



February 2025

*Your body is a sacred place and you belong to God . . . both your spiritual body and your physical body
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (The Message)*

Have you ever told someone to “Take Care,” or had someone tell you that? It can seem like a casual phrase, but it is one that is very important. It is also, without a doubt, part of our responsibilities as disciples. We are to not just care for others, but care for ourselves. Some days it is much easier to care for others than to care for ourselves. But each and every one of us has been given a beautiful gift from God - our life. God loves us more than anything and yearns for us to care for that gift.

What does self-care look like? It is not just a matter of trying to stay healthy. It is essential for spiritual growth. We are not living as Christ calls us to live if we are not caring for others and ourselves. Christ was intentional and deliberate about taking time to go off and pray, to care for his heart and spirit, even as he was caring for others. For the month of February, I invite us to consider what it looks like to love your neighbor as you love yourself. How do we care for others AND ourselves?

When we mention caregivers, sometimes we have specific people in mind - for example, nurses or doctors, physical therapists or even our deacons, who care for our congregation. We might also think of those who are caring for a loved one who is ill or has special needs. But there are many caregivers and many ways people who give or have given care need care themselves.

Those who give care also need care. As we conclude the month of February and enter March, I invite everyone to participate in a dedicated worship service on March 2nd when we will lift special prayers for all who are caregivers. After our worship on March 2nd, Anne Shimsky, LPC, RPT-S, AAMFT Clinical Fellow will lead a conversation for all caregivers. Bring your own lunch and spend some time considering how caregivers can care for themselves and manage their circumstances in a healthy way.

This time is open for everyone, whether you are currently a caregiver, have been one in the past, or soon you may be called to be one. It is also a great opportunity if you would like to learn more about how to help care for caregivers.

For now, I invite us all to spend the month of February praying about and considering what it looks like to take care of others and ourselves and how that is an important part of our discipleship.

Pastor Leigh

February Faith Development

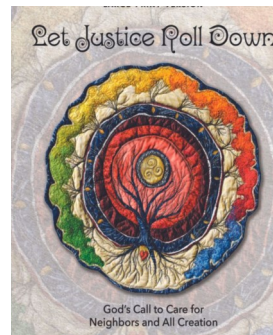
- **Sundays, February 2, 9, 16, 23**
10 AM--Sunday School for all ages
- **Monday, February 3**
7 PM--Faith Development Meeting
- **Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26**
11:30 AM--Coffee Shop Theology at Noble & Main
Romans for Everyone, by N.T. Wright
- **Thursday, February 6**
10:30 AM--PW Bible Study
Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation, by Patricia K. Tull
- **Saturday, February 8**
5 PM--Parents Night Out (volunteers report at 4:30)

New Small Group Opportunity!

All adults are invited to join a new small group study! On **Wednesday, February 5, 11:30 - 12:30, at Noble & Main**, we will begin discussing *Romans for Everyone, Part 1*, by N.T. Wright. This study replaces the Thursday evening study, and will be led by Pastor Leigh Jones. The first lesson is Romans 1:1-7. Purchasing the book is optional, but it is available at Amazon.com and Thriftbooks.com. We hope to see you there!



Lent is an opportunity to draw closer to Christ and grow in our discipleship. Lent begins this year on **March 5** with our Ash Wednesday Service. Make plans for a holy Lent and to join us for that very special worship service.



The monthly Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* will meet Thursday, February 6 at 10:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Lesson

Six focuses on Climate Change with the following scripture - Luke 12: 16-21; Jeremiah 37: 11-16 & 38: 4-6; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15. Our guest speaker will be Brandy Rogers, Professor of Biology & STEM, Georgia Highlands College. All are welcome!

Ladies Night - Thursday, February 20th at 6:00pm

We will be dining at Sixes Tavern. Contact Courtney Keen 678-431-2145 if you'd like to join. Everyone is welcome!

The FPC Book Club meets next on February 27, 2025 at 10:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Our

book club selection is Eddie Jaku's The Happiest Man on Earth, with 202 pages. In this uplifting memoir in the vein of *The Last Lecture* and *Man's Search for Meaning*, a Holocaust survivor pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom, and living his best possible life. Come join us; everyone is welcome!

Calling Congregational Care Committee Task Force Volunteers

Pastor Leigh has been reminding us to lean into our baptismal promises. We are recruiting for our Congregational Care Task Force, which has no committee meetings! We are looking for people to help the Deacons/Shepherds support and care for our fellow church families in specific ways based on individual needs, so there is no recurring commitment. Examples of this ministry might include prayer, calling or visiting, listening, meals, transportation or errands, and other caregiving needs in times of joy, illness, grief, and life transition. We'll reach out to the task force when we have a need, and if it's not in your skill set or window of availability, that's fine. Please contact Becky Carr (404-626-6986 or mrebeccacarr@gmail.com) if interested in serving in this way. Thank you.

From the Session:

In late December, the Session set the annual Congregational meeting for Jan. 26 after worship.

At a meeting held by Zoom on Jan. 11, the Session set a plan for worship on Jan. 12 in the wake of a winter storm.

At its monthly stated meeting on Jan. 21, the Session took the following actions:

- Extended an invitation to the Rev. Maryellen Hittel to participate and lead the sacrament of communion during worship of Feb. 2.
- Enrolled Grace Johnson as an inquirer, the first step toward becoming a minister of the word and sacrament, and appointed Jean Gilliland as her liaison with First Presbyterian Church.
- Appointed Trey Gaines and Jean Gilliland as First Presbyterian Church's commissioners to the meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Marietta First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Feb. 8.



Breakfast Date: Sunday, February 2nd,
starting at 9 AM, coffee ready at 8:30 AM

Are you a guy?

Do you like to eat?

Do you like to talk?

If you answered yes, then please join us for the Men's Breakfast on the first Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Cartersville. This breakfast is a PERFECT opportunity to get to know other men of your Church family.

During our time together, you will receive great food, awesome fellowship, and conversation. As men, we may try to solve the problems of the world OR talk about whatever comes up.

We have a great group of guys each month, so there is plenty to talk with, and we are always ready and happy to welcome new faces and voices to the group!

God has called out to each of us. No matter where you are on your journey, we all benefit from each other and share God's Word together. Please join us, and feel free to invite other men as well! **RSVP to dwc1945@gmail.com**

FPC Memorial Urn Garden

The purpose of the FPC Memorial Urn Garden is to provide an appropriate and maintained place for the interment of ash remains of FPC members and their families. The Garden is located along the west wall of the church along Bartow Street.

The Garden will be administered by The Memorial Committee of the church. The pastor will have the authority to accept applications and complete the agreement between FPC and the family of the deceased.

The Garden is currently in the early stage of site development with the first interment expected in mid March of this year. We expect the total landscaping and fencing to be completed by the end of 2025. We also plan to, by the end of 2025 place an enclosed "plaque" with the names and dates of those who are interred. This "plaque" will be mounted in an appropriate location on the wall of the church.

For more information, a copy of the Policy and Procedures will be available in the church office. Questions can be directed to Pastor Leigh Jones or Memorial Committee Members: Scott Panter, Brad Hughes, or Tinsley Cline.

Mission Trip to Black Mountain

We give thanks for our Mission Trip coordinator, Rhonda Ireland and our mission team and their hard work in Black Mountain and Montreat and for all who supported the Mission trip with prayers and donations. We hope to take another team up to help out sometime in the coming months.





Top: Our 3's and 4's learn about following Jesus in Little Church.

Bottom: Pre K makes snowflakes using "Magic Snow Paint".

February 2025

It's registration time at First Presbyterian Church Preschool!

2025-2026 Open Registration

FPC Church Member Registration began in January, so feel free to register your children and grandchildren at any time! Open registration for the public begins on Monday, February 3. Please take a registration packet to share with family and friends outside of FPC who might be interested in enrolling. Brochures and Registration packets are available in the church office.

Classes available:

- Toddler Class: 2 Day, 3 Day, and 5 Day Classes
- Two-Year-Old: 2 Day, 3 Day, and 5 Day Classes
- Three-Year-Old: 3 Day and 5 Day Classes
- Pre-K: 5 Day Classes
- Kindergarten: 5 Day Classes

Classes fill up quickly, so encourage family and friends to register early to hold their spot!



Upcoming February Preschool Dates

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Open Registration | Monday, February 3 |
| 100 th Day of School | Friday, February 7 |
| Dental Health Presentation | Monday, February 10 |
| Valentines Parties | Tuesday, February 11 |
| | Friday, February 14 |
| Winter Break | February 17 - 21 |
| Arbor Day Presentation | Monday, February 24 |

- Registration for 2025-2026 opens to the public
- Celebrations for 5-Day Students
- Dr. Tinsley Cline (2's, 3's, 4's)
- Valentines Celebrations for our 2 Day Class
- Valentines Celebrations for 3 Day and 5 Day Classes
- Preschool closed
- Keep Bartow Beautiful (3's, 4's)



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!

July 7-11, 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.



Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025

July 28-31, 2025, Louisville, KY, open to those entering 9th grade through 2025 graduates. There are also opportunities for Young Adults.

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) is an ecumenical event hosted by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that gathers high school age young people every 3 years. It is a well-planned and thoughtfully led event focused on worship, disciple making, Christian compassion & justice and biblical/theological education. It is also a catalyst for many young people to take the next steps in their faith.

<https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>

Let Andrea know if you are interested in Triennium, and we will set a meeting to discuss our options and estimated costs.



Montreat Youth Conference Registration

High School: June 8-14, 2025

Middle School: July 16-20, 2025

\$100 Non-Refundable Deposit due by March 16th

High School Conference: Cost is \$475 for the conference, food, transportation, and housing, and free afternoon event (mini-golf, escape room, etc.).

Middle School Conference: Cost is \$475, 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

Save the Dates Summer 2025

- High School Youth Montreat – June 8-14
- Worship & Music (Children, Youth, & Adults) – June 22-28
- VBS – July 7-11, 9 a.m. until noon
- Middle School Youth Montreat – July 16-20
- Triennium – July 28-31



February Birthdays

2	Kyle Russell	28	Beth Gaines
5	Dalton Jenkins	28	Erin Sims
7	Jackson Wilson	28	Conner Paul
8	Beth Weathersby		
11	Jimmy Benton		
13	Kay Boulier		
14	Dennis Collier		
17	Matthew Hurley		
17	Bennett Klingbeil		
18	Jennifer Tasker		
19	Margaret Gaines		
20	Leigh Jones		
21	Susan Ginn		
21	Chris Jones		
21	Marshall Pressley		
23	Kathe Keck		
23	Jessi Bailey		
27	Ethan Gregory		



In February Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Becky Ferguson, April Paulk (Preschool), Amy Prather (Preschool)

Officers: Eliza Johnson (Session), Kim Rentz (Diaconate)

Ministries: Administrative Ministry

Families: February 1-7: Trey and Beth Gaines (Margaret, Meredith), Jessica Gardner (Patrick), Mark and Veletta Gebert, Jean Gilliland, Mary Gilreath

February 8-14: Candler and Susan Ginn, Craig Godfrey, Katie Godfrey (Anna, Emily, Sam), Paul and Joan Green, Tom and Celeste Green

February 15-21: David and Sara Gregory (Megan, Ethan), Patti Hall (Jake), Mina Harper, Mary and Clark Hart, John and Lynn Herman (Ian)

February 22-28: Lois Hill, Sandy Howell, Brad and Pam Hughes, Susan and Jerry Ingram, Jim Ireland

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

Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Jennifer Graves, preschool director

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org

February Calendar

February 2

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

February 3

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

February 4

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

February 5, 12, 19, 26

11:30am - Coffee Shop Theology/*Romans for Everyone* @ Noble & Main

February 6

10:30am - Women's Bible Study Group

February 8

5:00pm - Parents Night Out

February 10

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

February 17 - 21 - FP Preschool Winter Break

February 17

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

February 18

7:00pm - Session Meeting

February 20

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ Sixes Tavern

February 25

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

February 27

10:30am - FPC Book Club

