

THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | April 2022

April 3

The Sacrament of
Holy Communion
at both services
Deuteronomy 15:1-11:
John 12:1-8

April 10

Palm Sunday
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

April 17

Easter
Isaiah 12:2-6
Luke 24: 1-12

April 24

Psalm 118:14-29
John 20:19-31

8:45 Morning Light
Swetenburg Hall
Morning Light
Worship Team

11:00 Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
Chancel Choir

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Kindred in Christ,

With the beauty of a new springtime season unfolding around us, we now move on toward Palm Sunday and Holy Week together. On April 10th we will commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with a celebration of Palm Sunday. On Thursday the 14th we will journey along with Jesus as he gathers with his disciples in an upper room. I freely admit that of all the significant days coming up on the calendar, Maundy Thursday is probably not the one you are the most excited about. As you think ahead to the days ahead, Easter is probably the one day that will get the most attention. However, situated just before the great celebration of the resurrection is a time that is just as important to us as followers of Christ.

Traditionally it is called the "Paschal Triduum". That's a fancy way of saying "the three days before Easter" consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Each day has its own focus and type of observance. Maundy Thursday focuses on Jesus' commandment to his disciples to love others as he loves them. Good Friday focuses on Jesus' passion and death on the cross. Holy Saturday focuses on silence, for that day commemorates the time that Jesus lay dead in the tomb. In observing these three holy days, we resist the tendency to jump straight from the "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday to the "Alleluias" of Easter morning. That's probably even easier this year, when we're craving the Easter good news in the midst of such strange and unsettling times. It's human nature to focus on the "feel good" parts of any story, but when the story happens to be the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we miss some of the most beautiful, poignant, and meaningful parts when we "fast forward" straight to the resurrection. Ann Lamotte was speaking for all of us when she wrote, "I don't have the right personality for Good Friday, for the crucifixion. I'd like to skip ahead to the resurrection. In fact, I'd like to skip ahead to resurrection vision of one of the kids in our Sunday School, who drew a picture of the Easter Bunny outside the tomb; everlasting life and a basketful of chocolates. Now you're talking!"

The truth about this Holy Week is that the messages of this time resonate when we've spent time in the dark valley, when we're living in the crisis, or when we really pay attention to what's going on in the devastated places of the world. You might not be drawn to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday until you have to carry that feeling of hopelessness or fear. That's when you need something more than an empty tomb and a basket full of chocolates. You need a God who knows pain, loss, heartache, and terror because that God has lived it.

I invite you to spend some time meditating on the significance of Jesus' life-giving sacrifice, and thereby come to appreciate every single step along the way. I also invite you to join us for our Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:30 p.m. (both virtually and in-person). We will follow with a community worship service (First Baptist Church on Green St., 9:00 a.m.) on Good Friday. On Saturday we'll be keeping the Easter Vigil privately in our homes. And finally, we will celebrate the resurrection together on Easter Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. As you contemplate the meaning of these days, may God bless you with steps of faith, hope, and love!

Grace and Peace,
Lee



5:45 PM SUPPER
\$8 ADULTS • \$5 KIDS • \$20 FAMILY
6:20 PM CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
6:30 PM ADULT PROGRAM

April 6
 No WOW (Spring Break)

THURSDAY, April 14
 (Maundy Thursday)
 Menu: Chili, cornbread, and
 baked potato bar
 Program: Maundy Thursday Service

April 20
 Menu: Roast pork, cheesy potatoes, garden peas,
 candied yams, and hot rolls
 Program: Earth Day Program
 Rev. Dr. Bill Brown from Columbia Seminary

April 27
 MENU: Beef stew, steamed cabbage,
 glazed beets, and hot yeast rolls
 Program: Police Chief and information about safety
 procedures for today.

Sign up online or call the church office!

Online form:
<https://forms.gle/TbhcHkNMcu37Z2hk6>

Easter Lilies

(In memory or in honor of loved ones)
 Order forms are available at the information
 desk in the narthex. Drop completed form
 with check in the offering box or
 mail/bring to church office. \$13 each
 Orders due by April 10th.



Let's Have LUNCH!

Catch up with friends you have missed!
 Bring your sack lunch and drink and
 meet at the Lake House on the
 4th Thursday of each month
 from 12:00- 2:00 pm.



For more information, call
 Kathy Barrett, 404-247-8402 or
 Carol Squires, 678-617-7177.
 No program, just **FUN** and **FELLOWSHIP!**

FPC FINANCIAL REPORT

As of February 28, 2022:
 YTD Income: \$267,129
 YTD Expenses: \$201,472
 YTD Gain: \$65,657



PW Dates to Remember

Monday, April 4th – Morning Bible Study Group. We will be meeting in Swetenburg Hall. Social time: 9; 45-10:10. Bible Study: 10:15 – 11:15. We will be reviewing Lesson #8 in our Horizon Bible study book. Our study leader will be Toni Gregory.

Tuesday, April 5th – Evening Bible Study Group – 7 p.m. We will be meeting at church in Room 303. We will be reviewing Lesson #8 in the Horizon Bible study book.

Thursday, April 28th – 1 p.m. PW Coordinating Team zoom meeting.

April Mission Project – our church's Child Development Center. In operation since 1957, our CDC is a full service Quality Rated childcare center. They serve children ages six weeks to Pre-K. Under the care of a dedicated and qualified staff, the children develop spiritually, physically and emotionally. A financial donation to our CDC will help them purchase needed supplies and equipment. Make your check to: Presbyterian Women, and in the remarks write "CDC". Bring your donation to our April Bible Study meetings



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Looking ahead to May. May is the last of our Bible Study meetings until we start up again in September. To celebrate the end of a season where PW had to be adaptable from month to month to meet via zoom or in person due to COVID, we will be having a PW luncheon. This will take place on Monday, May 2nd at 11:45 a.m. for all PW members. Even if you haven't been able to attend any meetings this year, we would still like to have you come for lunch. The lunch will be catered for a minimal fee to all attending. Put this date on your calendar! Sign up information will come later.



Holy Week at First Presbyterian

PALM SUNDAY | April 10
In person and live online
8:45 Morning Light Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY | April 14
5:30PM Dinner (Swetenburg Hall)
6:30PM In person (Sanctuary) and live online

GOOD FRIDAY | April 15
Community Worship Service
First Baptist Church on Green St., 9:00 a.m.

EASTER RESURRECTION CELEBRATIONS
Sunday, April 17
In person and live online
8:45 Morning Light Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship

Congregational Care

Have you recorded your end-of-life instructions in our "Celebration of Life" planning guide?

Putting your affairs in order – including your will, memorial preferences, draft obituary, family contacts, asset records and other information such as safe deposit box, life insurance and deeds, will be vital to your executor and family members.

A 3-ring binder planning guide/workbook is available at no cost through the church office. For information and assistance in preparation, you may contact Wilson Golden (Diaconate Congregational Care) at 703.201.6025 or wilsongolden215@gmail.com.



young adults

The second Sunday of every month, we'll be doing Sunday school (with donuts!) at 10 am, then on the fourth Tuesday of every month, we'll be doing trivia - appetizers provided. Please contact Dallas Thompson for more information!
dthompson@fpcga.org

Created in Christ to do *good works*

Ephesians 2:10



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure abused and neglected children have the right to a safe and permanent home. CASA provides trained, screened, and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children requiring court intervention. The CASA volunteer works with the Juvenile Court, the social service system, and community service providers to ensure that the child's needs are addressed and that these children receive permanency, whether through reunification with family or guardian, or adoption.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- become a CASA volunteer and advocate for abused and neglected children,
- provide financial support, or
- join Women Working Wonders.

See website for more details: www.halldawsoncasa.org.

Family T.I.E.S. is a non-profit dedicated to helping families provide a safe, nurturing, and positive environment for their children. They offer programs which TEACH healthy living skills, INFORM the community about the cycle of violence, EMPOWER participants to break the cycle of violence, and SUPPORT families through the entire process. April is "Child Abuse Prevention Month." During this time banners and Pinwheels will be displayed all over the Gainesville area. Each pinwheel represents a substantiated abuse case in Hall County in 2021. Support the mission of Family TIES by donating to their Pinwheels with a Purpose Campaign.



Contact information is as follows:

<http://familytiesgainesville.org>, 615 Oak Street Suite 700, Gainesville, GA 30501.

The mission of Rape Response, Inc. is to serve as a system of support, advocacy, and education, providing services to the community and survivors of sexual assault (ages 13 and older) while safeguarding the dignity of each person served.



Rape Response has supported survivors and their loved ones since 1988. Survivors receive supportive services regardless of when the assault occurred. Those services are free and confidential and include: 24-hour crisis line, counseling and support groups, medical accompaniment, crisis intervention, judicial accompaniment and support, and legal accompaniment.

Rape Response also provides services to the community: professional training to medical, legal, and law enforcement; education and community awareness for middle, high school, and college students, as well as their parents.

Opportunities to support Rape Response include:

- Volunteering by answering the crisis line calls or helping with office duties
- Providing financial donations
- Promoting Rape Response on social media
- Sharing the mission of Rape Response and being an advocate for survivors

See website for more details: www.raperesponse.com.

Family Promise is asking that congregations provide dinner for families Monday, Wednesday, & Friday of their host week. In addition, we ask that host congregations bring breakfast and lunch supplies to restock the family kitchen the Monday of their host week.

April 3rd- 9th (We would be providing dinner the 4th,6th,8th)

July 3rd- 9th

October 2nd- 8th

Tentative dinner timeline on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays:

5pm - Congregations arrive and begin food preparations in Master Kitchen; families assist with set-up

6pm - Dinner is served; congregation and families dine together in Multipurpose Room

7pm - Families assist with clean-up

8pm - Families return to the shelter

For anyone interested in helping serve, prepare, and/or purchase food to contact:

Rachel Greenwalt
greenwalt2013@gmail.com
770-654-6287



Take a Hike! Join Pastor Peppers on a scenic waterfall hike... no wait, two of them with a nice break in between! We will depart the church on April 9th at 9:30am and make our way to Minnehaha Falls (.4 mile round trip). After this leisure stroll and some captivating beauty, we will make our way to the Tiger Winery for brunch and refreshments. Afterwards, we will make our way over to the Lake Burton area to tackle Hemlock Falls (2 mile round trip) to take in its serene beauty. Both hikes are easy to moderate at best and the fellowship will be outstanding! Bring your water and hiking sticks and join me! To reserve your spot on the bus or find out more, contact Shon Peppers at 678.936.5357 or speppers@fpcga.org. We should be back at the church around 4pm



Men's Retreat April 22-24th

Come and enjoy some wonderful food and even better fellowship in the mountains of NC. We will be tent camping in the Nantahala National Forest (Apple Tree Campground) and there is plenty to do in the area including stellar fly fishing, hiking, mountain biking or just relaxing around the fire and taking in the night sky. It is a nice setting along with the opportunity to step out of the daily routine and refuel yourself with no electronics as you take in God's creation and all its fullness. To reserve your campsite or to find out more, contact Shon Peppers at 678.936.5357 or speppers@fpcga.org.

DONATIONS RECEIVED
IN LOVING
Memory

In memory of Betty White
 Strother and Cindy Randolph
 Janis Orders & Family
 William & Patricia White
 Mary Katherine Ennis
 Janis Miller Wilson
 Donald Linnartz
 George & Francis Seelke
 Samuel Smith
 Dr. & Mrs. Grady Parrish
 Anonymous
 Glenda Pierce
 Mike & Lynn Hulsey
 Anonymous
 Steve & Bette Noble
 Martha Hodge
 Anne Waller

In of memory of David Caldwell
 Strother and Cindy Randolph
 Nancy Anderson
 Anonymous

In memory of Dallas Gay
 Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Sholes

In memory of Ione Reesman
 Anonymous

In memory of Hubert Martin
 Anonymous
 Steve & Bette Noble
 Donald Linnartz

In memory of Betty Davidson
(close friend of Barbara Hermann)
 Glenda Pierce

In memory of Carrie Hatfield
 Glenda Pierce

In memory of Gloria Howell
(grandmother of Kimberly Hulsey)
 Glenda Pierce

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

www.fpcga.org

With Sympathy



Sympathy on the passing of...

...Carrie Hatfield, March 20, 2022



Liam Aaron Addison, son of Sarah and Joshua Addison, was born on March 12, 2022. He is the grandson of Susan Nish.

LECTIONARY

April 3

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 10

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

April 17

Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

April 24

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

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
Benji Stegner, Music Director/Organist.....	36
Debbie Holcombe, Administrator	11
Libby Christiansen, Admin. Asst.....	23
JoAnn Watson, Accountant	14
Brooke Lowe, CDC Director	40
Ronny Childs	35
Audio/Visual Coordinator	
Clifton Clark.....	15
Director of Youth Ministry	
Ali Thompson.....	29
Director of Children's Ministry	
Dallas Thompson (dthompson@fpcga.org)	
Young Adults Ministry Coordinator	
Hope Testament, Director of Bells	

Web address: www.fpcga.org/

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

THE CALL ARTICLES are due on the 15th of each month for the monthly newsletter. Please submit your article to Libby at lchristiansen@fpcga.org