

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

September 11, 2025

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall...

There once was a man who had been attending a new church for about three months. After the service he shook the pastor's hand and said, "Pastor, I enjoy your sermons, but I think you should preach more on sin."

The pastor paused, then nodded. "You know, you're right. So... tell me, what is your sin?"

The man blinked in surprise. "Well, I don't mean *my* sin. I mean the sins people really need to know are wrong." He then started naming off hot button cultural issues that he believed the pastor should preach against. Things he has never had to struggle with.

The pastor gently closed his Bible. "Then it sounds like you don't really want me to preach about sin so that God might convict *you* and show you where *you* need grace and repentance. You want me to use Scripture against others you believe are worse sinners than you. Am I wrong?"

The man's face turned red. He quietly muttered, "Thank you for your time, pastor."

This story reminds us how easy it is to fixate on the sins we don't struggle with. If we're honest, most of us keep an unspoken hierarchy of which sins are "the worst." For me, I get especially heated about greed — when corporations or individuals value wealth over human lives and wellbeing. It feels outrageous that some have more money than they could ever spend while their workers scrape by paycheck to paycheck. My instinct is righteous indignation, and when I'm not careful, I lose empathy. Yet the truth is, I don't really know what I'd be like if I had that kind of wealth and power. I'd like to believe I would choose generosity and love, but I can't say with certainty that I wouldn't fall into the same temptation.

Here's the truth: every one of us has fallen short of God's glory. We have all failed to love God and love our neighbors as we should. And when we lose sight of that, we slip into hypocrisy — obsessing over someone else's struggles while ignoring our own. For some, those struggles may be about money or pride. For others, they may be around identity, sexuality, forgiveness, or wounds so deep that only they and God know about them. I don't know their story, the scars they bare, or the weight they carry. What I do know is that, like me, they also need grace and love.

And that's where the church comes in. We are not called to be gatekeepers of who is "better" or "worse," but a community of grace where all of us — with our different stories, wounds, and struggles — can encounter the healing love of God. When we stop using sin as a weapon against others and instead allow God's love to expose our own hearts, we become the kind of people who can walk with one another in empathy, humility, and hope. Because in the end, none of us stand outside the need for grace, and none of us stand beyond the reach of it.



Austin Pounds

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, 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

Thursday, September 18 at 2 p.m. OFFICE WILL CLOSE EARLY—homecoming parade day

Friday, September 19 at 4:45 p.m. MISSIONS MEETING

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



FEEDING LOCAL KIDS WITH BACKPACKS FOR HOPE

During the last school year, 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. Our church members who prepare the bags of food can stretch every dollar by purchasing items that are on sale each week. The BEST thing you can do to help is give money: write a check to FPC and put "backpacks" in the memo line. If you prefer to donate food items, please only select items from this list: 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.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

Reformation Sunday, October 26

And the winners are----

Penny Alligood and Susan Pearson submitted the winning entries in the "Name the Scot" contest to select names for the Scottish mascots. Susan suggested **Ian** for the bagpiper and Penny submitted the name **Bonnie**. While Bonnie is a typical Scottish name, the Committee selected that name over other entries in memory of our beloved Bonnie Newsome, longtime church staff member who passed away on Oct. 5 of last year. Ian and Bonnie will help announce the various activities of the upcoming Kirkin' o' the Tartans on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26.





MISSIONS DINNER

THIS 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

MUSIC

IN MOULTRIE

**JOIN US FOR FOOD,
LIVE MUSIC, GAMES
& A SERVICE PROJECT!**

Bring your favorite side or
dessert or donate to
our love offering toward the
cost of the food.

Bring your old T-shirts &
linens to help us make
no-sew throws for our friends
at the animal shelter.
Pet food also appreciated.

Team up with others
and test your trivia skills
or play some poker!

Saturday, September 27th from 12-3 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 501 1st St SE, Moultrie, GA 31768

SAVE THESE DATES

		
OCT. 29 Wednesday	NOV. 19 Wednesday	DEC. 7 Sunday
COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL	THANKSGIVING WATCH <i>Youth Cake Auction</i>	ADVENT FESTIVAL

***I scream, you scream,
we all scream
for homemade***



Six churns of homemade ice cream are needed for the church
social on Saturday, Sept. 27. If you are willing to make a churn,
please sign up with Nancy Coleman (229-891-1525 or
rosehillfarms@windstream.net) If you're willing to make some
ice cream but don't have a churn, the church has three churns
available for you to borrow. Let's all scream about delicious
homemade ice cream on Sept. 27.



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 17

Everyone: Breakfast Bar (Sausage Breakfast Casserole, Grits, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Patties, Bacon, Biscuits)

Desserts: Cinnamon Rolls & 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