

THE QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MARIETTA, GA



FROM YOUR PASTOR

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

Of course we don't perceive it! We're too busy watching the news and staring at our phones, right? To take in the majesty of creation or the many ways that God is at work in our world demands our full attention. So please, stop what you're doing, put aside what you're worried about, rest from your distractions for just a moment to read about some of the ways God is at work in our church.

In this issue you'll hear about ministry that was happening over the summer. Did you know that an army of volunteers was driving through Marietta neighborhoods distributing lunches to school age kids all summer long?

Have you heard about the ministry happening behind the bars of the Cobb County Jail?

Do you know the name, Walter Brueggeman? Are you mindful of his legacy on multiple members of our church staff?

Or did you know that 25% of our congregation has been a member for five years or less? And that those who join our church often come with palpable enthusiasm?

Read on and give thanks to God for the good He has done!



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a 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.

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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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Have you ever wondered if the church takes the summer off?

GODSPELL, JR

Summer doesn't slow down at FPC, especially for those who serve tirelessly in providing music for worship every week. This summer, under the leadership of Katie Waters, we added a week-long musical theater camp featuring Godspell, Jr.



Our camp included 19 children and youth, 10 of whom were not from FPC families. Katie used her experience as a Missoula Children's Theater director to engage students to

create their own stagecraft, work as teams to memorize lines, sing solos, duets, and choruses.

Each six-hour day was filled with fun and games that taught teamwork, built trust, and developed confidence. The week ended with a complete run-through of the show for over sixty guests. The students were delightful.

We have some very bright stars shining in our midst!



MEXICO BUILD

May 26-June 2 2025 Erroll Eckford, Rod Martin and John Knox flew to Renacimiento, Mexico and constructed an altar for our friends and longtime mission partners at Casa Samuel to enhance their worship space. They also tore down an old building to make way for a new school soon to be built.



JUNETEENTH EVENT

Supporting local community events is a great way to introduce residents to all that FPC has to offer. Pastor Joe Evans had the honor of starting the 2025 Juneteenth Celebration Saturday activities with a welcoming message.

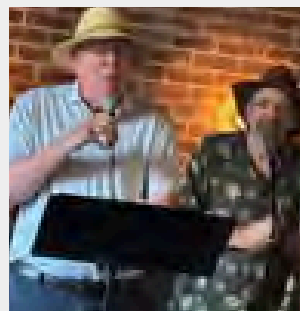


Several volunteers, led by Rose Wing, manned the FPC booth handing out hand sanitizers, lemonade and information about our church. Volunteers answered questions and invited many to visit FPC.

PANTRY CELEBRATION



There was a full house at the Pantry on Church's 5th birthday party on July 27 at Two Birds Taphouse! This annual event was made possible by new taphouse owner and Pantry supporter, Briton Nevitt, and her accommodating staff. Nancy Brinitzer was our extraordinary volunteer who gathered sponsors for the raffle from Marietta businesses: Downey & Cleveland LLP (FPC member Chris Harrison), Church Street Keeping Room, K Mike Whittle Florist, The Local Exchange (FPC member Marion Savic), Mac's Chop House and Raw Bar, Marietta Proper, Sugar Cakes, The Strand Theatre, West Cobb Hallmark, Jim 'N Nicks Bar-B-Q, Los Magueys, Mud Creek Market, Satoria, Small Cakes, West Cobb Diner, and Wildflower Hair Salon.



Everyone enjoyed the music of FPC's On Demand performers, and some even danced! The \$11,780 raised will help our Pantry on Church ministry provide relief for our food insecure neighbors in Marietta and Cobb County.

Pantry volunteers do more than just party! Each week over 300 families are provided with food right outside FPC's front doors. Providing this food is possible only because an average of 19 people each Tuesday morning bag items of produce at Sweetwater Missions in Austell and an average of 36 people each Tuesday evening show up to direct traffic, collect data, and cheerfully load food into vehicles regardless of the weather, and this is summer in Georgia, folks! In June and July nearly 1000 total volunteer hours were contributed by members of this congregation and other friends from the community.

In addition to food, diapers, feminine hygiene products, pet food and books are provided. Sometimes additional skills are required so don't be surprised to see a volunteer repairing the bicycle of an un-housed recipient, whose mode of transport is solely the bicycle. Nearly 500 prayer requests were submitted by the recipients of food and were lifted up by members of this congregation. This is a congregation that finds a need and fills it.



MUST SUMMER LUNCH

MUST Summer Lunch donors and volunteers at the FPC distribution site this year were comprised of members from FPC Marietta, First United Methodist Church, the Marietta community, and PORCH.

And we gave out more than food! Books were donated by FPC Preschool families, members of FPC and others. As important as the tangible items are, the welcoming and smiling faces of each of our drivers and riders showed the grateful children and their families that their community cares about them and we are glad they live among us.

The morning crew at New Country 101-FIVE, Kincaid and Dallas, volunteered with us on July 11, packing kids kits and going out with Joanne MacDonald and Denise Lobodinski on a route. Check out the interview on the New Country 101 Facebook page.

This program brings hope. A Georgia Power driver approached LouAnn Sago and Richard Hoyler as they were handing out food in a neighborhood and said, "Y'all are such a blessing bringing this food. I was a recipient of those bags as a kid, and it really helped out my family." On the last delivery day, an Uber eats driver came up to Denise Lobodinski and Mikel Vann and said, "Thank you for feeding hungry children here in Marietta. As a member of the community, I thank you and God bless you."

WEEKLY

340
children received kits

40
volunteer Hours

52
volunteers

18
neighborhoods and
apartment complexes



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Despite steady, full-time employment with Cobb County, D and his wife Dreika have been unable to find decent, affordable housing in the county he serves. Instead, they have been living with their blended family in a small, crowded, run-down townhome just outside of Cobb.

With the help of Habitat for Humanity and the Cobb Interfaith Coalition, D and Dreika's dream of home ownership is now coming true. Twenty volunteers from FPC worked cheerfully alongside D on July 11 to install siding and insulation on his family's new home. Five additional FPC volunteers assisted with landscaping in mid-August. D and Dreika are very grateful for the outpouring of support. We are truly blessed to take part in this happy endeavor.



Many thanks to Grant Trotter for his leadership of our Habitat mission over the past eight years. We appreciate Joshua Price, who has stepped up to lead this mission in 2026. But above all, we are very grateful to our congregation—your continuing generosity and support are what make this important work possible.



MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

The theme for the [Montreat] conference was Light My Path, and we focused on how God and others can guide us through life. In my small group, I was able to meet new people and hear how they interpreted the keynote messages and worship each day. This gave me a deeper understanding of who God is and why He works the way He does. Throughout the conference, I strengthened relationships with people in our youth group and made new connections with others from across the country. Each Montreat experience is different, but it's always one of the best parts of my year. If you ever have the chance to attend the youth conference—even as an adult—I highly recommend it. Montreat holds a special place in my heart, and it's where I always feel closest to God.

Lydia Marcum, FPC Youth Deacon



PUERTO RICO



FPC Marietta Youth and two chaperones worked 160 hours at a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance site in San Juan, Puerto Rico in June. The youth worked alongside Puerto Ricans at the food pantry warehouse restocking shelves, cataloging food and donated items, and packing USDA boxes for distribution.



Other projects included helping a church move items in preparation for selling off property and painting the terrace at La Casona de Monteflores house site, where the group stayed.

The youth team participated in Sunday worship at Iglesia Presbiteriana Rvdo. Ramón Olivo Robles. Later in the week, they ate a meal there, and spent the evening with the church's youth. During free time, the group visited the beach, the El Yunque National Forest, Old San Juan, and took a kayak trip to a bioluminescent bay.

ROAD RULES

At 7:15AM on June 22, seven middle school youth and two chaperones set off on Road Rules 2025! Road Rules is a five-night mission trip during which the destinations are unknown to the participating youth. The surprise element is quite fun!

This year, we had many adventures as we traveled to seven cities in the southeastern United States, Clemson, SC, Charlotte, NC, and Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Hendersonville, Nashville, and Chattanooga, TN.



We strengthened relationships, met new friends, completed five missions, and served hundreds along the way.

Our mission activities included restocking a small pantry with nonperishable goods the youth group provided, making



sandwiches, using supplies purchased from FPC parking lot fundraising for an urban ministry distribution, and clearing planting rows and shoveling compost on a farm that employs developmentally challenged adults. We also

engaged warmly with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to set up a room for a concert at their school and cleaned up afterward. Despite the heat and dirt, the students appeared to enjoy the work at Old School Farm the most.

All was not work, however, and fun activities included visiting Dollywood and attending a Clemson baseball game where our own Gwinnett Strippers were the visiting team!

Play cards.
 Serve others.
 Ride a bike.
 Discuss books.
 Garden.
 Join the choir.
 Be a youth group advisor.
 Prepare the Sanctuary for worship.
 Study the Bible.
 Enjoy a wine tasting.
 Take photos.
 Join the performing arts.
 Enjoy fellowship.
 Be an acolyte.
 Assist with funerals.
 Volunteer at VBS.
 Prep for communion.
 Help a child with homework.
 Become a Kirk Ringer.
 Support a foster family.
 Attend Sunday School.
 Deliver meals.
 Help with Children's Church.
 Share your writing.
 Share your artwork.
 Serve meals.
 Assist Youth Sunday School.
 Distribute food.
 Assist with weddings.
 Serve refugees.
 Donate Christmas gifts.
 Package meals.
 Enjoy a church retreat.
 Join a community event.
 Help in the nursery.
 Assist Children's Sunday School.

FIND YOUR  PLACE!



Go to
[fpcmarietta.org/
 find-your-place](http://fpcmarietta.org/find-your-place)



From devastating floods in Texas to the ongoing famine in Gaza—and countless places in between—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is on the ground, delivering help where it's needed most. A team of FPC youth had a powerful experience this summer partnering with PDA in Puerto Rico as part of their vital work. Learn more about their experience on page 5.

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

- Focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities.
- Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods.
- Works collaboratively with church partners and members of ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other responders.
- Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), Church World Service, Red Cross, FEMA and others.

Learn more at pcusa.org and click the “About PCUSA” tab.

Because of you

WE CAN SERVE GOD IN INCREDIBLE WAYS



In November 1835, about a year after the Georgia Legislature legally recognized the City of Marietta, a small group of 12 pioneers with extraordinary vision and Christian passion met and formed a little Presbyterian church. Less than 20 years later, a congregation of about 100 people completed our beautiful sanctuary that graces what is now known as Church Street. If only this tiny group of families could see how we have expanded their original vision and evolved over 190 years!

Today, FPC Marietta is much more than congregants and brick walls. God is at work here. We have over 1,000 members, 4 pastors and 20 staff who continue to change lives with faith, hope and love. Our facilities have grown to 5 connected buildings and 70,000 square feet. Thanks to our recent capital campaign, which raised close to \$2 million, we have renovated our aging facilities and provided an outreach mission tithe to benefit our community.

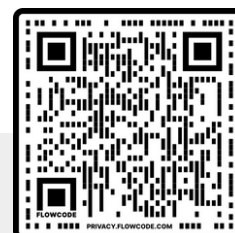
While this campaign ended last month, it is time now to ask you to prayerfully consider your annual commitment to Stewardship 2026. As you can witness here every day, your generosity helps keep our founders' vision and mission alive for new generations of believers and expanding ministries. While we recognize budgeting for the future may seem a bit overwhelming, we ask you to do so out of faith like our forebears did so long ago. As Christians, setting time aside to plan your pledge to the church should give you a personal connection to our many outreach ministries by supporting programs that help you grow your faith and provide for the faith formation and development of those you love.

Please complete your pledge card during Stewardship 2026, starting September 28. Commitment Sunday is October 19, which is when you may take your pledges to the altar and before God. Our church officers have already begun making their commitments now. All of our pledges and giving are crucial to setting next year's budget and carrying out what we have already committed to doing as well as plan for the future. We can maintain our historic campus, provide salaries to pastors and staff who work alongside and mentor us, teach our children, serve and feed our neighbors, provide meaningful worship services and musical performances, and disciple our members and visitors. Because of you, we can continue to faithfully serve God.

Thank you in advance for your pledge.

FPC Development Committee

FPCMARIETTA.ORG/COMMIT



welcome home

Scott Suhr,
Engagement Committee

What makes a church feel like home? Who better to say than some of our newest FPC members?

When asked why they chose FPC Marietta, they made clear how FPC makes them feel like they are at home.

THE FEELING OF BELONGING

FPC is seen as a warm, welcoming church. When visitors walk through our doors, they know they are genuinely received and accepted. They feel seen. They feel valued. They feel embraced.

"The first time I saw Pastor Joe, he opened the front door of the church and said, 'Welcome home.' At that very moment, I knew we would join."

"From the first time we visited, we were welcomed with warmth and sincerity."

THE CLOSE COMMUNITY

Visitors to FPC see a church where people are in fellowship together. They see authentic relationships and the opportunity to be part of a close-knit community. They see a family.

"We chose FPC as our church home because it feels like a place where faith and community are deeply rooted."

"We feel this is the best place for our children to learn and grow their love of Jesus."

THE THOUGHTFUL PREACHING

New members appreciate our pastors' thoughtful, scripture-based sermons. The practical messages resonate with their experiences, provide guidance, and inspire them to live better lives.

"I love the meaningful and inspiring sermons each week."

"The sermons make me laugh, cry, and motivate me to make a difference in this community."

THE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

FPC is a place full of life, energy, and purpose. Here, instead of feeling like spectators, newcomers join in the life of the church - quickly putting their gifts, passions, and faith into action.

"I've been looking for a church to inspire me. There are so many ways to get involved here."

"We love the many opportunities to participate and to use our talents."

THE FOCUS ON SERVICE

The opportunity to serve others is a major reason new members are drawn to FPC. Faith lived out through acts of love and compassion is our mission, uniting and transforming everyone involved.

"The church's commitment to service reflects the values we want to live out in our lives."

"We love everything FPC does for the community, making a difference and living what is spoken in Scripture."

OUR OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER...

Over recent years, our congregation at FPC Marietta has continued to grow steadily. It is a clear sign that God is moving among us, drawing new members to our church family, and strengthening our faith together.

We all play a vital role in our church's growth. Let each of us, in the spirit of God's love, send all our visitors a clear message: You are not just welcome here, you are home.

To learn more or to share your thoughts about new member engagement, contact John Ficken, Chair, FPC Engagement Committee, at john.ficken@gmail.com.

DR. BRENNAN BREED REFLECTS ON WALTER BRUEGGEMAN'S IMPACT

Sometime in 2002, I was perusing the "Religion" shelves at a massive Barnes & Noble in Virginia Beach when I saw a red and white colored spine adorned with the simple title *Genesis*. The author's name was long and clearly German, but that didn't dissuade me from flipping through it. The kids in the high school youth group where I was a volunteer had asked for a Sunday school series on the book of Genesis, and I was trying to find some resources to help me prepare something that wouldn't be boring. I scanned a random page of the commentary, and there was an insightful reference to John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, so I kept on reading. Sheepishly, I bought the book and then went home and finished it off. I couldn't believe a commentary could be so interesting.

Months later, a friend showed me a newly published book of deeply moving, powerful poetic prayers collected in a volume titled *Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth*. I sat in his living room and read the whole thing in one sitting, transfixed. At the end, I looked at the author's picture – and it was the same one as on my Genesis commentary. I owe my vocational awareness of my calling in life to that moment when I encountered Walter Brueggemann's work. And I am not alone.

It was at that point I began to look into seminary, and eventually a biblical studies PhD. It led me eventually to teach Old Testament for 15 years at Walter Brueggemann's emeritus institution: Columbia Seminary.

Walter was born in 1933 in Tilden, Nebraska. He often spoke of his youthful experience as the son of a German reformed pastor, which led him to seminary and then a PhD at Union Theological Seminary. From his time as a student, Brueggemann was a voracious and omnivorous reader of such diverse fields as poetry, philosophy, psychology, and political science, and he masterfully combined them into analytical tools with which to understand the biblical text and God's witness through it into our contemporary world.

I OWE MY VOCATIONAL AWARENESS OF MY CALLING IN LIFE TO THAT
MOMENT WHEN I ENCOUNTERED WALTER BRUEGGEMAN'S WORK.

Upon graduating in 1961, Brueggemann taught at Eden Theological Seminary and then, from 1986 to 2003, he served as the William Marcellus McPheeters professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. Brueggemann was best known for his unique combination of critical biblical scholarship, keen theological reflection, deep commitment to practical concerns of ministry, and insightful political and cultural commentary.

In 1978, he published the groundbreaking work *The Prophetic Imagination*, which has remained a popular best-seller for almost 50 years. In 1982, he published *The Message of the Psalms*. And in 1997, he published his magisterial *Theology of the Old Testament*. Since 2000, he has published a dizzying array of books that span the biblical canon and the world beyond.

I am personally indebted to Walter's hard work in following the calling that God laid on his life. And it is my hope that in telling others of his writings and his recordings that he left behind, others might be inspired to continue to follow the same call issued by the same God who lives and reigns forevermore.

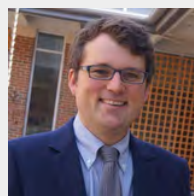


photo courtesy Presbyterian News Service

Walter Brueggemann, a renowned and leading authority in Old Testament studies and biblical theology, died on June 5, 2025.

He is best known for the idea of "prophetic imagination," which encouraged readers to see the biblical prophets as voices calling for justice, compassion, and an alternative to the status quo. His work combined deep literary and theological insight with a strong concern for real-world issues, often challenging systems of power through a careful reading of Scripture. As a teacher, preacher, and author of more than 100 books, Brueggemann inspired generations to read the Bible not just as ancient text, but as a living word that speaks to the struggles of today.

He has touched countless lives. Included in these pages are a reflection by Dr. Brennan Breed and the homily given at his memorial service, written by Rev. Clover Reuter Beal, Co-Lead Pastor of Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church in Denver.

Dr. Brennan Breed was Associate Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary and a former Theologian in Residence at FPC Marietta. He now serves as Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary.

LOST IN WONDER, LOVE, & PRAISE

A Homily for Dr. Walter Brueggemann by Rev. Clover Reuter Beal
Memorial Service, July 19, 2025

Awe and wonder are the proper postures one must have toward a servant of God such as Walter Brueggemann. He was a man who was a signpost pointing all toward God's steadfast love, pointing all toward God's justice and mercy. He was a signpost who was called from humble beginnings to holy work—work he himself never imagined he would do.

I was introduced to Walter's writings in 1983 as a sophomore in college. His book, *The Bible Makes Sense*, was assigned in my New Testament class. Standing in the University bookstore, perusing the book, I could already feel the tug in my heart toward biblical studies.

My college mentor, Professor Rob Wall, directed me to seminary in order to study with Professor Brueggemann. In 1988, my husband, Tim, and I started at Columbia Seminary, where we met and studied with Walter. Tim, in fact, went on to receive his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible. His own scholarship was, and remains to be, profoundly shaped by his relationship with Walter's work.

“WALTER SUMMONED THE CHURCH TO BE
FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TRUST THAT WHEN GOD
HEARS OUR CRIES, GOD RESPONDS—NOT
BECAUSE WE DESERVE GOD'S ATTENTION,
BUT BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS.

We were fortunate beyond measure not only to be shaped by him in the classroom and to be mentored by him, but to build a friendship with him. We count our friendship with Walter and Tia among our life's great treasures.

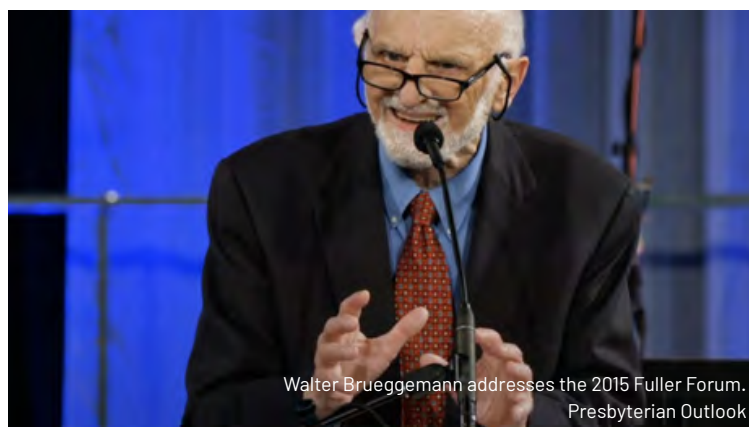
If you knew Walter, it comes as no surprise that he planned this memorial service. I once asked Walter what his favorite hymn was. He said, "Love Divine, All Love Excelling." The title of this homily is the final line of that great hymn: "Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise."

For Walter, the act of praise for this God was inseparable from acts of compassion for one's neighbor. This is the God Walter strived to follow in glad obedience. And it was his own relationship with this God to whom his remarkable prayers were addressed. It was this dynamic, dialogical relationship—in the tradition of Moses—that shaped Walter's tenacious solidarity with God and for God's people.

Now, we're among friends here, so it's safe for me to say Walter had a strong, dare I say, "formidable" personality. It is also safe for me to say that in God's presence, Walter understood the right relationship he had with God: God is God and he was human. He understood humility is the proper posture in the presence of this God.

The apostle Paul to the church at Corinth alerts us that setting one's heart on the Gospel is foolishness to modern ears. Yet Walter set his heart upon the incarnate God in Jesus Christ. And in setting his heart upon Jesus and relentlessly caring for the church, he knew he at times appeared foolish to his contemporaries.

Yet Walter never abandoned his prophetic, imaginative, Spirit-led belief that the God of the Bible—the Gospel God, the Incarnate God in Jesus Christ—is wiser than all human wisdom, and stronger than all human strength. Whether it was in his preaching, teaching, writing, or praying, Walter summoned the church to be foolish enough to trust that when God hears our cries, God responds—not because we deserve God's attention, but because of who God is.



Walter Brueggemann addresses the 2015 Fuller Forum.
Presbyterian Outlook

Walter gave praise to the God of liberation because he himself had received the liberating forgiveness of God. Walter's prayer life was a witness to that loving and liberating relationship. Walter trusted that the radical nature of prayer claims that God promises to be on the other end of the line when we call.

Like the prophets before him, Walter relentlessly beckoned the stiff-necked, self-consumed people of God to tenacious fidelity. Walter now resides among those who spoke truth to power and offered mercy to the marginalized. Like the prophets before him, Walter was born of humble means but chosen for royal work.

FOR WALTER, THE ACT OF PRAISE FOR THIS GOD WAS INSEPARABLE
FROM ACTS OF COMPASSION FOR ONE'S NEIGHBOR.

Without a veil between them, Walter now stands face to face—as friends do—with the living God. Out from behind dim glass, he now sees his Creator clearly.

Today, we are the ones lost in wonder, love, and praise for the life of Walter Albert Brueggemann—sheep of God's own fold, lamb of God's own flock, sinner of God's own redeeming, and beloved child of the living God. Alleluia, Amen.



Rev. Clover Reuter Beal is the Co-Lead Pastor of
Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church in Denver, CO.

Redacted for this publication,
you can find her complete homily on YouTube.

in the footsteps of paul

a photo journal from the Holy Land

In October of 2024, FPC Member Emily Hobel joined a pilgrimage called, "Following in the Footsteps of Paul." This trip brought the stories of the New Testament to life with visits to many of the places where Paul taught, lived, and wrote. It serves as a powerful reminder that the places and stories of scripture are real—and still speak to us today.



Corinth



Mass at Corinth

ATHENS AND CORINTH

We began in Corinth, where Paul spent two years preaching and writing. We stood at the Agora, where Paul was tried by Gallio, and the Bema, where he was brought before the tribunal. In Athens, we visited Mars Hill (Areopagus), the site of Paul's famous "Men of Athens" speech, and toured the Acropolis.

EPHESUS, PATMOS, AND MORE

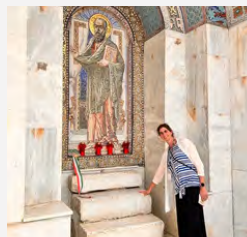
We visited the Turkish port of Kusadasi to the ruins of Ephesus, where Paul lived for 3 years during his ministry. It also included a visit to the House of Mary, where the Virgin Mary spent her last days. The day ended in Patmos, where we visited the Monastery of John and the Cave of the Apocalypse where John wrote the Book of Revelation during his exile.



Cave of the Apocalypse

CRETE AND NORTHERN GREECE

We explored the ancient Minoan Palace of Knossos on Crete and stopped briefly in Santorini. Traveling north, we visited an icon painting workshop where a monk demonstrated ancient traditions behind the sacred images used in Orthodox Byzantine devotional traditions.



Step of St. Paul

METEORA AND THESSALONIKI

In Meteora, we climbed to the hanging monasteries. Beginning in the 10th century, monks, hermits, and ascetics sought solitude and spiritual solace in these dramatic crags. In Veria, we stopped at the Bema where Paul preached. The steps where he preached are still in existence at the site!

Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city, was an early center for Christianity. Paul visited and preached here during the winters of AD 49-50 and wrote 2 epistles to the ancient Thessalonians.



Site of Lydia's Baptism



Mass at Baptism Site

PHILIPPI AND KAVALA

Our last touring day took us to Kavala, where Paul, accompanied by Silas, Luke and Timothy, first set foot on European soil.

In Philippi, Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, planting the seeds of Christianity. We celebrated Mass at the river where Paul baptized Lydia, the first Christian convert in Europe, and visited the prison where Paul and Silas were held (Acts 16).



Paul's Prison Entrance



Paul's Prison Cell

AND NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

In May 2024, Captain Jenkins (now Major Jenkins), who is FPC's Cobb County Jail representative to FPC On Demand, made a brief suggestion that it would be "nice" if we would consider establishing a library for the inmates at the jail.

In a matter of weeks, the jail began the process of locating a suitable room, while volunteers developed a plan to obtain the 3000 paperback book donations needed to stock the library. FPC members were most generous in donating books as well as several other churches in the Marietta Square area.

Today, Bill and Louise Pardue sort all books by genre before they deliver them to the jail where Michelle Dettore, Sally Benoy and Connie Caird shelve them, then fulfill the inmates' requests which are sent to them by email. During the last three months of 2024, the library processed almost 1300 orders. Today, requests average 300-600 requests monthly.

The impact inside the jail has been noticeable! Having books to read has reduced boredom which has led to a significant reduction in altercations. Inmates are reminded constantly that it is a church which operates the library with love and devotion. Matthew 25 reminds us all that when we care for those in prison, we give our care to Jesus himself and they are not forgotten. Of special note has been the high demand for skill development books, a sign that a different life after jail is being contemplated upon release. Also coveted are inspirational and self-help books. The librarians stamp each book with "Jail Library Property" and inmates cannot depart jail with them. The exceptions are Bibles which are given to inmates upon request for them to keep. The Word of God truly goes out!

The church has had to announce a temporary hold on donations as the library is completely full, and additional boxes of books are held in the Jail Chaplain's office.

Many thanks again to FPC and other churches, organizations for your generosity in donating. Every Sunday, our ministers remind us that "the worship is over, but now the service begins." Serving those in jail is our work and privilege. If we can change one person or one heart with a book or Bible, it all will be worth it.

Louise Pardue, FPC Member



Recycling: A Simple Way to Help Care for God's Creation

FPC Green Team shares best practices when recycling plastics.

just count to 7!

and remove 3 because we cannot recycle pvc plastic, represented by the number 3.

1 & 2

Recycled items picked up in Cobb County are taken to the Smurfit Westrock facility on County Services Road. At that single stream plant, plastics labeled with 1 or 2, paper including cardboard, aluminum cans, and stainless steel cans can be separated mechanically. Plastic is labeled based on its chemical make-up. In our households, 1 & 2 labels are most drink and cleaning supply bottles, but also berry and produce containers. **Check the bottoms of the containers. If you see a 1 or 2 inside a triangle, toss the rinsed item into your recycling bin!**

Cartons of milk, juice, broth, etc, can be recycled, but this is important. **Do NOT flatten food and beverage cartons, plastic containers, or cans of any kind!** Their three-dimensional shape is what gives the machinery the ability to separate those items from other recyclable items such as paper. Replace lids on containers after rinsing. This helps them keep their three-dimensional shape when buried under other recycled material.



4-7

What to do with those plastic items numbered 4-7 or no numbers. This is where the Hefty ReNew program comes in. You can buy Hefty ReNew bags into which you can place 4-7 plastics at most local stores where food is sold. Examples are yogurt cups, Styrofoam, bubble wrap, plastic cereal and cookie carton liners, see-through granola wrappers, plastic straws and plastic utensils.

This website gives a more thorough list: www.hefty.com/sites/default/files/2023-03/HeftyReNewChecklist2022.pdf

The Hefty ReNew program is available in only 9 states and in only selected communities. Cobb County is the ONLY community in Georgia with this program. We want to do our part to make it successful so our neighbors throughout the United States will have the opportunity to join us.

Do not put your plastic bags into your recycling bin but plastic shopping bags and any kind of stretchy plastic such as dry-cleaning bags, product overwrap or Ziplock bags can be returned to bins at your local grocery store.

Hefty ReNew!

Regardless of whether or not your recycling service tells you to put any plastic in your home bin, you should put only numbers 1 and 2. Any other plastic ends up in the landfill UNLESS you use the Hefty ReNew bags. If your service does not pick up the orange bags, you can drop them off at the Smurfit Westrock site on County Services Road or the Smyrna Recycling Center on Lake Drive.

Check out the website keepsmyrnabeautiful.com/recycling-center/

Reduce, Reuse, RECYCLE!
Be a creation care hero!

Glass cannot be placed in single stream because it breaks and spoils the entire contents of the bin, but it should never be placed in the garbage because it can be recycled infinitely, and now we conveniently have a Ripple purple glass recycling bin in the Polk Street lot. It has become popular with Marietta residents and we recently filled our first bin! Remind your friends and neighbors they can access the bin by entering the parking lot on Polk Street and driving to the back of the lot. Ripple-collected glass is processed south of Atlanta providing jobs for Georgians.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST RETURNS MONTHLY!

9:30-10:45am | Holland Hall | \$7/person

Beginning September 14, worshipers enjoy a hot breakfast and fellowship together in community. Want to volunteer?
Email Tom McEachern: tom.mceachern@comcast.net



IMMIGRATION & FAITH WORSHIP SERIES

*Understand more, love deeper,
act justly on Immigration*

Sept 14 | Oct 12 | Oct 26 | Nov 9

2:15-5:45pm at FPC

Register via QR code
or at fpcmarietta.org.



CHURCHWIDE PICNIC
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
AFTER 11AM WORSHIP

Food, Fellowship, & Bluegrass

BEING REFORMED

Sundays in October • Room 051

Join Rev. Fritz Bogar for a 4-week series
on the Protestant Reformation in Europe



SCAN FOR
PARTICIPANT
REGISTRATION

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
4-6PM | GREAT HALL

FPC SWAG STORE

Need an FPC shirt, mug, tote bag,
and more?! Shop today!
fpcmarietta.org/shop/



SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday & Sunday,
October 11-12

Chalktoberfest Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, October 19

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, October 26

Trunk or Treat & Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, November 2

All Saints Sunday

Remembrance Concert at 5pm

Sunday, November 9

Kirkin' of the Tartan

Fellowship Breakfast



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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/virtual-worship

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

Find Your Place 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/find-your-place.