



Pastor Burnetta Armour

Pastor's Ponderings: A Quiz for March

Here is a brief quiz. I want you to take a moment to see if you can tell me who this person is or what he or she did. **Do not read further until you have taken the quiz – and no “Googling!”**

1. St. Monica
2. St. Patrick
3. Barbara Buttrick
4. Mohammad Ali
5. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell
6. Dr. Jonas Salk
7. Antoinette Blackwell
8. Margaret Towner
9. Fred Rogers
10. Valentina Tereshkova
11. Sally Ride
12. John Glenn
13. Arabella Mansfield
14. Abe Lincoln
15. Mary Baker Eddy
16. Joseph Smith
17. Margaret Chase Smith
18. John Kerry
19. Sandra Day O'Connor
20. Harriet Beecher Stowe

So, how did you do? I wonder if numbers 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 15, 17, and 19 came easily, or at least more easily than, say, #11 (Valentina Tereshkova). One of the sad things about the written history of our world, our own nation, and even our faith is that frequently voices were left out of the telling of our story. For centuries, the voices of slaves, Native Americans, children, and women were left out of the history books we studied in school and the stories we were told in church.

(continued on page 2)

The VIEW

*“We VIEW life through
the cross”*

First Presbyterian Church
Cleveland, Georgia

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A Quiz for March

(continued from page 1)

You probably knew that John Kerry is a former Secretary of State and presidential nominee, but did you know that Margaret Chase Smith was the first woman to be nominated for President by a major political party (the Republican Party)?

You probably knew that Abraham Lincoln was a U.S. President and a lawyer, but did you know that Arabella Mansfield was the first woman in the U.S. to earn a license to practice law?

I'm betting most of you knew that John Glenn was an astronaut and the first American to orbit the Earth, but did you know that Valentina Tereshkova, a Russian cosmonaut, was the first woman in space?

In the history of medicine, you have heard of Jonas Salk, whose polio vaccine saved millions of lives, but have you heard of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to practice medicine in the U.S.?

In sports history, we remember the accomplishments of boxers like Muhammad Ali, but not those of Barbara Buttrick ("Battling Barbara"), who was the women's world boxing champion in the 1940s and 1950s and participated in the first televised women's boxing match.

Even the church is guilty of missing voices as it tells its story of what it is, how it came to be, and who shaped it. We celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but we don't remember St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, who prayed fervently for her son to become a Christian and, by doing so, helped bring to the faith one of its most influential figures.

You probably didn't know that Antoinette Blackwell was the first woman to be ordained by a major denomination (the Congregational Church – today's UCC), and that Margaret Towner was the first woman to be ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church. I bet you did know, however, about Fred Rogers, a Presbyterian minister and famous children's television personality.

You may have known that Joseph Smith was the founder of the Mormon Church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), but did you know that Mary Baker Eddy was the first woman to found a major religion, the Church of Christ – Scientist?

March is Women's History Month. During this month we celebrate and give voice to the countless woman whose God-given gifts were overlooked and neglected by history – our nation's, our world's, and even our church's. We celebrate that God has given us all a place in his plan, not based on our gender, but simply on his love for each of us. We celebrate that in Christ there is no male or female, but only who we are: children of God, gifted by God to fulfill a purpose in this world.

*Peace and Love in Christ
Pastor Burnett*



March 3 (Third Sunday of Lent)

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-7

Contracts and Covenants

March 10 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Unbreakable

March 17 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

God's Proposal

March 24 (Palm Sunday)

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

What Happens When You Assume

March 31 (Easter Sunday)

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

For...

Holy Week traditions focus on Christ's sacrifice



Across history, Christians have remembered Christ's death and resurrection each year at around the time of the Jewish Passover. In 325 the Council of Nicaea decided the date of Easter

would be determined by an obscure set of calculations based on the date of the spring equinox and the cycles of the moon.

The earliest celebration of the resurrection was preceded by a day of fasting and a night of readings and prayers, according to David Gambrell, associate for worship in the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship. Over the first few centuries of the church's history, however, this simple day of fasting grew to an entire week. The days leading up to Easter came to be connected with particular events in the Gospels —

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his Passover meal with the disciples, and his death on the cross.

- The Sunday before Easter (Palm Sunday) is observed with the distribution of palm leaves to the congregation, recalling Christ's "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem for the Passover feast.
- The fifth day of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday) marks Jesus' "last supper" with his disciples, his betrayal, and his arrest. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment) and refers to Jesus' commandment to his disciples that they love one another.
- The sixth day (Good Friday) is a solemn remembrance of Christ's death on the cross for the life of the world. Good Friday services often are held at the time Jesus died (the ninth hour, or 3 p.m.).

Holy Week at FPC

Palm Sunday, March 24

At the 11 a.m. worship service, get your palm leaf at the door and join in singing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Holy Wednesday, March 27

This year we will have a "Service of Wholeness" at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service will provide a space for those who want to pray with others over the needs in their lives, whether they are seeking healing or wholeness for themselves or a loved one.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

The 7 p.m. service includes the choir's presentation of *Come Walk With Me*, a cantata by Pepper Choplin (see page 5). Worshipers also will join in communion and an observance of the Tenebrae tradition.

What is Tenebrae?

The Tenebrae (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness") service allows us to remember the events surrounding Jesus' death in a profoundly physical way.

The service begins with a number of lit candles at the front of the church and a series of Bible readings. After each reading, a candle is extinguished. Finally, just one candle is left. The church is cast into darkness, except for the continual light of the Christ candle.

As the congregation is gradually immersed into a physical setting of darkness, we reflect on Jesus' suffering, his separation from the Father, and the seriousness of our sin.

The solemn mood continues as we leave the church in silence, beginning the wait for resurrection day.

A new adventure ...

Penny Murdoch

In this year of discernment, we need to think out of the box and venture out in new directions. We want to draw more people to our wonderful church, to become involved in our many opportunities, to expand our outreach, and be noticed in the community.

Last year, the Presbyterian Men and Women decided to plan a community event for all ages. On Saturday, Oct. 12, we are planning to hold a craft sale, not only for our women to display and sell their beautiful hand-crafted items, but also for other crafters from the community. We will "rent" tables or table space to members who are crafters in their own right, and to other talented crafters in and around the White County area.

Normally, men do not like attending craft sales. To include them and their interests, we are also planning to host a car show in the lower parking lot by the Pavilion. There will also be a cookout where the men will offer a lunch package of a hot dog, chips, cookie, and drink.

We invite our FPC family members who craft "for the fun of it" to rent a table and sell their wares. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Flyers will be available for you to hand out and/or mail to those who might be interested in joining us for a fun-filled day.

Tables will be rented for \$25 each; multiple table space is \$25 for each additional space. This fee is required with the registration. The Craft Sale is rain or shine, as it will be indoors.

The registration fee for the Car Show is \$25 per vehicle and will be required the day of the event. Naturally, this event will be canceled if it rains.

SAVE THE DATE!




Crafts & Car show

Saturday
October 12, 2024
10 am to 3 pm

at the
First Presbyterian Church
The Church on the Hill
147 N. Main Street
Cleveland, GA 30528



Craft Sale Indoors

Rain or Shine

*Do your
Holiday Shopping*

*Variety of
Handcrafted Items*

Plants

Wood Crafts

Gift Baskets

Car Show

*Lower Level
Parking Area*

*Classic, Vintage,
and
other vehicles*

*Display your vehicle
or come and enjoy*

Contact: Lindalee at 706-768-2778
for applications and/or more information.

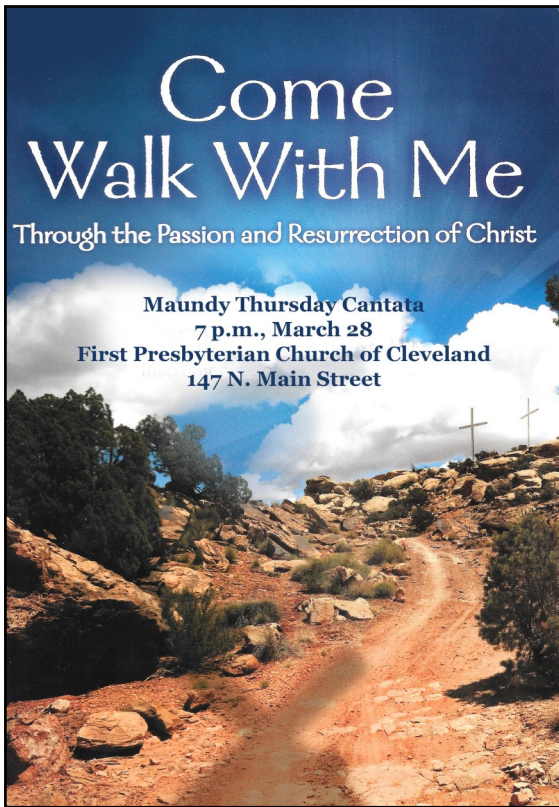
Gift baskets will also be available for bid; these will make wonderful gifts for that special someone during the holidays.

We need the cooperation of our FPC family to make this a total success. Proceeds will benefit local, state, national, and global missions supported by the church. Mark your calendars now and spread the word.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!





Cantata follows Christ’s final steps

The FPC Chancel Choir, under the direction of Music Director David Arvold, will present a cantata during the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. on March 28.

Come Walk With Me is a dramatic setting of the Passion story in which a narrator leads us from scene to scene, retracing Christ's path during his last days on earth.

Monologues from those witnessing or participating in Christ's final steps enhance the stark reality of each scene with their observations, frustrations, and fears.

The music, written by noted composer Pepper Choplin, supplies the drama and passion through its mix of styles that range from classical to Appalachian, bluegrass, and Celtic folk traditions.

The choir will be accompanied by keyboardist James Geiger and a group of professional instrumentalists.



Keep those ideas coming!

Several folks have shared ideas for future church ministry as part of the Year of Discernment.

Session has received more than a dozen ideas thus far. They have been distributed among the church elders and will be reviewed by various committees and ministry teams, as appropriate. After receiving prayerful feedback from the committees, the ideas will be shared with the entire church for further consideration.

It's not too late to share your ideas! Put them in the box in the Upper Narthex or return the online form that was emailed in January.

On a sunny day in February, Hugh Walters and Roy Ficklin lend their talents to repairing water damage to the roof and steps at the side entrance to the church.



FPC women to attend Annual Gathering in March

The 36th Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Northeast Georgia (PW NEGA) will take place on March 16, 2024, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta.

Presbyterian Women from the Greater Augusta Mission Community are partnering to host this year's Gathering. The speaker this year will be Daryl Mullee, a participant in the PW USA Mission Experience to Arizona's border with Mexico. Officers will be elected and installed at the annual business meeting.

The day before the Gathering, the PW NEGA Coordinating Team will tour the facilities of GAP Ministries. GAP Ministries is a volunteer service organization providing a range of services for needy populations in Augusta. In lieu of a registration fee for the Gathering, attendees are asked to bring shelf-stable food items for the GAP Ministries Food Pantry and individual hygiene items for Project ReFresh, a mobile shower facility.

Any woman in our Presbytery may register to attend the Annual Gathering by contacting Rebecca Wiegert at pwneqaregistrar@gmail.com.



From the White County Theatre Department: The cast and crew of "Frozen" enjoying some of the wonderful spaghetti, salad, bread and desserts prepared by the FCC PW. They were so grateful and so full! Thank you always for supporting Sebastian and the rest of the cast and crew!

Registrants should include both their name and church affiliation in the e-mail. On-site registration for the Gathering will begin at 9:15 a.m. on March 16. Light refreshments will be provided at that time. The worship service for the Gathering will begin at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served after the business meeting.

Women may also want to plan ahead for the Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women, which will take place in St. Louis, Mo., on August 8-11. The theme for the churchwide gathering is "Do Everything in Love," based on 1 Corinthians 16:14. Registration begins in March, so please watch for further information.



Judy Winski

Monthly Bible Study

All FPC women and their friends are invited to join us on March 12 for Fellowship and Bible Study at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and join us. Dessert and drinks will be provided. Elaine Wiegert will lead our study and Betty Smith will be our hostess.

Knit & Stitch

The Knit & Stitch group continues to meet every Wednesday of the month, except the first one, at 2 p.m. following the Wednesday Bible Study. No special talents are needed. We are working on a variety of crafts. All are invited to join us.

Save the Dates

- NEGA Presbyterian Women's Annual Gathering, Augusta, Ga. – March 15 /16
- Gifts of Women Service and Birthday Offering – April 21
- Ladies Luncheon Out – July 9
- Thanks, Y'all BBQ – August 3
- 2024 Churchwide PW Gathering, St. Louis, Mo. – August 8-11

This month we have been learning about love, and about God's love for us. We have learned and memorized our Bible verse for the month:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV). God loves us **that** much!

We had our Valentine's Day Party with our parents, and it was an absolute **blast!** We decorated cookies and exchanged valentines!





Elaine Wiegert

Souper Bowl of Caring Donations

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection was received on Sunday, Feb. 11. Our congregation donated \$580 for the White County Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Friendship Nursing Home

The monthly visit to Friendship Health and Rehab nursing facility will take place on Thursday, March 14. Meet at the church at 10:15 a.m. if you would like to carpool, or meet at the nursing home at 10:30 a.m. The facility is located at 161 Friendship Road in Cleveland. Also, if you would like to donate K-cups for the nurses and staff, please place them in the box on the Mission Table.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is collected during the seasons of Lent and Easter. The offering is collected for Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Presbyterian Hunger Programs, and Self-Development of People (an anti-poverty program). Information about this offering is available in the Narthex. A special envelope will be included in the bulletins on Palm Sunday and on Easter for donations to this special offering.



Presbyterian Men

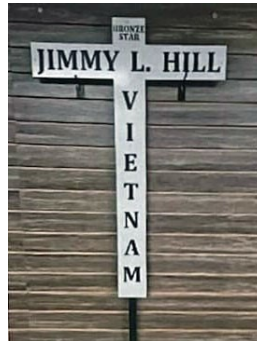
Bruce Morgan

The Presbyterian Men invite all men, young and/or mature, to join in our fellowship at the next lunch meeting on March 19 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

The Presbyterian Women always prepare an excellent meal for us and use the proceeds from our \$10 tariff for projects around the church building. We always have some great story telling and plan for outings and projects. Please join us.

Veteran memorial markers to be placed on roadsides

Yonah Lodge 382 is planning to display memorial markers along roadsides in Cleveland to honor deceased veterans of the armed forces.



The metal crosses will be displayed from the weekend before Memorial Day through July 5.

FPCC is gathering request forms and payments from members of the congregation and their families.

Request forms and payments of \$150 per memorial are due by the end of March. Forms are available in the Upper Narthex and must be returned to the church office, either in person or by mail.

To be eligible for a memorial, the deceased veteran must have served with honor in the U.S. armed forces. The request form must include documentation of the veteran's service. The person requesting the memorial must be a White County taxpayer.

For more information, email yonahlodge382@gmail.com.

March Birthdays

- Barbara Chambers
- Darlene Cooper
- Tom Leslie
- Adele Page
- Kristen Sparrow
- Wes Wessely
- Adam Wiley
- Jeanette Wiley

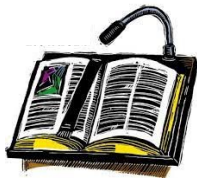


If we missed your birthday, please let us know.



Ushers and Greeters for March

- March 3Bill Woods
 - March 10Becky Clark
 - March 17 Roy Ficklin
 - March 24 Elaine Wiegert
 - March 31 Phil Baughman
- Thank you for your willingness to serve.*



Liturgists for March

- March 3 Bernice Rogers
 - March 10Becky Wiegert
 - March 17Becky Clark
 - March 24 Charles Massingale
 - March 31Susie Allen
- Thank you for your willingness to serve.*



Elaine Wiegert

Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Coffee and Conversation. During March we will be discussing texts from Exodus, Ephesians, Jeremiah, and Mark. The topics for discussion in March will be:

March 3
Exodus 20:1-17 Covenant Living

March 10
Ephesians 2:1-10 Transforming Grace

March 17
Jeremiah 31:31-34 A Covenant of the Heart

March 24:
Mark 11:1-11; 15:1-39 From “Hosanna” to “Crucify Him”

March 31: No Meeting Today



Discipleship

Elaine Wiegert

Wednesday Bible Study

The group began a 12-week study of the Old Testament on Jan. 10. Participants read 3-5 chapters of the Bible each day in preparation for the meetings on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Sessions last approximately 75 minutes and include a video to help participants recall important facts and ideas from their reading.

The group will not meet on March 27. The study will conclude on April 10.

PW Churchwide Gathering

The Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women will take place in St. Louis, Mo., on August 8-11. The theme for the Churchwide Gathering is “Do

Everything in Love” (I Corinthians 16:14). Registration begins in March. Watch for further information.

The Growing Place

Registrations for Fall 2024 are now being accepted. Please see Melody Thomason or Cara Jackson for registration information

Our Successful Students!

Lily Geiger, a student at Davidson University, maintained a 3.9 GPA for the fall semester and is enjoying college.

Emily Hassell, a nursing student at Georgia College and State University, made Dean’s List for the fall semester.

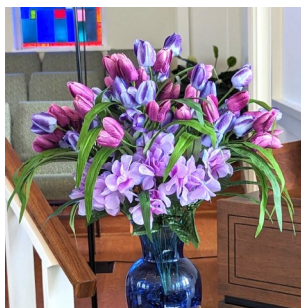


Welcome Spring!

March 19, 2024

From God's Garden

Thank you to those who have contributed flowers and displayed them, brightening the sanctuary for our Sunday worship services. If you'd like to provide flowers for a Sunday service, please sign up in the upper Narthex. A special thanks to Polly Woods for volunteering to be Flower Coordinator.



This floral arrangement on Jan. 28, was in solemn remembrance of the Holocaust.



The flowers on Feb. 4 were from the memorial service for Linda and Tom Leslie's niece, Nancy Humphries Perkins.

This floral arrangement was from the memorial service of Phillip Richardson, brother of Lindalee Walters.



This plant was given by Judy Winski on Feb. 18 in honor of what would have been Ron and her 62nd wedding anniversary.



The rose bud was to welcome Elise Marie Govus, born on Feb. 7, granddaughter to Nanette and Phil Baughman. The proud parents are Bekah and Mike Govus.



Session Summary

Bruce Morgan

At its meeting on Feb. 18, your Session:

- Tabled a motion on replacement of the ice maker pending further research.
- Discussed how ideas for the Year of Discernment would be reviewed.
- Approved the Financial Report for January.
- Approved the collection of registrations and payments for Shriners memorial crosses.
- Approved the use of church facilities for the annual harp concert on June 14.
- Approved the 2023 Statistical Report to PC(USA).
- Elected Phil Baughman and Judy Massingale to serve as commissioners at the Presbytery Meeting in Augusta on Feb. 24.
- Approved the use of church facilities for storage of PW craft projects and events sponsored by The Growing Place.
- Approved a study leave and vacation time for Pastor Burnetta Armour.
- Approved \$3,000 in increased cost for the replacement of the Fellowship Hall roof to allow for a higher grade of insulation.
- Reviewed plans for Holy Week services.
- Scheduled the next Session meeting for March 17



SUNDAYS
Coffee & Conversation 10 am (except on March 31)
Worship Service 11 am
 (In the sanctuary and on Facebook)
Hospitality Hour after worship the first Sunday of the month
 Valet Parking available Sunday mornings starting at 10:45 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	4	5	6 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person PW CT Meeting 2 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	7 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	8	9
10 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	11	12 PW Bible Study Noon Bring a Lunch All are invited	13 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person Knit & Stitch 2 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	14 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	15	16 NEGA PW Annual Gathering, Augusta
17 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online Session Meeting 12:15 pm	18	19 PM Luncheon Noon	20 BIBLE STUDY 12:30 pm In-Person Knit & Stitch 2 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	21 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm	22	23
24 Coffee & Conversation 10 am Worship Service 11 am and Online	25	26	27 Service of Wholeness 12:30 pm Knit & Stitch 2 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	28 Zoom Prayer Mtg. 10 am Mah Jongg 1 pm Maundy Thursday Service & Cantata 7 pm	29	30
31 Easter Sunrise Service 7:15 am Worship Service 11 am and Online						

THE VIEW

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Publisher Penny Murdoch

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Dick Frost Adele Page
Bruce Morgan Elaine Wiegert
 Lindalee Walters

THE SESSION

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Youth Elder Lily Geiger

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Congregational Care Jim Crawford

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Building & Grounds..... Hugh Walters
Missions/
Discipleship Elaine Wiegert

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Congregational Care ... Judy Massingale

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Session Liaison Judy Massingale

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Viveca Cooper
Debbie Wessely

CLASS OF 2025

Rita Morgan
Adele Page

CLASS OF 2026

Kim Ciriello
Bob Thomason



Plan to join us on Easter Sunday to praise our risen Lord.

First, we will gather at 7:15 a.m. on March 31 for a sunrise service at CeNita Vineyard & Winery on Dock Dorsey Road. The brief service will include Gospel readings and singing.

Between the sunrise service and the worship service at 11 a.m., worshipers are welcome to place fresh flowers on and around the cross near the front door of the church.

There will be no Coffee and Conversation session on Easter Sunday.

The worship service at 11 a.m. will include an Easter anthem from the Chancel Choir. Pastor Burnetta will preach from the the Gospel of Mark.



FREE VALET PARKING
Every Sunday starting at 10:45 a.m.



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