



August 2025



Faithful Living

Only fear the Lord, and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24

Samuel was one of Israel's greatest prophets, and as he was preparing to leave this earth, he offered wisdom to the people. They had not served the Lord faithfully, but instead had forgotten God and turned to the ways of the world, placing their hope and trust in the powers and principalities, in politics (they advocated for a king even though Samuel insisted that God was their only king) and in the armies of a worldly king.

So Samuel's last advice for them was that they should honor (fear) the Lord and serve God faithfully, always bringing to mind the great things God had done for them. These are wise words for every generation. But every generation struggles with what it looks like to serve God faithfully. We have the BEST possible guide to help us understand what faithful living looks like, in Scripture, but especially in the life and death and resurrection of Christ.

Yet, we still struggle. For the last weeks of summer and as we look toward settling into Fall, I invite us all to prayerfully consider what faithful living looks like for our lives today. In worship, the focus each Sunday will be different reflections on faithful living. Also consider joining a Bible study (Tuesdays at noon or the once a month study on Thursday mornings), Sunday school class, or join the choir or bell choir as they resume. Come to Monday prayer time or develop a new prayer practice. Ask God what faithful living looks like for you and for our congregation and pray about it.

Let us make this August a time to learn and grow as disciples and to continue to seek to live faithfully, honoring and serving God with all our heart.

Pastor Leigh

August Worship

- **August 3rd** will be "The Blessing of the Backpacks" in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your backpack to worship to be blessed as we offer prayers for the new school year. And invite a friend to join you!
- Worship resumes in the Sanctuary **August 10th** at 11:00 a.m. and Adult Sunday school resumes in the Cornerstone room (parables) and in the Fellowship Hall (sermons of RC Sproul).

August Faith Development Dates

- ♦ **Sundays August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - 10 a.m.**
Sunday School for Adults—Cornerstone Room & Room 114
- ♦ **Mondays August 4, 11, 18, 25 - 6 p.m. Room 114**
Prayer Meeting
- ♦ **Monday, August 4 - 7 p.m.** Faith Development Meeting
- ♦ **Tuesdays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 - 12 p.m., Cornerstone Room** - *Romans for Everyone*, by N. T. Wright
- ♦ **Saturday, August 9 - 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.** Parents Night Out
- ♦ **Tuesday, August 19 - 10:30 a.m. Cornerstone Room**
Book Study: *Bad Girls of the Bible, and What We Can Learn From Them* Chapter 2 Potiphar's Wife, by Liz Curtis Higgs

Monday Evening Prayer Group

Join us for a time of praying for our community, our nation and the world. Please join Phil Bridges as he leads this prayer group on Monday evenings each week, 6 p.m. in Room 114 (next to the children's library). All are invited! Contact Phil Bridges for more information.

- **Choir Resumes on**
Wednesday, August 6th at
6:30 p.m.
 - **Handbell Choir Resumes on**
Wednesday, August 13th at 5:30 p.m.
- Any and all are welcome!



Romans for Everyone Resumes
Tuesday, August 5th at noon in the
Cornerstone Room at church!
Note the new day, time, and location!



FALL RETREAT

The second annual Fall Spiritual Formation and Mission Retreat is scheduled for Friday, October 17 - Sunday, October 19 at the **North Georgia Mission Lodge near Blue Ridge**. Everyone is welcome, including children age 6 and older if accompanied by an adult. Participants will engage in mission work and spiritual formation study, which will be led by FPC's parish associate, the Rev. Maryellen Hittel. Participants may choose to spend Friday night, Friday and Saturday nights, or the day on Saturday only. The cost for those wishing to stay overnight is \$125/person (includes meals). Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, bring payments by the church office by September 17. Contact Jean Gilliland for more information.

From the Session:

During July, the Session took the following actions:

- Upon the recommendation of the Faith Development and Personnel committees, voted to hire Diana Morris as the church's nursery care worker for Sunday mornings and other events.
- Upon the recommendation of the Stewardship and Finance and Properties committees, voted to accept an anonymous donation of up to \$12,000 designated for the repair of lighting in the fellowship hall. An estimate for repairs is under that amount.

Calling all College Students and young adults!



Connect and pray before you head off for your next adventures! College student/young adult luncheon is **Thursday August 7th** at 11:30 AM in the Cornerstone Room! Chicken Salad Chick will be provided, but you must RSVP and place your order no later than August 5th. RSVP to Pastor Leigh.

Connections Cook-Out for late 40s-early 60s!

August 22nd at 6:00 PM, everyone in the age range of late 40s-early 60s is invited to Randy and Diane Wrinkle's home for a cook-out and time to build connections with those in your age group. RSVP to Beth Gaines, btgaines@gmail.com or the church office. Bring a dessert or appetizer to share!



Other connections events are planned and coming soon, including a game night for guys and a guys morning out for skeet shooting. Stay tuned for other connections opportunities!



Congregational Breakfast Sunday, August 3rd at 10:15am provided by the Men of the Church. Come at 10:15am for good food and fellowship and then worship at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

The Men's monthly breakfast will resume September 7th.



The FPC Book Club meets next on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Our selection is **The Freedom Writers Diary** by The Freedom Writers and/or Erin Gruell, depending upon the edition (any edition is fine.) This non-fiction book tells how a teacher used writing to challenge 150 students and change their world. Come join us; everyone is welcome!

Ladies Night Out at The City Cellar
Wednesday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m.

*note the (one-time only) day of the week change.

Come join us for good food and fellowship. We will be dining at

The City Cellar, located at
110 S. Museum Drive, Cartersville.

All ladies are welcome!



Jennifer Graves - Director - 770-382-0755 - jennifer@cartersvillepres.org

April Paulk - Assistant Director – 770-382-0755 – april@cartersvillepres.org

It's almost time for another great school year to begin at the

~ **First Presbyterian Church Preschool** ~

Open House: Friday, August 15th from 4:00-6:00 pm

First Day of School for 2 and 5 Day Classes: Monday, August 18

First Day of School for 3 Day Classes: Wednesday, August 20



Our preschool currently has 114 students for the 2025-2026 school year! We have 3 more slots to fill in Kindergarten so we will have a full preschool!



We have hired a few new teachers this year!

Jennifer McCall will be teaching one of our 5-Day, 3-Year-Old classes this year. Jennifer has taught for several years at Trinity Preschool. Lauren Hlavacek will join our preschool family as a teacher in the 5-day, 2 year old class. Lauren is the parent of a former student of our preschool and a current education major in college. Carmen Mercado will be a teacher in our nursery. She's so excited to be a part of these children's lives. Kelsey Fowler will be our 2-day, 2 year old teacher. She is a mom of 3 young children and a former preschool teacher. Courtney Drummond will be joining us as our new Kindergarten teacher. Courtney formerly taught in Bartow County as a Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher. We are so thankful God has provided us with a full preschool and an amazing staff to teach our little ones! God is great and He always provides!



Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 3

Bring your backpacks to be blessed as we offer prayers for the new school year. And invite a friend to join you!!

VBS at FPC

We had a wonderful time on our Road Trip VBS last month, partnering with the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made our VBS week an amazing adventure. We could not have done it without all of those fun, hardworking youth and adults who created an exciting week for the children who came to VBS.

The kids got to explore Bible stories, play games, create crafts, experiment with science, eat tasty snacks, and sing and dance all week long!!

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Have you been thinking about and praying about teaching Sunday School this year at FPC? We could really use your help. Teachers are needed for all ages. If you can teach once or twice a month, or teach for a whole month at a time (rotating months with another leader), or if you want to be a substitute SS teacher, let Andrea know. We will find a perfect place for you!

If you feel called to teach our children or youth this year, please contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org or Jean Gilliland, Chair of the Faith Development Committee.



Sunday, September 7: Kick Off Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 10 a.m.



Thank you for your support of Montreat!

We had a great time at the Montreat Youth Conference in June and the Middle School Conference in July. We enjoyed being together, made new

friends, and deepened our relationship with God. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us while we were there, sent notes for the youth, and those who financially supported our trips. We really appreciate all of you!



Parents' Night Out Volunteers Needed Saturday, August 9 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

We are hosting another PNO for foster families and for our own church families. This is for children & youth of all ages. Volunteers needed to help with children, prepping & serving dinner, clean-up.

Let andrea@cartersvillepres.org know if you can help out.

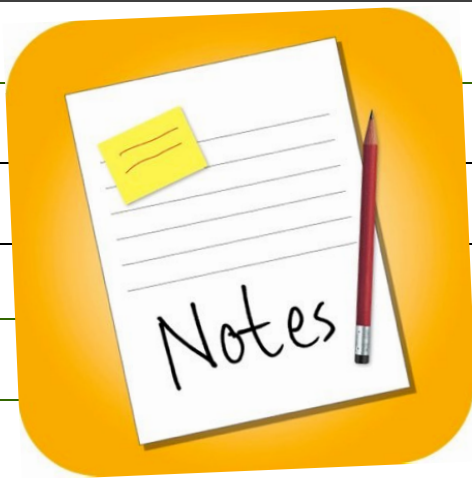
Parents' Night Out – Saturday, August 9 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

FPC volunteers will be offering a night of fun for children while giving parents an opportunity to go out or stay in for a quiet night! Dinner (pizza) for kids and our volunteers will be offered, and there will be times of fellowship, fun, and games for the children.

Pre-registration is REQUIRED

[PNO Registration Form](#)

Contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org with any questions.



August Birthdays

1	Debra Tatum	25	Peggy White
1	Abby Allen	29	Wren Russell
3	Lois Hill	31	Hunter James
3	Betty Dundee		
9	Zim Choate		
10	George Crim		
10	John Waters		
12	Sam Wilson		
13	Rich Gaffoglio		
14	Ellie Johnson		
14	Gracie Meckley		
15	Faith Burke		
16	Matt Bailey		
16	Andrea Roche		
17	Randy Wrinkle		
17	Jerry Brownlow		
18	Veletta Gebert		



In August Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Andrea Roche, Jennifer Graves (Preschool), Dede Hatfield (Preschool)

Officers: Jean Gilliland (Session), Katherine Bowen (Diaconate)

Ministries: Administrative Ministry

Families: August 1-7: Anne Marie and James Benton (Jimmy, David), Paula Bishop, Pat Bivens, Peyton Boulter, Gary and Kay Boulter

August 8-14: Brandon and Elizabeth Bowen (Thomas, Katherine), Linda Boynton, William and Kharis Bramlett, Dick and Jenny Brannan, Tonya and Mallory Branyon

August 15-21: Mark and Sandy Bridges, Phil and Donna Bridges, Sunny Brown, Jerry Brownlow, Autumn Bruno

August 22-31: Adam and Jamie Brush, Faith Burke, Rebecca Carr, Cody Carver, Brandon Childers

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

Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Jennifer Graves, preschool director

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org

August Calendar

August 3

10:15am - Congregational Breakfast

11:00am - Worship & Blessing of the Backpacks

August 4, 11, 18, 25

6:00pm - Prayer Group/Room 114

August 4

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

August 5, 12, 19, 26

12:00pm - *Romans for Everyone* Weekly Study

August 5

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

August 6

6:30pm - Choir Practice Resumes

August 7

11:30am - College Students & Young Adults Luncheon

August 9

5:00pm - Parents Night Out

August 11

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

August 13

5:30pm - Handbell Choir Resumes

August 15

4:00pm - Preschool Open House

August 18

8:00am - Preschool First Day of School

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

August 19

10:30am - Monthly Study - *Bad Girls of the Bible*

7:00pm - Session Meeting

August 20

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out at The City Cellar

August 22

6:00pm - Connections Cook-Out late 40's – early 60's age group/Wrinkle Home

August 26

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

August 28

10:30am - FPC Book Club

