



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MARIETTA

Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM

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 for infants through 4-yr-olds from 9:30am-12:15pm. Children are invited to pick up worship items from the blue cart at the entrance to the Sanctuary and Great Hall. Following the Children's Time during the 11:00 service, children in 4yr Pre-K through 1st grade may go to Children's Church.

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.

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Joe and Victoria Chastain's 60th anniversary by their children Cris and Paul Marzullo and Flori and Ted Pate. Joe and Victoria were married in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church on December 18, 1965.

Join us

New members are received each month in worship.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Ken Farrar at kenfarrar@icloud.com.



GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

The hymn that epitomizes the season of Advent is, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” During the season of Advent we prepare for the birth of Emmanuel whom we also call Jesus. This season is marked by particular Advent hymns, the blue vestments on the communion table and pulpit as well as the pastors’ robes, and the lighting of the Advent Candle which begins each service during Advent and until Christmas.

Gathering Music

Gloria Hodie | Turner

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | Mazzatenta

Welcome | The Reverend Dr. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor

Choral Introit

Ukrainian Bell Carol | Wilhousky

***Processional Hymn No. 133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Please be seated and join me in the liturgy for lighting our third Advent candle, the candle of Joy.

Hear the Word of the Lord from the Prophet Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing,
For they shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say Rejoice.

Even as the world says, “Worry,”

We will say, “Rejoice.”

Even as the news says, “Fear,”

We will say, “Rejoice.”

Even as the culture says, “Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die,”

We will say, “Rejoice” in the name of the One who promises eternal life.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry, to establish equity throughout the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe that you can right the world. We see suffering and sorrow and sin, and wonder if creation is beyond repair. Still, you hold out healing, wholeness, and hope. You promise to drive out despair and free us from debilitating fear. Broaden our imaginations, set us free to live with joy, and in this silence hear our confession.

Note: Leaders: regular font | **People: bold font** | *Those who are able, please stand.

***Kyrie Eleison No. 575**

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Arise, God's people, for the Light still shines.

***As we light this third Advent candle,**

We pray for joy. As we watch its flame, we remember the Light that shines in the darkness. For sorrow may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

***Glory to God No. 583**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

(11:00am) **Receiving New Members**

***Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ**

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

Anthem

Ding Dong, Merrily on High | Jennings

WE TELL THE STORY

Adam and Eve Disobey God | *Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19*

Carol No. 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (1 & 4)*

God's Promise to Abraham | *Genesis 22:15-18*

Carol No. 88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (1 & 7)*

A Great Light in the Darkness | *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Carol No. 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (1 & 5)*

A Little Child Shall Lead Them | *Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9*

Carol No. 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (1 & 3)*

An Angel Appears to Mary | *Luke 1:26-35, 38*

Carol No. 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (1 & 3)*

Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem | *Luke 2:1-7*

Carol No. 114 *Away in a Manger (1 & 3)*

Angels Announce the Messiah | *Luke 2:8-16*
Carol No. 113 *Angels We have heard on High (1 & 3)*

Magi Come from the East | *Matthew 2:1-11*
Carol No. 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are (1 & 5)*

And the Word became Flesh | *John 1:1-14*
Carol No. 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night (1 & 4)*

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Offering/Offertory *The Boar’s Head Carol* | Krug

***Prayer of Dedication**

Anthem *The Work of Christmas* | Forrest

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE

***Closing Hymn No. 134** *Joy to the World!*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Benediction** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* | Rutter

***Sending Music**

Today’s Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor | Rev. Cassie Waits, Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood, Parish Associate | Meri Kate Marcum, Associate Pastor of Fellowship & Outreach
8:30am Candle Lighters: Will & Anna Cole Meyers
11:00am Candle Lighters: The Coleman Family: Bradley, Keri-Lyn, Liam, Molly, & Landon
Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts | The Chancel Choir
8:30am AV: Steve Jones & Matt Martin | 11:00am AV: Thomas Foster, Jimmy Eaves, Matt Martin

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Copies available in the Gathering Space and online at fpcmarietta.org/events.

POINSETTIAS through December 15

Honor or remember a loved one this Christmas by donating a poinsettia to decorate our worship space. Poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas. Forms are available at fpcmarietta.org/events and in the Gathering Space.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING through December 19

This PC(USA) offering supports church workers in need and funds leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools serving communities of color. Give online at pcusa.org/special-offerings/christmas-joy-offering or use the envelopes provided in the Gathering Space.



Worship Services

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 14 | 8:30am & 11:00am

Join the Chancel Choir, brass, and Kirk Ringers during our regular worship services as we celebrate the birth of Christ and joyfully usher in the Christmas season.

CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 18 | 7pm

This quiet, reflective service offers a space of peace during the holidays, featuring music of the season with the Chancel Choir and guest musicians. Communion will be served.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

12pm Sanctuary - Communion

3pm Great Hall - Family Service

Children and Youth ages PreK 3-Grade 12 take part in telling of the Christmas story. Baby gift items will be collected as an offering for the Georgia Division of Family and Children's Services.

6pm Great Hall - Candlelight

A nursery is available for this service only.

On Sunday, December 28, FPC will have only one service at 11am in the Great Hall.

THIS WEEK:

Youth Christmas Party (Grades 6-12): Sunday, December 14 | 5-7pm

Scavenger Hunt around the Square & White Elephant Gift Exchange!

FPC Pedalers Next Ride: Thursday, December 18 | 12:00pm

From Silver Comet Trail, Florence Road Trailhead (3453 Florence Rd, Powder Springs, GA 30127)

We usually ride about 1 hour out and then return although we can modify the ride as needed. We ride for pleasure and a little exercise so it is not a race. We welcome everyone to join us!

Questions? Jennifer Davis at 404-210-3697 or Nancy Jo Kirk at 678-986-3967.

Going Forward Support Group: Thursday, December 18 | 1:00pm | Glover Room

A place where we share our Grief and other impacts from the loss of a spouse.

A Safe Place to express feelings, emotions, doubts, and find new possibilities

Young Adults Christmas Gathering: Thursday, December 18 | 7pm

663 Frasier Cir. SE | Marietta 30060

Submit Your “Most Awesome of 2025” Photo!

Share your favorite photo from 2025 to be featured in an FPC Photo Exhibit—something that captures awe in God’s creation: the majesty of mountains, the brilliance of a rainbow, the power of a waterfall, a burst of color, a radiant smile, or the grace of motion. Email up to 2 photos per person) along with descriptive title for each to Amy Sherwood (asherwood3123@gmail.com) by December 15. Open to all ages! The FPC Music and Arts Committee will display your photos in the back of the Great Hall through the new year!

YEAR END REMINDERS:

Church offices will be closed Thursday, December 25 - Thursday, January 1. The church will be open Saturday, December 27 (10am-12pm) and Sunday, December 28 (9am-12:30pm).

The Financial Office will be open on Wednesday, 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 2025 pledge at fpcmarietta.org/give.

Online Recurring Gifts

If you changed your commitment amount for 2026, 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.

If you haven’t already made your 2026 pledge, it’s not too late! Go to fpcmarietta.org/commit.

Children & Youth

Sunday, December 14 is the last day of Sunday School for Children & Youth and Youth Group. Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 4. Youth Group resumes Sunday, January 11.

Nursery

Nursery hours for December 21 & 28 will be 10:30am-12:15pm. Regular hours resume on January 4.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES:

Pantry on Church Coordinator

FPC is seeking a part-time coordinator for our Pantry on Church. The Pantry on Church distributes food to over 350 families per week. The coordinator will work with local partners and with the nearly 70 volunteers from the church and community who support this ministry. To apply for this position, please send a resume and optional cover letter to CassieWaits@fpcmarietta.org.

Annual Churchwide Retreat in Montreat, NC

Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 8

This retreat is open to FPC members of all ages! Please register today as we may release some rooms back to Assembly Inn based on registration numbers. Join us for fellowship, missions, and worship. Registration is open. Go to fpcmarietta.org/events.

Confirmation Class begins at the retreat for our current 7th and 8th graders. If you have not yet received confirmation information from Rev. Meri Kate Marcum, please email her at MeriKateMarcum@fpcmarietta.org.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026:

FPC Coat Closet

Our Coat Closet in the Gathering Space is getting full! Please stop by and look for any items (coats, glasses, umbrellas, coffee mugs, etc.) that you may have misplaced. Unclaimed items will be donated in the new year.

2026 Dinner Groups

Our dinner groups are ready to kick off for the winter quarter beginning in January 2026. Groups are assigned at random with the hope that new relationships will be formed by breaking bread together. Each group consists of 8 people, couples or singles. Households will rotate hosting each month and other participants provide appetizers, sides, or dessert as specified by the group. If you would like to join a group, fill out a form in the Gathering Space by January 4. Contact Jean Burnett at (912) 682-0145

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

New 7 week study beginning January 13 | 9:30am-12:00pm | Room 055 (lower level)

Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight by Jennifer Rothschild

We will explore the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective to separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses.

We have refreshments, workbook discussion time, and a 30 min video

Workbooks available from Amazon, Christianbook.com, Lifeway.com, ISBN 978-1430090342

Questions? Linda Bush 770-856-8443 or newbush@comcast.net

Save the Dates:

Wednesday, January 14: Organ Dedication Recital (11:30am)

Sunday, January 25: Children's & Youth Sunday (11am worship)

Tuesday, January 27: Peter & the Wolf Performance with Narration (7pm)

RED WINE. GREEN THUMBS.

A fun wine tasting group.
Helping with the church gardens.
At FPC, you'll find all kinds of ways to jump in,
meet others, and grow in your faith.

FIND YOUR  PLACE!

FPCMARIETTA.ORG/FIND-YOUR-PLACE

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