

THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | March 29, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Kindred in Christ,

As I'm writing this, yet more states and communities are issuing "shelter at home" orders, schools are extending their closure windows or canceling the school year altogether, and workers everywhere are transitioning to work from home or being laid off. These are incredibly uncertain times, and I'm expecting that it will be several weeks before we are able to gather in person again.

We will continue to stream worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m., and we will keep working hard to make this a meaningful worship experience. We will also keep working to make it a true reflection of our two Sunday worship services, and you'll likely see elements of both if you stream the service. One of the challenges that we're facing for the coming weeks is an uncomfortable question: What do we do about Holy Week? As of right now, our plan is to stream worship live on Maundy Thursday, share videos of guided reflections for Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and then stream worship live again on Sunday morning. We're also planning to make available for viewing our 11:00 Easter service from 2019 for anyone who would like to see and feel that big, full, celebratory atmosphere on Easter Sunday. We're going to do everything we can to make Holy Week meaningful in the midst of our physical isolation, and I do hope that you'll join us.

The biggest challenge for that week will be celebrating the Lord's Supper together on Maundy Thursday. I want to go ahead and invite you to pick up some bread and juice to have on hand for that night, keeping in mind that it can be any bread and any juice! If you need help with this, let us know and we'll see what we can do to make sure you have them by Maundy Thursday. The plan is for each of us to have our own elements at home, but to take them together so that it still feels like communion. I have to admit that I've never done this before, but I am excited about the opportunity to try something different on such a special night.

Finally, let me remind you that many in our community are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Our church has already been in a position to respond to requests for assistance, and we want to continue to be able to do so. If you are blessed to be able to maintain your current level of giving, please do. Currently we are continuing to pay all of our hourly wage employees and CDC teachers, and we hope this continues. If you find yourself in a position of financial hardship or need, please let us know. This is a time when we are being called to care for each other in new ways, and the church might be blessed to be able to assist with community needs. Our continued giving is a big part of that blessing, so I encourage you to remember your tithe as you give online through the church website or simply by mailing your gift to the church.

As this season of Lent calls us to be more contemplative, diligent, and faithful on our walk to the cross, I pray that we would have opportunities to remind one another of that good news that surrounds us daily: Nothing in life or in death can separate you from the love of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Grace and Peace,
Lee

MARCH 29

5th Sunday in Lent

11:00 Online Worship

Rev. Shon Peppers preaching
John 11:1-45
Consider the Possibilities...

Music by Benji Stegner

APRIL 5

Palm Sunday

11:00 Online Worship

Rev. Lee Koontz preaching

Music by Sophie and Tim Tolar

LECTIONARY

Mar. 29—Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 130;
Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 5—Matt. 21:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2,
19-29

SUNDAY SERVANTS

APRIL 5

Chancel Flower Guild—Entire Guild

Sound and Lighting—Jerry Reeves

Ushers and Greeters

9:00— Jeff Parker, head usher; Rob Parker, Chris and Anne Cousen

11:00—Beth Kesler, head usher; Ayuk Agborsangaya, Enow Agborsangaya, Joseph Edwards, Mary Helen Jetton, Brenda Mathews, ushers; Carol Squires, greeter



CORRECTION

New member Chip Dodge's name was listed incorrectly in the last Call. Chip is married to FPC member Gerda Dodge.

Hospital Visits

Hospital? Please call the church office to let us know of relatives and friends who are in the hospital so that our pastoral staff may visit them. Due to HIPAA regulations, hospitals do not inform us when a member is hospitalized (even though a request for your church affiliation may appear on the admissions form). We add church members' names to our prayer list and prayer board at church so we may pray for them. Please tell us if you or a relative do not want your name included; otherwise, we will follow our usual practice. Contact Libby Christiansen or any of the pastoral staff with questions.

FPC MINISTRY INCOME

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total Ministry Budget..... | 1,500,000 |
| Income needed each week | 28,846 |
| Income received March 1 | 37,707 |
| Income received March 8 | 35,829 |
| Income needed year-to-date | 288,470 |
| Income received year-to-date | 288,096 |
| Surplus or (deficit) year-to-date | 52,739 |

To the members of Wonderful Works

We will not meet again this spring. Please keep working on projects at home. If you wish to donate any items we have on hand, please feel free to take them from the closet. Just leave a note or call me to let me know. We will miss seeing all of you. Thank you for all you've done this year. Stay safe!

Blessings,
Shelley Collins, Jean Carmack,
and Carol Squires

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE book is to assist your loved ones in planning your funeral service exactly the way you would want it. The book contains pockets to store important documents such as your will, life insurance, deeds, banking information, and more. One can be downloaded from the church website (www.fpcga.org > Ministries > Adult Ministry, scroll to bottom of the webpage). Contact Denise Nylander or Sue Bradley for more information.



FINE ARTS SERIES

Due to precautionary safety measures regarding COVID-19, the First Presbyterian Fine Arts Series recital scheduled for March 29th featuring organist Benji Stegner has been cancelled.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 9:1

Our Father God, in our Lenten season, we see you in so many ways. The strength of your love which is always there for us. The power of your Holy Spirit, who continually intercedes for us. Lord, grant us new thoughts and understanding that will help us as we seek your will for our lives. Help us to walk in the paths of righteousness and to claim your grace. Draw us to yourself so that we will grow spiritually each day in our walk with you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Ruth Staley

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of...

Sue Weakley

By Tracy and Susan Parker

Charles Lindsey

By Dogwood Garden Club
By Tracy and Susan Parker

Doug Fowler

By A. Louise Kennedy

Edna Garrison (sister of Judy Bush)

By Francis and George Seelke



Stephen Ministers in Time of Need—
 Who would have thought that our world would be turned upside down in just a few days? Most of us don't like change and don't adapt well, and especially this drastic of a change.

If you are having difficulty dealing with this and would like to speak to someone about your situation, know that we have Stephen Ministers available to talk to you on the phone and will be most happy to listen to your thoughts and concerns.

Please contact Shon Peppers on his cell at 678-936-5357.

Know that God is with us always.
 Your Stephen Ministry Team

Delivery options for those at high risk

Please know that our church family has a team of willing volunteers to assist those who fall into the high risk group with the virus. This team is willing to deliver items like medication, food, and other needs and drop them off at your front door. We want to help keep you safe during these uncertain times by keeping you from having to get out and about and avoid possible exposure.

If this would be helpful to you, please contact Pastor Peppers at 678-936-5357 to set up a delivery.

19th Annual MEN'S RETREAT April 17-19



This year's retreat will be in the beautiful Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina. Come and enjoy all the great outdoors has to offer in this delightful setting where food and fellowship will abound. We will be tent camping on a wonderful group site at Apple Tree Campground. There is opportunity for hiking, mountain biking, trout fishing, stargazing, and relaxing outdoors by the fire. There is a restroom with facilities along with an arbor so it will not be completely roughing it. There is room for one camper as well. It is always a great experience for those who attend. All are welcome and encouraged to join us. Retreat costs are \$20 per person. Contact Shon Peppers to learn more. 678-936-5357

*Place in Sunday collection plate or in one of the "Lilies" boxes located at the information desk, Swetenburg Hall, and in the church office. Please make check payable to FPC, designated "Lilies". Deadline to place an order is **Sunday April 5.***

Easter Lilies \$13.⁰⁰

Circle One

HONOR OR MEMORIAL _____

Given by: _____

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
800 SOUTH ENOTA DRIVE, NE
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30501

www.fpcga.org

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CHURCH CALENDAR

—Week 1—

—Week 2—

Please join us live online
at 11 am for Sunday worship...

[Click here](#)

The web address for online
Sunday worship live—
<https://fpcga.churchonline.org>

To view recent past services—
<http://fpcga.org/welcome/sermons>

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 15—Online

March 22—Online

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is closed through
April 3 as a precautionary measure
due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

CONTACT US

Church Office..... 770-532-0136
Child Development Center 770-532-8188
FAX..... 770-287-1397
Holiday, Weekend Emergency. 770-718-8584

CHURCH STAFF

Extension

Lee Koontz, Senior Pastor23
Shon Peppers, Associate Pastor12
Margaret Turney-Ayer13
Interim Director of Faith Development
Benji Stegner, Music Director/Organist....36
Sophie Tolar
Contemporary Worship Leader
Dallas Thompson15
Director of Youth Ministry
Ali Thompson.29
Director of Children's Ministry
Ronny Childs35
Audio/Visual Coordinator
Debbie Holcombe, Administrator11
Libby Christiansen, Admin. Asst.23
Donnice McAlister, Accountant14
Sue Ann Rogers, Publisher20