



August 2021



Transitions

"The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.'" (Genesis 12:1-2)

Fall is often a time of change or transition. The weather is changing, our school children are going back to school. Recent graduates are off to new adventures in college and college students are returning. The days of summer are coming to an end and we are looking toward a new routine which may include football or fall trips. Transitions sometimes leave us feeling off balance and questioning, even looking back and thinking the grass is always greener. Transitions are sometimes wonderful, sometimes challenging, and more often than not, surprising.

Abraham faced many times of transition in his journey. He made some mistakes and took some wrong turns. But, as Abraham's story reminds us, not only does God send us on our journey, God is with us, blessing us along the way.

As summer ends and a new school year transitions, we are reminded of the excitement new things stir in our hearts. How good it feels to wear a new outfit, how a new hair cut helps us feel refreshed. When I think of transition, I often think of transformation and how people are transformed after weight loss or how a house is transformed from falling apart to a dream home. Change, transformation and transition are not bad, but there maybe some growing pains. Yet, we can stick with it and see the beauty on the other side.

As we look toward the transitions of this time, we also see in the larger picture, how we are all on a journey of faith. The journey of faith does not just involve transitions. It involves transformation. God is always at work, doing a new thing in our hearts and lives, and leading us along on the journey of faith, so that we may be transformed in Christ each and every day.

I am very glad to be on the journey with you all and I am excited as we look toward this time of transition, from Summer to Fall, and to who God is calling us to be for the future. This is not just transition, but transformation, because Christ is at work in our hearts and leading us along his paths, so that we may grow into the people he is calling us to be.

Pastor Leigh

What's happening at FPC...



Goodbye to the Fish Story!

As we wrap up the month of July, we also wrap up our summer series on Jonah. It is much more than just a fish story and has been an opportunity for some fun, reflection, and growing closer to God as we seek to know God's will for our lives through God's word. Thank you to all the people who helped to make this possible, from our artists (Shane Bruno, Anne Marie Benton, Megan Johnson), to our worship committee, to the properties committee who helped to move furniture, to our youth, to everyone who offered prayers and help, and especially to all who dove right into this fascinating book. Isn't it exciting to see what God has in store for us next?

Worship Times for August

Please note that the one service at 10:00 will continue through the month of August and through the Sunday before Labor Day. Stay tuned for more details of the plans God has for us for the future!

From Stewardship & Finance Committee:

- Pledges Year to Date are at 53% which is slightly above budget. Other giving is down Year to Date but the vast majority typically comes in in November & December.
- Expenses YTD are at 44% which is below budget.
- Our year to Date Net Total is \$12,605 below budget but that is historically very good for this point this year.

Thank you so very much for your continued support for the mission and worship of our Church.

The Session has approved the following recommendation from the Worship Task Force.

The worship task force recommends that the session empower the personnel committee to begin conversations and a search process as soon as possible to identify a musician or musicians who will coordinate and lead music for an informal service to take place in the Upper Room at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. The task force recommends that our current worship schedule of one service each Sunday in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. continue at least through the day before Labor Day, September 5, 2021, to give the personnel committee time to initiate and conduct a search. We acknowledge that we cannot know the timing of the search process, nor its ultimate result.

We give thanks for the hard work of the Worship Task Force as well as the leadership of the Session as, together, we discern the ways God is calling us to worship and serve for the coming year. Our journey of discernment continues and will involve the work and prayers of our Personnel Committee and our Worship Committee as we continue to seek to clarify how we can glorify God through our worship. If you have questions or would like to join in a time of prayer regarding this journey, contact Pastor Leigh or any Session member.

The Officer Nominating Committee is prayerfully discerning those whom God is calling to be leaders in our congregation. Your suggestions are welcomed. God calls people to serve in many different ways. These whom God calls to lead will be our spiritual leaders as well as those who together, govern, guide, and care for this congregation. Please pray for those whom God is calling to serve for the coming year.



Introducing our Shepherding Ministry

Our Deacons are beginning a shepherding ministry, a way to reach out in Christ's love to every member of our congregation. Addresses have changed and sometimes letters get lost in the mail, so there may be those who should have received a letter, but who have not heard from a deacon. You can help us make sure that every single person knows how important they are to this congregation. If you or someone you know has not received a letter about our Shepherding Ministry and they would like to be a part of a Shepherding group, please let us know by contacting the Church office. If you have any questions or concerns, speak with any Deacon or Pastor Leigh.



Ladies Night Out August 19th El Nopal Mexican Restaurant

Join us for a night out of good food and fellowship from 6:30pm till 8:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

To receive text reminders, contact Megan Johnson (678)640-7926



Wanted FPC Wedding Pictures!

If you, your parents, aunts/uncles, siblings, children, etc, were married at FPC we would love to have a picture of the happy event. The Congregational Life Committee is planning a super-fun event in September where these pictures will play a major part. Pictures can be scanned and send it to kfarnon15@gmail.com or drop a hard copy by the office by August 15th. We will take very good care of all pictures received. The information needed with each picture is name of couple, date of wedding and pastor's name (if known). Then stay-tuned for what September will bring!

To All Women-

Members of the former Evening Circle are exploring the idea of forming a new women's group. Our thought is to start with a monthly Bible study and fellowship and go from there as interests lead us. Pastor Leigh has committed to lead some of the Bible studies. We are open for suggestions as to day and time. Please call Carolyn Noble at 770-382-8603 or the church office with your suggestions.



FPC's Book Club will meet on **August 26th at 10:30am** in the Cornerstone Room.

The selected book for August is
The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion
by Fannie Flagg.
All are welcome!



It's almost time for another great school year to begin at the

~ **First Presbyterian Church Preschool** ~

Open House: Monday, August 16 from 9:00-11:00 am

First Day of School for 2 and 5 Day Classes: **Tuesday, August 17**



The Pre-School Staff is excited to welcome over 95 students this year! All classrooms are full except we can take a couple more 12 - 18 month babies in our nursery. If you know of any families with babies wanting to register, please contact the Preschool Office at 770-382-0755 or via email at:

Lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Please be in prayer for our preschool staff, preschool families, and students as we begin the school year. We desire to serve our families well and to reflect God's love through our preschool ministry. Thank you for your support!



We are excited to have a full preschool and to have hired a few new faces. Jennifer Graves will be teaching our Kindergartners. She has 30 years of experience teaching 1st grade and Kindergarten. We are blessed that she is bringing her wealth of knowledge and experience to our Kindergarten program. We have also hired

Stefanie Rickman as our music and Little Church teacher. Stefanie is coming from Hope preschool in Dallas, GA. She is looking forward to teaching our children about God's word and how much He loves them! Ms. Peyton Miller is very excited to be our 3 year old / 5 day teacher. She works in the nursery here at FPC as well as the HOC program. She is well prepared and will be an asset to our preschool!



We had a blast on Adventure Island at VBS last week!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made our VBS week an amazing adventure. We could not have done it without all of those fun, hardworking youth and adults who created an exciting week for the children who came to VBS.

The kids got to explore Bible stories, play games, create crafts, experiment with science, eat tasty snacks, and sing and dance all week long!! We had a fabulous week and look forward to sharing God's love with others in our community.

Backpack Blessing – Sunday, August 8

Bring your back-packs to be blessed as we offer prayers for the new school year. And invite a friend to join you!!

Children & Youth Sunday School

**Kick-off Sunday will be Sunday,
September 12th at 10 a.m.**

Since Sunday School kickoff is pushed back, be on the lookout for events after worship in August for all ages! Beginning with the blessing of the backpacks on Sunday, August 8th.

Confirmation

If your child is in middle school and has not gone through Confirmation, please reach out to Andrea (andrea@cartersvillepres.org), and we will get your youth all signed up. Confirmation will be Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. beginning September 19.



Middle School Montreat

Our middle school youth went to Montreat at Maryville College July 13-17. We had a great time, enjoyed being together, made new friends, and deepened our relationship with God. After having "Montreat @ Home" last year, the youth were really looking forward to being back in Maryville, TN this year. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us while we were there. We really appreciate all of you!

August Birthdays

1	Debra Tatum	17	Jerry Brownlow
1	Luke Hoskins	18	Veletta Gebert
2	Matt Farnon	18	Katie Hoskins
2	Daisy Haley	22	Nancy Kelly
3	Lois Hill	23	Donovan Aho
3	Betty Dundee	23	Rhonda Wachsmuth
7	Denice Rouse	25	Peggy White
9	Zim Choate	25	Emily Hammer
10	George Crim	26	Rowan Mukete
10	John Waters	27	Blake Dudley
10	Karon Mauney	31	Hunter James
10	Will Broome		
12	Sofia Motuba		
13	Rich Gaffoglio		
14	Ellie Johnson		
14	Gracie Meckley		
15	Earl Williamson		
16	Matt Bailey		
17	Randy Wrinkle		



In August We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Andrea Roche, Charlene Agan (ASP), Keith Gamble (ASP), Sharon Ellis (Preschool), Tiffanie Flores (Preschool)

Officers: Nannette Enloe (Session), Brac Panter (Diaconate)

Ministries: Administrative Ministry Team

Families: August 1-7: Marcia Mein, Tom and Molly Mendenhall, S. B. Moore, David Morris, John and Lisa Morrison (Thomas, Peter, Caroline)

August 8-14: Linda Motuba (Monica, Sofia), Emmanuel and Linda Mukete (Rowan, James), Sonny and Lisa Neal (Amanda), Terry Nelson, Joe and Carolyn Noble

August 15-21: Billy and Sonya Noble (Will, Jake), Ellyn Olson (Grey, Eden), Peter Olson, Scott and Susan Panter

August 22-31: Brac and Louise Panter (Marion, John), Bettye Parker, Lauren Paul (Conner, Harrison), Tommy and Beth Porter, Jonathan and Lauren Pressley (Harris, Marshall, Russell)

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Contact

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Beth Weathersby, preschool board director

beth@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

August Calendar

August 2

6:00pm - Mission Committee Meeting

August 3

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

August 8

10:00am - Blessing of the Backpacks during worship

12:00pm - Ice Cream & Fellowship after worship

August 9

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

August 10

7:30pm - Faith Development Meeting

August 16

9:00am - Preschool Open House

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

August 17

8:00am - Preschool First Day of School

7:00pm - Session Meeting

August 19

4:00pm - Hands of Christ ASP Open House

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out at El Nopal

August 23

2:00pm - Hands of Christ ASP First Day Back

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

August 26

10:30pm - Book Club Meeting

