



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MARIETTA

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | 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 in gratitude for the life of David Blake, youngest son of Bill and Neill Blake, and to celebrate the NAMI Cobb mental health Drop-in Center here at FPC.

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

Today continues the season of Epiphany, the season in the Church Year that marks the giving of God's Light to the nations. It begins with the magi's visit to the Christ child. After Christ's birth these magi came bringing him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This Epiphany, consider the gifts that you might bring him and the light that you might receive from him.

(11:00am) **Gathering Music** *Joy and Celebration* | Afdahl

Welcome

Prelude *Let All Things Now Living* | Mockelbust

*Call to Worship (Psalm 112)

Happy are those who fear the Lord, who delight in following his commandments.

They rise in the darkness; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever,

While the wicked gnash their teeth and melt away.

*Hymn of Praise No. 667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

You are worthy of our praise,

and obedience to your commandments brings joy to our hearts.

Still, too often we choose, not what is right, but what is easy.

We show, not graciousness nor mercy, but indifference.

We are slow to forgive and quick to judge.

While you command us to love our neighbors, we ask, "but who is our neighbor?"

Forgive us, for while you look for obedience, we look for loopholes,

avoiding the call to discipleship.

In this silence, hear our confession.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

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. 377** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

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.

Choral Anthem

Come, Thou Fount | Wilberg

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

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

Sermon

Exceeding in Righteousness | Rev. Dr. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor

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 arose 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.

The Faithfulness of God

Offering/Offertory

Meditation on Beautiful Savior | Mockelbust

***Doxology** No. 606

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**

***Sending Hymn** No. 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

The Lord Bless You and Keep You | Lutkin

***Sending Music**

Trumpet Tune | Greene

Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor

Rev. Meri Kate Marcum, Associate Pastor of Fellowship & Outreach

Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood, Parish Associate

Acolyte: Deacon | 8:30am Beadle: Tom Clarke

11:00am Beadle: Jim Ray

Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts

The Chancel Choir

8:30am AV: Steve Jones

11:00am AV: Thomas Foster & Will Myers



CHURCHWIDE RETREAT

MONTREAT
CONFERENCE
CENTER



MARCH 6-8
MONTREAT, NC

The goal of the retreat is to build community among our FPC family by living in intentional community in God's "thin space" of Montreat, NC, and to relax and play together as we grow in our faith. Join us!

Scan the QR code or go to fpcmarietta.org/events.

We seek to create a balance between programmed time and free time to enjoy with your family - everyone will have Saturday afternoon on their own!



Saturday, February 21 | 11am | Great Hall
Children are encouraged to come and sit on the rug!

Peter and the Wolf is a musical fairy tale by Sergei Prokofiev of a brave young boy who lives near a forest. When a hungry wolf appears, Peter works with his animal friends to outwit it.

In this performance, instead of a full orchestra, our new Great Hall organ will be showcased, along with percussion and narration, using a variety of sounds to bring each character and moment of the story to life.

Nicole Marane, Director of Music,
FUMC Marietta, Organist

John Lawless, Associate Professor of Music,
KSU, Percussionist

with Guest Narrator

Italian.
Ambassador.

Enjoy lasagna with your FPC Dinner Group. Welcome others on Sundays as an FPC Ambassador. Get involved, and discover where your passions fit.

FIND YOUR  PLACE!

FPCMARIETTA.ORG/FIND-YOUR-PLACE



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18 | 7PM | SANCTUARY

Ash Wednesday is an ancient holy day in the Christian Church calendar and marks the beginning of Lent. Participants in the Ash Wednesday Service are invited to receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their foreheads. The ashes we receive remind us of what we most deeply share: our common humanity and our need for grace.

Lenten Series: Book of James

Sunday February 22 and March 8, 15, and 29 | 9:45am in the Sanctuary

Join us for a lecture series on the book of James with Dr. Martha Moore-Keish.

40 for 40 Food Drive

In observance of the Lenten Season, many people choose to give up something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. An alternative is to give to someone who needs what you take for granted. Please consider donating shelf stable items to our FPC Food Pantry!

Details in the Gathering Space and at fpcmarietta.org/events beginning February 15.

Lenten Discovery Journal (available beginning February 15)

The forty days of Lent are traditionally a season of reflection and sacrifice. Yet their deeper purpose is transformation—growing closer to God. Lent is “the 40-day period leading up to Easter (excluding Sundays), beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. These forty days involve fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as a way to connect more deeply with God... Many use this season as a time of personal reflection, preparing their hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter” (Christianity.com).

With this sacred purpose in mind, we invite you to journey through the season with the Lenten Discovery Journal. On most days, the Scripture readings focus on prayer, with space to reflect on your fasting, record acts of almsgiving, and note moments of gratitude. On Sundays—and on certain days during Holy Week—the readings follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week also includes pages for sermon notes and personal reflection.

May this Lenten season deepen your faith, renew your spirit, and draw you ever closer to God.

Holy Week Mid-Day Services - March 30-April 3

Devotional in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch (suggested donation: \$5/day) | Time TBD
Join us each day for a brief devotional led by a local pastor, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. This beloved tradition brings our community together in worship and fellowship during this holy season.

Maundy Thursday - April 2 | 7pm in the Sanctuary

In this service, we remember how Jesus, at table with his disciples, took the bread and the cup and issued this mandate: “Do this in remembrance of me.” Communion will be served.

Good Friday - April 3 | 7pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus’ crucifixion. The Good Friday service is a penitential service, yet it is also a celebration of the good news of the cross.

The Chancel Choir and members of the Georgia Symphony will present David H. Pettit’s “Good Friday,” using the text from Matthew’s portrayal of Jesus’ private trial and public execution. The tonal and harmonic colors are dark, angry, and jarring. FPC will be the home for the “Good Friday” world premiere.

Mr. Pettit is also creating a piece for FPC based on the hymn, “I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art,” in honor and memory of our beloved singer, ringer, wife, mother, and grandmother, Barb Steele. This piece will include the congregation, bells, brass, Chancel Choir and our new Allen organ. Be sure to come worship with us at this year’s Good Friday service, April 3, at 7 pm. On Good Friday, we are reminded that when the world was at its worst, God was at his best.

Easter Lilies

Dedicate a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one this season. Forms will be available online and in the Gathering Space beginning February 15.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

FPC Men's Group

This group will continue its video study of the early church and its impact on today's world on February 16 at 6pm in the Glover Room. A dinner option is available. Future meetings will be on March 23, and April 27. If you are interested in joining, contact John Knox: jdknox162@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women

will meet on Monday, February 9th at 10 AM in Holland Hall. All women are welcome. Lunch will be served following the meeting. (\$7)

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Way of Wisdom: A study of the book of Proverbs

Beginning Tuesday, March 3, 2026 in the

9:30am-12:00pm | Room 055

Jen Wilkin, Ruth Chou Simons, Kelly Minter, Adrienne Camp, Elizabeth Woodson, and Courtney Doctor invite you to place your feet firmly on the path of life revealed in the book of Proverbs.

You don't have to know the bible to be a part of our group. Bring a friend! We are all learning!

Workbooks available from Amazon, Christianbook.com, Lifeway.com, ISBN 979-8384506874

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

Going Forward Widow(ers) Support Group

Meets monthly on Thursdays at 1pm in the Glover Room

Friends, neighbors, and community members welcome! If you would like to receive communications, please reach out to Gretchen Van Zile at atltrng@mindspring.com.

Autism Family Support Group

3rd Thursdays | 7pm | Room 051

This is a support group for families of those on the autism spectrum (any age) including information, speakers, connections to school and community resources, and group discussions. Contact Janet Lewis at drjanet770@gmail.com with questions.