

# Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

AUGUST 7, 2025

## Forgiveness Is for *You*

“Forgiveness” is one of the most common words we hear in church—but too often, it’s lost its depth. In Christian culture today, forgiveness can feel like a polite exchange: someone offers a half-hearted apology, and the other feels pressured to respond with, “It’s fine,” even if the wound still stings.

Picture this:

**Tim:** “Hey, I hope you forgive me for cussing at you earlier. I just get so mad sometimes.”

**Aaron:** “Uh... sure, no problem.”

Aaron gives the expected Christian response, but deep down, he’s unsettled. He feels like being a “good Christian” means pushing down his pain, keeping quiet, and letting things go—even if he’s still hurting. In this version, forgiveness starts to look like being a doormat—never allowed to say, “That really hurt.”

But real, biblical forgiveness is far more powerful. It says: *“What you did was wrong. But I won’t let it turn me into someone bitter or vengeful. I will not become what hurt me.”* Forgiveness isn’t about being nice. It’s about truth. It’s about protecting your dignity. It’s about refusing to let evil have the last word.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that forgiveness and reconciliation are the same. They’re not. Forgiveness opens the heart to healing—but reconciliation requires repentance. A broken relationship can only be restored when the one who caused harm takes responsibility for their actions.

Forgiveness doesn’t mean pretending. It means freedom. It breaks the cycle of pain. It gives you the power to say, *“You don’t get to control who I become.”* In that way, forgiveness isn’t just a gift for others—it’s a gift for you.

And forgiveness is rarely a one-time event. It’s often a process: feeling the pain, giving it to God, and slowly, faithfully declaring that the pain no longer defines you. Even in the aftermath of harm, you choose love. You choose wholeness. You choose a future rooted not in bitterness, but in grace and compassion.

**“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”**

**—Ephesians 4:31–32 (NIV)**



### Reflection Question:

Where in your life might God be inviting you to begin the process of forgiveness—not for someone else’s sake, but for your own healing and freedom?

**Austin Pounds**



**RALLY DAY IS THIS SUNDAY!!**

**Join us AUGUST 10th**

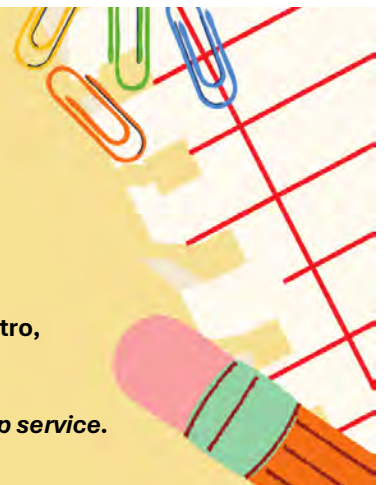
**9-9:30 a.m. BREAKFAST** in the fellowship hall

**9:45 a.m. BLESSING** of the BACKPACKS in the sanctuary

**10 a.m. PROGRAM** — Learn about the classes

**11 a.m. WORSHIP** - Bible Presentation, Confirmation Class Intro,  
Church Member Recognition

**Remember! Kona Ice Treats** available as you leave the worship service.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Email us at [firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto: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

Thursday, August 7 at 1 p.m. Card Playing

Thursday, August 7 at 4:30 p.m. Cornerstones – *Arsenic & Old Lace*

Sunday, August 10 RALLY DAY

Monday, August 11 at 10 a.m. CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Monday, August 11 at 5 p.m. PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m. SCOUTS RECRUITMENT

Wednesday, August 13 FPC PRESCHOOL FIRST DAY

Wednesday, August 13 at 1 p.m. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 13 at 4 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL

Wednesday, August 13 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH & Talent Show

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**FRIENDSHIP CLASS** (Library)

**Curriculum:** Gospel of Mark

**GENESIS CLASS** (Parlor)

**Curriculum:** The Present Word (Winter 25-26)

**CHOICES CLASS** (Vereen Upstairs)

**Curriculum:** No-Prep Bible Study (Parables)

**YOUTH CLASS** (Stegall in Youth Room)

**Curriculum:** Faith Questions (Salvation)

**CHILDREN CLASS** (Stegall in Children Room)

**Curriculum:** Awesome Adventures  
(Paul's Amazing Quest)

# TALENT SHOW



WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST  
13TH

AFTER  
WATCH  
SUPPER



SHOW US  
YOUR  
TALENT

CONTACT AUSTIN POUNDS FOR MORE  
DETAILS OR TO SIGN UP TO PERFORM ★ [DCEFIRSTPRESMOULTRIE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DCEFIRSTPRESMOULTRIE@GMAIL.COM)

## SPECIAL REQUEST FROM HOLLY BEARD

If you reserved a date for flower arrangements August-December, please check the flower calendar in the office lobby and make sure your name is listed by your date. (*Holly misplaced her list and needs our help!*) Call her if you need to add or correct a date 229-798-0669.





# WATCH BIBLE STUDY

Join us at WATCH for a class on how to study Scripture. This class will equip you with the tools to read and understand the Bible effectively. We will be using *Grasping God's Word* as our guide book.

**JOIN US**

**BOOKS WILL BE \$25** AMAZON LINK: [HTTPS://A.CO/D/CTN6PXM](https://a.co/d/CTN6PXM)  
(FREE IF YOU HAVE KINDLE UNLIMITED)

Email Austin at: [dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto:dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com) if you want to purchase through the church. Make your check out to FPC for \$25 or bring exact cash.

## BACKPACKS FOR HOPE

Our church will be supporting our Backpacks ministry to local children during this quarter. During the last school year, our Alice Griner Backpacks for Hope Ministry served 52 kids in 14 different families with bags of food weekly to help them get through the weekend. The ladies who prepare the bags of food can stretch every dollar by purchasing items that are on sale each week of delivery.

So, as we prepare for the new school year, the BEST thing you can do to support the ministry is make a financial donation by writing a separate check to First Presbyterian and put "backpacks" in the memo line. You can bring/send the check to the office or put it in the collection plate.

If you prefer to donate food items in the helping hands box, please only bring select items from this list in September to ensure freshness: Peanut butter, Vienna sausages, individual packaged fruit (raisins, fruit cups), breakfast bars, granola bars, spaghetti sauce (ONLY can or plastic containers - no glass) and Spaghetti noodles.



**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW  
FOR THE MISSIONS DINNER  
to benefit the Fellowship for  
Disadvantaged People in  
Bangladesh**

**12 noon to 1:00 pm  
on Sunday, September 14**

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**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

2025-  
2026

STARTING  
SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 24  
at 6 PM

**Students from 5th-12<sup>th</sup> grade are  
eligible for participating in this class**

**This will be a year-long, once-a-month class:**

- Students will go through confirmation curriculum as a class, with family, and with mentors (Adults and older Youth)
- Students who complete the class will be welcomed as full members of the church
- Confirmation will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month from 6-8 P.M.



**First Presbyterian Church**

501 First Street SE

Moultrie, Georgia 31768

229-985-3158

Email: [firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com)

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MOULTRIE, GA  
PERMIT NO. 162

## **W.A.T.C.H. SUPPERS START NEXT WEEK!!**

*Wednesday Nights at the Church*

**FIRST SUPPER—AUGUST 13TH AT 5:30 P.M. (AND STAY FOR THE TALENT SHOW!)**

### **MENU: Wednesday, August 13**

**Regular/Children:** Fried Porkchops, Cornbread Muffin, Rolls, Mac-n-Cheese, Chinese Cabbage, Salad Bar

**Diet:** Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar

**Dessert:** Upside Down Pineapple Cake, 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](mailto:firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com)*