

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

March 5, 2026

Our Greatest Hope...

Dear Church Family,

I'd like to share an article that appeared in *Presbyterian Outlook* about a community of faith in Cooke City, Montana. This is a church that became an interdenominational congregation out of necessity. They are the only church within a radius of over 60 miles and located just northeast of the entrance to Yellowstone National Park.

The Reverend Doug Balsler was called to this church and ordained by the Yellowstone Presbytery in 2022. This is snowmobile country and ranked in the top five places in North America to find chest-deep powder snow.

When Doug arrived there, he found that the members of his congregation had all been drawn to this remote, rugged landscape for various reasons, but rarely had similar views on politics. They were known and recognized as a "purple" congregation. Doug and his wife recall their first few months with the membership, enjoying the outdoors, fly-fishing, hiking, riding in the snow, and very quickly found that the Republicans were not afraid to tell them they were Republican and why. The same was true with the Democrats. The Balsers discovered that when you develop deep relationships, you suddenly realize that people are far more complex than labels allow. Doug says, *"Pastorally, my instinct told me that you could love Jesus and be a Democrat and you could love Jesus and be a Republican. Caring for this congregation confirmed this. I also found that cancer and marriage conflicts and teenage angst and the ravages of addiction were no respecters of political affiliation. Jesus came to heal our sins and our sufferings. Jesus is here for everybody."*

After serving in Cooke City, the Balsers moved to Aberdeen, Washington's First Presbyterian Church which was also a purple congregation with members on the far ends of the spectrum. They worshiped together, served on the session, and shared meals and completely replaced the siding on the west side of the building — together.

What Doug found here was a congregation which had *"found the heart of the Gospel, and it felt like a well in the middle of the desert. Once people found the well and tasted the goodness of the water of life, they kept coming back no matter how much they differed from one another."*

The complexities of finding unity in Christ are very real, but I believe with all my heart that they are not insurmountable. Many congregations these days are drawing lines in the sand and taking stands on certain issues that appear to lean more to the left or the right. These two churches took a stand on unity. Doug says, *"In both churches, I held the conviction that if anything could unite us amidst our differences, it had to be Jesus. Grace is a scandal because grace is a gift. And the Giver is generous. I must believe Jesus has room at his table for everyone. Everyone. Grace can reach anybody. This is our great hope."*



In His love,

Rick

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS, CLOCKS FORWARD 1 hour

Sunday, March 8 from NOON til 2 p.m. OUR TIME (kid's fun time, food & LEGOs)

Monday, March 9 at 10 a.m. Christian Service

Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m. PW Evening Circle

Tuesday, March 10 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY

Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m. PW Morning Circle

Wednesday, March 11 at 1 p.m. Finance Meeting

Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, March 12 at 11 a.m. Cornerstones Lunch on the Road

Monday, March 16 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings (youth breakfast/study)

Monday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m. Cornerstones Meeting

Tuesday, March 17 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY

Tuesday, March 17 at 5:15 p.m. Session

Saturday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m. Cornerstones "Swamp Gravy" trip

Tuesday, March 24 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY

Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, March 26 at 8:30 a.m. Cornerstones Callaway trip

Sunday, March 29 from 4-6 p.m. EGGVENT crafts, games, food for all ages



Please pray for Patty June as she travels to Bangladesh. After attending a conference in the U.S. she was scheduled to fly via Qatar Airways and then the new conflict in the Middle East began. She has had to change her plans and is hoping to fly from L.A. to Hong Kong to Dhaka in the next couple of days.



Metal for Meds

We are collecting **aluminum cans and toothbrushes** to raise money & supplies for an annual medical clinic in the Dominican Republic. The toothbrushes will be given out with medicines in plastic bags to the people who come to the clinic.

All of our sister congregations are collecting recyclable aluminum cans at \$1/lb. And we will continue the collection throughout 2026. You'll see the collection bin in the fellowship hall by the kitchen. The tooth brush collection box will also be in the fellowship hall.

In 2025, this mission partnership with our sister churches raised \$1000 to purchase pre-natal vitamins, vitamins for women & children as well as medicine to treat the abundant parasite problems in the Dominican Republic.

Help meet the medical & dentistry needs of these people who come to the annual clinic!





FLINT RIVER AND SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY

HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF

*Disaster Relief Trip to Western North Carolina:
April 26 - May 2, 2026*

The mission trip begins Sunday evening, April 26 at Canton Presbyterian Church. We'll be staying there (\$20 per person per night) until departure at the end of the week. We will be providing our own meals throughout the week and may have group transportation costs so there may be additional individual cost for this trip.

How You Can Help

✓ **Donate**

Donations to assist with trip expenses can be made at on our online giving link at www.flintriverpresbytery.org. Please note that your donation is for disaster relief and note in the memo that this is for the April NC mission trip.

✓ **Volunteer**

Looking for 20 volunteers to help with a variety of services, from group support and transportation to clean-up, repairs and new construction under local guidance.

For more info or to sign up contact dcefirfirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

Together, We Can Rebuild!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EGGVENT FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

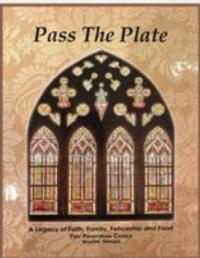
TIME 4:00-6 P.M.

FOOD, GAMES, AND CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES

501 FIRST STREET SE, MOULTRIE, GA, 31768

PLEASE RSVP BY CONTACTING AUSTIN POUNDS AT DCEFIRSTPRESMOULTRIE@GMAIL.COM

Back In Stock.



We are featuring recipes from the "Pass the Plate" cookbook for our WATCH suppers this month. Copies of the cookbook are available in the church office for \$25.



CHURCH GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH, 5-7 PM

CARD GAMES

BOARD GAMES

FOOD

First Presbyterian Church

501 First Street SE

Moultrie, Georgia 31768

229-985-3158

Email: firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

www.moultriefirstpres.com

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W.A.T.C.H. SUPPER

Wednesday Nights at the Church

5:30 P.M.

*In March, we will be featuring recipes from "PASS THE PLATE,"
and we have copies of the cookbook in the office that you can purchase for \$25.*

MENU Wednesday, March 11:

Regular & Diet: Low Country Boil (Recipe by Barbara Vereen, page 244), plus Salad Bar

Children: Pigs in a Blanket & Chips

Dessert: Cheese and Feed Cheesecake (Recipe by Beth Sheahan, page 152) Cookies & Ice Cream

Make your reservation: Email firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

Call 229-985-3158