





“What we have been given is what God may use to make this world a better place.”

Our food distribution ministry, which regularly serves between 250 and 300 families, and has to date provided around 2 million meals, all started with just one phone call. “Would your church want to distribute food from the Atlanta Food Bank?” A couple of meetings later, and we at First Presbyterian Church, were on our way to starting a ministry that has fed thousands of people.

Together we can make a difference.

About 30 years ago a Sunday school class in our church wanted to do something to help “latch-key kids.” Since then, generations have grown up through our after-school program, Club 3:30, that now serves 1 in 10 Hickory Hills Elementary School students.

Together our impact resounds.

60 years ago, a group of church members decided we needed a preschool, and now ours is one of the most highly regarded in our community.

This is the power of “we.”

When we put our minds and our hearts together things happen.

When God works among us, miracles happen.

For nearly 200 years, God has been at work in our church carrying on the work of those first 12 families. A sanctuary was built by 100 members to seat hundreds. Our legacy of faith dates to the beginning of our town, and now the future is in our hands.

God is still at work among us. Who can say what God will do through us next. However, we must be willing to believe.

That great church leader, John Wesley, encouraged all Methodists, “don’t die with money left in your pocket,” for what we have been given is what God may use to make this world a better place.

As you read through the following pages, give thanks to God for what He has done and is doing among us, but I also ask you to consider what you might contribute, for together our church will be a place where many lives are changed with faith, hope, and love.

*Rev. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor*



# Together we serve

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We serve  
whomever is  
in need.  
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In April 2022, we entered into partnership with Sweetwater Mission in Austell. Every Tuesday morning, 12-18 volunteers gather at Sweetwater to help them bag fresh produce and shelf-stable food for us and their other programs. On Tuesday afternoon, Sweetwater delivers pallets of food to our door, where 15-20 volunteers greet families and put the food in cars. Each Tuesday, our volunteers log in a total of about 90 hours.

Since our partnership with Sweetwater began, we have served over 1900 families. Many families visit weekly, others not as often. We serve whomever is in need and do not turn anyone away. We are averaging over 200 households per week. It is the faithful stewardship of every member that allows us to provide diapers and other necessities to our neighbors in need. Together, we supply volunteers and donors, and the church budget provides much of the funding. Preschool students sort our food when needed and Youth, Journey, and Children's Sunday School classes have assembled homeless kits. The congregation provided a pantry-full of food during our 40 for 40 Food Drive and turned out in great numbers at our fundraisers. Lastly, our volunteers talk up our ministry in a very positive way and bring along their friends. We have many dependable volunteers who are not church members, so this is a community outreach in multiple ways.



Anyone who wants to know how they can help or get involved may contact Martie Moore at [MartieMoore@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:MartieMoore@fpcmarietta.org).





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For generations,  
God has been at  
work in this  
community.”





For generations, God has been at work in this community through the stewardship of FPC Marietta members. The donations of many change lives through our outreach programs. We support elementary students and help feed both their minds and their bodies through Club 3:30. We serve as a meeting space and prayer support for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). We offer a Preschool and Parent's Day Out program to meet the needs of families with young children. We house multiple Scouting programs. Volunteers lead annual Vacation Bible School for the community to learn more about Jesus. Together, your financial contributions allow this important work to continue.





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Following Jesus  
is a lifetime  
journey.  
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Faith formation and discipleship is always at the forefront of everything we do at FPC Marietta. From the nursery and children's church to the Faith Builders class for our most senior members, we know that following Jesus is a lifetime journey. We offer fellowship for young adults and other groups that share common interests.

Speaking of Journey, your contributions fund fellowship and ministry throughout the week as well. From Journey family programs on Sunday evenings to Bible studies and small groups throughout the week, we gather and grow together!



Together we learn





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With your donations we can continue to allow our youth to serve and see God at work in the world.

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Discipling our youth starts in the nursery, grows through confirmation, and really blossoms as they accept their faith as their own and live into the ways God is calling them to serve in the world. From Mexico to Road Rules, with your donations we can continue to allow our youth to serve and see God at work in the world outside our doors.

No fewer than 8 pastors have found their calling in the youth spaces here, and hundreds more have continued to be active church participants because of the experiences they had as a youth group member at FPC Marietta.



# Together we're called

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It is truly a  
delight to  
spread  
God's word.  
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*Florrie Corley leads Sunday School*



Russell Davis started teaching Sunday school when his wife Jennifer signed them both up to teach their daughter's second-grade class. A seed was planted, so he followed Whitney to 3rd grade with the Corleys. When he then followed her to 4th grade Sunday School, he truly encountered the joy of teaching Bible lessons to the children. He was snagged: "hook, line and sinker!" For nearly 25 years, Russell has been a leader in a ministry that, in his words, "blesses me far more than any blessing I may give. It is truly a delight to spread God's word and stories to the young learners. My younger daughter, Margaret (now 31), finally made it to 4th grade where I was waiting to teach her. She has often told me how important the foundation of Biblical understanding she got from Sunday School has been to her knowledge of scripture. If I can keep providing that to our children at FPC Marietta, I will indeed be truly blessed!"

Russell's answer to serving has turned into impacting an entire generation of children at FPC Marietta. Where might you be called to serve?





From Sunday morning to Saturday weddings, worship and glorifying God is at the heart of who we are and why we exist. Your contributions allow us to have worship that is broadcast around the world, including into spaces like the Cobb County detention facility that would be otherwise be dark and lonely. Our music ministry and choirs span all generations and inspire all who are blessed to hear. The Chancel, Wedding, and Funeral Guilds serve behind the scenes to enhance the worship experiences of all who participate.

# Together we worship

Attracting and retaining dynamic pastors and staff is vital to the health of any congregation. As this church has been selected as the best place to worship in Cobb for 5 years running, we clearly succeeded in this important marker! With a healthy budget and strong stewardship participation we can continue to support and grow our incredible team. Glory be to God for these servant leaders!





# Together we make a difference

FPC Marietta supports mission far and near for all of God's children. Whether it is a refugee day of service, Rise Against Hunger events, annual school and blood drives, or other service opportunities, your contributions make a huge difference. When we work together and gather our resources, we carry out the Great Commission.



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When we work together and gather our resources, we carry out the Great Commission.  
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For over 60 years, families have entrusted their children to the FPC Weekday Preschool. Your contributions allow us to have the safe and secure space to offer to our community and to be an entry point to life at FPC Marietta.



# Together we grow

Your donations help our many ministries grow, and contribute to a healthy church. Once you enter our doors, we have ambassadors to greet visitors and help new members find their place. Your contributions finance fellowship breakfasts and other meals cooked by teams of volunteers. You support in-home communion, handyman services, prayer shawls, and Stephen Ministers as vital resources in times of distress. Together, we provide connections to people of all ages and situations in life with Bible studies, dinner and social groups, wine tastings, and book clubs.



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grow and  
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# Together we will

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Where do  
we go from  
here?”

Now that you've seen how far we've come in nearly two centuries, where do we go from here? We have a plan called Vision 2035, an FPC Marietta mission pathway to the future developed through feedback from you, our congregation, as well as our staff and officers. Working groups identified four key areas that will keep us focused on God's plan. They are designed to deepen our spiritual commitment to God, engage our congregation in our many ministries, provide outreach to our diverse community, and maintain and update a physical church that is safe and supports our missions.

How will you respond to this plan for our future?

- Determine God's spiritual gifts that are within all of us. To guide you, we developed a Spiritual Assessment questionnaire (with no right or wrong answers, of course) that you can find in the gathering space or online at <https://fpcmarietta.org/gifts/>.
- Live as a disciple of Jesus Christ and put your faith into action. Learn about opportunities in our new Engagement Catalog. Find a copy either in the gathering space or online at <https://fpcmarietta.org/get-involved/>. If you haven't already, locate and communicate with other church members on our Christian social media app called Realm by contacting Becca Yan at [beccayan@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:beccayan@fpcmarietta.org).
- Welcome and serve the constantly changing and evolving community around us. This includes not only Club 3:30 or NAMI support groups, but also growing food ministries and various civic and social groups that can use our spaces. Find outreach opportunities in the Engagement Catalog and on our website, [www.fpcmarietta.org](http://www.fpcmarietta.org).
- Make a financial commitment to help maintain and update our physical church so that it can continue its missions into a new century. To make a commitment, please use the QR on back or at <https://fpcmarietta.org/give/>.



# Together

PLAY GATHE  
 PARTICIPA  
 HELP STUC  
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## a note from the Development Committee

Last year this congregation proved that it is “all in” by your incredible response to the stewardship campaign. Just as our faith continues to grow and evolve, we as a faith community continue to grow and evolve. The church’s budget is a roadmap for our faith journey of its members. Together, we combine each household’s individual commitment to carry out the ministries FPC Marietta has prayerfully committed to support.

I/We rejoice in the opportunity to return part of God’s blessings to his work.

Please print:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will be dedicating a 2024 financial gift to our

Lord of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid:

Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually

My/Our total commitment for 2024 is: \_\_\_\_\_



To make a commitment, please visit [fpcmarietta.org](http://fpcmarietta.org) or scan the QR code at left.

Signature (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

*Tithe envelopes will be available by the end of the year or upon request. Questions: Contact Finance Associate, Sandra Varnum: [SandraVarnum@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:SandraVarnum@fpcmarietta.org)*

It is only through your prayerful response to this stewardship campaign that we can continue to grow and serve. Without some estimate of giving, the church administration team cannot budget for the future. Submitting a commitment is a tangible way of stepping out in faith and trusting Jesus in the great calling He has given to FPC Marietta. It gives you a personal connection to the outreach ministries here, supports the programs that help disciple and grow your individual faith, and provides programs for the faith development of those whom you love.

We understand that it can be daunting to complete a commitment card, and that doing so is an estimation. If you have hesitated to give in the past, we encourage you to make that commitment as a response to God’s faithful provision for you. If you have regularly made an annual commitment, we thank you for your faithfulness and ask you to prayerfully consider a call to increase your percentage of giving. Your church officers are making their commitment now, and we hope you join them – and us – because together we will continue to change lives with faith, hope and love.

FPC Development committee  
 Melissa Gilbert, Lee Jenkins, Jill Mutimer,  
 Dan Newsome, Jim Sommerville, and Andy Tatnall





# Commitment Sunday, October 22



- Commitment Cards will be available beginning October 8 in the Gathering Space and online. You can also cut out the card on the previous page, or go online to [fpcmarietta.org/commit](http://fpcmarietta.org/commit)
- Give online or bring your commitment card with you to worship on October 22.
- If you are unable to attend on the 22nd, you are invited to make your commitment online or mail a copy of the card to 189 Church Street, Marietta, GA 30060.

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## **Other Important Dates to Remember** [fpcmarietta.org/upcoming-events](http://fpcmarietta.org/upcoming-events) for details

October 7: Blessing of the Animals (10am Main Parking Lot)

October 8: Called Congregational Meeting (following both services)

October 14-15: Chalktoberfest Parking Lot Fundraiser

October 22: Trunk-or-Treat (2-4pm Main Parking Lot)

October 22: Churchwide Retreat Early Bird Special ends

October 25: Healing & Wholeness Service (6:15pm Sanctuary)

October 29: Chili Cook-Off (5:30pm)

November 5: All Saints Concert (3-4pm Great Hall)

November 7: GriefShare Seminar (6-8pm Room 057)

November 12: Kirkin' of the Tartan (8:30 & 11:00am worship services)

November 26: Blood Drive (8am-1pm Holland Hall)