

Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

September 4, 2025

A Life Shaped By Love

When we think of salvation, many of us picture it mainly as “going to Heaven when we die.” But salvation is so much bigger than that. It’s about healing and flourishing—the wholeness of our lives being restored in God’s love. It’s about bruises becoming balms, wounds turning into blessings, and even death losing its sting.

One of the early church leaders, Athanasius of Alexandria, put it like this: “Christ was made man so that we might be made God.” He didn’t mean we literally became divine. What he meant was that Christ came so we could be joined to God’s own life—a life overflowing with hope, healing, and love. The early church called this vision *Theosis*—a way of saying that salvation is about sharing in the abundant life Christ transforms us for and invites us into, a life we can only grasp because he has overcome sin and death.

This means salvation isn’t just a future promise but a present reality. It’s God’s Spirit reshaping us day by day so that we reflect more of Christ’s love, mercy, and compassion. Salvation touches every part of who we are—our minds learning new ways of thinking, our hearts being softened to love more deeply, even our bodies being restored as instruments of God’s goodness in the world.

Think, for example, of someone carrying the deep wound of betrayal. Left alone, that pain could harden into bitterness, mistrust, and isolation. But when that person opens their wound to Christ’s healing, something remarkable begins to happen.

The hurt doesn’t vanish overnight, but slowly the Spirit works: forgiveness takes root, compassion grows, and what was once only a source of pain becomes a spring of empathy for others who are hurting. That is salvation—not just a ticket to Heaven, but God drawing us into the divine dance where we learn sacred rhythms of love, grace, wholeness, and justice.

When Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10), he wasn’t talking about material wealth or easy living. He was talking about a life so rooted in God’s love that even suffering and struggle can be transformed. It’s the kind of life where forgiveness replaces bitterness, where courage grows in the face of fear, and where hope rises even in the shadow of death.

This is the gift Christ offers us: not just life after death, but life before death—a life being healed, renewed, and made whole in God’s love. Salvation is God drawing us into his own life so that, little by little, our scars become signs of grace and our wounds become blessings. And as that happens in us, we are sent into the world as living witnesses of this abundant life, carrying Christ’s hope and healing to those around us. This is salvation—not just the hope of heaven, but the healing of our lives in Christ’s love.



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 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

Our Scottish friends remind you that orders for tartan flags, ties and other merchandise are due by WATCH on Sept. 10.

Flags are \$79

Wool Mini Sash with Rosette Used for accent on the shoulder Approx. 33" x 6" \$30

Lightweight Wool Neckties 57" x 3.5" blade \$30

Ladies Lightweight pure wool shawl – 55" x 55" fringed on all four sides \$130

Ladies Wool Stole 70" x 27" \$100

Plus shipping. The more items ordered, the less shipping per item will be.

Contact Nancy Coleman at 229-891-1525 or rosehillfarms@windstream.net.





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

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



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

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.



SUMMER FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD



June 29, 2025

*The flowers were given
in celebration of
Anna Claire's 8th birthday
by Carrie, Judd, Jackson,
Wyatt and Emily Elizabeth
Lasseter.*



July 6, 2025

*The Peace Lily was given to
to celebrate America's
249th birthday.
Happy Birthday and God
Bless America.
Given by Susan and Larry
Blanton and Rhonda and
Kevin Blanton.*

First Presbyterian Church

501 First Street SE

Moultrie, Georgia 31768

229-985-3158

Email: firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com

www.moultriefirstpres.com

Return Services Requested

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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 10

Everyone: Hot dog with chili or slaw, French Fries, Salad Bar

Diet: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar

Dessert: Chocolate Cake, Cookies & Ice Cream

RESERVATIONS

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

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