



October 2023



***Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.***

Psalm 98



Have you ever thought of the creation story in Genesis 1 as a symphony of joy? It is. The very rhythm of the words is a song of praise, but all that God creates is too. We are certainly included in creation. Our lives should be a proclamation of praise and joy for our God.

The church is a community of joy. In Philippians, Paul writes that he thanks God every time he remembers the community, constantly praying with joy in every one of his prayers for all of them. Even in challenging times, Paul says, "I will continue to rejoice." The community helps us know and experience the true source of joy, Christ Jesus, so that we can rejoice in all circumstances.

You may have heard me talk about the difference between joy and happiness. Happiness is circumstantial and there are many times in our lives when we are sad, angry, frustrated, devastated, or all of the above. But, joy is the experience of knowing Christ and of knowing him in and through his body, this community.

This community has seen many changes over the past few years, but we are blessed to be able to come together for joy as the body of Christ. In doing so, we recognize that we have much to celebrate about the future.

Our Stewardship theme this year, Together for Joy, names the truth that we are called to join the praise of creation and live lives of joy. We do so, not just in worship, but in all that we do. How can we come together for joy for the coming year? Our time, talents, and resources, as well as our prayers and commitment all play an essential part of what it means to come together for joy.

I join our Stewardship and Finance Committee in inviting us all to pray for our congregation. Let us seek God's guidance as we reflect on the ministry God is calling us to for the coming year and the part each of us is to play in that ministry. As you do so, consider praying this prayer:

Almighty God, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing. We come together for joy in this season so that we might lift our praise and thanks to you. As we consider our giving and gratitude, show us how to use our resources to join the great chorus of creation and glorify you. Amen

Pastor Leigh



Blessing of the Animals

First Presbyterian and Church of the Ascension will come together to bless animals on Saturday, October 7 at 10:00 am. We will bless live animals and stuffed animals.

There will also be a chance to remember those pets we have lost who have enriched our lives.

Join us on the lawn next to Ascension House.

Exploring Grief Group

The Exploring Grief Group will be meeting again **October 15th** immediately after worship in the Cornerstone Room. Lunch will not be provided, but childcare is available upon request. All are welcome, whether you were able to attend the earlier meeting or not.

Lunch & Learn - October 18th at noon in our Fellowship Hall. Carrie Panter Trotter, Attorney, will present a program on Wills and Directives. This information will be beneficial for all ages. Bring your lunch - drinks and dessert will be provided. Contact Kathy Farnon (kfarnon15@gmail.com) for more information.

Congregational Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Officers

The Session has called a congregational meeting for the purposes of electing officers for **October 8th at 10:40 AM** in the Sanctuary. After prayer and reflection the nominating committee submits the following names as the slate of officers:

Elders:

Jenny Brannan
Julian Cline
Tinsley Cline
Kathy Farnon
Trey Gaines

Deacons:

Elizabeth Bowen
Sandy Bridges
Faith Burke
Cindy Sims

Trustee:

Ann Cummings

Children's Choir

Calling all Young Singers! Children's Choir begins **Sunday Oct. 15th at 9:15 AM** in the Choir Room (with Sunday School at 10:00 AM). We are so excited to celebrate and welcome our volunteer leaders, Cindy Sims and Molly Collins with support from Jim Stanley, Director of Music. All children in 1st-5th grades are welcome. You do not have to be a member of the church to join the choir!

Calling all ringers!

The handbell choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, October 18th** beginning at 5:30pm in the handbell room (across from the choir room). Anyone who is interested in ringing is invited to come and join us as we begin to prepare music for the upcoming Christmas season! While all are welcome, please know that a working knowledge of music and music-reading skills are necessary in order to ring. For those who can read music, we would love to have you be a part of this fun and enjoyable music ministry!



Celebrating and Giving Thanks for Our Church Staff

Our FPC Staff gathered in September for our first official staff meeting for the Fall. We celebrated and welcomed new staff members and prayed together for God to be with us as we serve Christ and this community. We enjoyed a field trip together away from the church and visited the second oldest tree in the state of Georgia. We gathered around the tree and read Psalm 145 and lifted our prayers. Let's continue to welcome our new staff, pray for our entire staff, and make sure to tell them how grateful we are for their discipleship and work for Christ here.

Friendship Table Needs: The shopping cart is outside the Sanctuary with a current emphasis on **individual fruit cups and cookies.**

From the Session:

Following are the highlights from the 9/19/2023 Session Meeting:

1. Patti Hall met with the Session and was approved as a new member.
2. Matthew and Katherine Hoskins and their children Luke and Abbey recently transferred their membership to Sam Jones Methodist Church.
3. Grace Shultz was approved on 9/6/2023 as Personal Assistant to Andrea Roche.
4. The sale of four vehicles for \$36,500 to the Bus Center and two vehicles to Taylor's Junkyard for scrap were approved.
5. Discussions with Cherokee Presbytery regarding their revised need for space are continuing. The FPC space vacated by Cherokee Presbytery could possibly be rented out for \$3500 per month.
6. A Congregational Meeting was approved for 10/8/2023 to elect new FPC officers.
7. A baptism in October was approved for Dalton Jenkins.
8. Upcoming Congregational Life events: 10/7/2023 Blessing of the Animals, 10/18/2023 Wills Seminar, 11/12/2023 Luncheon, 10/28/2023 Trunk or Treat
9. A Children's Choir meeting is set for 9/24/2023 at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
10. World Communion Sunday is 10/1/2023.
11. Mission Emphasis: October-Maple Ridge Nursing Home, November-Thornwell
12. The FPC Budget is in the black and in good shape but with some major expenses (Lightning Protection, Fire/Burglary Protection, HVAC upgrade) on the horizon.
13. The Personnel Committee reports that annual reviews are approaching.
14. Carpet Replacement in the Fellowship Hall will take place soon.
15. The Stewardship Theme this year is 'Together for Joy'.
16. The Session Retreat will be 11/4/2023 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

- ♦ **MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST - Sunday, October 1st at 9am** in the Fellowship Hall
Come and enjoy good food and conversation. All men are invited.
- ♦ **Ladies Night Out At Moore's Market**
October 19th 6:30 – 8:00pm All ages are welcome to participate!
- ♦ **FPC Book Club** - October 26 at 10:30am Cornerstone Room -The book selection this month is The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Come join us.



New Members



Sara Payne



Patti Hall

Inquirers' Group

If you have been visiting this congregation and would like to learn more, join us on October 29th immediately after worship in the Cornerstone Room for a time to chat, learn more about FPC and our ministries and how you can become a member of this church family.

Christian Prayer For Today

On Sunday, November 12th, at a Pot-luck luncheon immediately after worship, we will welcome Dr. Martha Moore-Keish, author of *Christian Prayer For Today*, and a professor at Columbia Theological Seminary. Our Session has been studying Dr. Moore-Keish's book, *Christian Prayer For Today*, this year and she has accepted our invitation to come and share more about the book and nurture our prayer practices. All are invited for this opportunity to learn and grow as disciples. Copies of the book are available on Amazon and Christianbook.com or if you would like to borrow a copy, contact the church office.

Growing As Disciples

There are many small group opportunities to grow as disciples. All are welcome and you can join any time with any of these groups!

Sunday Mornings

Cornerstone Adult Class, 10:00 AM in the Cornerstone Room, studying Acts

Adult Class, 10:00 AM Room 114 (hallway to Sanctuary) studying the Lectionary texts which are Scripture readings for each week.

Children and Youth Activities, 10:00 AM, in the Christian Education building

Youth Group, Sundays, 4:00-6:30, Dinner included (volunteers needed to provide food - contact Andrea Roche, Director of Children and Youth)

1st Sunday of the month - Men's Breakfast, 9:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays

Coffee House Bible Study at Noble & Main, 5:45-6:30 PM

Thursdays

1st Thursday of the month - 10:30-11:30 AM Women's Bible Study Group (Cornerstone)

2nd Thursday of the month - 7:00-8:00 PM, 12 Women of the Bible Study (Cornerstone)

3rd Thursday of the month - 6:30 PM, Ladies Night Out

4th Thursday of the month - 10:30-12:00, Book Club (Cornerstone)



On Sunday, September 17, we had our first combined Children & Youth Sunday afternoon of fun, fellowship, and faith! We learned archery, taught each other about pickle ball, and had a great time together. Our next combined activity day is set for Sunday, November 5 from 4-6:30 with dinner provided.





October Bible Verse:

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Dear Church Family:

Life at preschool is going great! All the children have settled in and love coming to school to see their teachers and friends. We have started special area classes including Science, Music, Bible Class, and Little Church! We are looking forward to some of our fall traditions including our Costume Parade/Fall Parties!!!

Love in Christ,

Jennifer



Important Dates

Fall Break:

October 9-13

Costume Parade and Fall Parties

October 26 and 31

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a great success! The children loved the experience of selecting books for themselves, which will no doubt continue their love for learning!

We were blessed to have over 100 grandparents enjoy snack time and Book Fair with their grandchildren during Grandparent's Week in September. What an incredible experience to see so much love surrounding our preschool all week!

Photos on the left: Ms. Rosemary's and Mrs. Becca's Classes at Fire Station 1. Adults and children explore the Book Fair and have snack time during Grandparent's Week.





Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat – October 28 – 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Sign up here for our >>[Fall Festival](#)<<

Decorate the trunk of your car & hand out candy (come as early as 3 to set up)

Donate a cake for the Cake Walk

Volunteer in other ways: lead games, parking lot attendant, serve dinner, etc.

Invite friends, family, & neighbors in our community to come Trick-or-Treat!

We are also collecting bags of individually wrapped candy. Drop candy off at the office during office hours or place in the baskets before worship.

If you have questions, reach out to andrea@cartersvillepres.org.

Youth Group Dinners

We need help providing dinners for our youth during Youth Group on Sunday nights. Anyone, any group, any family is invited to sign up to prepare, cook, & serve dinner for our youth group one Sunday evening. It doesn't have to be a fancy meal. Delicious meals we have had in the past: Breakfast for Dinner, Pasta Bar, Publix subs, southern cooking (with Zaxby's chicken), and a Taco Bar.

To sign up for a date or for more information contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org.

Dates available: Oct. 22, Dec. 3, Dec. 10

Youth Group October Calendar

1 – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30) - with other churches

3 - (Tues) - Serve at Friendship Table (4:30-7:15pm)

14 – (Sat) Youth Trip to the Corn Maze (RSVPs Required)



Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze & Haunted Maze - Saturday, October 14

RSVPs are required by Oct. 11, so tickets can be purchased ahead of time.

On Saturday, Oct. 14 the youth will be going to [Uncle Shuck's Corn Maze](#) & Haunted Maze in Dawsonville, weather permitting. We will leave the church parking lot at 5 p.m. and return around 10-11 p.m. Invite friends! Cost is \$25 and includes the corn maze, haunted trail, corn cannon, wagon rides, bonfire with marshmallows, goat walk, etc. Bring extra money for dinner, buying pumpkins, funnel cakes, etc.

We will need some adults to chaperone/drive as well. Let Andrea know if you want to join us.

Cost is \$25 – Pay by Cash, check, or online – memo Youth Corn Maze - <https://cartersvillepres.org/give/>

October Birthdays

1	Sue Coalson	21	Nancy Kaufman
4	Linda Hall	21	Bob Mauney
4	Anita Meadows	21	Andy Keith
4	Luke Wachsmuth	22	Frank Weathersby
5	Sandra Thornton	23	Bill Broome
5	Craig Godfrey	24	Paxton Robinson
6	Anderson Shrader	28	Beth Porter
6	Russell Pressley	28	Keith Williamson
10	Robert Sims	28	Christopher Shields
10	Lauren Pressley	29	Charlotte Sullins
11	Diane Burger-Wrinkle	29	Jonathan Pressley
13	Elizabeth Bowen	31	Joseph Clark
13	Patrick Gardner		
14	Bill Devine		
15	Brad Barrett		
16	Penny Waters		
16	Jamie Brush		
17	Peter Olson		
20	Sandy Bridges		



In October Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Angie Hood, Peyton Miller (Preschool), April Paulk (Preschool)

Officers: Betty Dundee (Session), Keith Williamson (Diaconate)

Ministries: Congregational Life Ministry

Families: October 1-7: Candler and Susan Ginn, Craig Godfrey, Katie Godfrey (Anna, Emily, Sam), Paul and Joan Green, David and Sara Gregory (Megan, Ethan)

October 8-14: Katelyn Grundy, Linda Hall, Patti Hall (Ezra, Jake), Mina Harper, Clark and Mary Hart

October 15-21: Clay and Catheryn Hembree (Alice, Graham), John and Lynn Herman (Ian), Lois Hill, Harvey and Sandy Howell, Brad and Pam Hughes

October 22-31: Susan and Jerry Ingram, Jim and Lynne Ireland, Sean and Rhonda Ireland (Allyson, Emily), Evelyn Itoe (Bemo), Loveline Itoe

First Presbyterian Church

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Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

pastorleighjones@gmail.com

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

Jim Stanley, choir director

music@cartersvillepres.org

Fred Drifmeyer, organist/pianist

Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Jennifer Graves, preschool director

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org



October Calendar

October 1

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

October 2

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

October 3

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

October 4

6:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

October 5

10:30am - *Sacred Encounters* Women's Bible Study

October 7

10:00am - Blessing of the Animals @ Church of the Ascension Green Space

October 8

10:40am - Congregational Meeting/Sanctuary

October 9 - 13 Preschool Fall Break

October 9

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

October 12

7:00pm - 12 Women of the Bible Study

October 14

5:00pm - Youth Trip to Corn Maze

October 15

9:15am - Children's Choir begins 1st-5th grades
Choir Room

October 15

12:00pm - Exploring Grief Symposium 2

October 16

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

October 17

7:00pm - Session Meeting

October 18

12:00pm - Lunch & Learn Wills & Directives
5:30pm - Handbell Choir Rehearsals begin

October 19

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out/Moore's Market

October 23

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

October 26

10:30am - FPC Book Club

October 28

5:00pm - Fall Festival/Trunk-or-Treat

October 29

12:00pm - Inquirer's Group/Cornerstone Room