



March 2025

Lift Up Your Voice

“All of creation,” wrote the twelfth-century German abbess and composer, St. Hildegard of Bingen, “is a song of praise to God,” a swirling symphony all around us.

“To sing is to pray twice,” St. Augustine, the fourth-century North African bishop, is said to have once remarked – that is, first praying through the song’s words, and second through its music.

And for Martin Luther, next to theology, music is the greatest art: “For if you want to revive the sad, startle the jovial, encourage the despairing, humble the conceited, pacify the raving, mollify the hate-filled...what can you find that is more effective than music?”

This Lenten season, we are all invited to take the Christian musical treasury as our guide. It is sacred art, thousands of years old, in which profound theology and beautiful melodies come together. Our weekly devotions will focus on biblical texts and beloved songs and invite us try practices or disciplines relating to that Scripture and music that help us draw closer to our Savior.

Everyone is invited to sing along. Some of us (myself included) may have concerns about lifting our voices to sing, feeling like we cannot sing. But, the writer of the Psalms - that songbook that is at the center of our Scriptures - reminds us that we are called to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Lift your voice and sing - whether it is alone in your morning devotion or with our congregation in congregational hymns. Reflect on the lyrics and what they mean but also see how it feels to sing them to God. God is the most important audience and welcomes with joy and pride every time we lift our voices in sung prayer, regardless of whether we “can sing” or not.

Many of the songs may be familiar. Others may not. There are many different styles of music across Christian history. The songs and hymns included in our devotional and each Sunday are some of the familiar “classics” from a range of styles. They are a diverse jumping-off point, not a complete list. They are an opportunity to sing with our ancestors in the faith from different years and traditions. But they are also an invitation to learn more about traditions and history and to consider what hymns and songs speak to you today. And join the conversation! Comment on facebook or connect with us through our website and share the names of songs or hymns that you find meaningful. We will try to incorporate them into worship, if not in Lent, then this summer when we will spend the month of July reflecting on the music that speaks to our souls.

Make sure to either pick up a paper copy of the devotion and lyric sheet or download one (link will be included in the Friday Constant Contact) or check out Facebook or IG for daily devotions. Below, you will find QR codes that will take you to a spotify playlist and one that will take you to the lyrics and links page for songs. If you scan the lyrics and links code with phone or tablet, you can click on the song title and it will take you to a YouTube video of the song so that you can sing along with it!

As the days pass through our Lenten journey, may we lift our voices in song, strengthening our spirits, praying twice and joining with creation’s symphony of sorrow and joy, anguish and comfort, death, and new life.

Pastor Leigh



SPOTIFY
PLAYLIST



LYRICS AND
LINKS DOC

Ashes-to-Go

**Wednesday March 5 from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM in the back parking lot
(drive through the preschool drop-off lanes)**

As we enter into the Holy Season of Lent, we are offering an opportunity to name our brokenness and need for Christ through the imposition of ashes, not just through the Ash Wednesday service that is at 6:00 PM, but also individually to any who wish at our Ashes-to-Go station that will be in the back parking lot of the church from 1:00-3:30. This is also an opportunity for a time of personal prayer with the pastor if there are any matters that you would like to pray about in this season.



Ash Wednesday Service - March 5th at 6:00 PM

Lenten Disciplines

During the season of Lent, many people practice lenten disciplines in order to draw closer to God and grow in faith. This can take the form of giving something up, thereby drawing nearer to Christ as we make sacrifices even when we know he made the greatest sacrifice. It can also take the form of adding practices to our lives for the season. For example, you might add daily Scripture reading, or attending Bible Study. Or you might add giving of time, talent or treasures in addition to your regular giving. Or you can add several of those options! Another opportunity to add something is to be deliberate about inviting others to draw closer to Christ in this season. Invite a friend to worship or to a Bible Study or to a Lenten lunch or to serve at Friendship Table with you. Make that a Lenten discipline - where you invite someone new at least twice in every week for the season of Lent. Before and after you invite them, pray about it. Ask God to use you and work in and through your heart and life and to work in the heart and life of the one you are inviting also.

Wandering in the Desert -Thursdays at noon in the Lenten Season

This Lenten season, you are invited to join our community in reflecting on the deserts in our lives and in our communities. Where are the places where there are hurting or brokenhearted? Where can we find those who need someone to walk alongside them? Where are the brokenhearted places in our own lives and how can our experiences touch others with God's love?

Join us for lunch and a time of prayer and reflection.

- **March 13th** - Hosted by Heritage Baptist Church. Encounters With Christ in the Desert (Panel of Pastors from FPC, Heritage, Ascension, and Trinity) moderated by Louise Panter
- **March 20th** - Hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church. Homelessness. (Panel from Good Neighbor and Compassion Center)
- **March 27th** - Hosted by Church of the Ascension. Addiction. (Panel from Recovery Bartow)
- **April 3rd** - Hosted by FPC. Mental Health. (Panel from the Mental Health Court of Bartow County)

From the Session:

At its stated monthly meeting in February, the Session:

- Affirmed the church Covenant of Care and Respect.
- Adopted the revised church operating procedures, including the Memorial Urn Garden policy; credit card policy; the check-writing policy; and Mission Committee policy on minor volunteers at Friendship Table.
- Approved the hire of Donna Maini as church organist/accompanist.
- Elected Ellyn Olson church treasurer for 2025.
- Elected Sean Ireland and David Dundee as clerk/assistant clerk of Session.
- Established a quorum for Session meetings of seven for 2025.
- Established a quorum for Congregational meetings of 15 percent of membership for 2025.
- Established a schedule for communion celebration at worship services on the first Sunday of each month and as needed for shut-ins.
- Appointed Peter Olson as registered agent for the church corporation.

March Faith Development

- **Sundays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**
10 AM--Sunday School for all ages
- **Monday, March 3**
7 PM--Faith Development Meeting
- **Wednesdays, March 6, 12, 19, 29**
11:30 AM--*Romans for Everyone* Bible Study
Church of the Ascension Youth Room
- **Thursday, March 6**
10:30 AM--PW Bible Study
Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation -- Cornerstone Room
- **Monday, March 31**
7 PM--Faith Development Meeting (rescheduled from Monday, April 7)



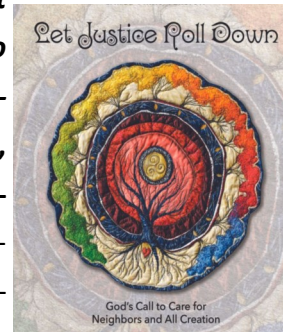
Sunday, March 2nd starting at 9 AM,
coffee ready at 8:30 AM

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.

RSVP to dwc1945@gmail.com

The monthly Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* will meet Thursday,

March 6 at 10:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Lesson Seven focuses on Economic Climate Change with the following scripture - Deuteronomy 15:1-18. Our guest speakers are Jim and Marcia Humphreys, Bartow Master Gardeners. All are welcome!



Ladies Night - Thursday, March 20th at 6:00pm
We will be dining at Neena's Pizza. Please let Courtney Keen know if you can attend 678-431-2145. All ladies are welcome!



The FPC Book Club meets next on March 27, 2025 at 10:30am in the Cornerstone Room. Our book club selection this month is The Last of the Moon Girls by Barbara Davis. A novel about a woman going back to her family lavender farm. Come join us; everyone is welcome!

SERV SAFE Food Handler Training at First Presbyterian Church

Every two years we need to have some of our Friendship Table Volunteers take a four-hour SERV SAFE Food Handlers’ Training Course on the safe handling of food preparation and service to the public, as required by the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Red Door Food Pantry (one of our major food donation sources). This also helps our partner, The Red Door Food Pantry, maintain their ability to obtain food from ACFB. We need at least two volunteers per week (more is GREAT) or a minimum of ten volunteers to take this training program. The Friendship Table will cover the cost of the training. Angelica Bridges Davis from the Bartow County Extension Office will be conducting two training sessions on Tuesday, March 11 and on Tuesday March 18 from 1 PM to 5 PM (you only need to attend one of the sessions) at the First Presbyterian Church. If you can make one of these dates, please contact Rick Shireman at rickshireman@yahoo.com or (602) 758-3002 or sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the church kitchen, and we will contact you with additional information.

If you have not had the opportunity yet to volunteer for the Friendship Table, we are always looking for additional volunteers. We have opportunities for kitchen helpers, cooks, greeters, servers, and clean up staff. Contact Rick or the church office for additional information.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Friendship Table!

Rick Shireman
Coordinator

WOMEN'S STEP STUDY MEETING





Who Any woman who seeks sobriety

Where First Presbyterian Church,
183 Main St. Cartersville

When Mondays at 5 pm

What We are a sober group of A.A. women who study the Twelve Steps of A.A. Our purpose is to stay sober, and the message to pass on to live a sober life.

This A.A. group of women meet to pass their experience, strength, and hope of joyful sober living on to other women. On the first Monday of every month one our members will share her story!

SHARE YOUR LUCKY CHARM.

Give blood for those in need.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of
CARTERSVILLE
BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

All donors who give a successful pint of blood will receive a \$10 E-Gift Card from Amazon and a free A1C test.

For more information, to schedule an appointment, & to do RAPID-PASS, 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



First Presbyterian Pre-School 2025

Jennifer Graves ~ Director

April Paulk ~ Assistant Director

Registration Update:

We have over 100 students already enrolled for August 2025!
We have availability in our Nursery (12-24 months), 2-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



Dr. Tinsley talks to our kiddos about dental health!



100th Day of School Celebration!



Important Dates

Dr. Seuss Week!

Mon.-Fri.- March 3-7

St. Patrick's Day Parties

Monday, March 17



UPCOMING IN APRIL:

Spring Break

Mon.-Fri., April 7-11

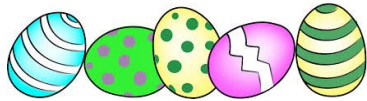
Easter Parties and Egg Hunts

Tuesday, April 15 – 2-day class
Thursday, April 17 – 3 and 5-day classes

Good Friday

Friday, April 18 (No School)





**Easter Egg Hunt Donations Needed
Sunday, April 13 at 4 p.m.
Volunteers Needed 3-5 p.m.**

FPC will be hosting a Community Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 13 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, please let contact Andrea@cartersvillepres.org.



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

Deadline to register is March 16!

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

March Children & Youth Group Calendar

- March 2 – Youth & Children’s Group (4-5:30 p.m.)
- March 4 (Tues) – Serve at Friendship Table
- March 9 – Community Youth Group (5-6:30 p.m.)
- March 23 – Youth Group (4-5:30 p.m.)

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



March Birthdays

1	Bettye Parker	24	Hannah Wilson
1	Rhonda Gaffoglio	25	Peggy Zierer
3	Debby Crim	25	Barrie Stodgell
4	Celeste Green	26	Ian Herman
8	Judy Steed	27	Brac Panter
8	Kathy Thomas	31	Drew Johnson
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	Kimberly Rentz		
21	Courtney Keen		
22	Lauren Paul		



In March Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Angie Hood, Rosemary Purdy (Preschool), Shelia Rosser (Preschool)

Officers: Jenny Brannan (Session), Elizabeth Watanabe (Diaconate)

Ministries: Congregational Care Ministry

Families: March 1-7: Allyson Ireland, Sean and Rhonda Ireland (Emily), Justin and Emma James (Hayleigh, Hunter, Hayden), Allyson Jenkins (Dalton), Drake and Grace Johnson

March 8-14: Frank and Faye Johnson, Megan Johnson (Ellie, Eliza), Chris and Leigh Jones (Amelia, Ben), Nancy Kaufman, Kathe Keck

March 15-21: Courtney and Dave Keen (Gracie, Caroline), Denise and Ron Kennedy, Debbie King, Joe and Cat Klingbeil (William, Bennett), Laura Layne (Molly)

March 22-31: Dale and Laurie Luengen, Brod Lumpkin, Janet Martin, Frank McAdoo, Laurie McAfee

First Presbyterian Church

183 West Main Street—Cartersville, GA 30120

770-382-3511 - www.cartersvillepres.org

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

March Calendar

March 2

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

March 3

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

March 4

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

March 5, 12, 19, 26

11:30am - Small Group Study/Church of the Ascension

March 5

1:00pm - Ashes-to-Go/Portico Area

6:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service

March 6

10:30am - Women's Bible Study Group

March 9

Daylight Saving Time Starts

March 10

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

March 11

1:00pm - ServSafe Food Training

March 12

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive

March 13

Noon - Lenten Lunch @ Heritage Baptist

March 17

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

March 18

1:00pm - ServSafe Food Training

7:00pm - Session Meeting

March 20

Noon - Lenten Lunch @ Trinity UMC

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ Neena's Pizza

March 27

10:30am - FPC Book Club

Noon - Lenten Lunch @ Church of the Ascension



lift up your voice
SINGING THROUGH LENT AND EASTER