



May 2025



Seeing the Lord, Together

***When they saw him, they worshipped him - Matthew 28:17
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Luke 24:31
Then the disciples rejoiced, when they saw the Lord. John 20:20***

In this Easter season, the traditional Scripture readings all offer glimpses into the post-resurrection appearances of our Savior. The stories across the gospels are varied (except Mark which has no post-resurrection stories), but they have one thing in common: It is the disciples together who see Christ.

As much as we may think that we can live out our discipleship in a solitary way, the reality is, we all need community. Community supports us, encourages us, and nurtures us. Community offers comfort and opportunities for growth. There are also incredible challenges with being community. We all carry our own brokenness and our own ideas of the way things should work and those inevitably bring us into disagreement within any group.

But being the body of Christ means that there will be times of disagreement. Our covenant of care and respect that our leaders adopt every year states: We accept disagreement and conflict as normal and healthy. In this respect we will seek to deal constructively with disagreements or conflicts by practicing Matthew 18:15-17, Matthew 5:23-24. It also states: We promise to believe the best of each other and give each other the benefit of the doubt. Philippians 4:8-10 And: We promise to walk hand in hand even though we may not always see eye to eye. Colossians 3:14-15.

We cannot be the body of Christ alone. Nor can we truly see the Risen Lord in our midst if we are isolated from the body. I invite all of us in this Easter season to lean into ways we can see the Lord. Let us find opportunities to worship together, serve together, or grow together. Let us find ways to support one another, nurture each other, and embody and experience God's love together. If you would like to pray about or have a conversation about ways you can lean into this season of experiencing Christ together, let me know or speak to your Deacon. Together, may we rejoice each and every time we see our Savior in our midst.

Pastor Leigh

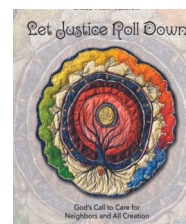
May Faith Development Dates

- **Thursday, May 1, 10:30 a.m., Cornerstone Room**
PW Bible Study - *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, by Patricia K. Tull
- **May 4, 11, 18 (May 18 is the final meeting until Sept. 12) 10 a.m.**
Sunday School for Children and Youth
- **May 4, 11, 18, 25 10 a.m.**
Sunday School for Adults
- **Sunday, May 4 11 a.m.**
Youth Sunday (Youth will lead worship.)
- **Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.**
Faith Development Meeting
- **Tuesday, May 6**
Friendship Table (Families of children and youth will help prepare, serve, clean.)
- **Sunday, May 18**
Graduating Seniors Recognition Sunday
(Graduating high school and college seniors will be recognized during worship and celebrated with a reception following worship.)
- **May 7, 14, 21, 28**
Wednesday Bible Study at Church of the Ascension, 11:30 a.m.
Romans for Everyone, by N.T. Wright
- **Sunday, May 25**
Community Youth Group, 5 p.m., Nagel's Bagels



Men's Breakfast Sunday, May 4 starting at 9 AM, coffee ready at 8:30 AM Please join us on the first Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. This breakfast is a PERFECT opportunity to get to know other men of your church family. **RSVP to dwc1945@gmail.com**

Please join us on Sunday, May 4, at 1 p.m. at Friendship Cemetery, as we clean some historic headstones. Friendship Cemetery is the original location of Friendship Church, which was later named First Presbyterian Church, when the congregation moved to downtown Cartersville. The cemetery is home to over 100 marked and unmarked graves, including the final resting place of the church's first pastor Richard Milner. Many of the headstones are broken, worn down, and some of the names are hardly visible. Friendship Cemetery can be found south of Cartersville along Highway 293 and Old River Road near the Etowah River. All materials will be provided. Please contact Elizabeth Watanabe, 951-733-3161, for further information.



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

Thursday, May 1 at 10:30 am.

Lesson 9 focuses on "Sustaining Creation's Health for All". If you'd like background scripture read Psalm 104 & Micah 4:1-4 and 6:6-8. This will be our final lesson for this study year. See you in September for a new study.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 1st is the National Day of Prayer. Our community has a prayer service at noon at the Courthouse and during our office business hours, you are invited to come to the office to be let-in and can go to the sanctuary for prayer. Resources will be available in the sanctuary. You are also invited to go online to our Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube for a "short" time of prayer and to pray in your own way. But let us all be intentional and deliberate with a time for prayer on May 1st.



The FPC Book Club meets next on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Our book club selection is Allen Levi's

Theo of Golden, with 399 pages. This is a story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness. Questions linger about Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, after his arrival in the southern city of Golden. Come join us; everyone is welcome!

From the Session:

At its stated monthly meeting on April 22, the Session:

- Approved the Rev. Maryellen Hittel to serve as a parish associate (unpaid) for Cartersville FPC.
- Accepted a gift from an anonymous donor for Sanctuary enhancements to the choir loft and appointed Rev. Leigh Jones, Jim Stanley, Rich Gaffoglio and Kyle Russell as a committee to further investigate the opportunities.
- Approved Ellyn Olson, treasurer, as a check signer for the church.
- Created the position of liaison to work with the tenant for the second floor of the Education Building, It's Fun Time LLC, to make sure the group has what it needs and is operating within the parameters of the agreement with the church.

Via email, the Session:

- Approved a request from Grace Johnson, who is an inquirer under church care, to complete her contextual learning requirement with our congregation. This internship will be done in the fall as part of a seminary class.
- Approved the hire of Vanessa Bryant as nursery care employee.
- Approved Rev. Maryellen Hittel to serve as a worship leader for communion service on Easter Sunday.

Legacy Giving - Legacy giving is an act of faith, hope, and generosity that transforms lives and strengthens the mission of the church for generations to come. We celebrate Legacy Giving Sunday on May 4, 2025 but invite everyone to prayerfully consider legacy giving for the month of May. Throughout the month of May, we will have Legacy Giving resources available to pick up in the Sanctuary or church office. We also have a funeral planning packet that you can use to help your family in the decision making process as they seek to honor your life and witness. Please consider making a gift to your church that tells the story of your hope in Christ.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of CARTERSVILLE
BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**

All donors will receive a t-shirt, a \$20 E-Gift Card, and your name will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a trip for 2 to anywhere in the USA.

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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Ladies Night Out

Thursday, May 15th at 6:00 pm

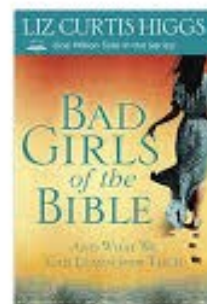


TABLE 20

Come join us for good food and fellowship. We will be dining at Table 20, located at 20 S Wall Street, Cartersville. All ladies are welcome!

Save the date! A new monthly small group study will begin on Tuesday, June 17, 10:30 a.m., in the Cornerstone Room.

All are invited to join our discussion of *Bad Girls of the Bible*, and *What We Can Learn from Them*, by Liz Curtis Higgs. Books can be purchased online at Amazon, Thrift Books, or Barnes & Noble. We hope you'll join us as we study one "bad girl" each month. Anyone with questions may contact Jean Gilliland.





First Presbyterian Preschool

Jennifer Graves, Director 770-382-0755

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org



All classrooms for next school year are full except for our 4-year-old PreK classrooms (1 opening) and our Kindergarten classroom (3 openings). Please let anyone know if they are interested in our 4-year-old or Kindergarten classes, to contact me.

We have had a wonderful time in April at preschool! We had our Spring and Graduation pictures taken, Pre-K students had an umbrella parade, we enjoyed a reptile show and our 2-year-olds took a walking fieldtrip to Agan's Bakery.

It's hard to believe but we are coming to the end of another blessed preschool year. We'll celebrate our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in May with breakfast each morning and goodies all week! We will be busy with a fieldtrip to Pettit Preserve with our Pre-K. We'll have Mr. Thomas from the Bartow County Library come to do some interactive activities and tell our students about the Summer Reading Program. Fun Day, graduation practices, finishing up school projects, and graduations/parties are all coming up as well! **It has been a wonderful year at First Presbyterian Church Preschool! Thank you all for your support!**

~Ms. Jennifer, Ms. April, and all of the staff at First Presbyterian Preschool thank you for your continued support and prayers.

May 2024

- ♦ National Day of Prayer, May 1 (Early School Dismissal 10:45 – 11:15)
- ♦ Pre-K Fieldtrip to Pettit Preserve Friday, May 2 9:00 A.M.
- ♦ Mr. Thomas from the library May 7
- ♦ Fun Day, Friday May 9
- ♦ 3-year-old Graduation
- ♦ Thursday, May 15th at 9:00 A.M.
- ♦ Pre-K Graduation Friday, May 16th at 9:00 A.M.
- ♦ End of Year Parties May 14, 15 and 16
- ♦ Last Day of School, Friday May 16
- ♦ Post Planning May 19



I'd like to thank our amazing staff at First Presbyterian Preschool for teaching our students about the Bible and the love of God in their classrooms! Thank you to Mrs. Becca, our Little Church teacher, for leading Praise and Worship. It is the sweetest thing to watch these children sing to the Lord in His house! So thankful for this beautiful sanctuary and the seeds that are planted in our children's hearts each Wednesday during Little Church!



VBS at FPC, in partnership with Church of the Ascension

July 7-11, 9 a.m. until noon

Register at www.cartersvillepres.org

VBS is open to children Pre-K age 4-5th grade, and it is a time for kids to hear God's Message, deepen their faith, enjoy songs, create crafts, and have a wonderful week.

VBS Volunteers Needed—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.



Graduate Recognition

Sunday – May 18

Do you have a youth or young adult who is graduating this year? We want to celebrate with them on Sunday, May 18 in worship at 11 a.m. and a celebration afterwards. Please email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to let her know of your graduate, along with a grad photo and short bio of your graduate's accomplishments and/or where they are headed next.

Montreat Donations Needed & Write them Notes

- Support our youth going to Montreat (June 8-14 & July 16-20) by financially helping us with meals. We will graciously accept Ingles Gift Cards, checks (Montreat Meals in the memo line), or give online (<https://cartersvillepres.org/give/> note: Montreat Meals). Please give your donation to Andrea or place in the offering plate.
- Pray for our youth and leaders going to Montreat.
- If you would like to write notes to our youth going to Montreat, please email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to get a list of the names of youth participating.



Blessing Bag Collection & Packing

Thank you all for donating items for our Blessing Bags, and thank you to all who helped pack them. We packed 83 bags on Sunday, April 27th for our neighbors in need.

May Children & Youth Dates



- ♦ **May 4** – Youth Sunday
- ♦ **May 11** – Mother's Day & Children Singing
- ♦ **May 18** – Senior Recognition Sunday, Last Day of Sunday School

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

May Birthdays

1	Betty Sime	28	Emily Collier
2	Sean Ireland	30	Matt Simons
4	Kellie Clark		
6	Paxton Russell		
8	Becky Morris		
8	Mark Gebert		
9	Megan Johnson		
12	Jerry Coalson		
12	Brian Choate		
16	Brad Hughes		
16	Maggie Cummings		
19	Grace Shields		
22	Renee Shields		
23	Bob Meadows		
23	Laura Rentz		
25	Tom Green		
25	Brandon Bowen		



In May Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Grace Johnson, Elisa Shrader (Preschool), Skyla Cagle (Preschool)

Officers: Kathy Farnon (Session), Brian Purtymun (Diaconate)

Ministries: Faith Development Ministry

Families: May 1-7: Brian Purtymun, Perry and Kim Rentz (Anna, Laura), Rick and Patty Richardson, Jean Robinson, Paxton Robinson

May 8-14: Andrea Roche, Karen Rodgers, Georgie and Ashton Russell (Wren), Paxton and Cara Russell (William), Kyle and Karen Russell

May 15-21: Thomas and Joyce Shaw, Renee Shields (Grace, Mya, Christopher), Rick Shireman and Sarah Craighead, Elise Shrader (Anderson, Johnathan, Edward), Betty Sime

May 22-31: Matt and Sheilah Simons, Elise Sims, Erin Sims, Robert and Cindy Sims, Joyce Smith



First Presbyterian Church

183 West Main Street—Cartersville, GA 30120

770-382-3511 - www.cartersvillepres.org

Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

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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

May Calendar

May 1

National Day of Prayer

10:00am - Women's Bible Study Group

May 4 - Legacy Giving Sunday

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

1:00pm - Workday at Friendship Cemetery

May 5

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

May 6

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

May 7, 14, 21, 28

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

May 9

8:30am - Preschool Fun Day/Fellowship Hall

May 11

Mother's Day

May 12

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

May 14

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive till 7pm

May 15

9:00am - Preschool 3 year old Graduation

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ Table 20

May 16

Preschool Last Day of School

9:00am - Preschool Pre-K Graduation

May 18 - Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 19

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

May 20

7:00pm - Session Meeting

May 22

10:30am - FPC Book Club

May 26

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed



May