

We VIEW Life through the Cross First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Burnetta Armour Pastor

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Rev. Burnetta Armour Pastor's Ponderings

Recharging the Soul

If this article seems familiar, it's because it is. This is the article I wrote for last year's July Newsletter. However, it is an article that bears repeating. Whether working or retired (or both), it seems that we are always on the go. We spend so much time doing for others, working at the church, and making plans that we neglect the care of our souls. Let us all take some time and remember to recharge our souls, so we can continue the work to which God has called us in this time and place.

You pick up your cell phone to make an important call only to find that it is dead. Your child, or grandchild, had grabbed the phone early in the morning and had run the battery down playing games, and watching videos. Now, you have to find a charger and plug in your phone before you can make any calls today.

Cell phone batteries run down. They have to be charged and, depending on your phone, they may need to be charged frequently. Our souls also need frequent recharging. It is possible for our souls to become drained of their energy, like our cell phone batteries after too much use. The demands on lives and our time take a toll on us physically and spiritually. The things happening in our nation and our world impact us on an emotional level that can also drain our spirits.

On our cell phones, we have that little image of a battery with a percentage beside it to tell us that we need to recharge our phones, but our souls are a little more subtle. Here are some signs that you might need a soul recharging:

Restlessness: You feel as if something is missing from your life, but you can't put your finger on what it is.

A sense of detachment from God: You feel that God is somewhere far away from you, and you don't know where He is.

A sense of detachment from worship: You find yourself no longer participating in worship by giving yourself fully and completely over to God and to his glorification, but instead find yourself

(continued on page 2)

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Pastor's Pondering

simply sitting through worship muttering words that you may or may not believe or understand anymore.

A nagging thirst: You find yourself thirsting for more out of your faith, your life, and your relationships with family, church, yourself, and God.

Since we can't plug ourselves into the outlet and charge, how do we set about recharging our souls? Here are few ideas.

Prayer: Set aside time to pray. Prayer may be hard in times when your soul needs a recharge, but we don't have to begin with big, long, flowery prayers. Sometimes a simple "God draw me closer to you" will suffice until you are able to sit in God's presence and simply speak with Him.

Time with God: Set aside time to sit with God. During this time, we can read scripture, engage in our favorite spiritual practices, or simply sit in silence in the presence of God.

Talking with another: Make sure you are joining with other Christians. In giving us Christian friends, God gave us each other to lean upon for guidance, commiseration and comfort. Sometimes when we need a soul recharge, it helps to have someone we can talk to who has been through this journey as well.

Your cell phone tells you when it needs to be charged. Listen to your soul, too, and take time to recharge it.



Sermon & Scriptures for the SUMMER

This summer we will be focusing on the Gospel of Matthew and what it teaches us about growing in our discipleship. These are the Scriptures and Sermon titles from JULY to the first Sunday of September.

JULY

7/2/2023—5th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42 *Hospitality Matters*

7/9/2023—6th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 *This Fickle World*

7/16/2023—7th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *The Parable of the Sower*

7/23/2023—8th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Don't Pull Up the Weeds

7/30/2023—9th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *Parables of the Kingdom*

AUGUST

8/6/2023—10th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21 *Dinner for 5000+*

8/13/2023—11th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33 If I Could Walk on Water

8/20/2023—12th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 15:(15-20), 21-28 *Crumbs From Your Table*

8/27/2023—13th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 16:13-23 *Who Do You Say that I Am?*

SEPTEMBER

9/3/2023—14th Sunday After Pentecost Scripture: Matthew 16:24-28 Viewing Life Through the Cross



Welcome Cheryl and David Cook

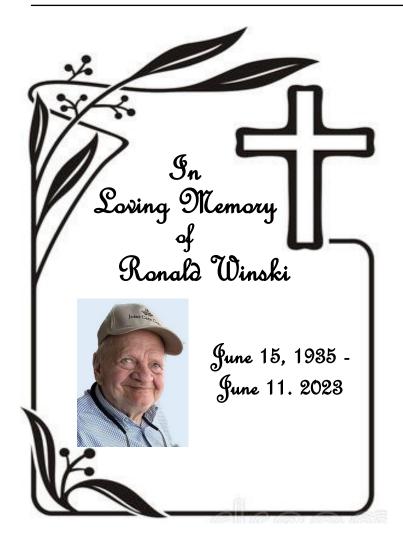
On Sunday, May 28, we were very pleased to welcome the Cooks to our FPC church family where they are already taking an active role. Before moving to Sautee Nacoochee, David and Cheryl lived in Aiken, South Carolina, for 30 years.

David worked for the Savannah River Site in the Finance Department. Cheryl had her own art and music studio where she taught string instruments, violin, viola, and cello, and



Elementary Art instruction. She performed in various church musicals, services, weddings, and orchestras playing chamber music.

They are both very excited to find a loving church home in which to serve the Lord and their community. Welcome, Cheryl and David!





Buildings & Grounds

Hugh Walters

I don't know how many of you have noticed that there were four trees recently taken down on the church property.

The first one to come down was the Hawthorne tree just outside the Sanctuary. Apparently the cold snap we had in December of last year was too much for it.

The other three trees, all Oaks, were diseased and dying, and rather than waiting for them to fall on a car, they came down. The other



f.

one between the two upper levels of the parking lot had the dead limbs trimmed. If you need any firewood, let me know.

Point of View

Jean Kelly

The Faith Journey of Howard Miller

I recently had breakfast with Howard to talk about church outreach. Nobody knows more about local churches than Howard Miller! I asked him how many churches he attended. Howard proceeded to tell me the back story from when he was a child in Marietta, GA, right up to today. Howard and his wife, Hannah, joined First Presbyterian when Roe Callaway was the interim pastor. As Howard puts it, Roe invited the Millers to join him and Jim Hiers for lunch at Ma Gooch's restaurant and said, Howard are you going to join or are you going back to the Methodists? Howard and Hannah joined and became very active in the church, including singing in the choir and coordinating Saturday Night Services.

Those of us who know Howard well tend to kid him about which area church he will be attending on any given Sunday. In fact, a friend suggested I title this article *The Circuit Rider*, a name, according to Google, given to clergy in the earliest years of the United States who were assigned to travel around specific territories to minister to settlers and organize the congregations.

Howard is a man of faith who attends many



different churches including Cleveland Methodist, McConnell Memorial Baptist in Hiawassee, Grace Calvary Episcopal where he is an Associate Member,

and The Bridge Church with his son Hal, in addition to our own First Pres. I asked Howard why he attends so many churches? Some of the reasons are to worship with family, some of it is related to Boards that he serves on, and some of it relates to how he was brought up.

Howard grew up in Marietta, GA where he walked to the Maple Avenue Methodist Church on Sundays. When his sister, Pat, began dating an Episcopalian, Howard and family joined them in worshipping at the Episcopal Church. When he met and married Hannah they were of different faiths and did not attend church for a while until they bought a home in Woodstock, GA, and began to worship at a church down the street. When they moved to Cleveland, they joined and were active in the Methodist Church, where they met Barbara and

Lanier Chambers.

Over time Howard and Hannah decided to leave the Methodist Church and having met Jeff Hutcheson when he preached at the campground meetings,



they decided to attend First Presbyterian. Hannah passed away from breast cancer several years ago, but Howard continues to faithfully support and attend First Presbyterian, always sitting in the last row unless someone beats him to it. We may be the 2nd or 3rd church in the monthly rotation, but we are Howard's church.

Wednesday Night Supper

July 12 – Catered Thai Cuisine

On July 12th, we will have

an opportunity to learn more about The Backyard Ministry in Cornelia. Rev. Souvangh Touralack will talk with us about his work with the Laotian community in the area. Dinner will be catered featuring Thai cuisine. We will need an accurate count, so please sign up in the Upper Narthex.



The Harp Concert was Wonderful!

Jean Kelly

The 12th Annual Harp Concert on Friday, June 9, was an overwhelming success. The Sanctuary was full, with well over 125 in attendance, including many new faces, and first-time visitors to our beautiful church.

The music, a mixture of classical and contemporary, was delightful. The concert also included Ester Morgan-Ellis, who has accompanied the choir for many of

our Choir Cantatas. Judy Smith is the coordinator of the event. She chose our church for these concerts because, as she said, she was a Presbyterian and believed that the Presbyterians would help create a very friendly and welcoming environment for these concerts. We are so happy she did and it brings a cultural outlet for the community.

The reception following the concert was a wonderful addition and will be a new tradition for the concert. The gathering afterward was hosted by the PW, serving punch and cookies to a large and smiling crowd in the Fellowship Hall.

This was a great evening of





Cellist: Esther Morgan-Ellis

Dear Jean,

I wanted to thank you for taking such excellent care of us at your church for the harp concert. We truly appreciate all your organization and all your support.

It was so thoughtful of you and the church members to have a reception afterwards. We enjoyed being able to move around the room and thank people for coming. We see many faces that have come to our concerts for years. It was lovely to be able to speak to them and thank them for being a part of our concert.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. We hope to see you again next year!

Warmly, Judy Smith Director, Adult Harp Retreat

MUSICIANS

Professional harpists: Ellen Foster and **Rachel Brandwein** Cellist: Esther Morgan-Ellis

Elaine Barritt Pam Every Julie Finley Deb Geer Anne Gregory Vangie Hammer

Julie Nelson **Robin Prechter** Kai Rasmussen Kathleen Shipley Judy Smith Louise Warren



Judy Smith



Our own Sebastian Wiley is a rising junior at WCHS. He most recently had the



lead role as Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain*, his ninth show with the White County Theater Department.

Sebastian played the role of Freddie in *Noises* Off and Clopin in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He was Warner in the

recent production of *Legally Blonde*.



Pastor Burnetta offered a special prayer for Sebastian and wished him well on this great opportunity to expand his acting experience.

This summer he is at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts Summer Intensive in Manhattan. It's a four-and-a-half-week program with students from all around the world. His concentration is in film and acting. He will get two college credits for this program. Intensive is 100%

accurate in that classes are from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday with Industry Days each Saturday, where they may tour behind-the-scenes of Broadway shows, talk with Broadway and other actors, directors, managers, and anyone in the industry that has knowledge to share with the students.

According to his Mom, Annabelle, in addition to learning as much as he can from people who are totally immersed in theatre life, Sebastian is looking forward to eating the food and going to church at St. Patrick's Cathedral. (We're with you, Sebastian. Can't wait to hear all about it.)

Help with Live-Streaming Kim Ciriello

The live-streaming of the Sunday Worship services is quite a daunting task. Most are not aware of the preparation needed before Sunday, and then the actual broadcasting via Facebook.

Nancy Webber has been preparing many of the slides for the broadcast, then Kim Ciriello coordinates the slides and service information, transfers the files from one computer to the special program on the



church computer. Then, before the actual service, Kim must align and adjust the cameras and microphones to maximize the visual and audio projection.

Lily Geiger has often assisted with the live-streaming of our Sunday worship service, which has been a big help. And recently, Charlie Geiger has volunteered to help with the sound. Kim Ciriello has been working with him and says he is doing quite well with the sound board. It will take time to become comfortable with the entire process but Kim is very grateful for the willingness of both Lily and Charlie to be her assistants. A big shout out to both of them!

If you would like to volunteer, please see Kim or David Arvold.

THE VIEW

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Congratulations, Graduate!

Annabelle Wiley wasn't in Church on May 21 when the graduates were recognized and given a gift.

On Sunday, May 28, Annabelle was recognized for receiving her Master's Degree



in Education from the University of West Georgia and received a gift from the Church. A week after she graduated, she was offered a job at Level Grove Elementary School as their Media Specialist.

Congratulations Annabelle, and best wishes on your new job.



Take Us Out to the Old Ball Game

Ten of our Presbyterian Men, plus DeWayne's son Allen, enjoyed a beautiful evening of AAA baseball on our annual Spring outing to the Gwinnett Stripers. The



chili cheese dogs helped to soothe the home team's loss in a close 2 to 1 game. The Stripers made it exciting with loaded bases in the bottom of the ninth but the third out sent us all to the parking lot. We missed a few of our regulars but look forward to next year.

The next Presbyterian Men's luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, at Noon. The Presbyterian Women prepare the meal and you know what good cooks they are. All men are invited so plan to join us for a delicious meal, yummy dessert, and a great time of fellowship.





Lindalee Walters

CT COMMITTEE MEETING

PW Coordinating Team wlll meet on Wednesday, July 5, at 1:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the Wednesday Bible Study.

PW BIBLE STUDY

We will take a break during the summer and will resume on Thursday, September 14, at 10:00 a.m., in Fellowship Hall.

PW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Several ladies have expressed an interest in attending the PW Bible Studies but are unable to attend on Thursday mornings. We continue to have a PW Bible Study on the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m., prior to worship. No prior readings or study are necessary. We hope to see you on July 16 for Chapter Six, "Sabbath and Hospitality," in the small conference room off the Upper Narthex. This Bible Study will continue through October.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Thursday, July 13</u>, the PW is planning a trip to Dahlonega for



lunch at the Smith House. Meals are served family style and cost is \$20.95 per person. Car pooling will be available so please be at the church no later than 12:15 p.m. If you want to go directly there, be at the Smith House by 12:45 p.m., and please indicate that on the sign-up sheet in the upper narthex. Those who want to shop on the Square can do so before lunch.



<u>Sunday, July 30</u>, a group is planning to attend the Habersham Community Theatre performance

of *Footloose*. Tickets (\$20/adults, \$12/students) may be purchased on-line at:

boxoffice@habershamcommunitytheater.com or

by phone at 706-839-1315. Carpooling will be available. Sign up in the Upper Narthex.

Saturday evening, August 5, the PW is having the **Annual Thanks BBQ** in the Fellowship Hall. As always there will be delicious food, entertainment and fellowship. Reservations are requested. (See page 13 for more information.)

ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS

Zoom Prayer Meetings will be suspended for the summer. They will resume some time this Fall so keep watching for an update.

AN IMPROMPTU LUNCH DATE

Friday, June 2, an impromptu get-together for lunch at The Creekside Deli, grew to a group of eleven. As always, the food was great and the fellowship even better. The weather was perfect for sitting outside near the creek so we all had a great time. Some never left until 2:00 p.m. Visiting with friends is such good



therapy! When you suggest a group outing, there is always a positive response. Thank you, Becky, for suggesting this.







The Last Day of School May 2023

Our wonderful Lead teacher, Miss Chloe told us she is pregnant, due in November and not coming back to work next year. We are very happy for her, but sad for us.

I announced this news to parents the last day of Preschool, and 30 minutes later we received an unsol-



icited resume from a woman looking for a position in our preschool.

We interviewed Cara Jackson and hired her without even advertising the position. I continue to be amazed at how God is working through our preschool. Here is her introduction . . .



Welcome Cara Jackson

My name is Cara Jackson! This is my fourth year teaching preschool, and this is my first year teaching at The Growing Place Preschool!

I have lived in Gainesville for ten years with my wonderful family. I have been happily married to my husband, Travis, for

almost ten years. We have three beautiful blessings: my boy/ girl twins, Canaan and Vivian, and my youngest son, Raylan.

My hobbies include: spending time with my family, playing with my children, singing, camping, cooking, scrapbooking, advocating for children with special needs, being involved in my church ministries, and shopping! I am currently pursuing my dreams to obtain my Early Childhood Care and Education Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree at Lanier Technical College. I absolutely love and enjoy teaching children, as it is all a rewarding part of the ministry.





THEVIEW

Scottish Pilgrimage



June 14 saw a return to the Wednesday night supper and program with a good attendance, and of course, lots of food. After supper, we were given a virtual tour of Scotland through the many pictures of the beautiful and historic land.

. Burnetta also had a table full of Scottish items, pictures, and brochures of places they visited but were not allowed to take photos.









A Celtic cross outside the Abbey on the Isle of Iona.



23



Burnetta standing with the statue of John Knox. Above left, is John Knox's grave. Yes, that is a parking space.





In Scottish folklore, a Kelpie is a dangerous shape-shifting water creature that can appear on land as a horse.



Collin helped Burnetta pick out the photos, but his favorite was the Highland cattle, AKA the Hairy Coo.

Session Scripts

Bruce Morgan

At the June meeting, your Session:

- Received a "Thank You" from the Director of the Adult Harp Workshop for the work of Jean Kelly as "Hostess" for the use of the church and the reception following the concert,
- Instituted new procedures for payment of recurring expenses and approval of invoices,
- Confirmed an email vote authorizing removal of trees from the parking area,
- Heard a status report on the work being done to recreate the church website and fix email issues,
- Approved two overtures to Presbytery regarding changes to the Book of Order,
- Highlighted the need to use a master church calendar to avoid conflicts in use of the building,
- Approved use of the sanctuary for the Georgia Musicale Group on December 1,
- Planned a Session Retreat for July 18,
- Suggested use of the "Love Bear" to Congregational Care,
- Approved Pastor's vacation for 7/24 7/31,
- Prayed for many needs in the church family and set the next meeting at the retreat.





Sgt. Andrew "Andy" Negra Jr. Tells His Amazing Story.



Andy Negra is 99 years old, a veteran of WWII, and an amazing story teller. He joined the FPC ONEsies for lunch on Friday, June 23, to tell us about his recent trip to Normandy with 43 other WW II veterans. Sponsored by the Best Defense Foundation, Delta Airlines, and Michelin Tires, the

observance of the 79th Anniversary of D-Day, was the 2023 Normandy Battlefield Return. At age 19, Andy was one of the many who landed on Utah Beach during the Normandy Invasion. His time with us was fascinating and most enjoyable



and informative. Andy has agreed to come back and share more of his experiences.

The next group get-together of the ONEsies will be for Lunch on <u>Saturday, July 15, at 1:00</u> <u>p.m. at The Attic Restaurant in Clarkesville</u>. This will be a farewell luncheon for Amanda Rice who is moving to Quincy, Florida, in July. Come wish her well. We will really miss her.

About thirty of our members enjoyed pancakes and fixin's prepared and served by the Presbyterian Men on June 24. The highlight of the morning was music and musings by our own Bob and Melody Thomason. Unfortunately, the



EMTs who were to present an orientation to the defibrillator were called on a mission and could not attend. Thanks to all who attended and to the guys who helped with the cooking and serving.



USHERS	JULY 2 Mil Clyburn Bill Woods
	JULY 9Judy Massingale
	Charles Massingale
	JULY 16Rebecca Wiegert
	Phil Baughman
JULY	JULY 23Lindalee Walters
	Hugh Walters
	JULY 30Judy Massingale
	Charles Massingale

Thank you all for serving.



Liturgists for the Month ЛЛХ

Becky Clark

JULY 2	Jean Kelly			
JULY 9	Phil Baughman			
JULY 16	Bernice Rogers			
JULY 23	Bruce Morgan			
JULY 30	Penny Murdoch			
Thanks to all who serve so willingly!				

Please Check Out the **Sign-Up Sheets**

Please take time when you are in church to check out the sign-up sheets located on the console in the upper Narthex. These include most of the upcoming activities that need reservations. Don't miss out on future events.





Elaine Wiegert

Coffee & Conversation will continue through the summer months, so please join us on Sunday mornings, at 10:00 a.m. During July, we will be discussing texts from Matthew and Romans. The topics for discussion in July will be:

JULY 2	Matthew 10:40-42
	Practicing Hospitality
JULY 9	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
	Taking on the Yoke of Jesus
JULY 16.	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
	Growing Faithful Disciples
JULY 23.	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
	Weeds or Wheat
JULY 30.	Romans 8:26-39
	Inseparable Love

July Birthdays

ANGELIQUE ADAMS **COLLIN ARMOUR** JAMES ARMOUR CHLOE BARRETT DONNA BARRETT WALT BARRETT JAMES GEIGER **BILL HINES** SANDRA MONTGOMERY MARY SMITH

DEBBIE WESSELY

If we missed your birthday, please let us know.

$From \ God's \ Garden$

A very special "Thank You" to those who have contributed the beautiful flowers and displayed them to brighten the sanctuary for our Sunday Worship Services. These flowers add a bright spot and make our service feel special.



This very simple arrangement on May 28, was given by Penny Murdoch to remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Freedom is definitely NOT FREE.

This floral arrangement on June 11, was in honor of our Military and First Responders. Thank you to all who are willing to serve.



This floral arrangement on June 4, was donated by Kim Ciriello and Penny Murdoch in honor and gratitude for the Deacons and Elders and all they do for our Church.



Angela Lathrop donated these flowers on June 18, in honor of Richard F. Elliott Ill's birthday.



This beautiful floral arrangement was in memory of Ron Winski, who went to be with our Lord on June 11. The Celebration of Life for Ron was held on June 17.

The flowers on June 25 were in honor of MaryAnn and Mil Clyburns 61st Anniversary. Congratulations to you both.



If you'd like to provide flowers for Sunday service, please sign up in the upper Narthex or contact the church office with the preferred date and the occasion you're commemorating. If you are willing to be a Flower Coordinator please contact the Church Office.

Habersham Community Theatre

Plans are made to attend as a group, the performance of *Footloose*, a production of the Habersham Com-



munity Theatre, on July 30, at 2 p.m. The show will be staged at the Habersham Central High School. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 706-839-1315 or on-line at:

boxoffice@habershamcommunitytheater.com for \$20 per person. Carpooling will be available from the church.





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BACK TO SCHOOL BASH JULY 29

Our church, joining with other churches in the community, will provide a day of fun and giving back-to-school supplies to children in need. The event will be in Freedom Park in the morning of July 29. We have been given the job of having a booth for face painting. I will be looking for volunteers to help with this project. More details will be given closer to time.

FOOD PANTRY FOOD NEEDED

Even though we have a local food bank which many people use, it's helpful to have food at the church that we can hand out to people in immediate need. Our shelves are getting low. We need family-sized items (cereal, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, granola bars etc.) and then, also individual items for people living in their car or a motel to use. Hygiene items, toilet paper, detergent and cleaning supplies which can't be purchased with Food Stamps are always appreciated.

You can leave items in the upper narthex next to the bookshelf with food.





SUNDAYS Be & Conversation 10 am s 11:00 am In-Person and Onl Study at 12:30 pm In-Person (Meeting In-Person/Zoom e Study 10 a.m. Every Third Sun ble Sunday mornings starting a	Sat	7	œ	15 • NEsies The Attic Restaurant Clarkesville 1:00 pm Carpooling leave Church 12:15 pm	22	29
	Fri		7	14	21	28
	Thu		9	13 PW Outing to Smith House in Dalonegha leave church at 12:15 p.m.	20	27
We VALET P	Wed	Footbode Sunday, July 30, 2:00 pm	 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person PW CT Meeting 1:30 pm In-Person & Zoom 	12 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person 5:30 pm Supper followed by presentation on Backyard Ministry Sign-up in Narthex	19 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person	26 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person
	Tue			11 PM Luncheon Noon	18 SESSION RETREAT 9 am-4 pm at Church	25
	Mon	KNIT'n' TITCH Every Monday 10:00 am	3 COONOUT	10 Kniť n'Stitch 10:00 am	17 Kniť n'Stitch 10:00 am	am am am am
	Sun	Join Us! PW Sunday Bible Study Third Sunday	2 Communion and Worship Service 11 am and Online	9 Worship Service 11 am and Online	16 PW Sunday Bible Study 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	 23 Worship Service 11 am and Online 30 Footloose Worship Service 11 am and Online

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Every Sunday,

starting at 10:45 a.m.



VALET

PARKING

First Presbyterian Church 147 N. Main Street Cleveland, GA 30528