are the heartbeat of our community; high school seniors who have had all the wonderful festivities planned around graduation canceled; those who are afflicted with the virus and their families (especially those without the medical insurance coverage they so desperately need); and our health care workers. My prayer list is long.

In the midst of it all there is encouragement, too. Mr. Rogers said, "Look for the helpers." So I give thanks for: the army of volunteers who work in the Dinners-to-Go program, serving well over 29,000 meals (What a blessing to so many in Bartow County!); the people who have donated over \$81,000 to buy the food; our local restaurants who have participated in providing meals; this congregation's faithfulness in giving (The 1st quarter financial report showed pledged giving was 25.4% for the year. Right where we want it to be.); our local civic leaders who continue to give wise leadership during the pandemic; our staff who continue to work to provide worship opportunities, care, and support under difficult circumstances and for the gratitude expressed by many in the congregation for their work.

Jesus said, "I have overcome the world." That is our hope. In the meantime, we plan and prepare for the day when it will be safe to return to work, to school, and play. There are still things we do not know related to coronavirus and we appreciate your patience as we navigate these circumstances and determine what is best. The Session has decided to suspend all church activities until May 19th, when they will meet again to decide the next steps. Live streaming worship services on Facebook will continue each Sunday at 11:00 AM. We pray and look forward to the day when we will gather again.

Blessings and be safe,  
Mike

## *From the Session*

**The Session met on April 21, 2020 for its regular Stated Meeting. The following are the highlights from that meeting:**

1. Mike introduced Andrea Roche to the Session and each Session member introduced themselves to Andrea.
2. Mike reported that the FPC staff is on a staggered schedule with the office remaining closed to walk-in traffic.
3. Andrea Roche will preach on 5/3/2020 via Facebook Live.
4. FPC has opened a Zoom account which can be used by Committees as needed. Ask Mike for Login credentials.
5. A Blood Drive is planned for 5/13/2020 at FPC from 9 AM until 2 PM.
6. The Preschool Board has applied for a forgivable Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan to cover the unfunded teacher payroll.
7. Paul Green provided a Quarterly Report from the FPC Endowment Committee.
8. Andrea Roche reported on her first 21 days as FPC Interim Director of Youth & Children's Ministries.
9. Paul Green reported that the FPC Budget is in good shape in spite of COVID-19.
10. Katie Godfrey reported that the PNC is meeting weekly via Zoom and has reviewed about 140 resumes and conducted two interviews.
11. The Session voted to suspend services and activities in the FPC building through May 19, 2020.

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### **Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee**

We've been meeting weekly via Zoom for the past month or so reviewing Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). We've received about 120 so far and have identified several good prospects. We began face to face interviews (via Zoom) last week. We anticipate this phase of our search might take several weeks or more. We plan on continuing to request more PIFs even while we're conducting the interviews, just to be sure we aren't missing anyone.



*We will continue to live stream our 11:00 AM worship services on the church's Facebook page. You can watch the service as it happens or later at your convenience. If you are unable to watch the service on Facebook, a DVD of the service can be mailed to you. E-mail or call the church office (770-382-3511) and leave a message with the date of the worship service and a DVD of that service will be mailed to you.*

The church supports our youth program in so many wonderful ways. Now we can help by supporting **The Susan Egger Memorial Youth Retreat Fund** that has been established to honor and remember Susan Egger's life and ministry at First Presbyterian Church. The fund is to provide financial help for the youth to attend and participate in the various retreats and camps in the church's youth ministry. The funds are intended but not limited to, providing scholarships for youth to attend retreats and camps. The overall impact of these funds is to enable and enhance opportunities for the church's youth. As our youth prepare for the summer camps and retreats, consider how you can be a part. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church, designated for the youth retreat fund.



### Red Cross Blood Drive

May 13th

9:00am - 2:00pm

2nd floor Upper Room

In order to practice safe distancing the blood drive will be set up in the Upper Room.

To volunteer contact Courtney Meckley at [cfarnon@gmail.com](mailto:cfarnon@gmail.com). To schedule an appointment go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: firstprescartersville

### *Ladies Night Out*

Thursday, May 21st

The City Cellar 6:30pm

Come enjoy food, fun and fellowship! All women of the congregation are welcome, please feel free to invite your friends too!

# Youth Group

## Sundays at 4 p.m.

### Meeting virtually via Zoom

Our youth continue to meet for Youth Group on Sundays, although we do it virtually via Zoom. We begin with a time of check-in, then do something fun like Trivia or a Scavenger Hunt, and finish with a Bible Study and Prayer Requests.

If you are not receiving the link for the Youth Group Zoom meetings, please email [andrea@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:andrea@cartersvillepres.org) to make sure your correct email address us on our contact list.



As we shelter-in-place at home, worship online and learn of events being cancelled and postponed, we feel like the novel corona virus has changed everything. Because of the need to limit gatherings, we were unable to celebrate our confirmands in worship on April 26 as originally planned. We hold on to the faithfulness of Christ despite uncertainties and look forward to celebrating this monumental event of their faith journey with these young people in person, in worship sometime in August, as allowed. Until then, meet the confirmation candidates.

### Confirmation Class of 2020



**Katherine Bowen**

Daughter of Brandon and Elizabeth Bowen

She will be in the 8th grade in the fall at Cartersville Middle School.

Her favorite way to pass time during social distancing is sleeping.

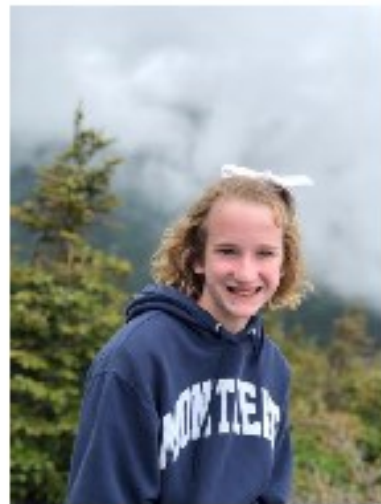


**Julian Preston Cline**

Son of Jimmy and Tinsley Cline

He will be in the 8th grade in the fall at Cartersville Middle School.

His favorite way to pass time during social distancing is to play basketball with his siblings.



**Meredith Gaines**

Daughter of Trey and Beth Gaines

She will be in the 9th grade in the fall at Cartersville High School.

Her favorite way to pass time during social distancing is to play outside.



**Hayden James**

Son of Justin and Emma James

He will be in the 9th grade in the fall at Cartersville High School.

His favorite way to pass time during social distancing is being with his family.



**Eden Lane Olson**

Daughter of Peter Olson and Ellyn Olson

She will be in the 8th grade in the fall at Cartersville Middle School.

Her favorite way to pass time during social distancing is painting, putting together puzzles and watching Netflix.

## May Birthdays

1	Betty Sime	12	Jerry Coalson
1	Sid McAllister	12	Brian Choate
2	Don Denhoff	14	Miranda Haley
2	Sean Ireland	16	Brad Hughes
4	Kellie Clark	16	Maggie Cummings
4	Darcy Hughes	17	Jan Wadkins
6	Ashley Knight	18	Hallie Wachsmuth
6	Paxton Russell	19	Kenzie Waters
7	Ryan Salter	19	Grace Shields
7	Sid Haley	22	Bobby Bergman
8	Mark Gebert	22	Renee Shields
8	Lars Ennerberg	23	Bob Meadows
8	Linda Motuba	23	Laura Rentz
8	Derek Tobin	24	Emily Gilreath
8	Adam Tobin	24	Chamblyn Dudley
9	Megan Johnson	25	Brandon Bowen
9	Will Bradley	26	Kim Bowen
10	Guill Bailey	28	Emily Collier
10	Paul Wachsmuth	30	Matt Simons
11	Cathy Wall	31	Graham Hembree



## In May We Pray for Our Church:

**Staff:** Pam Radford, Teresa Bunch (ASP), Ashley Chappuis-Fontana (ASP), Rebekah Beaver, (Preschool), Jennifer Belisle (Preschool)

**Officers:** Katie Godfrey (Session), Sheilah Simons (Diaconate)

**Ministries:** Stewardship & Finance Committee and Trustees

**Families: May 1-7:** Lloyd and Julie Collins (Bailey), Molly Collins, Suzanne Collins, Ariel and Sally Conlin, George and Debby Crim

**May 8-14:** Mary Cullens, Ann Cummings, John and Lori Cummings (Jack, Maggie), Norman and Jean Daugherty, Randy and Deborah Davis

**May 15-21:** Don Denhoff, Bill and Marilyn Devine, Rose Diale, Juile Diah, Chamblyn Dudley

**May 22-31:** Blake and Jean Dudley (Ethan), David and Betty Dundee, Eric Dunlap, Jane Dysart, Randy and Sharon Ellis (Alaina)

# First Presbyterian Church

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## Contact

**Mike Anderson, pastor**

[mikea@pobox.com](mailto:mikea@pobox.com)

**Pam Radford, director of music**

[pam@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:pam@cartersvillepres.org)

**Grace Barker, children's choir director**

**Becky Ferguson, secretary**

[becky@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:becky@cartersvillepres.org)

**Angie Hood, receptionist**

[angie@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:angie@cartersvillepres.org)

**Beth Weathersby, preschool co-director**

[beth@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:beth@cartersvillepres.org)

**Lindsay Scoggins, preschool co-director**

[lindsay@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:lindsay@cartersvillepres.org)

**Jean Dudley, after school program director**

[jean@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:jean@cartersvillepres.org)

**Araceli Munoz, after school program**

[araceli@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:araceli@cartersvillepres.org)

**Andrea Roche, interim children & youth director**

[andrea@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:andrea@cartersvillepres.org)

**Story Vernon, children & youth intern**

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## *May Calendar*

### **May 13**

9:00am Red Cross Blood Drive in the Upper Room

### **May 21**

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out @ The City Cellar

### **May 25**

Memorial Day

*The Session has decided to suspend all church activities until May 19th, when they will meet again to decide the next steps.*

