

THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | February 14, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Kindred in Christ,

This weekend is going to be a big one! Our 22nd annual World Mission Conference is right around the corner (February 12-14), and I hope that you're already making plans to participate through your presence and your giving. Once again, we have set a goal of over \$108,000 for world mission efforts, much of which will go to support our "home-grown" missionaries around the world. I'm thrilled to serve a church with such a high level of commitment to world mission. FPC is quite unique in that regard, and I hope that you will join us as we celebrate yet another World Mission Conference.

There are a number of things that will make this WMC different than the ones that have come before it. Our conference this year is a virtual one. While this isn't the way that we wish we were able to gather, it is our hope that this year's conference will have greater participation than previous conferences. We've never had a conference before that you could attend in your pajamas! We will be streaming on Friday night at 7:00 p.m., Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., and then Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. for worship. I invite you to join us for each of these virtual gatherings, though you are welcome to view or stream each one at your own convenience from the church website (www.fpcga.org).

I'm excited that we are welcoming Cheryl Burke as our keynote speaker this year. For sixteen years, Cheryl was an instrumental faith leader at Forman Christian College in Pakistan (www.friendsofforman.org), including service as the Dean of Students. The daughter of our very own Charles and Sharon Burke, Cheryl brings a global understanding of what it means to practice our faith, while at the same time understanding the importance of relationships in our mission efforts. Cheryl in many ways has embodied and lived Forman's motto, which is, "By love, serve one another." We are blessed to be able to hear from her this weekend, and I am honored to welcome her as our keynote speaker.

I'm also excited that we have the opportunity to reflect upon how we might "tune our hearts" to local and global mission work in deeper ways. In addition to Cheryl's message, we have the opportunity to hear stories of transformation directly from the missionaries that we support. It's incredibly exciting to hear about the many ways in which God is at work and the gospel of Jesus Christ is being shared all over the world. Please join us virtually, and invite others in the community as well! You never know... maybe by hearing about how God is at work in the lives of others, we will more clearly recognize how God is at work in our own!

Grace and Peace,
Lee

FEBRUARY 14

World Mission Conference

11:00 Worship Live Online

Rev. Lee Koontz

Music by Benji Stegner

FEBRUARY 17

Ash Wednesday virtual service

www.fpcga.org

FEBRUARY 21

1st Sunday in Lent

Rev. Lee Koontz

8:45 Morning Light Live Online

Music by Sophie Tolar

11:00 Traditional Worship

Live Online

Music by Benji Stegner

LECTIONARY

February 14

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 21

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15



We will begin our Lenten journey on **Ash Wednesday, February 17.**

This year, we will be offering "Ashes to Go" at the portico from noon to 1 pm and at the pick-up meal 5:45-6:20 pm for anyone who wishes to receive them. *Use the link on right to order your pick up meal.*

You may view our virtual **Ash Wednesday Service** that evening on the church website at www.fpcga.org.

Pick-Me-Up Meal REMINDER
Ash Wednesday, 5:45-6:20

Menu: Pork loin, black-eyed peas, greens
\$5 Adult • \$3 Child up to 12 • \$15 family (all children/youth living with you)
Checks or cash are acceptable at pick up.
Make reservations by **noon, Thursday, February 11...**

ORDER FORM LINK

<https://forms.gle/EaoTqqW3S7EHJCEd7>
Or call the church office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 21
1 pm via Zoom Webinar

DONATIONS RECEIVED *In Memory of...*

John Melvin
by Barbara McConnell
Peggy Brenner
by Anonymous
Dick Parker (father of Jeff Parker)
by Barbara Hermann

February 25, 1 pm—PW Coordinating Team zoom meeting
Monday, March 1, 10 am—Zoom meeting of the Morning Bible study group. We will be studying Lesson 7 in our Horizon Bible study book. JoAlice Halsell will be our study leader.

Tuesday, March 2, 7 pm—Zoom meeting of the Evening Bible study group. We will also be studying Lesson 7 in the Horizon Bible study book.

March Mission Project: My Sister's Place—This local ministry has provided temporary shelter for homeless women and their children since 2000. It provides a nurturing home, transportation assistance, nutritious meals, life skills, and counseling. The goal is to help these women be in a better position to move forward with their lives when they leave the facility. Your financial donation will help purchase many essential items needed to support this ministry. Make your check out to Presbyterian Women and in the remarks line put "My Sister's Place." Drop your check off at the church office or mail it to the church to the attention of Church Accountant.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Daily Lenten Devotionals available

The season of Lent, a forty day season of reflection and preparation for the glorious celebration of Easter, begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17.

In this Lenten Devotional booklet, you are offered a daily practice to help guide you on your Lenten journey. These booklets will be passed out along with the **Pick-Me-Up Dinner, Wednesday, February 17.**

You may also pick up a booklet in the Church Office during regular business hours starting Monday, February 15, or you may call the church office (770-532-0136) and request the booklet be mailed to you.



I would like to thank everyone and especially the Chancel Choir for all of the cards, notes, phone calls and e-mails since I received good news concerning a recent medical procedure that I had. All of this is greatly appreciated. Thank you! Martha Smith

PRAYER FOR WORLD MISSIONS

It is no longer I who lives, but it is Christ who lives in me. Malachi 1:11

Our Heavenly Father, Lord, you created us and you created the world. You know us, Lord. Reveal new truth to us. We ask you to pour out your Spirit upon us that your love may shine forth in our daily lives. We become separated from one another through the wrongs we commit or that we allow to happen. Take away from us every sin and temptation that keep us from communing with you and one another. Help us to make a difference in the lives of your children everywhere. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen. Ruth Staley



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

VIEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Click the link on this fpcga.org Webpage

<http://fpcga.org/welcome/serve-world/>

to view live-stream of the 3 sessions

7:00 pm Friday

9:00 am Saturday

11:00 am Sunday

Items still available for purchase:

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

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

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



My Pledge to FPC World Mission in 2021

Our 2021 World Mission goal is \$108,000 and all donations will be distributed throughout the year as funds are received. Pledges should be fulfilled by 11/30/21. Please pay your pledge intentionally and in advance if possible so that our missionaries may receive the financial support they depend on in a timely manner.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

\$ _____ **Circle One:** Weekly Monthly Quarterly One Time Gift

For a total annual pledge of \$ _____

WAYS TO GIVE TO WMC 2021

There are several ways to give:

- With a personal check mailed or brought to the church office
- With a check or credit card charge through the church's website...<http://fpcga.org/welcome/give>
- Stock designated to World Mission can be transferred through:
 - Wells Fargo Advisors, our account is #2762-1278 and DTC is #0141
 - Vanguard, our account is #1192-7216 and DTC is #0062

Note: Your World Mission pledge is separate from your 2021 Stewardship pledge. For checks, please write "WMC 2021" on the memo line; for cash, place in an envelope with your name and WMC 2021 on the outside.

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

www.fpcga.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT
GAINESVILLE, GA

USPS 555-440

"The Call" Issue 14 February 2021 published bi-weekly free by First Presbyterian Church, 800 S. Enota Dr. NE, Gainesville, GA 30501-2431. POSTMASTER: send address changes to "The Call," 800 S. Enota Dr. NE, Gainesville, GA 30501-2431.

CHURCH CALENDAR

— Week 1 —

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Valentine's Day

10:00am BASIC via Zoom
10:00am GIFT Class via Zoom
10:00am Rocks of All Ages via Zoom
11:00am WMC Live-stream Sunday
Worship

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

1:30pm **Endowment Grants Cmte
via Zoom***
3:00pm **Operating Budget Cmte
via Zoom***

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:00pm **Faith Development via Zoom***

— Week 2 —

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:45am Morning Light Worship Live-
stream Online
10:00am BASIC via Zoom
10:00am GIFT Class via Zoom
10:00am Rocks of All Ages via Zoom
11:00am Traditional Worship Live-
stream Online

1:00pm Annual Congregational
Meeting Webinar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:30pm **The Session via Zoom***

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

12:00pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

*Committee Meeting

ONLINE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 31—11:00 / 226

February 7—11:00 / 208

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30

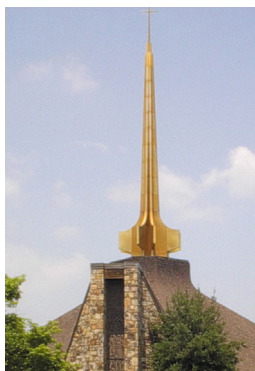
CONTACT US

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.

Letter from Presbytery Covid Task Force

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Who could have predicted how long our struggle with the COVID-19 virus would go on? The first cases were detected just a year ago, and any initial expectations that a brief lockdown of the country would have us “back to normal” by the summer were bitterly dashed. The toll in human terms has been devastating, and many of us have been directly impacted. We grieve, we lament, we wait.

Now we are on the verge of genuine hope, as vaccines have been approved and are becoming more widely available. With that utmost in mind, we strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated at your earliest opportunity. The faster we get vaccines into arms the greater probability variants will become a non-issue. If you have any questions regarding the safety of these vaccines, [please review the information available here](#).

We also need to keep in mind the sobering reality that even after being vaccinated, an individual, though protected, can still be a carrier of the virus, transmitting it to others. What this means for us is that we need to continue to abide by all officially recommended safety protocols, especially wearing masks, keeping physical distance, regular handwashing, and avoiding large gatherings of people. We expect that we will have to live with this virus, or its variants, for a long time to come; therefore, we all must remain vigilant as we seek to protect one another. If you, or anyone you have come in contact with, has tested positive for the virus, please follow the CDC recommendations and remain in quarantine for at least 7-10 days.

We understand that the CDC guidelines say that if you recover from your symptoms from COVID-19 after testing positive, you might continue to test positive for three months or more without being contagious to others.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have questions, and please continue in prayer for one another. Be on the lookout for those who may lack the necessary resources, and plan ahead to be a blessing to others. Remember that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble,” (Ps.46:1), and that he is faithful, and will never leave us or forsake us.

Yours in Christ,
Ruling Elders Dr. Janet Timmons and Dr. Ed Boland
Teaching Elders Rev.'s Ed Rees, Mark Harper, Teresa Franklin,
Lee Koontz and General Presbyter Hilary N. Shuford
The Covid-19 Task Force

FPC OFFICERS



THE SESSION

Reverend Lee Koontz, Moderator
Tracy-Lees Grant, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2021

Alene Arenas	Harry Case
Susan Daniel	Julie Ferguson
Carroll Todd	Don Willers

CLASS OF 2022

Chris Cousens	Stacy Morley
Lynne Plummer	Kevin Price
Cathy Vining	Greg Wren

CLASS OF 2023

Dawn Fulenwider	Andrea Jones
Jim Robison	Karen Schaap
Jack Spencer	Joe Thompson



THE DIACONATE

CLASS OF 2021

Enow Agborsangaya	Sue Bradley
Mary Katherine Ennis	Susan Hosford
Marlyn Mortland	Rebecca Pate
Erin Taylor	Joan Van Rysselberge
Alex Wisnoski	

CLASS OF 2022

Steve Bunn	Barbara Case
Jane Davenport	Cathy Finch
Susannah McBride	Barry Sanders
Jason Shoaf	Scott Stowers

CLASS OF 2023

Haydee Anderson	Wilson Golden
Rachel Greenwalt	Kimberly Hulse
Bonnie Rary	Justin Reynolds
Dan Schaap	Ches Tredway

Created in Christ to do *good works*
Ephesians 2:10

MY SISTER'S PLACE—is a nonprofit homeless shelter located here in Gainesville. The shelter first opened its doors in 2000 with two goals: provide a haven for a fresh start for homeless women and children and shower all who enter with God's love.

Today My Sister's Place is able to provide a nurturing home, transportation assistance, nutritious meals, and other basic necessities to single women and mothers with children. The shelter also provides the tools and resources such as education and employment support to help these families be better positioned when they leave than when they arrived.

Volunteers are what makes this small ministry with a big heart able to help others in need. Register to become a volunteer at <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/get-involved>.

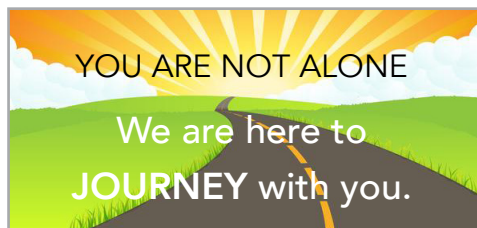
Current Shelter Needs:

- Gift Cards (Aldi, Kroger, Walmart)
- Gainesville Connect bus passes
- Dial-A-Ride (\$10 card/vouchers)
- Disinfectant wipes and spray
- Disposable gloves (large, non-latex)
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet and shower cleaner
- Trash bags (13 gallons)
- Paper towels
- Fresh fruit, milk, eggs, vegetables, ground chicken and beef

Support for Seniors and Vulnerable Adult Services

LEGACY LINK is designated by the Georgia Department of Human Services as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the 13-county Georgia Mountains Region which includes Hall County. The AAA is responsible for advocacy for older adults, planning and administration of programs, and coordination and monitoring of services in the area. There are a number of ways to volunteer at Legacy Link, including: assist Medicare beneficiaries with information about Original Medicare, Medicare Health and Drug Plans, Medicare Supplement Insurance and Medicare Cost Savings; promote community awareness of Medicare health insurance information, assistance, and referral services; make visits and listen to the concerns of residents at nursing homes and personal care homes; deliver Meals on Wheels; teach an activity at your local senior center or assist with existing programs; phone home-bound seniors to check on their welfare and combat loneliness; assist with administrative office duties; and assist with special projects or occasional events.

Although the COVID pandemic has closed Legacy Link to walk-in visitors and limited volunteer opportunities at this time, there is still a need for volunteers. Please call/e-mail 770-538-2650/legacylink.org for more information. Legacy Link, AAA is located at 4080 Mundy Mill Road in Oakwood.



OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY continues to meet needs within our congregation and our community. We have Stephen Ministers who are available to meet your need if this is a ministry that you might find helpful. We also have four additional Stephen Ministers who were trained at the end of last year and are ready to receive their first care receiver.

If you are experiencing any type of life issue that is seemingly overwhelming, please reach out for assistance. This is a highly confidential one-on-one ministry that might be helpful to you if you are experiencing a particularly difficult season of life.

Contact Shon Peppers at 678-936-5357 or speppers@fpcga.org to learn more.