

# THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | September 5, 2021

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear FPC Family,

One year ago, I wrote the following in *The Call*:

*"We will continue to make each of our Sunday morning worship services as meaningful as possible given the current circumstances. I've said it before, but it bears repeating. This is one of likely several steps forward in the weeks and months to come, and it's important to remember that "reopening" the church is more like a marathon than a sprint. It will happen gradually, over a long period of time."*

As I read this one year later, I am nearly speechless. We did make several steps forward, just as we thought. But we had no idea that the Delta variant was on the way, forcing us to take steps backward. Navigating our way toward "normal" last year really was a marathon, but I don't think any of us thought we'd still be struggling so mightily with the effects of this pandemic one year later. Nevertheless, our hope is the same: that we will be able to make each worship experience, each moment of fellowship, each expression of love and care as meaningful as possible.

In recent weeks, we have had at least one church program affected by quarantines or positive cases, while others have come perilously close to being affected. The one that we've had to adjust for the coming weeks is our Wednesday night WOW program. We had planned to begin WOW on September 8<sup>th</sup>, but with positive cases and quarantines affecting both our kitchen staff and our A/V team, this is no longer possible. The good news is that we anticipate delaying the opening of WOW by only one week. **We are tentatively planning to begin our WOW program on September 15<sup>th</sup>.** Watch *The Call* as well as church announcements and emails for further details on both in-person and meal pick-up plans!

I also encourage you to pray for our Re-opening Task Force and Session as we continue navigating the waters of this pandemic. Our current Session-approved church policy highly recommends masks and physical distance (if able) at all FPC church gatherings. This is in line with recent recommendations and appeals from Northeast Georgia Health System for local churches and community organizations to help stop the spread of Covid-19. Please pray as well for our neighbors at Northeast Georgia Medical Center and all of the medical staff and volunteers who are fighting the affects of this pandemic daily and in a very personal way. They need our prayers and our support!

In these extremely challenging days, it is worth remembering that we are called by Christ to be people of faith, hope, and love. When you walk a hard road, walk it faithfully. When the news is dark and it's harder to find the good in the world, shine a light of hope for others around you to see. And when it seems like there are no perfect solutions, and each day simply brings more questions and answers, strive to share the love of Christ above all else – with your neighbor, but also with yourself.

May God bless you and guide you all along the way!

Grace and Peace,  
Lee

### SEPTEMBER 5

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Margaret Turney-Ayer  
Colossians 3:12-17; Hosea 11:1-11  
"Love That Won't Let Go!"

#### 8:45 Morning Light

Swetenburg Hall  
Morning Light Worship Team

#### 11:00 Traditional Worship

Sanctuary  
Chancel Choir

The Sacrament of Holy  
Communion at both services

### SEPTEMBER 12

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Lee Koontz

#### 8:45 Morning Light

Swetenburg Hall  
Morning Light Worship Team

#### 11:00 Traditional Worship

Sanctuary  
Chancel Choir

## LECTIONARY

### September 5

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
Psalm 125:1-5  
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17;  
Mark 7:24-37

### September 12

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19:1-14  
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

We are currently making a concerted effort to update our church roll and make corrections to our records. You may have grown children who are no longer living here, and are possibly attending a church elsewhere, or you may have changed jobs or even retired. If so, we'd like to know about it. Please call the church office at 770-532-0136 and speak to Libby.

**Sympathy on the passing of...**

- ... **Scott Begnaud** (husband of Anne), August 21. Anne Begnaud, 1173 Riverside Drive, Gainesville 30501
- ... **Chris Littlebird** (sister of Jack Spencer), August 23

**DONATIONS RECEIVED**

***In Memory of...***

**Jap Keith**

- by Sharon and Ed Rugg
- by John and Carole Hope
- by Bert Dillon
- by Glenda Pierce
- by Judy and Wiley Black
- by Anonymous

**Scott Begnaud**

- by Glenda Pierce

**Chris Littlebird** (sister of Jack Spencer)

- by Anonymous

**Bill Ware**

- by Anonymous

**FPC FINANCIAL REPORT**

As of July 31, 2021 Financial Reports:

YTD Income . . . . .	801,762
YTD Expenses . . . . .	773,862
YTD Net Income (Loss) . . . . .	27,634

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDIES**

*What My Grandmothers Taught Me:  
Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*



**FIRST MONDAY STUDY**  
10:15-11:15 am, Room SH503  
Begins September 13  
(Labor Day change)

**FIRST TUESDAY STUDY**  
7-8 pm, Room M303  
Begins September 7

Social Hour First Mondays, 9:45-10:10 am, SH  
For more information:  
Janet Hesser 770-503-9414 (call)  
Susan Parker 770-503-5423 (call/text)

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**—All women in our congregation are invited to our women's Bible study groups. We will be meeting "in person" this fall. Free study books and PW directories will be distributed at our meetings. Our September mission project is "Baskets Galore." With our financial contributions, several lovely gift baskets will be made to donate to an event that raises money for Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Bring your donation to our September PW meetings, or mail or drop it off at church office. Write check to First Presbyterian, designated "PW Basket Galore."

**PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY**

*Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*  
1 Corinthians 10:31

God of grace and mercy, we come to you this Labor Day week knowing that you are there for us all. We are your people, the kingdom of God. We sometimes struggle with the trials of life. Many are facing foreclosure of their home, loss of job, health insurance, and loss of assets. Lord, you love us and want the best for your people. Help us to trust you for help, moment by moment and day by day. You know our needs. We have hope and the promise of your word. We know when life disappoints, dreams diminish, and friends disappear, you, Lord, remain our blessed hope. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen. Ruth Staley

**THE AREA ANIMAL SHELTERS** are **NO** longer requesting medicine bottles. Please recycle your empty prescription bottles. The church is no longer receiving them. Thank you.

### CASA VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION

*A one hour virtual overview of CASA's program, our impact on the community, and how a CASA volunteer has the power to "Change a Child's Story"*

**Thursday, September 9, 7pm** or

**Friday, September 10, 10am**

For more information, please contact [tracy@halldawsoncasa.org](mailto:tracy@halldawsoncasa.org) or call Tracy at 770-531-1964.



**Kids Night Out**  
**WATER NIGHT**

\$10 child / \$20 family  
**Dinner provided**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**  
6-10 pm  
In the Lodge

Children thru 5th Grade welcome with reservation  
RSVP at [athompson@pcga.org](mailto:athompson@pcga.org) by Wednesday, September 8



## RESUMES SEPTEMBER 15

**5:45 PM SUPPER (SPAGHETTI)**

\$8 Adult • \$5 Kid • \$20 Family

**5:20 PM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**6:30 PM PROGRAM | Rev. Lee Koontz**

Deadline for reservations is noon on the Friday before. Pick-up dinners at the door of Swetenburg will also be available for those who choose and place their order by the Friday deadline.

Created in Christ to do  
*good works*

Ephesians 2:10

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA HISTORY CENTER**—We have a wonderful resource right in the middle of Gainesville that both residents and visitors alike can enjoy, the Northeast Georgia History Center (NGHC), a 26,000 square foot facility which is located at 322 Academy Street.

NGHC is dedicated to "preserving and sharing the history of northeast Georgia", by collecting and preserving historical items and retaining artifacts. These historical items and artifacts are shared via the many unique exhibits that visitors can walk through, such as an 18th century cabin where Cherokee Chief White Pass used to live or a blacksmith shop where visitors can view a blacksmithing demonstration. If you're interested in sports, you can walk through the NE GA Sports Hall of Fame to learn about the athletes from this region.

Other subjects of the many exhibits available at NGHC include: Lake Lanier, folk pottery, a tornado simulator that depicts the 1936 tornado in Gainesville, and so much more.

During the pandemic, NGHC has also increased its outreach via virtual media presentations to schools and other groups/individuals where actors portray individuals from various periods of history and interact with the virtual visitors in real time.

For more information, check out the website [www.negahc.org](http://www.negahc.org) or talk to Cleda Locey who has a special connection to NGHC via Cleda's Corner, a garden that was dedicated to her years of service as secretary of the Board of Directors.

### THE LANIER FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING

Introducing a relatively new volunteer opportunity (definitely not a new agency, but one in which we have only a few volunteers), today we feature the Lanier Fuller Center for Housing (LFCH). This is a Christian non-profit ministry founded by Millard and Linda Fuller, founders of Habitat for Humanity. Their goal is to become covenant partners working with (not for) those in need.

The Center provides materials, volunteer labor, and construction expertise to help those in need maintain a simple, decent place to live. They believe that handouts are often detrimental to the recipients, but that a "hand-up" is a blessing. Recipients help in the restoration of their homes and re-donate only the costs of materials on terms they can afford, over time. They serve as true partners in the work, and thus regain pride of home ownership.

LFCH puts their faith into action by evangelizing to both the poor and those who have been blessed. They believe that what the poor need is not charity, but capital, not case workers, but co-workers.

If you would like to participate in such an organization, please call 678-790-6520, e-mail [cingraham@fullercenter.org](mailto:cingraham@fullercenter.org), or check out their webpage at: [fullercenterlakelanianer.com](http://fullercenterlakelanianer.com).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30501

[www.fpcga.org](http://www.fpcga.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## —CHURCH CALENDAR—

### —Week 1—

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5  
*Family Camping at Vogel thru Monday the 6th*  
8:45am Morning Light Worship, SH  
9:15am Chancel Ringers  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Traditional Worship  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6  
*Office Closed for Labor Day*  
10:00am Prayer Group, Prayer Room  
12:00pm Gentle Yoga, Gym  
**6:00pm Worship Committee, CR\***  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7  
12:00pm Ladies Bible Study, Parlor  
5:30pm Ladies AA, Lakehouse  
5:30pm Matthew 25, CR  
7:00pm PW Evening Group, M303  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9  
9:30am Yoga, Gym  
**5:00pm Youth Ministry Team, YR\***  
5:30pm *Be the Bridge* Study, Lakehouse  
**6:00pm Children's Ministry Team, Cabin 3\***  
7:00pm Bernice Cox Book Club, Prayer Room  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10  
10:00am PEO (Nancy Naegele), Parlor  
6:00pm Kids' Night Out

\*Committee Meeting  
CR-Conference Room  
SH-Swetenburg Hall  
YA-Youth Area

### —Week 2—

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12  
8:45am Morning Light Worship, SH  
9:15am Chancel Ringers  
9:45am Confirmation Class, Youth Area  
10:00am Sunday School  
11:00am Traditional Worship  
6:00pm Youth Group, YA  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13  
9:30am Presbyterian Women SH & SH503  
10:00am Prayer Group, Prayer Room  
12:00pm Gentle Yoga, Gym  
1:00pm Stephen Ministry Leaders, CR  
**3:00pm Evangelism Meeting, CR\***  
6:00pm PEO (Jody Sanders), Parlor  
6:30pm Lakeshore Squares Dance Class  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14  
**11:00am WMC 2022 Committee, CR\***  
**5:00pm Adult Ministry, CR\***  
5:30pm Ladies AA, Lakehouse  
**6:30pm Congregational Care, M303\***  
**6:30pm Fellowship Ministry, Cabin 4\***  
**6:30pm Outreach Ministry, CR\***  
**7:15pm The Diaconate, M303\***  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15  
5:45pm WOW Supper  
6:20pm Kid's WOW  
6:30pm Adult WOW Program  
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  
9:30am Yoga, Gym  
6:00pm Lakeshore Squares Extra Dance  
**6:00pm Faith Development, CR\***  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
6:30pm Lakeshore Squares, Gym

#### IN-PERSON plus ONLINE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

**August 22—** 8:45am 58 + 44 = 102  
11am 93 + 97 = 190  
**August 29—** 8:45am 38 + 48 = 86  
11am 81 + 112 = 193

#### 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
Debbie Holcombe, Administrator .....	11
Brooke Lowe, CDC Director.....	40
Ronny Childs.....	35
Audio/Visual Coordinator	
Ali Thompson.....	29
Director of Children's Ministry	
Dallas Thompson (dthompson@fpcga.org)	
Young Adults Ministry Coordinator	

**Sunday 8:45 worship and 11am worship streamed live.**

Web address: [fpcga.churchonline.org](http://fpcga.churchonline.org)  
View recent past services at [fpcga.org/welcome/sermons](http://fpcga.org/welcome/sermons).