

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

September 18, 2025

Next Edition on September 25th: look for the Session Report and information about upcoming small group discussions.

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear: Living as Peacemakers in Today's World

Everywhere we turn, we feel it: violence, division, rumors of war. Fear is in the air. It seeps into our conversations, our newsfeeds, even our prayers. And fear—more than anything else—is the enemy's greatest weapon. Fear convinces us to divide the world into "us" and "them." Fear makes us forget that those on the other side are human too.

But here's the truth: being afraid isn't a sin—it's human. God made us with the capacity for fear because it helps us survive. Yet fear left unchecked easily warps into harm. Our culture trains us to weaponize fear: to turn pain into vengeance, hurt into hatred, and neighbors into enemies. As followers of Christ, we are called to a different way—not a spirit of fear, but a spirit of love, peace, compassion, and justice.

And in Jesus, we see what it looks like to face fear without letting fear rule us. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he was afraid. Scripture tells us he begged the Father to let the cup of suffering pass from him. His anguish was so great that he sweated blood. Yet, instead of meeting political violence with a sword, Jesus met it with sacrifice.

At the cross, we hear God's answer to fear and violence in these simple but powerful words: "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*" If we are to imitate Christ in our culture, then we must steel our conscience to promote love instead of hate, to show compassion instead of fueling division, to speak truth in a sea of lies.

The call to be a peacemaker will not always feel peaceful. The world will resist it, because the message of the cross is this: we are all broken sinners in need of a Savior. The cross doesn't divide humanity into "us" vs. "them." It invites us all into a life of self-sacrificial love.

Fear will always try to have the last word, but the cross shows us it never does. In Christ, forgiveness triumphs over revenge, mercy over hate, and love over fear. So when you feel the pull to divide the world into "us" and "them," remember the way of Jesus. Remember the Garden. Remember the cross. And remember that God's Spirit is with you, empowering you to live as a peacemaker in a fearful and divided world.



And don't forget: the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is alive and active in you. So love boldly—even when it costs you. Because love is the only weapon strong enough to disarm fear.

Austin Pounds

Missions Dinner Report

The Missions Committee wants to thank Patty Tyson and her crew, Click and Debbie Peters, Susan and Terry Turner, Carolyn Chastain, our First Presbyterian Youth, Camille Yarbrough and Clay and the whole congregation for a successful event.

After expenses, the dinner raised \$4,073.93 for our work in Bangladesh!

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

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

Wednesday, October 1 NEED SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday, October 1 at 4 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL (Vereen parlor)

Wednesday, October 1 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, October 2 at 1 p.m. Card Playing

Sunday, October 5 at 8:30 a.m. MEN'S BREAKFAST at FMC

Sunday, October 5 at 2 p.m. RISE AGAINST HUNGER—at Valdosta's Trinity Presbyterian



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.



Bonnie & Ian

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

Reformation Sunday, October 26

Why do Presbyterians conduct a Kirkin' of the Tartans?

In 1559, John Knox brought Reformation theology to Scotland from Switzerland where John Calvin was leading the Reformation after Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses' to the door of the Catholic church in 1517. The Church of Scotland was established using a new representative system of government utilizing presbyters or elders. This became the Presbyterian Church in Scotland and later in America. In Scotland, the church is referred to as the “kirk.” The Kirkin' o' the Tartans is the blessing of the families by the church and is a Scottish-American tradition often accompanied by a bagpipe.

FALL CORNERSTONE SNAPSHOTS



At left, Kathy Keeny taught some of our Cornerstones how to make fall wreaths on September 9th. Below, Bobby Tyler spoke about fire safety precautions at the Cornerstones September meeting on the 15th.

Cornerstones, mark your calendars!

Sept. 25 at 11 a.m.—Lunch on the Road to Covington's in Valdosta

Oct. 13 at 12:30 p.m. Halloween Tea Party at our October Meeting

Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. Lunch on the Road to SASS in Thomasville

Oct. 27-29 Trip to Epworth by the Sea



RISE AGAINST HUNGER®

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2 PM
AT TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN IN VALDOSTA**



NOURISHING LIVES

While long-term food security takes root, our **Nourishing Lives** pathway provides nutrition and encourages education through school feeding, vocational training and health clinics.

IT STARTS WITH A meal

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

First Presbyterian Church

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Moultrie, Georgia 31768

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W.A.T.C.H. SUPPER

Wednesday Nights at the Church

JOIN US WEDNESDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

MENU: Wednesday, September 24

Regular/Children: Smothered Pork Chops,
Mustard Greens, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad Bar,
Cornbread Muffins & Rolls

Diet: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar

Dessert: Carrot 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

SAVE THESE DATES

