

THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | January 17, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Kindred in Christ,

Over the past several weeks we have entered God's story of incarnation once again. We received divine Advent gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We knelt with the shepherds, sang with the angels, and worshiped with the magi. We've proclaimed "a thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices". And yes, just today the nativity scene in front of the church was taken down. The story that we've lived and celebrated is all now in the past. It's history. It's 2021, and with such turmoil in our nation and world, we might ask ourselves if we're still in God's story.

The beginning of a new year always feels like an overlapping, in-between time to me. Our celebration of holidays has passed, but we're not even two weeks into the new year. Most of us still have lingering Christmas decorations in our homes, and it may yet still be days before they are put away. There's a feeling of transition around us, and also a pervasive sense of unsettledness. There are endings and beginnings all around us, and with the news feverishly presenting one troubling headline after another, it's easy to feel like we've lost our balance. Maybe it feels like we're unmoored and drifting in uncertain waters. And yet... Even though the unsettled times, God's voice finds us, calls us, and urges us onward to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ wherever we are.

Those of us who follow Christ know something that others do not. We know that the incarnation event that we just celebrated in Christmas does not end. In many ways, it has only now begun. There's a poem by Howard Thurman that reads:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the king and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

And isn't that what Christmas really means? It's not one day out of the year that ends when you put away the decorations. It's something that has long-lasting, even lifelong implications. Christmases come and go, but "God with us" never ends. The *work* of Christmas never ends. So, while our culture's holiday celebrations are disappearing, we're just getting started. We're looking out at our community, nation, and world, surveying a landscape of suffering, pain, and hopelessness. But the good news of Christmas is that it is into such a landscape that God in Christ comes to be with us. Wherever people of faith have paused to kneel beside the manger, they must also rise to serve a world in need. There, in acts of compassion, service, and love, Jesus Christ is born again, and again, and again.

How is Christ being born in your life today?

Grace and Peace,
Lee

JANUARY 17, 2021

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

11:00 Worship Live Online

Rev. Lee Koontz

1 Samuel 3:1-10

John 1:43-51

"Into the Fire"

Music by Benji Stegner

JANUARY 24, 2021

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

11:00 Worship Live Online

Rev. Lee Koontz

Music by Sophie Tolar

LECTIONARY

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Mark 1:14-20



FEBRUARY 12-14

Cheryl Burke, keynote speaker

*May our hearts sing your praises and not be silent
Lord our God, we will praise you forever.*

PSALM 30:12

Window gifts to purchase that benefit our missionaries:

DISCIPLESHIP Christmas ornament (glass oval / comes in a white gift box) \$25 each

The MINISTRY of Jesus Window* notecards (10 per box) \$10

DISCIPLESHIP mousepad (7 x 8 inches) \$5 each

PRAYER FOR WORLD MISSIONS

I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world but to save the world. John 12:47

Almighty God, we ask you to bless the mission field. Hear the cries of the hungry children throughout the world. Heal the bruised bodies and broken hearts. Set captives free. Reconcile enemies to believers in Christ. We know, Lord, that this means those in our circle of influence, as well as those who we may never meet. We can be witnesses to those who have not accepted Christ and show them love. We can take food to those in need. We can pray and make peace with our family, friends, and neighbors. We can pray for world missions and home missions. Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit, so we can reach out to all who are in need and spread the gospel. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen. Ruth Staley

Pick-Me-Up Meal

Wednesday, January 27
5:45-6:20



MENU: Roast beef,
roasted potatoes, carrots, cookie

\$5 Adult • \$3 Child up to 12 • \$15 family
(all children/youth living with you)
Checks or cash are acceptable at pick up.

Reservations must be made by **NOON**,
Thursday, January 21...

ORDER FORM LINK

<https://forms.gle/Niciqz72gTZ3Koa6A>

Or call the church office and give your
name and headcount.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 21

1 pm via Zoom Webinar

SYMPATHY to...

...Dan and Karen Schaap and family on
the passing of Dan's brother, Tim Schaap
of Gastonia, NC, December 2.

...Wilson Golden on the passing of his
brother, Gene Lanier, December 27. Gene
lived in Mississippi.

...Jerry Whiteford on the passing of his
sister, Sandy Caron, January 5.

...Robert Brener on the passing of his
mother, Peggy Brenner, January 10.
Robert is still in Macon in rehab but will
be back in the area within weeks. Cards
may be sent to 1509 Cedar Avenue,
Macon GA 31204

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Honor of...

Jack Spencer

by The Smoky Springs Contingent of
his Sunday Zoom Class

by Matt and Reba, Sonja, Jean, Mike,
Martha, Muriel

Dallas Thompson

by Joy Pruett

Barbara Hermann

by Tamir and Andrew Velez

Jay Fulenwider

by Smith Bell Petroleum

Created in Christ to do *good works*

Ephesians 2:10

NORTHEAST GEORGIA (NEGS) HEALTH SYSTEM AUXILIARY

Since 1951, the NEGS's volunteer program, known as the Northeast Georgia Health System Auxiliary, has been committed to involving dedicated volunteers in enhancing the services of the health system. Volunteers serving the health system have donated nearly 2.1 million hours of service and \$8.96 million for the enhancement of medical services. Even during the COVID epidemic, throughout 2020, 615 volunteers donated 46,500 hours of service, equivalent to 28 full-time employees and a value of over \$1.2 million to NGHS.

Opportunities to volunteer with the Auxiliary currently are available with a few restrictions. Volunteers must be under the age of 65 and without any underlying health issues. They can serve as Screeners at one of three entrances to the hospital or they can volunteer in the Window Shops which are gift shops within the main and Braselton facilities. The Window Shops are located in the South Patient Tower and North Patient Tower at NGMC Gainesville and on the first floor at NGMC Braselton.

For more information, call 770-219-1830 or visit www.nghs.com/medical-center-auxiliary.

GOOD NEWS CLINICS (GNC) is a Christian nonprofit providing free medical and dental care to uninsured residents of Hall County ages 18-65 who cannot afford health care. While Good News Clinics and Good News at Noon food and shelter ministry have similar names, the organizations are separate and have separate facilities, boards of directors and operating budgets.

Currently, GNC addresses 4 areas: **Medical**—46 primary care physicians and 9 mid-level providers (nurse practitioners, dietitians, mental health counselors and lab technicians) meet 900-1,100 appointments monthly at GNC; **Health Access**—over 340 specialist physicians volunteer to treat GNC patients through the referral program. **Dental**—43 dentists and 2 dental assistants provide x-rays, exams, fillings and extractions. **Dispensary**—a pharmacist and tech staff on site fill nearly 40,000 prescriptions annually.

In addition to monetary donations on which they rely, GNC needs volunteers for both clinical and non-clinical positions: Nurse Practitioners, Medical Doctors, Medical Assistants, Dental Hygienists, and administrative support personnel and patient application volunteers. Contact Robin Ketchum at 770-297-5040, ext. 325.

HOSPICE OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER (NGMC)

Hospice care began in the 1960's as a volunteer movement, and volunteerism continues to be the foundation of modern-day hospice. Hospice care focuses on patient comfort and quality of life. Most of the patients of NGMC Hospice are cared for in the comfort of their homes or in a home-like setting of choice such as a nursing home, personal care home, or assisted living residence. Volunteers are a part of every aspect of a hospice program.

Hospice of NGMC welcomes volunteers from all walks of life. Anyone age 18 years or older may apply. The volunteer role is one of the most tender and significant parts of the hospice program at NGMC. Volunteers have served families in Northeast Georgia for more than 25 years. Volunteers help run the hospice office, do community outreach, and keep vigil at the bedside of their patients. Hospice of NGMC has opportunities for seasonal, time limited and longterm volunteers.

Due to the pandemic, volunteers are not currently seeing patients. However, there are many other opportunities in the hospice offices. For more information, go to www.nghs.com/Service/Hospice/Volunteers.

FOOD PANTRY—Our next rotation at the Food Pantry is **February 8-19**.

Volunteer opportunities are as follows:

Fridays, February 12 and 19: Two to three volunteers are needed each Friday from noon to 1:30 to distribute bags with groceries to the clients.

Thursday, February 11: Several volunteers to pack the bags with groceries around 10 am at the food pantry.

Prior to February 8: Volunteers are needed to purchase food using funds donated by members of FPC. These can be delivered to the church prior to February 8.

If you are interested in helping on any of these dates, please contact Tina de Waart at tinadewaart@bellsouth.net or 770-601-6118.

Thursday, January 28, 1 pm—
Zoom meeting of the PW
Coordinating Team

January Mission Project is Gateway House (Gateway Domestic Violence Center). Gateway House was founded in 1982 by a group of community leaders who were concerned about incidents of domestic violence in our area and around the country. The location of this shelter for battered women and their children is confidential. The mission of Gateway House is to give support services to these women and to create an environment for safe, healthy, and self-sufficient growth. There are weekly programs for both the women and their children. To find out more about Gateway House, visit their website: gatewaydvcenter.org. As with our other mission projects this year, our donations will be financial. If you want to donate make your check out to: Presbyterian Women and in the memo line put "Gateway House". Drop your check off at the church office or mail it to the church Attention: Church Accountant.

**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**



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

www.fpcga.org

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CHURCH CALENDAR

—Week 1—

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00am BASIC via Zoom

10:00am GIFT Class via Zoom

10:00am Young and Restless via Zoom

10:00am Rocks of All Ages via Zoom

11:00am Worship Live-streamed Online

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

*Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday Observance*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

1:30pm CDC Council Via Zoom*

1:30pm Endowment Grants via Zoom*

2:00pm FPC Staff Meeting via Zoom

3:00pm Operating Budget Cmte SH*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

6:00pm Faith Development TBD*

—Week 2—

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

10:00am BASIC via Zoom

10:00am GIFT Class via Zoom

10:00am Young and Restless via Zoom

10:00am Rocks of All Ages via Zoom

11:00am Worship Live-streamed Online

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

12:00pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

6:30pm The Session via Zoom*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

**1:00pm PW Coordinating Team via
Zoom***

*Committee Meeting

ONLINE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 3—11:00/193

January 10—11:00/206

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30

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 Pastor 23

Shon Peppers, Associate Pastor 12

Margaret Turney-Ayer 13

Interim Director of Faith Development

Benji Stegner, Music Director / Organist.... 36

Sophie Tolar

Contemporary Worship Leader

Maggie Parker..... 15

Director of Youth Ministry

Ali Thompson..... 29

Director of Children's Ministry

Ronny Childs 35

Audio/Visual Coordinator

Debbie Holcombe, Administrator 11

Libby Christiansen, Admin. Asst. 23

Donnice McAlister, Accountant 14

Sue Ann Rogers, Publisher 20

Hope Testament, Director of Bells



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

The link is available beginning at 10:30 am

[Click here](#)

Sunday worship web address: fpcga.churchonline.org
View recent past services at fpcga.org/welcome/sermons.