



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MARIETTA

Sunday, September 27, 2026 | 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. Our doors are wide open. 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 children ages six weeks through 4 years old 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 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.

### **Join us**

New members are received each month in worship. If you are interested in joining, please contact Matt Burnham at [mattburnham2021@gmail.com](mailto:mattburnham2021@gmail.com).

### **Chancel Flowers**

There are dates available this summer and fall to provide flowers for worship.

Contact Mary Anne Lanier at [17lanier@gmail.com](mailto:17lanier@gmail.com).

# GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

*The color green marks the Sanctuary during the time after Pentecost. This season of the church year is a time when the church focuses on spiritual growth and discipleship.*

**Gathering Music**    *Romance” Suite from the Gadfly, Op 97a* | Shostakovich

## Welcome & Announcements

Introit *Chorister's Prayer* | Maloney

**\*Call to Worship** (*Psalm 25*)

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth, and teach me,**

**For you are the God of my salvation.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions,**

**According to your steadfast love remember me.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 687**    *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

## Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, Our Help and Our Hope,**

**Forgive us when we want to live by our own rules even though you provide instruction for abundant life.**

**We resent the limits you set and reach for more without being satisfied.**

**We resist your will for our lives for we are determined to do it our way or not at all.**

**In your mercy, lead us to new life.**

**In this silence, hear our confession.**

## 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*

**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.**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

(11am) **Children's Message**

**Hymn of Preparation** No. 821    *My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

**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**

*We Shall Walk Through the Valley* | Hogan  
The Chancel Choir

We shall walk through the valley in peace;  
We shall walk through the valley in peace;  
For Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,  
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no sorrow there;  
There will be no sorrow there.  
For Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,  
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no dying there;  
There will be no dying there.  
For Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,  
We will walk through the valley in peace.

## **GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Scripture Readings (NRSV)

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 | Matthew 21:23-32

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

**Sermon**            *“Which of the Two did the Will of His Father?”*

*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.

**Offering/Offertory**

*The Love of God* | Hamlin

**\*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**

## **GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE**

**\*Sending Hymn** No. 741

*Guide My Feet*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**

*The Peace of God* | Rutter

**\*Sending Music**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* | Kang

## Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor | Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood Parish Associate Pastor

Rev. Cassie Waits, Associate Pastor | Rev. Meri Kate Marcum, Associate Pastor

8:30am Beadle: Scott Suhr | 11am Beadle: Larisa Dukes

8:30am Acolyte: Deacon | 11am Acolyte: Harry Foster

Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts | The Chancel Choir

Daram Song, Associate Director of Music & Fine Arts | Will Myers, Violinist

8:30am AV: Will Myers | 11am AV: Will Myers, CJ Song, Thomas Foster

## Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given in honor of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren;  
and in remembrance of our parents, four brothers and sister by Susan and Russell Cummings.

Thank God for the blessings of our family.



## FPC Financial Snapshot

2026 Annual Budget: \$2,402,702 (as of 8/31/2026)

| Pledges Update<br>%Pledges received (to<br>budget) | Current Month-August<br><br>76.17% | Year-To-Date<br><br>74.11% |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                    |                                    |                            |
| Budget Update                                      | Current Month (August)             | Year-To-Date               |
| Total Revenues:                                    | \$167,269.83                       | \$1,740,602.28             |
| Total Expenses:                                    | \$218,130.11                       | \$1,533,051.57             |
| Net Total:                                         | ( \$ 50,860.28 )                   | \$ 207,550.71              |

## Church Leadership Recommendations Due 9/27

Did you know that this is a member-led church? Members, like you, are ordained to serve three-year terms as officers, then work alongside our pastors and staff to further the ministries and mission of the church. The Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) is now accepting recommendations for the ordained positions of elder and deacon. Please submit your recommendations at [fpcmarietta.org/onc-suggestions](http://fpcmarietta.org/onc-suggestions).

Paper copies are also available in the Gathering Space.

## Submissions for Advent Devotional Due 9/30

In Advent season, Christians celebrate the first coming of Christ. This year, the church will publish an Advent Devotional with the theme: Wise Men Still Seek Him. Each devotional must begin with a scripture, include reflections on the text and end with a prayer. If you would like to contribute to the 2026 Advent Devotional, please send your submission to [Jane.Manning@cobbcounty.gov](mailto:Jane.Manning@cobbcounty.gov).

## Adult Sunday School is Back in Session

New Seasons | 9:45am | Room 51

Introducing a New Series this Fall: Bible Stories We Never Heard in Sunday School

Salt and Pepper | 9:45am | Room 53

Scripture Seekers | 9:45am | Room 50

Rooted | 9:45am | Room 231

**SPECIAL SERIES COMING SOON: EXPLORING GENESIS WITH RABBI STEVEN LEBOW**

Sundays in October | 9:45am | Holland Hall

You are invited to participate in this interactive study of the first book of the Bible, led by Rabbi Steven Lebow, over a four-week period. Adult Sunday School classes are encouraged to attend.

## Children's Sunday School + Youth Meetings are Back!

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

3-4 Years Old | 9:45am | Patten Bldg | Room 104

K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade | 9:45am | Speed Bldg | Room 232

2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade | 9:45am | Cotton Bldg | Room 203

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade | 9:45am | Cotton Bldg | Room 216

### YOUTH MEETINGS

9/27 | Youth Meeting | 5-7pm | Youth Room

10/4 | Volunteer for Rise Against Hunger

10/10-11 | Chalktoberfest Parking Fundraiser

10/18 | Youth Meeting | 5-7pm | Youth Room

### FEED THE YOUTH



At FPC, we believe in building relationships across generations. Sign up to bring dinner to a Youth Meeting on Sunday evenings. Home-cooked meals or take-out is welcome, and we will cover the cost of the food! Stay for the meeting, share a meal and make meaningful connections.

## FPC Marietta Picnic

September 27 | Noon | Holland Hall



## Chili Cook-Off

October 25 | 5pm | Sign Up at the Picnic



## Blessing of the Animals

October 3, 2026 | 10am | Main Parking Lot



## FPC Wine Tasting Event at the Sloops

October 3, 2026

7-10pm

3503 Plum Tree Ct. NW  
Kennesaw, GA



You are invited to taste wine and dine at the home of Bob and Lynne Sloop! Bring an appetizer and a bottle of your favorite wine to share. Interested in joining a smaller wine tasting group of 8-12 people that meets monthly? Contact Bob Sloop at [rsloop47@gmail.com](mailto:rsloop47@gmail.com).



## FPC Marietta Meal Packaging Event

October 4, 2026 | 4-6pm | Great Hall

Rise Against Hunger works in countries around the globe to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. This fall, FPC Marietta will package 17,000 meals to donate abroad. We need your support to achieve this goal! Scan the QR code to volunteer to pack meals or help with event set up/clean up. Visit the Gathering Space or email [17lanier@gmail.com](mailto:17lanier@gmail.com) for more information.



SAVE THE DATE

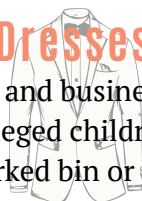
## CHALKTOBERFEST 2026

October 10-11, 2026 | Marietta Square  
Park at FPC to Support our Youth Program



## Donate Prom Gowns, Princess Dresses + Business Attire

We are collecting new and gently-worn evening wear and business attire for boys and girls ages 4-18. This drive benefits foster, adopted and underprivileged children. Please bring your donations to the Gathering Space. Items can be placed in the marked bin or hung in the closet through 9/27.



## Donate Paperback Books for Cobb County Jail Library

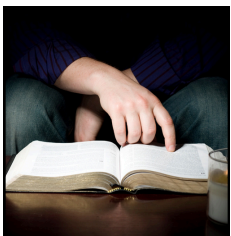
Thin out your bookshelves and donate some of those page-turners to support our Jail Ministry. Preferred genres include automotive, fantasy, horror, self-help, African-American authors, Spanish-language and world history. A donation bin is located in the Gathering Space.



## **FPC MARIETTA BOOK CLUB**

**Wednesday, October 14 | 6-7:30pm | Room 53 or via Zoom**

Connect with fellow book lovers at the FPC Marietta Book Club! It meets on the second Wednesday of each month. You can also participate via Zoom. The club will be discussing *Vanishing Act* by Thomas Perry during the October meeting. For more information, contact Nancy Jo Kirk at [njkirk@mindspring.com](mailto:njkirk@mindspring.com) or 678-986-3967.



## **FPC MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Fourth Mondays | 6pm | Glover Room**

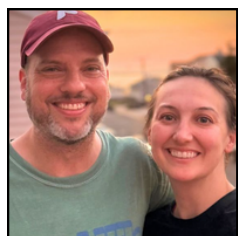
Develop a deeper relationship with God and other men of faith through Bible study, discussion, prayer and fellowship with the FPC Men's Group. This fall, the group will welcome FPC Marietta preachers as guest speakers. A dinner option is available. For more information, contact John Knox at [jdnox162@gmail.com](mailto:jdnox162@gmail.com).



## **TUESDAY LADIES BIBLE STUDY: SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**Tuesdays | 9:30am-Noon | Room 55**

Navigate these three chapters of the book of Matthew as they were originally heard and intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Questions? Contact Linda Bush at 770-856-8443 or [newbush@comcast.net](mailto:newbush@comcast.net).



## **ANCHORED: A BIBLE STUDY FOR YOUR 30s + 40s**

**10/1, 10/15, 10/29 | 7:30-9pm | Home of Joel + Aryl Schroter**

Bring your own Bible and beverage, as well as an appetizer to share. Young families with kids are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Blaine Clotfelter at [blaineclotfelter@gmail.com](mailto:blaineclotfelter@gmail.com).



## **NAMI COBB MENTAL HEALTH DROP-IN CENTER**

**Open Tuesday-Thursday | 1-4pm | Pre-Register Online**

The NAMI Cobb Mental Health Drop-In Center is now open on the lower level of the church. The center, which is the first of its kind in the state, offers peer support, activities, education and resources in a welcoming environment that promotes hope, connection and recovery. Learn more at [namicobb.org](http://namicobb.org).

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**FPCMARIETTA.ORG/FIND-YOUR-PLACE**

189 CHURCH STREET | MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30060 | 770-427-0293