



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MARIETTA

*Changing Lives with Faith, Hope, and Love*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 2024 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM

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## WELCOME TO FPC MARIETTA

This church welcomes you no matter who you are or from where you come. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, we can learn together. We invite you to return often.

## FRIENDSHIP PAD

Whether you are a member, a long-time visitor, or just passing by, please sign the friendship pad at the end of your row.

## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

The nursery is available today for infants through 4-yr-olds from 10:45am-12:15pm. Children are invited to pick up worship items from the blue cart at the entrance to the Sanctuary and Great Hall.

## STEPHEN MINISTERS ON-CALL

A Stephen Minister is on call each Sunday morning from 10:00am through 12:00pm. If you would like to speak with a Stephen Minister during that time, please see the front desk or one of the Deacons on duty, and they will locate them for you. *Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)*

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and with blessings to our friends and family and our new government leaders by Bill and Louise Pardue.

## JOIN US

New members are received each month in worship. If you are interested in joining, please contact Ken Farrar at [kenfarrar@icloud.com](mailto:kenfarrar@icloud.com).

# GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

*Since at least the fourth century in Rome, Christians have celebrated the incarnation and nativity of Jesus Christ on December 25. From the beginning of time, God's saving purpose has been at work. God has raised up the seed of Abraham, including Moses and Gideon and Samson and John the Baptist. Through all these generations, God has been faithfully at work raising persons to bring us the Davidic Messiah, the messianic King, the Son of the Most High who will ascend the throne of David. Through all of human history, God has been bringing forth Jesus Christ. Now through the birth of the Savior, God's purpose will be fulfilled. God has acted to save God's people. The Christ child is born for the saving of the world.*

## WELCOME

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *Still, Still, Still* | Mockelbust

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 148)**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

**Praise him in the heights!**

Praise him, all his angels;

**Praise him, all his hosts!**

Let us praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

**His glory is above earth and heaven.**

Praise for all his faithful;

**Praise the Lord!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 143**      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

**We hear you call us beloved and chosen, yet we listen too closely to how the world defines us.**

**We hear your call to clothe ourselves in compassion, yet we put on the armor of defensiveness.**

**You call us to bear with one another, yet we isolate ourselves and resist vulnerability. You**

**call us to love, yet we continue to build walls between one another. Forgive us, O God, when**

**we forget we are all yours and remind us to live in grateful response to the gift of grace made**

**flesh in the Christ child. Hear us now as we silently confess the ways we have sinned against**

**you and one another.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

**His mercies never come to an end.**

They are new every morning.

**Great is his faithfulness.**

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\*GLORIA PATRI NO. 581**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

## **\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you. | **And also with you.**

## *(11:00am)* **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **\*HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 121**     *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **\* CAROL NO. 145**     *What Child Is This*

## **GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS (NRSV)**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

**Luke 2:41-52**

The Word of the Lord | **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** *Children Still Lead Us* | Meri Kate Marcum, Director of Fellowship & Outreach

## WE RESPOND TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* | Garton

### \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE

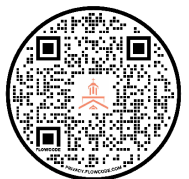
### \*SENDING HYMN NO. 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*SENDING MUSIC

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Variation III-XII* | Gower



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If you would like to give online go to [fpcmarietta.org](http://fpcmarietta.org), or scan this QR code.

## Today's Worship Leaders

*Meri Kate Marcum, Director of Fellowship & Outreach*

*Rev. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Cassie Waits, Associate Pastor*

*Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood, Parish Associate*

*Meg Hartin, 8:30am Beadle*

*Selah Grant, 11:00am Acolyte*

*Kirk Maassen, 11:00am Beadle*

*Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts*

*Chohee Kim, Principal Organist*

*Julie Galt, Bell Ringer*

*Audio/Visual Team: 8:30am Will Myers | 11:00am Austin Grant, Will Myers, John Hills*

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### **Called Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 5, 2025**

The Session of FPC has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 5, for the purpose of electing Church Officers and Trustees, to be held immediately following both the 8:30am and 11am services. Church Officers serve and are elected by the congregation and Trustees are elected by the corporation and serve as its Directors.

The congregation will vote on a new slate of Church Officers nominated by the Officer Nominating Committee. Nominees and their bios will be published and made available online and in the Gathering Space prior to January 5.

Immediately afterwards and in accordance with the Bylaws of the Congregation, the congregation will reconvene as members of the Corporation, First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Inc., for the purpose of electing trustees who are nominated by the Session. The Session nominates Beverly Kelly, bio to be included with those above, as a new Trustee for a three-year term and nominates Russell Davis and Ann Stoskopf as Trustees for another three-year term.

### **Special Invitation**

Please join us to celebrate the ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament of Meri Kate Marcum as a teaching elder in the PC(USA) on Sunday, January 5 at 2pm. The service of ordination will take place in the Sanctuary and all are invited and welcomed!

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT FPC

### **Club 3:30 Volunteers Urgently Needed!**

Help is needed on Mondays and Thursdays in the K-2nd grade room from 4:30pm-5:45pm. Please reach out to Mary Groves at [MaryGroves@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:MaryGroves@fpcmarietta.org) or 404-735-8277.

### **FPC Caring Ministry**

The Caring Ministry of the Congregational Care Council is very interested in connecting its volunteer Caregivers with church members who might benefit from personal communications with a new friend each month, offering a continued sense of FPC belonging to those limited physically in attending church regularly. If you may be interested or if you are aware of a friend or relative who may be interested in such a relationship with an able church member, please contact Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood at 770-4270293 or at [PaulSherwood@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:PaulSherwood@fpcmarietta.org).

### **Calling all Seamstresses!**

We need to restock our stash of baby blankets for babies born into the life of FPC Marietta! For babies born into our family of faith, FPC gifts the family with a baby blanket and gift card for parents to have a meal. Blankets measure around 35"x24.5" and we would love anyone who feels called to help replenish our supply. Questions? Contact Adrean Grant at [AdreanGrant@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:AdreanGrant@fpcmarietta.org)

### **Stamps and Pop Top Collections**

PW reminds the congregation to cut stamps from Christmas card envelopes (please leave a broad margin) and also to remove the pop tops from aluminum cans. The stamps fund Spanish language educational materials and the pop tops keep the power on at the Ronald McDonald House. Collection sites for both are on the PW bulletin board opposite Holland Hall.

### **Emergency Overflow Shelter Transportation**

MUST will activate emergency shelters when overnight temperatures are expected to fall to 35 degrees or below. We need volunteers to drive the church van, to ride in the van (so two volunteers are in each van, and to drive their own vehicle (for transporting luggage and other belongings).

Reach out to Jeff Byrd at 770.295.8326 or [jeffbyrdis@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbyrdis@gmail.com) for more details!

### **P/T Facilities Manager Position** Monday-Friday - up to 25 hours.

The Facilities Manager supports the Property Committee to oversee the church building and grounds maintenance, and facilities care functions to promote a clean, well-kept, and safe environment for members and visitors. Please contact Melissa Ricketts at [MelissaRicketts@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:MelissaRicketts@fpcmarietta.org).

### **Medical Equipment**

The church has accumulated some extra medical equipment. If you or a loved one have a need for one of the following, let us know and you can pick it up at the church: Shower/Tub Chair (2), Toilet Seat Extension, Cane (7), Walker (2), Doughnut Cushion (2), Wheelchair Footrest (2 pair)

### **My Handy Friend Ministry**

The purpose of this ministry is to provide a free service to our members who are in need of assistance with tasks that they may no longer be comfortable doing. If you would like to have help, please fill out the form at [fpcmarietta.org/my-handy-friend](http://fpcmarietta.org/my-handy-friend), and someone will call you to understand your need and let you know if this is something we can do for you. If you have skills and are willing to share them, please fill out the same form.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FPC

### **Pedalers**

Next Ride: Friday, January 3 | 9am | starting at the Florence Road trailhead.

We usually ride an hour out and an hour back, but we can modify the ride to fit the needs of the group. This is a social activity, not a race! We ride for pleasure.

### **Tuesday Ladies Bible Study - New 7-Week Study!** *How Much More* by Lisa Harper

beginning Tuesday, January 7 | 9:30am-12:00pm | Room 055

Lisa Harper explains how our Creator Redeemer's unconditional love is woven throughout Scripture. Refreshments, workbook discussion time, and a 30-40 min video. Questions? Linda Bush at 770-856-8443

### **Presbyterian Women Meetings**

The next meeting of PW Sunday Circle will be on Sunday January 12 from 5pm-6:30pm in the Glover Room. The Study subject will be "How much land does a (wo)man need?" Land Justice.

The next meeting of Presbyterian Women will be on Monday, January 13 at 10:00am in Holland Hall. Our study will be Chapter 5 of our study book, "Air Quality". Lunch will be served for \$7.

### **PreK-5th Adventure Air Outing**

Sunday, January 12 | 5-7pm | \$10 per child

Join us at Adventure Air Sports on Barrett Pkwy for a fun evening out with friends! Arrive at 5pm for check-in. Jump from 5:30-6:30pm followed by dinner.

Please sign up and fill out a waiver at [fpcmarietta.org/events](http://fpcmarietta.org/events).

### **Stephen Ministry Grief Share**

Wednesdays, beginning January 15, 2025 | 6-8pm | Room 050

A Grief Share support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. To learn more or sign up, email Denise Lobodinski: [lobodrake@aol.com](mailto:lobodrake@aol.com)

### **Thursday Bible Study Spring 2025 Study**

begins Thursday, January 23 | 12pm-1pm

*Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright

Purchase the book at [www.amazon.com/Surprised-Hope-Rethinking-Resurrection-Mission/dp/0061551821](http://www.amazon.com/Surprised-Hope-Rethinking-Resurrection-Mission/dp/0061551821)

### **FPC Men's Group**

Upcoming 2025 dates: 1/27, 2/17, 3/24, 4/28

Contact John Knox at [Jdknox162@gmail.com](mailto:Jdknox162@gmail.com) to join!

## Year End Reminders

### Church Office Hours

Church offices will be closed Wednesday, December 25 - Wednesday, January 1.

The Financial Office will be open on Tuesday, December 31 from 9am-12pm to receive year-end giving.

Please postmark any end-of-year giving via USPS by December 31.

You can also submit online gifts and fulfill your 2024 pledge at [fpcmarietta.org/give](http://fpcmarietta.org/give).

### Online Recurring Gifts Reminder

If you changed your commitment amount for 2025, you will need to update your recurring gift amount online. If you need assistance, please email our Finance Associate Christy Lines at [ChristyLines@fpcmarietta.org](mailto:ChristyLines@fpcmarietta.org).

If you haven't already made your 2025 pledge, it's not too late! Go to [fpcmarietta.org/commit](http://fpcmarietta.org/commit).

### Children & Youth

Sunday School for Children & Youth, and Youth Group will resume on Sunday, January 12.

The nursery will be open only during the 11am worship service on Sundays, December 29, and January 5.

There is no Children's Church next Sunday, January 5.

## Small Group Opportunities

### SUNDAYS

#### Sunday School

for All Ages 9:45-10:45am

**Youth Group** 5:00-7:00pm

#### Presbyterian Women

Third Sundays  
5:00pm

### MONDAYS

#### Presbyterian Women

Second Mondays | 10:00am

#### Monday Men's Group

4th Mondays (usually)  
6:00-7:30pm

#### NAMI Support Group

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

### TUESDAYS

#### Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm

### WEDNESDAYS

#### Book Club

2nd Wednesdays 6:00pm

#### Jubilee (55+)

2nd Wednesdays

### THURSDAYS

#### Thursday Bible Study

Thursdays 12pm-1pm

### DAILY

#### Club 3:30

4-6pm

*This list is not exclusive.*  
For more opportunities,  
go to [fpcmarietta.org/get-involved](http://fpcmarietta.org/get-involved).