

THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | October 10, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

OCTOBER 10

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Rev. Shon Peppers

Psalm 22:1-15; Mark 10:17-31

"Gracious Possibilities"

8:45 Morning Light

Swetenburg Hall

Morning Light Worship Team

11:00 Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

Chancel Choir

OCTOBER 17

Children & Youth Sabbath

Rev. Lee Koontz

8:45 Morning Light

Swetenburg Hall

Morning Light Worship Team

11:00 Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

Chancel Choir

LECTIONARY

October 10

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 17

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

We in the Presbyterian Church have always emphasized God's initiative and invitation to participate in God's vision for the world. We believe that God is a good and gracious God who freely loves, gives, and saves. Our part in the story is one of gratitude, responding to God's benevolence by offering our time, talents, and treasure. It's that last 'T' that we'll be focusing on for the next few weeks as we seek to be generous and faithful stewards of our financial blessings. We don't do this because God needs money, or because we somehow expect blessings in return. We do this because we have already received a great gift in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We do this because we believe the teachings of our Lord, who taught in one of his New Testament parables, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34) Jesus wasn't (and still isn't) much interested in *compliance*. What he wanted from those first disciples – and what he wants from us – is *commitment*. It comes from our hearts – a joyful, faithful, and thankful response to all that God has done for us.

Whether it is money, time, talents, material possessions, relationships or personal effort, God continually invites us to participate in God's vision for us, the church. During our stewardship campaign this year we are once again called to trust that God has a vision and a purpose for us here at First Presbyterian Church. It's up to us to step forward with our time, our talents, and our resources in order to fulfill the purpose to which God is calling us. God has issued to all of us an invitation to live a life of gratitude and faithful stewardship.

Following the teachings of Jesus, we believe that stewardship is a personal responsibility instituted by God for every believer. Again, not that God needs money, but God has chosen to invite us all into the ministry of Jesus Christ in order to achieve something extraordinary. In other words, God needs you! You're a vital part of Christ's church! Whether your gifts are small or great, you can be assured and guided by the promises of scripture that God will take our gifts and incorporate them into God's life-changing and life-giving kingdom. God has a purpose for you and your gifts at FPC. God also has a purpose for us as the body of Christ in Gainesville.

I hope and pray that you will remain open to the ways that God will call you personally to give during this season of stewardship. I also hope that you'll open your heart to following Christ's call to be generous, to be loving, and to fulfill the purpose that God has set before us. This **Sunday, October 10th** is Dedication Sunday, and I invite you to bring your completed commitment card to worship if you have not yet sent it or brought it to the church. We will have a moment of dedication at both worship services.

May God guide and bless you as you contemplate your own giving, and may God bless us as the body of Christ in extraordinary ways. Amen!

Grace and Peace,
Lee



STEWARDSHIP 2021
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GAINESVILLE GA

DONATIONS RECEIVED
In Memory of...

Scott Begnaud

- by Martha Hodge
- by Rick and Beth Kimpling
- by Jackie Sosby
- by Anne Hallum

Jap Keith

- by Rick and Beth Kimpling
- by Jackie Sosby
- by George and Francis Seelke

Sandee McGlaun

- by Jackie Sosby
- by Judy and Wiley Black
- by Larry and JoAnne Durisch
- by Michelle Black Bartlett
- by Deanna Black Hatfield
- by George and Francis Seelke

Bill Ware

- by Jackie Sosby

Jane Bour

- by Cheryl B. Jordan



5:45 PM SUPPER

\$8 Adult • \$5 Kid • \$20 Family

6:20 PM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
& WOW! MUSIC

6:30 PM ADULT PROGRAM

OCTOBER 13

MENU: Grilled herbed chicken, green beans, macaroni and cheese

PROGRAM: Rusty Ligon
What's Happening in the City of Gainesville, Part 1

OCTOBER 20

MENU: Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, Sicilian blend vegetables

PROGRAM: Angela Sheppard
What's Happening in the City of Gainesville, Part 2

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Thursday, October 28, 1 pm—PW Coordinating Team Zoom meeting.
Monday, November 1, 9:45-10:10—Social Time; **10:15-11:15 am**—Morning Bible Study, Swetenburg Hall. Team 2 will host our social time. Horizon Bible Study Lesson 3 will be led by Nancy Naegele. We will have a guest speaker, church member Enow Agborsangaya. He will tell us about the influence his grandmother has had on his life.
Tuesday, November 2, 7 pm—Evening Bible Study, Room M303

November PW Mission Project—PW Thank Offering. This special offering originated in the late 1800's when Presbyterian Women were asked to give a special financial gift over and above their usual donations to women's programs. Forty percent of this offering is used to support medical missions throughout the world. The remaining sixty percent is used for new creative ideas of mission, undesignated in advance. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 - \$50,000. This year 12 projects have been selected—nine are in the United States and three are international. The national ones go to projects all around the country, from WA to SC, and the international ones are in Belize, Guatemala, and Zambia. If you would like to make a financial donation, make your check out to Presbyterian Women, designated "Thank Offering." Bring your check to our November Bible study groups or drop it off at the church office.



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available to take home and fill by **November 21**.

Empty boxes are available in Swetenburg, the Church Office, and at the Information Desk. The Samaritan's Purse OCC display table in Swetenburg shows the joy and Good News these shoebox gifts bring to less fortunate children and their families worldwide. Financial donations are also welcome--please make your check out to FPC with shoeboxes in the memo line.

CONGRATULATIONS—Anderson and Mary Kajang are proud new parents of a baby boy. Isaac Echie Ebai-Kajang was born September 22. Anderson moved to Florida years ago and is now a Pharmacist.

SECURE ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available on our website. Go to www.fpcga.org, click on the "Giving" tab. Click "Online Giving" and scroll down to the link that says "click here to give online." You may donate with a check (using your bank routing number and account number) or using a debit or credit card. Recurring payments may also be set up. If you have any questions please contact our Church Accountant.

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

The Local Mission Emphasis team invites you to participate in the next work project at Eagle Ranch on Saturday, November 20.



Eagle Ranch Work Project

Saturday, November 20

5500 Union Church Road
Flowery Branch 30542

8:30-9:00am Tour of Eagle Ranch

9:00am-12:00pm Work Project

The work project is not yet fully defined but previous projects included painting fences, clearing riding trails, landscaping, cleaning/organizing, etc. All participants should wear appropriate clothing, including a hat for the sun and shoes that can get dirty. Participants should also bring work gloves and water.

The maximum number of participants for the work project is 30 and for a tour of Eagle Ranch is 20, so please sign up as soon as possible. \Please use the following link to sign up: <https://eagleranch.org/get-involved/volunteer>.

Or you may contact Tina de Waart at tinadewaart@bellsouth.net to sign up.

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

www.fpcga.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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—CHURCH CALENDAR—

—Week 1—

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Commitment Sunday

8:45am Morning Light Worship, SH
9:15am Chancel Ringers
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship
6:00pm Youth Group

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

10:00am Prayer Group, Prayer Room
11:00am PEO (Jody Sanders), Parlor
12:00pm Gentle Yoga, Gym
12:00pm Ladies Bible Study, Lake House
1:00pm Stephen Ministry Leaders, CR
3:00pm **Evangelism Meeting, CR***
6:30pm Lakeshore Square Dance Class

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

11:00am **WMC 2022 Cmte, 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, OCTOBER 13

5:45pm WOW Supper
6:20pm Children's WOW Music & Activities
6:30pm Adult WOW Program
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:30am Yoga, Gym
11:00am Lanier Women's Group (S. Burke), SH
5:00pm **Youth Ministry Team, Youth Room***
5:30pm *Be the Bridge* Study, Lakehouse
6:00pm **Children's Ministry Team, Cabin 3***
7:00pm Bernice Cox Book Club, Prayer Room

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

10:00am Confirmation Class Quilt Creation
6:30pm Lakeshore Squares, Gym

—Week 2—

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

Children & Youth Sabbath

8:45am Morning Light Worship, SH
9:15am Chancel Ringers
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship
12:30pm Session on Poverty & Racism,
Lakehouse

6:00pm Youth Group

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:00am Prayer Group, Prayer Room
11:00am Church Staff Meeting, CR
12:00pm Gentle Yoga, Gym
6:00pm Voices of N GA
6:30pm Lakeshore Square Dance Class

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

1:30pm **CDC Council, M303***
1:30pm **Endowment Grants Cmte, CR***
2:15pm Chapel (CDC), Sanctuary
4:30pm **Finance Cmte, CR***
5:30pm Ladies AA, Lakehouse

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

5:45pm WOW Supper
6:20pm Children's WOW Music & Activities
6:30pm Adult WOW Program
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:30am Yoga, Gym
10:00am Wonderful Works
6:00pm Voices of N GA Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:00pm **Faith Development, CR***

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:30pm Voices of N Ga Concert, Sanctuary

***Committee Meeting**

CR-Conference Room
SH-Swetenburg Hall

IN-PERSON plus ONLINE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

September 26— 8:45am 40 + 46 = 86
11am 91 + 90 = 181
October 3— 8:45am 72 + 38 = 110
11am 99 + 88 = 187

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 Pastor12
Margaret Turney-Ayer13
Interim Director of Faith Development
Benji Stegner, Music Director/Organist ...36
Debbie Holcombe, Administrator11
Libby Christiansen, Admin. Asst.23
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
Sue Ann Rogers, Publisher.....20
Hope Testament, Director of Bells

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

Web address: fpcga.churchonline.org

View recent past services at fpcga.org/welcome/sermons.

Confirmation Class *continues...*

Our eleven Confirmands are a little more than halfway through our Sunday morning class. We have been meeting 9:45-10:45 every week, studying a relatively new curriculum put out by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) called **BIG GOD BIG** Questions with topics such as *How Do We Know and Trust God? Who Is Your Lord? Who Is Your Savior? What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus? What Does It Mean to Show Christ's Love?*

Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers as we continue with our last few classes:

Christa Agborsangaya
Cynthia Agborsangaya
Ernesta Agborsangaya
Reina Agborsangaya

Molly Good
AJ Koontz
Alex Koontz
Mary Eloise Tymchuk

Hayden Graham
Izzy Mealor
Harrison Tullar

We are grateful for all those who have helped shape the faith of these young people: their parents and families, their Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, and music leaders; the many adults in this congregation who have consistently supported the Youth Program, encouraged our Youth, and prayed for them during their years of growing and learning; and countless others who have shown their interest and support, greeting our Youth with a warm welcome and acceptance.

We are also grateful for their Covenant Partners, their Mentors, who have studied with them, taken time to get to know them, attended several of the classes and participated in lively discussions with them. I am sure that these Covenant Partners will be remembered for the rest of the Confirmands' lives. We give thanks for their commitment and faithful presence: **Karen Schaap, Linda Spencer, Jack Spencer, Stacy Morley, Jessica Tullar, Jay Fulenwider, Louise Robinson, and Walt McBride.** (Several of these folk are partnering with two Confirmands.)

In mid-November the Confirmands will be introduced to the Session at a special meeting. They will each read their Faith Statements and be received into full membership of the church. They will be introduced as new members early in Advent in worship.

All of our Children and Youth experience the faithfulness of God from one generation to the next as we pray for them and encourage them with our words, our smiles, and our support. It is a vital commitment on the part of this congregation to the generations who will follow us. Thank you!

Peace,
Margaret

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH SABBATH

On **Sunday, October 17**, our children and youth will join together to lead worship at both services. They have helped to shape the liturgy and will be leading the various parts of the service. Some of our Youth participate regularly by serving with Ronny Childs in operating the sound equipment on both Sunday mornings and Wednesdays at WOW. We appreciate your support in attendance in person and through the livestreaming of each service. Rev. Lee Koontz will be preaching.

Please plan to join us as a sign of your support and continued care for our Children's and Youth Programs. Thank you!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Evening and morning and noon, will I cry aloud and He shall hear my voice.

Psalm 55:17

Holy God, we thank you for the challenges you set before us—for the strength, courage, and faith that you give us to meet them. We know, Lord, not only do you hear every word, you recognize each voice. You listen to us because we are the children of God. Our voices are precious to you. Prayer opens the door for Christ to speak to our hearts with peace, comfort, and love. In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen. Ruth Staley



PARTY AT THE KOONTZES'

ANNUAL YOUTH HALLOWEEN BASH

October 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
3783 Hardy Road

Good food & sweet treats
Fireside games & spooky stories
Costumes encouraged!