



March 2026



Wandering in the Wilderness

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness"

Matthew 4:1

The lectionary text for the first Sunday of Lent is the powerful story of Jesus' temptations as he wanders in the wilderness. Many times in our lives, we think of the wilderness in a negative light. It is a time and place of struggle, it is when we are lost, or when temptations become too much. But, the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. And God's people have wandered in the wilderness many times. There are definitely elements of the wilderness that are challenging and some are heart breaking and even contrary to God's good intentions for our lives. But, there are aspects of the wilderness that invite us to a deeper faith or more defined discipleship.

The Lenten season is essential for faithful living. It is a time to wander or at least acknowledge the nuances of faith, the many different and varied shades of our hearts and lives as we seek to glorify God. As we explore the colors of Lent this season, may we all step bravely into those wilderness times, knowing the Spirit accompanies and guides us, and that Christ, who is beside us, has navigated it all before. On Ash Wednesday, I invited us to consider four possible practices that can help us step courageously and faithfully into this Lenten Season: Sacred honesty, holy slowing, embodied compassion, and courageous imagining.

How can these practices equip us for our time of wandering in the wilderness? How can they encourage us to step forward even more into this holy time? Whether these particular practices are ones that you find helpful, or there are others that you are learning about and growing in for this season, may we all step forward bravely into the wilderness and embrace this opportunity to grow in our relationship with our Savior.

Peace,

Pastor Leigh



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

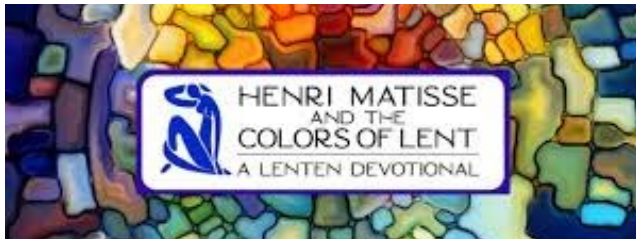
- **March 5** at Heritage Baptist Church, 1070 Douthit Ferry Road
- **March 12** at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 850 Douthit Ferry Road
- **March 19** at Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 205 West Cherokee Avenue
- **March 26** at First Presbyterian Cartersville

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

- PALM SUNDAY** - March 29 at 11:00 am
 - MAUNDY THURSDAY** - April 2 at 6:00 pm
 - GOOD FRIDAY** - April 3 at Noon
- joint service at Heritage Baptist Church
- EASTER SUNDAY** - April 5 at 11:00 am



Lenten Devotional booklets are available in the sanctuary and church office. This year we also have a family-friendly version. To view the online devotionals click the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view *Henri Matisse and the Colors of Lent* a Lenten Devotional.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view *Into the Wild* a Family-Friendly Lenten Devotional.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8
Remember to set your clocks forward one hour.



CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY

Cultivate. Support. Facilitate.

Pastor Leigh Jones was asked to write an article about the GA ALL PRESBYTERIES GATHERING she attended at Epworth by the Sea, for the recent **SWIGO**—Cherokee Presbytery’s “So What’s Going On”. To read the full article in SWIGO

[CLICK HERE.](#)

Next Inquirers Group Meeting

The Inquirers Group has been moved to April 19 immediately following worship. If you would like to learn more about our congregation and opportunities to grow in your faith journey by becoming a member, you are invited to our Inquirers Group. Please contact Pastor Leigh (pastorleighjones@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

From the Session:

At its stated meeting on Feb. 17, the Session took the following actions:

- Approved the annual statistical report to be submitted to the PCUSA.
- As required annually by the PCUSA, set a quorum for Congregational meetings at 15% of membership (47 members), and set a quorum for Session meetings of seven elders.
- Invited Bill Davis, senior director of The Theological Education Fund of the Presbyterian Foundation, to preach during worship on March 1.

The Session also met via Zoom on the afternoons of Jan. 24 and Jan. 31 to discuss worship plans and contingencies for winter weather.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of
CARTERSVILLE
BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**

All donors who give a successful pint of blood will receive a \$15 E-Gift Card from Amazon and a free A1C test.

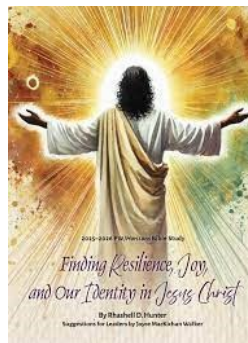
For more information, to schedule an appointment, & to do RAPIDPASS, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: **firstprescartersville**

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

March 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Come join us for good food and fellowship. We will be dining at El Dorado, located at 910 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Cartersville. All ladies are welcome!



2025-2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study

“Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ” will meet **Thursday, March 5th at 10:30 a.m.** in the Cornerstone Room. We will be discussing Lesson 7, “The Woman Bent Over.”. Scripture is Luke 13:10-17. All are welcome!



March Book Club

FPC Book Club meets **Thursday, March 26** at 10:30 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room. The book selection is **The Water is Wide** by Pat Conroy, a southern classic. In this memoir, Conroy recounts his time as a young teacher on a remote coastal island. It is available in paper only from the library or in many formats from your favorite bookseller. Please join us and bring a friend!



First Presbyterian Pre-School 2026

Jennifer Graves ~ Director

April Paulk ~ Assistant Director

Registration Update:

We have over 100 students already enrolled for August 2026!

We have limited availability in our 2-year-old, 3-year-old, and Kindergarten classes.

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

770-382-0755 or jennifer@cartersvillepres.org



Important Dates:

Dr. Seuss Week

Mon.-Fri.- March 2-6

St. Patrick's Day Parties

Tues., Mar. 17

Reptile Show by Etowah Exotics

Thurs., Mar. 19

Egg Drop

Fri., Mar. 27

UPCOMING IN APRIL:

Easter Parties and Egg Hunts

Tues., March 31 – 2-day class

Thurs., April 2 – 3 and 5-day classes

Good Friday

Fri., April 3 (No School)

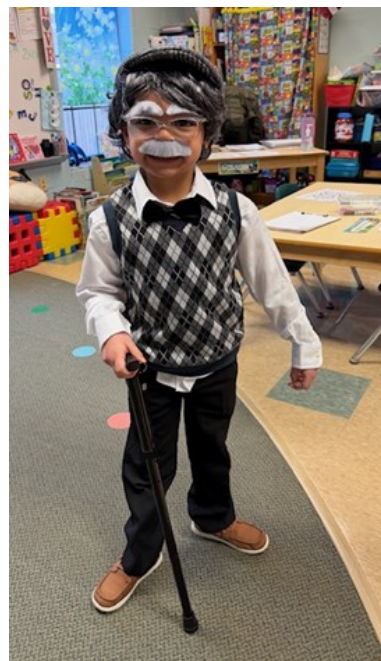
Spring Break

Mon.-Fri., April 6-10

Spring Pictures

Tues. & Wed., April 14-15

Valentines Celebration!



100th Day of School





VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed
VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!
July 6-10, 9:00 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.



Montreat Youth Conference Registration

High School: June 14-20, 2026 (Rising 9th graders through graduating seniors)

Middle School: July 15-19, 2026 (Rising 6th graders through those finishing 8th grade)

\$100 Non-Refundable Deposit due by March 8

- **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



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m.

Volunteers Needed 3-5 p.m.

FPC will be hosting a Community Easter Egg

Hunt on Sunday, March 29 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.**

March Birthdays

1	Rhonda Gaffoglio	24	Hannah Wilson
1	Bettye Parker	25	Barrie Stodgell
3	Debby Crim	27	Brac Panter
4	Celeste Green	31	Drew Johnson
8	Meredith Gaines		
8	Carla Purdy		
8	Judy Steed		
8	Justin James		
8	Kathy Thomas		
10	Lauren Warlick		
13	Kyle Tucker		
15	Gracie Pruitt		
19	Julian Cline		
19	Sandy Howell		
21	Courtney Keen		
21	Kim Rentz		
22	Lauren Holt		



In March Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Leigh Jones, Skyla Cagle (Preschool), Emily Doxey (Preschool)

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

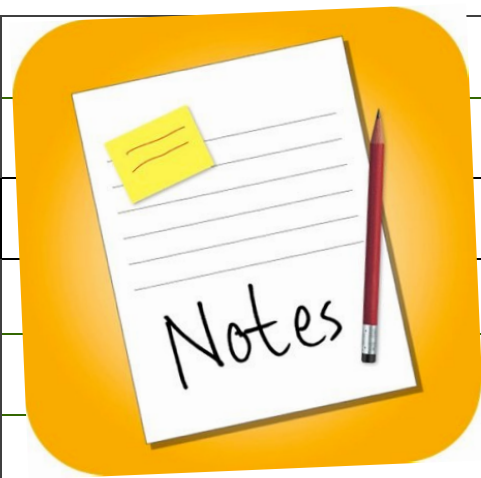
Ministries: Congregational Care Team

Families: March 1-7: Elise Shrader (Anderson, Johnathan, E.J.), Betty Sime, Matt and Sheilah Simons, Elise Sims, Erin Sims

March 8-14: Robert and Cindy Sims, Wyley and Judy Steed, David Steinken and Nancy Kelly, Mike and Barrie Stodgell, Della Strange

March 15-21: Terry and Janet Strange, Sam Sullins, Jake Sullins, Jennifer Tasker, Dianne Tate

March 22-31: Debra Tatum, Brad and Erin Templeton, Kathy Thomas, Ken and Sandra Thornton, Harry and JoAnn Treadaway



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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

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

March 3

12:00pm - Romans for Everyone Study

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

March 5

10:30am - Women's PW Bible Study

12:00pm - Lenten Lunch @ Heritage Baptist

March 8 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 9

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

March 10

12:00pm - Romans for Everyone Study

March 11

1:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive till 6pm

March 12

12:00pm - Lenten Lunch @ St. Francis of Assisi

March 16

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

6:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

March 17

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

12:00pm - Romans for Everyone Study

7:00pm - Session Meeting

March 19

12:00pm - Lenten Lunch @ Episcopal Church of the Ascension

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ El Dorado

March 24

12:00pm - Romans for Everyone Study

March 26

10:30am - FPC Book Club

12:00pm - Lenten Lunch @ FPC

March 29 - Palm Sunday

4:00pm - Easter Egg Hunt @ FPC

March 31

12:00pm - Romans for Everyone Study

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

