



March 2024



¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” . . . But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” (Matthew 16:17-19, 23)

Simon Peter is a man with two names. Simon, the name his parents gave him, is from the Hebrew “Shema” which means listen. Peter, the nickname Jesus gave him, is from the Greek, “Petros”, which means rock or stubborn one. Simon Peter is the stubborn one who listens to God. What a contradiction! Can we be both stubborn and listen to God?

I think that is a profound contradiction, but one that describes us all. In the same way, Jesus told Simon Peter that he was both the the rock upon which the church would be built and a stumbling block. As are we all.

This Lent, as we continue to reflect on Peter’s life and how profoundly it speaks to our lives, I invite us all to consider the contradictions of our lives and faith. If we acknowledge those contradictions, we can draw closer to Christ whose love and grace we desperately need, and who is seeking deeper relationship with us. We are both stubborn and listening for God. And we are grateful for our Savior and his journey to the cross for our sakes.

Join us for the last few weeks of Lent, then for the Holy days of Holy Week. That is the time when we turn to Christ even as he gives his all for us.

Peace,

Pastor Leigh





The Session has called the annual Congregational Meeting for **March 10th** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will also have a Pot Luck lunch. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share, meat and drinks will be provided.

JOURNEY
THROUGH
**HOLY
WEEK**
WITH US

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 24 @ 11 am
MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28 @ 6:30 pm
GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 29 @ Noon
joint service with Ascension,
Heritage & Trinity
EASTER SUNDAY
MARCH 31 @ 11 am



THURSDAYS NOON - 1 PM

March 7 - Trinity Methodist Church

March 14 - Heritage Baptist Church

Join us Thursdays in Lent along with other churches in our community at noon for lunch and worship together. There is no charge for lunch; donations will be accepted.

During Lent, we are collecting items for two local organizations, *Advocates for Children* and *Red Door Food Pantry*.

Below are the most needed items this time of year. Thank you being God's hands and feet in our community during this Lenten Season.

- ***Advocates for Children*** – Individually wrapped snacks (small bags of chips, peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, cookies, etc.) & Diapers (sizes 2-5)
- ***Red Door Food Pantry*** – Toilet Paper & Bars of Soap

There are two shopping carts outside of the Sanctuary where you can place your items.

If you have any questions, please contact Mission Committee Chair Betty Dundee – bettydundee@gmail.com.





Thank you to all who
worked hard to provide our
basketball goal!



Sunday, March 3, at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited.

Women's Bible Study

will meet **March 7th at 10:30 AM** in the Cornerstone Room. We will be discussing Lesson 7 and the scripture is Acts 8: 26-40. All are welcome! We also continue our donations of feminine hygiene products as well as body wash, shampoo, conditioner, lotions etc.

Exploring Grief

The Exploring Grief Group meets March 17 in the Cornerstone Room immediately after worship. Bring your own lunch and come for a time of reflection and prayer. You do not have to have attended previously to come to the group. All are welcome.

Ladies Night Out - March 21 at 6:30 p.m.

This month we will meet at El Dorado 910 Joe Frank Harris Pkwy, Cartersville, for good food and fellowship. All ladies are invited and bring a friend!

From the Session:

At its monthly stated meeting in February, the FPC Session:

- Unanimously approved a 2024 church budget with expected income of \$605,564 and expected expenses of \$604,722.
- Unanimously appointed David Dundee as assistant clerk of the session.
- Unanimously approved the sacrament of baptism for Capri Wren Russell.
- Heard a report about the Feb. 10 meeting of Cherokee Presbytery in Dalton in which the Rev. Andy Casto-Waters was appointed acting general presbyter and the Rev. Joe Evans of First Presbyterian Church Marietta was installed as moderator.



First Presbyterian Pre-School 2024

Jennifer Graves ~ Director

April Paulk ~ Assistant Director

Registration Update:

We have 85 students already enrolled for August 2024!

We have availability in our 2-year-old, 3-year-old,

Pre-K and Kindergarten classes.

Encourage friends and family to enroll today to ensure a spot!

770-382-0755 or jennifer@cartersvillepres.org



Arbor Day Presentation!



Valentines Day Parties!



Important Dates

Dr. Seuss Week!

Mon.-Fri.- March 4-8

St. Patrick's Day Parties

Tues., Mar. 12 & Fri. Mar. 15

Annual Egg Drop

Friday, March 22

Easter Parties and Egg Hunts

Tuesday, March 26 – 2-day class

Thurs., March 28 – 3 and 5-day
classes

Good Friday

Friday, March 29 (No School)





Community Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 24 at 4 p.m. Invite your friends & neighbors!

Donations Needed: Large bags of individually wrapped candy (peanut-free) or small toys that can fit into plastic Easter Eggs. Please drop off any donations to the church office during office hours, place in the Large Baskets outside of the Sanctuary, or have items directly mailed to the church.

Please mail to Andrea Roche 183 W Main St. Cartersville, GA, 30120.

If you can volunteer from 3-5 p.m, please contact Andrea@cartersvillepres.org.

Montreat Youth Conference Registration

High School: June 9-15, 2024

Middle School: July 17-21, 2024

\$100 Non-Refundable Deposit due by March 17th

- ♦ **High School Conference:** Cost is \$475 for the conference, food, and housing, and free afternoon event (mini-golf, escape room, etc.).
- ♦ **Middle School Conference:** Cost is \$435, all inclusive.
- ♦ Scholarships are available – Just ask Pastor Leigh or Andrea
- ♦ Adults - If you are prayerfully considering being a chaperone, please reach out to Andrea to set up a meeting to go over expectations of being an adult chaperone on a youth trip.

Email or text Andrea to register. To pay the deposit: Send a check to the office or pay online – Memo: Montreat +child's name

www.cartersvillepres.org/give/

If you have any questions, contact

andrea@cartersvillepres.org



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!

July 8-12, 9 a.m. until noon

VBS is open to all children in our community, and it is a time for kids to hear God's Message, deepen their faith, enjoy songs, create crafts, and have a wonderful week.

Volunteers with all abilities are needed: teachers, snack coordinators, set builders, guides for our children, game leaders, decorators, etc. There is a place for everyone at VBS!

If you want to volunteer for VBS, contact

andrea@cartersvillepres.org.

March Children & Youth Group Calendar

March 3 – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)

March 5 (Tues) – Serve at Friendship Table

March 8 (Fri) – Lock In 8 p.m.

March 10 – Youth Bible Study (4-5 p.m.)

March 17 – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)

March 24 – Community Easter Egg Hunt (3-5 p.m.) at FPC, Dinner for youth afterwards

March 31 – Easter Sunday, No Sunday School, No youth group

Blue Ridge Mission Trip

Thank you to all who worked and all who prayed
and all who financially supported our mission
trip to Blue Ridge.



March Birthdays

1	Bettye Parker	26	Ian Herman
1	Rhonda Gaffoglio	27	Brac Panter
3	Debby Crim	28	Steve Barnes
8	Judy Steed	31	Drew Johnson
8	Kathy Thomas		
8	Carla Purdy		
8	Justin James		
8	Meredith Gaines		
10	Lauren Warlick		
13	Kyle Tucker		
15	Gracie Pruitt		
18	Randy Thompson		
19	Sandy Howell		
19	Julian Cline		
21	Kim Rentz		
21	Courtney Keen		
22	Lauren Paul		
24	Hannah Wilson		
25	Peggy Zierer		
25	Barrie Stodgell		





GIVE HOPE THIS SPRING.

Give blood.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of CARTERSVILLE

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

All presenting donors will receive a \$10 E-Gift Card to the Pet Supply Merchant of your choice. Your name will also be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 5 \$3,000 Gift Cards.

For more information, to schedule an appointment, & to do RAPIDPASS, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: **firstprescartersville**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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In March Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Andrea Roche, Elise Bares (Preschool), Skyla Cagle (Preschool)

Officers: Kathy Farnon (Session), Rick Shireman (Diaconate)

Ministries: Congregational Care Ministry

Families: March 1-7: Mike and Cindy Tobin, Harry and Joann Treadaway, Kyle and Jamie Lee Tucker (Dolly), Margie Vonnahme, Lauren and Chip Warlick (Scarlett)

March 8-14: Elizabeth Watanabe, John and Penny Waters, Frank and Beth Weathersby, Jared Whatley (Olivia), Ross and Charlotte Whatley

March 15-21: Peggy White, LaRue Whitehead, Benton Williams, Keith Williamson, Earl and Marie Williamson

March 22-31: Hannah and Taylor Wilson (Jackson, Sam), Randy and Diane Wrinkle, John and Peggy Zierer, Abby Allen, Karen Anderson

First Presbyterian Church

183 West Main Street—Cartersville, GA 30120

770-382-3511

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

March Calendar

March 3

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

March 4

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

March 5

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

March 7

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

12:00pm - Lenten Lunch @ Trinity Methodist Church

March 8

8:00pm - Youth Lock-In

March 10

Daylight Saving Time begins

12:00pm - Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck

March 11

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

March 13

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive

March 14

12:00pm - Lenten Lunch @ Heritage Baptist Church

March 17

12:00pm - Exploring Grief Group

March 18

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

March 19

7:00pm - Session Meeting

March 21

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out @ El Dorado

March 24 - Palm Sunday

4:00pm - Community Easter Egg Hunt @ FPC

March 28

10:30am - FPC Book Club

6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Service

March 29 - Good Friday

No Preschool

12:00pm - Joint Good Friday Service w/Church of the Ascension, Trinity Methodist, and Heritage Baptist

March 31- Easter Sunday

11:00am - One Worship Service

