

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

AUGUST 28, 2025

Why Sin is So Devastating

We talk about sin a lot in church. It always carries weight—and it should. The Greek word for sin, *hamartia*, can mean many things, but one of the most common meanings is “Missing the Mark.” Many assume this means breaking God’s law or disobeying divine command. That’s partly true. But sin is deeper than broken rules. God’s laws are never arbitrary; they exist for love.

At the center of the law is this: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* If sin is missing the mark, then the mark is love. To sin is to fail at love—love of God, love of neighbor, love of self. And so we must ask: what is love?

Thomas Aquinas answered: to love is to *“seek the good of the beloved.”* Centuries later, theologian Thomas Jay Oord sharpened it: love is to *“act intentionally to promote overall well-being, in response to God and others.”* Love is not a vague feeling. Love moves. Love chooses. Love acts. It brings healing. It nurtures flourishing. It stands against injustice and refuses to let harm win.

This is why sin is so devastating. Sin is not just moral failure—it is the failure of love. And when love fails, harm rushes in. Harm to our neighbor. Harm to creation. Harm to ourselves. Left unchecked, sin multiplies. Wounds stack on wounds. Hurt people hurt people. And what begins as personal sin becomes embedded in systems that keep whole communities trapped in cycles of brokenness, apathy, and injustice.

But here is the Gospel: God refuses to leave us in those cycles. Forgiveness is only the beginning. The good news is that God calls us out of harm and into life. Out of despair and into hope. Out of apathy and into justice. The Kingdom of God is where love reigns—where love is freely given and freely received, where compassion and peace shape daily life, where forgiveness softens even the hardest heart.



Yes, we are all sinners. Yes, we have all failed to love. But our God has never failed us. Not once. Even now, God is calling us back—back to love, back to grace, back to life everlasting.

Austin Pounds

It's not too late to join our Wednesday Adult Bible Study. Jump right in next Wed. at 6:30 (after 5:30 supper) and learn the tools to read and understand the Bible. ***Grasping God's Word* is our guidebook.** Email Austin if you would like to participate so he can order your book (\$25): **dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com**.

(The kindle book version is free with Kindle Unlimited.)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

501 First Street, S.E., Moultrie, Georgia 31768

Email us at firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-5 and Friday 9-4

*To all who are weary and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are lonely and need friendship,
to all who are glad and would serve others, to all who are complacent and need disturbing, to all who sin and need a Savior,
this Church opens wide its door in the name of Christ, and bids you welcome.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, September 3 at 4 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL (*Vereen Parlor*)
Wednesday, September 3 at 4 p.m. SPIRITUAL GROWTH (*Vereen upstairs*)
Wednesday, September 3 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER
Thursday, September 4 at 1 p.m. Card Playing
Sunday, September 7 at 8:30 a.m. MEN'S BREAKFAST at FPC
Monday, September 8 at 10 a.m. PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BOARD MEETING (*Vereen Parlor*)
Monday, September 8 at 10 a.m. CHRISTIAN SERVICE (*fellowship hall*)
Monday, September 8 at 7 p.m. PW EVENING CIRCLE
Tuesday, September 9 at 10 a.m. PW MORNING CIRCLE
Tuesday, September 9 at 1 p.m. CORNERSTONES WREATH WORKSHOP
Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday, September 10 at 10 a.m. FINANCE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER
Thursday, September 11 at 1 p.m. Card Playing
Sunday, September 14 at Noon MISSION DINNER
Monday, September 15 at 12:30 p.m. CORNERSTONE'S MEETING
Tuesday, September 16 at 5:15 p.m. SESSION
Wednesday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER
Thursday, September 18 at 1 p.m. Card Playing
Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER
Thursday, September 25 at 11 a.m. CORNERSTONES LUNCH ON THE ROAD
Saturday, September 27 from 12 p.m.- 3 p.m. MUSIC IN MOULTRIE GATHERING
Sunday, September 28 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. CONFIRMATION CLASS

**Ever order books from
ChristianBooks.com?
If so, at checkout list
First Presbyterian Church in
Moultrie and the church will
receive a 4% rebate on your order.**

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

Reformation Sunday, October 26

Why does First Presbyterian Moultrie conduct a Kirkin' on Reformation Sunday? The service is held in recognition of our connection to the Protestant Reformation when Protestant churches broke away from the Catholic church, specifically to the reformation in Scotland led by John Knox. In addition, many families in this region have Scottish roots. Do you? If you would like to participate in the Kirkin' and don't have a clan flag, now is the time to order one. Or perhaps you would prefer a tie or shawl. Contact Nancy Coleman at roschillfarms@windstream.net or 229-891-1525 for assistance in determining your clan and ordering a tartan. **Allowing for delivery, items should be ordered by Sept. 10.**

Don't forget to suggest a name for the Scots.

Winning names to be announced at WATCH on Sept. 3.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

When: Sunday, September 7 at 8:30 a.m.

Where: First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Pat Garlick, founder of
Pride Packages for soldiers

Come join us for Food & Fellowship. All men, all ages welcome!
Call Jim Soos 229-891-0612 to RSVP



MISSIONS DINNER

Sunday, September 14
12 noon to 1:00 pm

to benefit the Fellowship for
Disadvantaged People in Bangladesh

Fried Chicken, Creamed Corn, Green Beans, Roll
and Peach Cobbler (and Ice Cream and Iced Tea for
those who eat in)

Donation \$10 per plate

SEE PATTY JUNE FOR TICKETS

SUMMER FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD



June 1, 2025

*The flowers were given
in honor of April's
patience and grace for
staying married to
Marty Mathis for 30 years.
By Bryce and Retta Mathis*



June 8, 2025

*The flowers were given
in honor of
Melody Jenkins
for all that she does
for our church family.
Love, the Strickland family.*



June 15, 2025

*The flowers were given
in loving memory of
Anne John McCranie
by her sons
John, Eric and Christopher
McCranie.*



June 22, 2025

*The flowers in the sanctuary
were given in honor of
Tiny McLung
on her 93rd birthday
by Susan Rogers
and Norma Staton.*

First Presbyterian Church

501 First Street SE

Moultrie, Georgia 31768

229-985-3158

Email: firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

www.moultriefirstpres.com

Return Services Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MOULTRIE, GA
PERMIT NO. 162

W.A.T.C.H. SUPPER

Wednesday Nights at the Church

JOIN US WEDNESDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

MENU: Wednesday, September 3

Everyone: Baked Potato or Sweet Potato Bar, Grape Salad, Salad Bar

Dessert: Jello with fruit, Cookies, Ice Cream

RESERVATIONS

Remember to let Penny know if you need to change or cancel your reservation.

229-985-3158 or firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com