



THE QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MARIETTA, GA



**Water wells,
conservation,
homegrown gardens,
and what you can do!**

Photo Credit: Marion Medical Mission

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Life in our “Neighborhood”

I’ve been interested in Warren Buffett’s sale and acquisition of newspapers over the past 15 or 20 years. I now understand that he sold most of them five years ago, but I remember him buying up dozens of them on the conviction that “the local community paper is really indispensable to the people of the community.”

In your hands is our church’s “local community paper,” and as local papers shutter their doors, this quarterly becomes a rare commodity. People need to read about the news of their neighborhood, the concerns of their neighbors, and especially the testimony of God at work among us. Please, take the time to read this quarter’s articles.

In this quarter’s issue you’ll read about how an unsightly spot on our church property was transformed into a garden, and how its produce makes its way into our church kitchen. You’ll hear the story of more than 40 trips to and from the MUST shelter in our church’s vans, and how one woman instills the love of reading in children while another opened a book shop to foster that love. You’ll also read about one couple’s response to the need for clean water in Africa. Likewise, you might be challenged to ponder what our response might be to pressing issues for our own community.

Read all about life in our “neighborhood.”



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by 'E' and a small flourish.

REV. JOE EVANS
SENIOR PASTOR

THANKS FOR READING THE QUARTERLY!

Thank you all for taking the time to read this edition of The Quarterly!

After the last edition, a few of you stopped by to offer ideas for articles or to share stories that might tell the Good News of God at work among us. Thank you!

Our team very much wants this to be a publication that enlightens, inspires, and uplifts. For that to continue, we need your feedback.

If you would, send an email to a team member and let us know what caught your eye in this edition. If there is something you want to see more of, share that with us as well.

And as always, if you have a story you'd like to share, let us know! Email our Director of Communications, Kelly Dewar, at KellyDewar@fpcmarietta.org or reach out to a team member below.

Our Team:

Jeff Byrd, column lead, Good News

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The Quarterly is available online at fpcmarietta.org/quarterly and in the Gathering Space, or you can have it delivered to you! To change how you receive it, go to your profile in Realm or email KellyDewar@fpcmarietta.org.

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The garden pictured was transformed in 2024 from an unsightly grease trap lid next to our main playground to a beautiful new space! We have Elizabeth Lisle to thank for its vision and implementation. Not only has Elizabeth provided members and visitors with another example of the beauty of God's creation but she has provided a welcoming home for pollinators and herbs for the delicious meals provided by Mary Beth Heise. In August consider using this gardening space when you participate in The Great Southeast Pollinator Census!

From Elizabeth: One of our Chancel Choir members was interested in growing fresh herbs, but didn't have room for a garden at the Brumby Lofts. I'd just come from Cobb County Water's rain garden class, and his comment got me thinking about how many people cut through from Kennesaw Avenue along our back sidewalk, bringing their children to the playground, or walking to Marietta Square. Why not plant herbs and flowers to share?

From there, the idea blossomed: a diverse collection of native plants, with bright blooms for butterflies and seed heads for birds; and everything in the garden would be safe for children to touch, taste, and smell. Mary Beth Heise rounded out the garden with her recommendations for culinary herbs to use year-round in the church kitchen.

My favorite native flowers for wildlife were the coneflowers and gloriosa daisies for their cheerful colors, and sturdy stems that you can leave all winter for birds to feed. Basil, parsley, rosemary and three kinds of mint are planted around the outside edges, so it's easy to sample a single leaf, or pinch off a few sprigs to take home! I placed Mediterranean herbs like lavender, thyme and oregano in large flower pots on top of the storm drain, so they would always dry quickly, and camouflage the drain without obstructing it.



Garden to Table Backyard Gardening and Cooking as a spiritual practice

A Minute with Mary Beth Heise

Mary Beth is our Food Ministry Coordinator. She provides delicious, healthy meals for many of our ministries. Her attention to detail and presentation, along with quality food, are a gift to the church.

What was your childhood like? I was raised in Columbus, Ohio. I am the oldest of nine: 5 girls and 4 boys. All of us attended Catholic schools and we received all the sacraments. I was a "little mom" of sorts. I always helped with diaper changing, bathing, and feeding. My sisters especially were like having real live baby dolls.

When did you discover the art of cooking? I grew up with a nanny. She was a retired army nurse. She lived with us most of the time. Mother was a parochial high school teacher and was gone by 7am. Our nanny showed me how to cook hot cereal, all kinds of eggs, and make breakfast for my siblings. Cinnamon sugar toast was always a favorite - 1/2 loaf in the oven! She showed me how to read recipes, make cakes and icing from scratch and bake bread.



Mary Beth and Liam Coleman preparing Jubilee's February luncheon

There were always special tea towels used to cover the bread after it cooled. She kept an immaculate kitchen; not just clean, but tidy with the proper things in their proper place. I always was allowed to help for holidays, and I had my own special apron! She taught me measurements and the value of getting it right.

When it comes to the kitchen, what brings you the most joy?

So many people coming in and out all day long...Always needing something be it food, just a snack or drink, or to wash hands. Our kitchen was big and something was going on in there all the time. There was a small table in the corner with four chairs. Most times, all four chairs were in use for homework, cutting out paper dolls, or doing puzzles.

So the kitchen was central to everything and it is where we truly spent time together. My siblings weren't much on learning to cook, but they were always happy to watch and eat! I loved it!

What about working with food do you consider a spiritual practice?

I have always believed that if home and hearth, work, and personal time were in harmony then all would be right in the world, at least in my world.

That balance, along with gratitude is what brings calm and happiness to me. There is a phrase "mise en place," a French term meaning all ingredients in place. If mise en place is not practiced, you risk an unfavorable outcome with the product. In those moments, I take a step back from the table, gather my thoughts, and bless the moment. I ask God to see it through to the table.

“ In those moments, I take a step back from the table, gather my thoughts, and bless the moment. I ask God to see it through to the table. ”

How did the herb garden come about?

One day last spring, I was leaving work and walked around the side of the building and saw Elizabeth Lisle working the soil and planting flowers and herbs. She has allowed me to help her ever since and FPC has shared in the bounty.

Did you know?!

Over 80 percent of the world's flowering plants require a pollinator to reproduce. The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is an annual event that seeks to generate data about pollinator populations, spot trends in those populations and note how they may be affected by weather.

Project Coordinator Becky Griffin started the census "in response to my work in community and school gardens. I was meeting gardeners who knew about soil health and plant selection but were lacking knowledge about insect ecosystems, especially pollinators. At the same time, I found that teachers were not usually trained in entomology so they were unlikely to educate their students about the insects they were finding in their school gardens."

Additional goals of the census include creating sustainable pollinator habitats and increasing entomological literacy. "We want students to go from "oooo, it's a bug" to "look at the tarsal claw on that bee!"

The census is designed for citizens of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida of all ages to participate, including school groups, gardeners, families and individuals. You do *not* need to be an entomologist to participate!

Join the 2025 count this August! Learn more at <https://gsepc.org/>



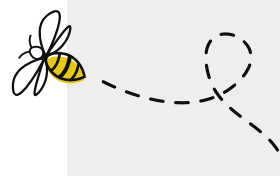
Backyard Gardeners: You're Invited to "Grow a Row!"

If you are like most vegetable gardeners, you are often overcome with too many peppers or tomatoes! You can only pickle so many cucumbers, right? Your solution is as close as your own pantry, that is The Pantry on Church at FPC!

During harvest months this spring, summer and fall, The Pantry will be collecting FPC member-grown veggies to be given out in our Tuesday evening food distribution line. Your contributions, whether they are from an extra prolific plant or an intentionally planted extra row, will make a difference to families in our community.

Help relieve food insecurity in our community. Consider our "grow a row" part of the Pantry's ministry. For more information, or if you want to be on our list of gardeners, please email Martie Moore:

MartieMoore@fpcmarietta.org

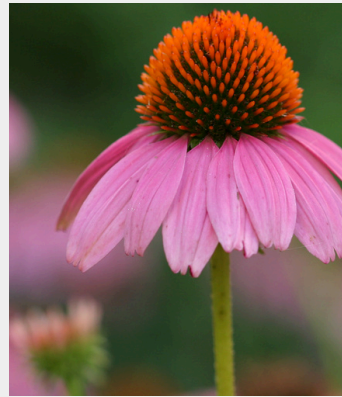


Plant A Backyard Bird Feeder

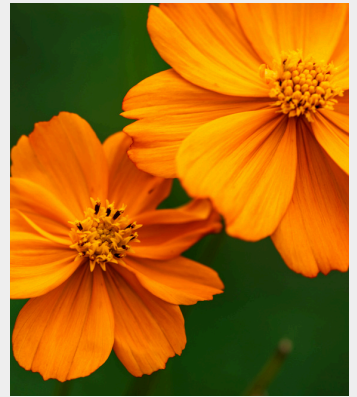
These cheery, full-sun pollinator plants are drought-tolerant and easy to grow from seed. Leave the flowers and stems after their petals drop, and birds will come to feed on the dried seed heads all winter. *Thank you to Elizabeth Lisle for these tips and suggestions!*



Gloriosa Daisy (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is exceptionally drought-tolerant once established, and grows up to 3' tall.



Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) is a sturdy, reliable perennial that grows 2' tall, with cultivars in pink, white, orange and coral.



Cosmos (*Cosmos sulphureus*) is a fast-growing annual that can grow 3-5 feet tall, and reseeds easily around the garden.

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) is a vigorous perennial that spreads through seeds and underground rhizomes.



SAVE THE DATE!

FPC's 1st Annual GARDEN TOUR

ON APRIL 26, JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF LOCAL GARDENS DESIGNED BY FPC MEMBERS

Volunteers needed! If you are interested in helping prepare for this event, please email Bill Needs: billneeds@mindspring.com

Marion Medical Mission provides only what the villages cannot

by Tom Logan, Founder, Marion Medical Mission

Marion Medical Mission (MMM) is an ecumenical, Christian, front-line, hands-on, volunteer, nonprofit organization. Our purpose is to share the love of Christ with the extreme poor in Africa. We do this through the Well Program by providing a sustainable source of safe drinking water while working hand in hand in a horizontal relationship with our African partners.

Since 1990, MMM has provided over 5 million of the extreme poor (3 million of whom are children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. A Marion Medical Mission well costs only \$475. To build a well, the village makes the brick and provides the sand and stone and unskilled labor. MMM supplies only what the villages cannot: the cement, Mark V galvanized steel pump, PVC pipe, and skilled African well builders. Subsistence farmers who are well maintenance people make the Mark V galvanized steel pumps in 3 workshops (one in Malawi, one in Zambia, and one in Tanzania). Sustainability is the key to the program's success. A Marion Medical Mission well is a well the extreme rural poor know how to maintain and can afford to maintain.

- Safe drinking water means children won't die from waterborne diseases. Not just the year the well is built, but the next year, and the next year, and the next year...
- Safe drinking water means healthier people who work longer in their fields producing more food, and that means less starvation. Not just the year the well was built, but the next year, and the next year...
- An MMM well means the children can attend school.
- At each and every well the village people are told their well is special because Christians in the United States shared the love of Jesus with them. What do these people think of Christianity and what do they think of the United States? Sharing the love of Jesus is the best defense against war and terror.
- 100% of all designated donations go to their designated purposes.
- 100% of all undesignated donations go to the mission field in Africa
- No overhead or administrative costs are deducted.
- MMM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-deductible corporation.
- For each \$475 well donation, MMM sends the donor a picture of the specific well(s) their funds built



MMM wells are technologically appropriate and can be built in the most remote areas. The extreme poor can afford to maintain their well for approximately \$10 a year. This provides the needed spare parts and the trained village maintenance person. The village Well Committee inspects their well weekly.

MMM's infrastructure on the ground in Africa is superb. There are four Well Programs each run by an African Coordinator. Two in Malawi, one in Zambia, and one in Tanzania. There are 21 African Field Officers, 104 African Installation Supervisors, 1,100 certified African well builders, and 4,000 trained village maintenance people. Our program covers roughly 60,000 sq. miles in Northern and Central Malawi, Southwestern Tanzania, Eastern Zambia, and Northwestern Mozambique.

MMM projects are done in partnership with our sister churches: The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, the Synods of Livingstonia and Nkhoma in Malawi, and the Synod of Zambia in Zambia. In Tanzania, we work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the Konde and Iringa Dioceses.

Every year, U.S. volunteers pay their living expenses and travel expenses to and from Africa. Volunteers work directly with those who benefit from our projects in Africa. They personally travel, personally audit, and personally work hand in hand with God's people.

UNICEF reports 4,000 children worldwide die each day because of unsafe drinking water. Over 90 million people in the rural areas of Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique lack access to safe drinking water. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the largest source of disease is from unsafe drinking water. The average distance a woman in Africa walks to collect water is 6 kilometers or 3.7 miles. Half of Sub-Saharan Africa's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from a water-related disease. Providing nothing other than access to clean water, without any other medical intervention, could save 2 million lives a year.

MMM projects directly impact the African people and stress self-help and sustainability. Everything is purchased, manufactured, maintained and administered in Africa by Africans.

To learn more, go to www.mmmwater.org.



After graduating high school, Tom Logan, Founder and President of Marion Medical Mission, spent time hitchhiking through Africa. His father, a Presbyterian pastor had previously traveled to countries such as India, Japan, and Africa (where he met Albert Schweitzer). During Tom's travels, he found his way to Schweitzer, as well, and through the help of an interpreter (Schweitzer only spoke German and French), worked alongside him in the leper colonies. Because of Schweitzer's reputation in Africa, Tom's relationship with him allowed him to safely complete his travels before returning home.

Tom writes: "After graduating from high school in 1961, at age 18, I took a solo hitchhiking trek through Africa (Ghana, Cameroun, Gabon, South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya, Ethiopia). I spent two months with Dr. Albert Schweitzer at his hospital and leper colony in Lambaréné, Gabon.

***Albert Schweitzer (January 14, 1875 – September 4, 1965)** was a theologian, organist, musicologist, author, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician. He received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize "for his altruism philosophy, "Reverence for Life", and tireless humanitarian work which helped make the idea of brotherhood between men and nations a living one." He used the money from the prize to build the Lambaréné leper colony. Leprosy is a terrifying disease causing severe and disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage commonly resulting in fingers and toes to rot and fall off. Schweitzer's philosophy was expressed in many ways, but most famously in founding and sustaining the Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon. When I met Dr. Schweitzer in 1962, he was 86 years old, yet his spirit of love was a light you could see."*

*An introduction to his book *When You Pray, Move Your Feet*, states that when "Ethiopia was devastated by famine in 1985, Tom and his wife, Jocelyn, were dismayed to find that 40 percent of the contribution they'd made to a large charity had gone to overhead for the organization. Feeling that there had to be a better way to get aid directly to people in need, Tom went back to Africa himself." This ultimately led to the creation of sustainable water wells through Marion Medical Mission in 1985.*

Tom's work in social justice is not limited to the Marion Medical Mission. He has also worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in voter registration drives, spent time with Palestinian refugees in Jerusalem, and worked in a Kibbutz in Israel. In the 1970s, he developed and built low income housing projects in 10 southern Illinois towns.

Today, Tom and Jocelyn continue to work in partnership to meet the needs of some of the most marginalized people while preserving their dignity. To learn more, go to www.mmmwater.org.



WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO CONSERVE WATER

Leaving the faucet running can waste 2 gallons of water in only 1 minute. So, turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, shaving and when soaping up your hands. And take shorter showers.

A faucet that leaks a drop per second can waste about 5 gallons of water a day, which is nearly enough to run an average dishwasher load, so fix leaky faucets as soon as you see them. And always be sure to close faucets completely when you are finished using them.

Run only full loads in clothes and dish washers. The US Department of Energy estimates the average household could save 3400 gallons of water per year if it only runs clothes washers with full loads.

Finally, recycle because more water is used in manufacturing when using only raw materials. Recycling a ton of paper can save 7000 gallons of water.

So be eco-friendly and economically smart.
Save water!

Justice & Water

by Sandy McQueen, Co-Moderator, Presbyterian Women

The Bible opens with creation stories in which water plays a prominent role. In Genesis 1, water is the chaos from which sky and land are separated; in Genesis 2, water is added for fertility in the Garden of Eden. Water is essential for life! Too much or too little upends life.

So where do justice and water intersect? Should we be concerned that the Dakota Access pipeline could spill oil and gas into water ways used by the Lakota and Dakota Oyate tribes? How do we respond when “forever PFA chemicals” are dumped by DuPont and find their way into the Ohio River? Should we care that Nestle uses springs in California, Florida, and Michigan as their sources for bottled water while leaving these communities with low levels of water for their own use, or when sewage leaks in metro Atlanta flow into our local streams?

Droughts occur on every continent often causing widespread famine among those who can least afford it, and those whose health is already compromised by poverty. Climate change often leads to unprecedented flooding as recently seen in the aftereffects of Hurricane Helene.

What are “just responses” to these situations?

In northern Africa, organizations, including the church, are trying to reforest the Sahara’s edges and slow desertification. India, Bolivia, Panama, and the city of Pittsburgh, PA. have granted rivers full legal status so that polluting or damaging them is now legally equivalent to harming a human.

These are some of the challenges and resolutions discussed last fall in our Water and Justice unit in Presbyterian Women (PW). Join PW in discussing these and other creation care issues!



The 2024-2025 Presbyterian Women study is *Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*

Upcoming Meeting Dates:
Sunday, Feb. 23 | 5pm
Monday, March 12 | 10am
Sunday, March 16 | 5pm

THE JOY OF SERVICE

By Jeff Byrd

If you would like to join our transportation team, please send a note to jeffbyrdis@gmail.com.

Cold hands, warm hearts—could be a bumper sticker for a network of organizations, churches, and volunteers who support our community’s homeless people on the coldest nights of the year. And this year has been really cold, with subfreezing temperatures on 25 of 31 nights in January alone.

Much of the heavy lifting is done by MUST Ministries and Transfiguration Catholic Church.

- MUST’s Hope House is a fulltime shelter that provides housing for 136 residents. When overnight temperatures are expected to fall below 35 degrees, MUST also provides warm meals and respite beds for up to 70 additional men, women, and children.
- When demand exceeds supply at MUST (and it always does when temperatures fall below freezing), Transfiguration steps up and provides warm meals and beds for up to 20 additional women.

FPC provides transportation—getting women back and forth between Hope House and Transfiguration. We have a small, but mighty group of volunteers—including 21 church members and four members from our community. Between December 1 and January 31, this group has:

- Made 35 trips in our vans between Transfiguration and Hope House (often meeting in the church parking lot as early as 6:30 a.m. with temperatures in the teens);
- Filled 162 volunteer positions; and
- Provided transportation to 647 women who otherwise would have been spending the night in cars, storage lockers, doorways, etc.



The joy of service is a real thing—and quite often we end up getting more than we give. For example, one morning in mid-January I visited with Maria during the 20-minute drive from Transfiguration to Hope House. Maria appeared to be in her early 20s; was one of the more profound and articulate people I have ever met; and she lives in a tent.

I did not learn what led to Maria’s recent homelessness, but I did learn about her plans to emerge from it.

- She keeps a journal—writing down her daily highs and lows and using that information to develop everyday skills for creating more highs and fewer lows.
- She spends her days applying and interviewing for jobs (relying on computers available at MUST and libraries, and public transit). Her lack of transportation (and even a cell phone) complicates her efforts to find work, but she remains committed, upbeat, and hopeful.

And in the meantime, she believes God is calling her to elevate the spirit, hope, and drive of the homeless community she now finds herself in.

No words. . . but what a privilege it was to meet her.

Radical Hospitality

by Dr. Brennan Breed

reprinted from the September 2019 edition of the FPC News

Unless you were part of the vanishingly small elite class, the ancient Near East was a brutal place to live. Resources were scarce and excess food and water were almost nonexistent. Local communities were wary of any wandering foreigners. In this respect, ancient Israel is an oddity among their neighbors: they insist, again and again, that their God, Yahweh, demands that the entire community welcome strangers. Their stories repeat this theme (see Genesis 18 and Ruth 1-4), and their legal codes, found in the Torah, make the requirement to offer hospitality to the stranger binding.

In the book of Exodus, just after Yahweh gives the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, this command becomes part of the covenant: “You shall not wrong or oppress an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 22:21). The Hebrew word here translated alien, “ger,” refers to someone on a journey — in other words, this isn’t about people with immigrant grandparents or long-settled individuals.

In the book of Leviticus, the Israelites are commanded to provide food for all those who are needy: “You shall leave [excess crops] for the poor and the alien” (Leviticus 19:10). Moreover, Israelites are supposed to treat foreigners exactly as they treat one of their kin, or even how they treat themselves:

“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:34). The Israelites are also commanded to give full legal protections to foreign visitors: “You shall have one law for the alien and for the citizen” (Leviticus 24:22), and “You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice” (Deuteronomy 24:17). This is all in the same chapter as the famous declaration quoted by Jesus himself to sum up all the law: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18). The basic point seems clear: if even the wandering alien is your neighbor, then everyone is. Neighborliness is incredibly important in the Bible, but if everyone is made in God’s image, and if God cares about everyone, then your neighbor is quite literally anyone who comes near to you.

This attitude of radical hospitality to the vulnerable is utterly bizarre in its cultural setting. Among several law codes from the ancient Near East that survive today (Hammurabi’s code is merely one of them), none say anything at all about welcoming, protecting or loving strangers. Except, that is, the law codes found in the Bible. The New Testament is very similar: welcoming the vulnerable is welcoming Jesus himself.

When Jesus sums up the law with “Love your neighbor as yourself,” he is quoting from Leviticus — and the same chapter that defines “the alien” as one of those neighbors. Likewise, when he tells the surprising story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is identifying neighbors with those considered foreign — even the “dangerous” ones like Samaritans. Breaking down the walls that divide us and treating everyone we meet as the image of God seems to be a crucial part of the gospel from the very beginning (Gen 1:26-27).

Not only is Jesus a descendent of a foreign refugee (Matthew 1:5), he himself was a refugee in Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23). If the point isn’t clear enough, Matthew 25:37-40 hammers it home: God is present especially in the vulnerable, including the needy stranger, and when you refuse them, you are refusing Jesus himself (see also Hebrews 13:2). Anyone calling themselves a Christian, or anyone who says that they value the Bible, must then welcome the vulnerable stranger. It is not simply a recommendation or a cultural affectation of the ancient world. It is a core commitment of the God whom the Bible claims to depict. God has issued an order: love the stranger. If you count yourself in this group, then let’s get to work.

If you are interested in further discussion around this theme, please email Kelly Dewar at KellyDewar@fpcmarietta.org.

The Reading Attic

by Nancy Jo Kirk

Nancy Jo leads our Around the Neighborhood column. Please reach out to Nancy Jo at njkirk@mindspring.com if you have a story to share.

The Reading Attic was opened on the Marietta Square in June 2023 by Caroline Tillman and her mother, Elizabeth Kunez, member at FPC Marietta. Elizabeth shares her daughter's love for reading and both give Caroline's grandmother credit for nurturing that love. Caroline's grandmother had a library in her home and whenever they visited, her grandchildren were invited to choose a book to be read to them before bedtime. Being around bookstores reminds Caroline of her grandmother's love and the elephant logo for The Reading Attic is a tribute to her grandmother's collection of elephant paintings and figures. Caroline grew up in Marietta and started her career in online marketing, transitioning to project manager for Home Depot. When she decided to follow her dream and open a bookstore, she brought that experience with her, with Elizabeth contributing her business and financial expertise. The lack of a bookstore on the Marietta Square gave Caroline and Elizabeth the last bit of incentive needed to turn dream into reality, and the Marietta Square is a more vibrant business community as a result of that decision.

Once you climb the stairs to the second floor at 21 West Park Square, you can enjoy perusing the shelves of books organized by genre in several different rooms, or you can sit in rooms with wide windows overlooking the Square with a lap full of books, selecting your favorites to take home. The Reading Attic sells new books, specializing in children's books and books by Georgia authors, while still offering a wide variety of novels and nonfiction works. The staff is happy to work with local book clubs to supply books on their reading lists and will gladly special-order books to fulfill their customers' needs and reading desires.

The Reading Attic expanded downstairs into an area adjoining the gift shop of Tiny Bubbles Tea Shop to provide access to those in a hurry or unable to climb the stairs to the second floor. It features a smaller collection of top sellers and children's books and upon request someone will be glad to retrieve books from the upstairs collection from which you can select your next page-turner. The bookstore is open Tues/Wed 11-6, Thurs/ Fri 11-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5.



FPC Marietta

BOOK CLUB

Where? Room 053

When? 2nd Wednesdays
each month | 6-7:30pm

All are welcome!

You can also join us on ZOOM! Contact njkirk@mindspring.com for the link.

Upcoming Books

March 12: *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz

April 9: *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick

May 14: *North Woods* by Daniel Mason

The Reading Attic hosts a variety of activities for book lovers including book clubs. Currently there is a once-a-month Thursday night club whose recent books include *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell and *At Home in the World* by Joyce Maynard, and a book club that meets the last Saturday of the month with the February 22nd discussion about *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. December marked the inaugural book club for children, hosted by Fields, the (literal) shop dog. The discussions are expected to appeal to those 7 – 12 years of age and include a snack and craft option. The next discussion on February 9 is *Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs and copies are available for purchase.

The Reading Attic provides opportunities to meet authors and get your books signed. Those in February include:

Feb 20 @5pm, DL Mitchell, *Mystery*

Feb 23 @ 1pm, Hannah Dollinger, *Romantasy*

If you are on the Square and want to take a break, climb the stairs to the main store of The Reading Attic or investigate books on the lower level and be taken back in time to the favorite book place of your childhood.

At <https://www.thereadingattic.com/> you can sign up for The Reading Attic newsletter and receive monthly information about current events.



Mother Goose teaches *I'm a Little Tea Pot*.
Watch a video here or go to fpcmarietta.org/quarterly

A Minute with Mother Goose

What better way to honor Read Across America week (which begins March 2) than talk to FPC Preschool's very own Mother Goose! Carey Pearce was kind enough to answer a few questions about her special role with our Preschool students.

Tell us a little bit about your background as a teacher. *I had wanted to be a teacher since I was a young girl. I guess watching my mother, grandmother and aunts teach helped me decide on that vocation. So getting my Elementary Education degree at Furman University sealed the deal. Through the years I have taught second grade in Georgia and several other preschool programs in Texas and South Carolina. My first experience as Mother Goose was in my own children's elementary school.*

After moving to Georgia in 1986, an announcement for a preschool teacher in the FPC bulletin caught my attention and I began teaching here with the four year old's class. I really like that age group and their thirst for learning new things.

When and why did you make the move from an official teacher role to Mother Goose? *In 2007 I took a break from teaching to care for my mother who was in declining health in South Carolina. When she passed, I decided that I wanted to come back to the preschool, but in a different role. The director at that time suggested doing a Mother Goose program for all age groups at the preschool. I had been doing it with my own classes for many years.*

So Mother Goose began! I come three days each month except December and January, dress up like Mother Goose and teach each age group the nursery rhymes.

What makes nursery rhymes so important in early childhood education? *Saying nursery rhymes is a child's first experience in building reading skills. Also the repeating of nursery rhymes promotes speech development and good language skills.*

In my classes we repeat the rhymes many times and act out each rhyme while developing many basic motor skills.

Do you have a favorite Mother Goose rhyme? *I do not have a favorite nursery rhyme, but the preschool children definitely love "Jack Be Nimble" the best because they love jumping over the candlestick!*

Looking for your place at FPC?

FPC has small groups for every age and interest! Go to fpcmarietta.org/get-involved

Interest groups include bike riding, card groups, dinner groups, music choirs, and more! Bible studies are held throughout the week, and Sunday School classes are available for all ages!

In need of care? Ask for a Stephen Minister, or join one of our support groups. A new group for widows/widowers is starting up soon. Perhaps your family member has a mental illness or a new autism diagnosis - there is a support group for you!

Looking to give back to the community? Take a look at opportunities with Club 3:30, The Pantry on Church, our refugee support partners in Clarkston, and more!



Spring Concerts:

Tuesday, March 18 | 7pm | Sanctuary

Duo Arpeggione

(cellist Dr. Claudio Jaffe & pianist Dr. Catherine Lan)

Tuesday, March 25 | 7pm | Sanctuary

Eurasia Trio (Qiao Chen Solomon: Violinist and professor
Martin Gueorguiev: Cellist, Paolo Andre Gualdi: Pianist)

1835 Legacy Society Invitation

You are invited to kick off the 1835 Legacy Society of First Presbyterian Church of Marietta.

Please register (via QR code) for the luncheon to be held on Sunday, March 30 from 12:15-2:00pm to learn more!



Guest speaker Reverend Dana Waters, Ministry Relations Officer of Presbyterian Foundation, will present Steps to a Legacy Gift.

Need help? Email AndrewTatnall@fpcmarietta.org.

Save the Dates!

February 24: Human Trafficking Panel

March 2: Ordination/Installation of Church Officers

March 5: Ash Wednesday

March 18: Duo Arpeggione Concert

March 23: Children & Youth Sunday (11am)

March 25: Eurasia Trio Concert

March 30: Legacy Society Luncheon

April 13: Palm Sunday

April 14-18: Holy Week Mid-Day Services and Lunch

April 17: Maundy Thursday

April 18: Good Friday

April 20: Easter Sunday

April 26: FPC Garden Tour



FPC SWAG STORE

Need an FPC shirt, mug,
tote bag, and more?!

Our own Swag Store is coming soon!

Online Giving Update!

We've made it easier than ever for you to give to FPC. We've switched to Realm eGiving, which allows you to give online, through our Realm Connect mobile app or online at fpcmarietta.org/give. Make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts, and consider covering the processing fees so your gifts go even further for our ministry.

If you set up a recurring gift or pledge on Pushpay, please cancel it, and set up a new recurring gift through Realm!

Need help navigating Realm eGiving or setting up your recurring gift? Email ChristyLines@fpcmarietta.org.

Lent & Easter



Lent - March 5-April 17

The Season of Lent marks the forty days of preparation for Easter. During these forty days prepare your heart for the Resurrection through fasting and repentance as we remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert tempted by the devil fasting in the wilderness.

40 for 40

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 can be found in the Gathering Space and online at fpcmarietta.org/events

Lenten Book Recommendation

Perhaps you saw the movie Bonhoeffer and are curious about his life and theology. Or you might just be looking for a book to read for Lent. Bonhoeffer's [Meditations on the Cross](#) is ideal for devotional reading. "The cross and the resurrection were central themes for Bonhoeffer's theology. These excerpts from sermons and letters contain his personal and faithful words about the crucifixion and the power of the cross for all Christians." (www.pcusastore.com)

Looking for something different?
Check out Ann Weems' [Kneeling in Jerusalem](#) or J. Barrie Shepherd's [A Pilgrim's Way](#).

Ash Wednesday - March 5

Service at 7pm in the 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.

Holy Week Mid-Day Services - April 14-18

11:50am Devotional in the Sanctuary, followed by lunch

Lenten Art and Photography Exhibit

held in conjunction with Holy Week Mid-Day Services

Artists, look for details coming soon!

Volunteers will be needed, as well, to help with this exhibit!

Maundy Thursday - April 17

Service at 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 18

Service at 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. Seven different preachers from our congregation will offer a brief homily based on one of the seven last words that Jesus uttered before he breathed his last.

Easter Sunday - April 20

Services at 8:30 and 11:00am

Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday is the most important day of the Church Year. We celebrate that "He is Risen!" Indeed, he has conquered death and sin by rising from the dead. Christ has won victory over the grave.

All services are livestreamed at fpcmarietta.org/virtual-worship



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Sundays at FPC Worship at 8:30am and 11:00am

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship

8:30 & 11:00am In Person and Online
Online at fpcmarietta.org/live-stream
Dial in to 678-722-8395

Children & Youth Sunday School 9:45-10:45am

Go to fpcmarietta.org/children for holiday schedules
Children 3yr Preschool - 1st Grade (Upper Level)
Children Grades 2-5 (Upper Level)
Youth Grades 6-12 (Lower Level)

Adult Sunday School 9:45-10:45am

Find details at fpcmarietta.org/adults

Youth Group

Sundays from 5-7pm in the Youth Room (lower level)
Grades 6-12

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 inquire at the Front Desk.

Worship Flowers Reserve your date today and provide beautiful worship flowers on Sunday. Please contact Mary Anne Lanier: 17lanier@gmail.com.

New members are received each month in worship. If you are interested in joining, please contact Ken Farrar: kenfarrar@icloud.com

Get Involved There are a lot of opportunities to get involved at FPC. Wondering where to start? Check out upcoming events at fpcmarietta.org/events or find a full catalog of offerings at fpcmarietta.org/get-involved.