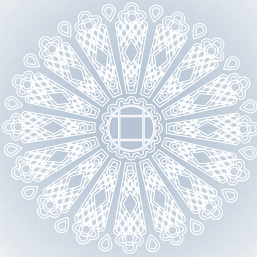


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 12, 2025

11:00 a.m.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FOR THE ELECTION OF THE APNC FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION

* CALL TO WORSHIP Maria Hanlin

Leader: Holy Triune God, author of community, come baptize us.

All: **Remind us what it means to belong to one another.**

Leader: God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

All: **Reveal to us your power that ushers in new realms.**

Leader: Together, let us remember this day.

All: **In the Creator's love we are held, into Christ's body we are baptized, and by the Spirit's power, we are claimed. All glory to God. Amen.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 619 – *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*..... LAUDA ANIMA



Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore-bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Maria Hanlin

God of mercy, we thank you for the gift of baptism by water and the Spirit. Keep us mindful of the promises we have made to renounce the forces of evil in the world and forsake the ways of sin that alienate us from you. Give us grace to call Jesus Christ our Savior and serve him as Lord. We acknowledge that we have not always been diligent. We fail to represent Christ in the world. Forgive and cleanse us; make us faithful members of Christ's body. Amen

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* RESPONSE TO THE PEACE: *Baptized in Water*.....BUNESSAN

Bap - tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the
sign of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the
prom - ise, faith-ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Isaiah 43:1-7*..... Lane Ridenhour

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Lisa Witherspoon

ANTHEM: *Asperges me*..... Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo et mundabor,

Lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.

Miserere mei, Deus,

secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed:

Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to thy great mercy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD READ: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMEDJill Duffield

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Down Galilee's Slow Roadway* WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN



1. Down Gal - i - lee's slow road-ways a stran-ger trav-eled on
2. A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav-ens torn;
3. We too have found a road-way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."



**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 rose 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.**

– Traditional Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with 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.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.

OFFERTORY: *Take Me to the Water*arranged by Alice Parker (1925-2023)
Stephanie Foley Davis, mezzo-soprano
Chancel Choir

Take me to the water to be baptized.
 Wade in the water and be baptized.
 Rest beside the water, restore my soul.
 Drink the living water and never thirst.
 Take me to the water to be baptized.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

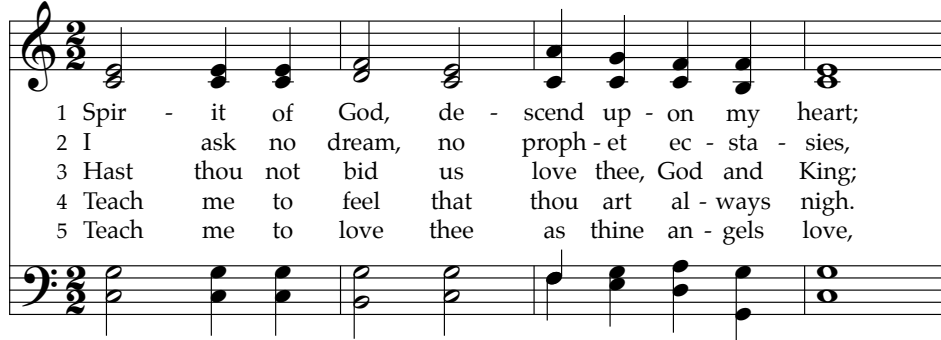
* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Matt Bussell

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

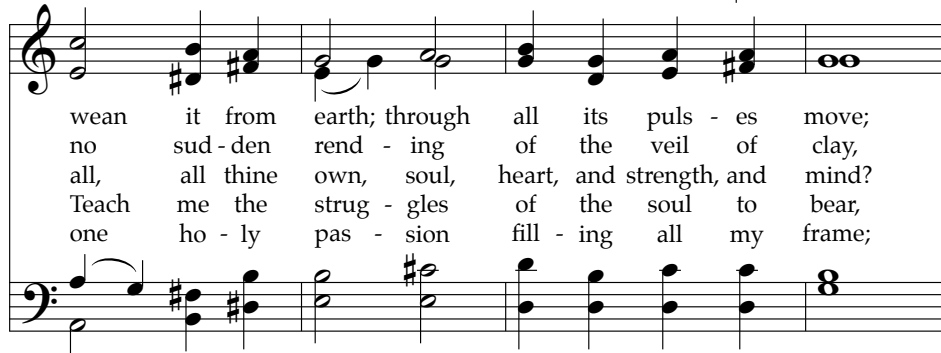
* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 688 – *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*MORE CAMBE

VOLUNTARY: *Grand Dialogue du 5e Ton*Louis Marchand (1669-1732)
John Alexander, organ

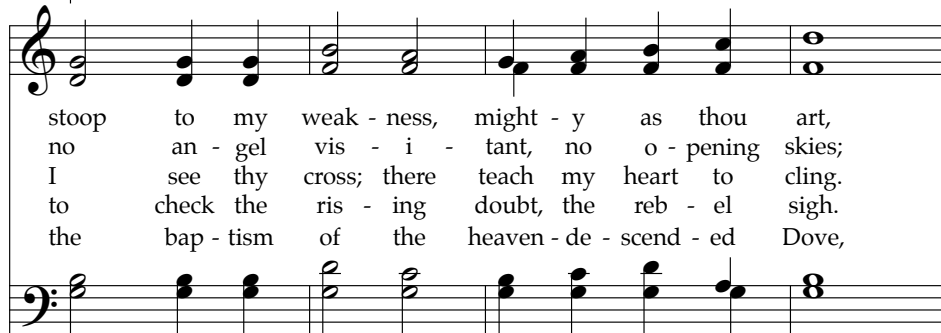
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688



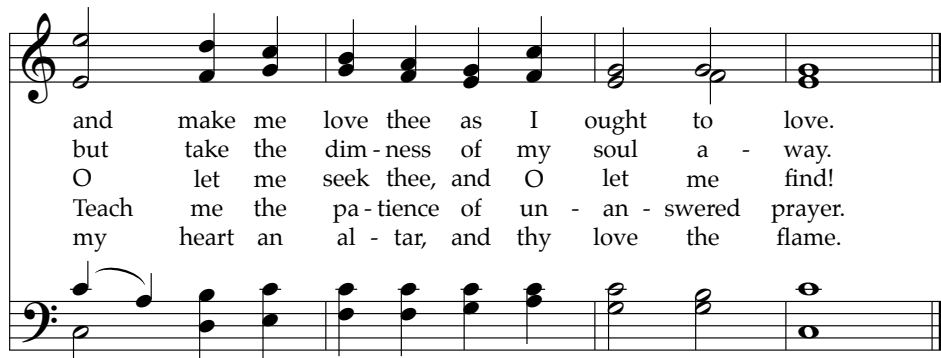
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,



wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



and make me love thee as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*
Maria Hanlin, *Pastoral Care*
Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*
Lisa Witherspoon, *Director of Christian Formation*
Lane Ridenhour, *Lay Reader*
Charlotte Freeze, *Acolyte*
John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*
Stephanie Foley Davis, *Mezzo-soprano*
Chancel Choir

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven” Text: Henry Francis Lyte; Music: John Goss.

“Baptized in Water” Text: Michael J. Saward; Music: Gaelic melody.

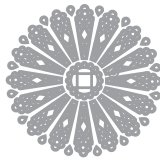
“Down Galilee’s Slow Roadway” Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan; Music: John D. Horman.

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng.*

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” Text: George Croly; Music: Frederick Cook Atkinson.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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2024-2025 Committee Chairs, Vice chairs

Adult Formation: Margee Jones, John Sullivan. *Youth Formation:* Leigh Abraham, Layne King. *Children’s Formation:* Sally King, Lorie Jones. *Church Officer Development:* Tim Cook, Graham Farless. *Communications:* Rich Prigge, John Vanderwerff. *Discipleship:* Lauren Martin, Nancy Courts. *Finance:* Rob Peddrick, Dave Thompson. *Hospitality:* Caroline Showers, Bet Vanderwerff. *Human Resources:* Ralph Davison, Lisa Cook. *Outreach:* Margaret Arbuckle, Rhonda Wakefield. *Pastoral Care:* Tamara Slaughter, Sheri Evans. *Property:* Brian Pierce, Sam Simpson. *Stewardship:* Dan Goley, Tom Gillespie. *Technology:* Sam Bostian. *Worship:* Chip Bristol, Morgan Hood. *Nominating:* Nancy Moore, Ross Harris. *Appointments:* Randy Jackson, Leigh Jones.

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.
We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship
is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.

We seek to be God's changemakers for good in the world.
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and our creation care and hunger
ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone,

you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.




NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.

FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS • Check out the “Coming Up” insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at fpcgreensboro.org/connect • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/events.



FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA –

Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on **Facebook**  (search “First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro”), **YouTube**  (“fpcgreensboro”) and **Instagram**  (“1stpresgso”) to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors’ stoles signifies the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

ABOUT TODAY’S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory Ellen Austin Williamson by her loving family.

USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: Contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. You can also go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. You may also mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.



PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

PARKING MINISTRY: This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at fpcgreensboro.org/signup.

IN MEMORIAM

John Sumter MacRae III
August 3, 1937 – October 24, 2024

In the Book of Hebrews, Abraham by faith “looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” John MacRae knew by faith God was the architect of his life. God gave John talent, vision, and insight to be an architect. John graduated from the North Carolina State School of Design. Subsequently, founding the firm Bell and Associates, his God-given vision led to the creation of this church’s columbarium, encasement of the Letourneau organs, and sidewalk covering on Greene Street of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Again, John’s architectural skills were shown as he designed a house built on Medford Lane, complete with its circular stairs.

John married Eugenia Hickerson in 1959 in Greensboro. They were blessed with an endearing and enduring marriage of 63 years.

In 1962 they moved to Friedburg, Germany, as John served as a first lieutenant in the 2nd Medium Tank Battalion. While there, Doug was born. Returning to Greensboro in 1964, Robert was born.

John was quiet. His humor and twinkle in his eye caused hearers to smile. His faith was deep, his knowledge expansive. John was elected an elder, serving on several committees. He was a member of the Agape church school class.

John liked to sail, using Oriental, North Carolina as his port. For several years He was a member of a group that met regularly to drink coffee and discuss wide-ranging topics.

John is survived by John Douglas MacRae (Sharon) of Raleigh, NC and Robert Thorne MacRae of Clemson, SC; grandchildren – Daniel, Drew, Patterson, Ryan, Molly, and Duncan; sister – Pat MacRae and many nieces and nephews.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church offers its condolences to John’s family and gives thanks for his life, created by God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior.

– The Session of First Presbyterian Church



COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF JANUARY 13 | *See our full calendar at* FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

LATER TODAY

- **YOUTH GROUP:** Middle School, 5-6 pm; dinner for all, 6-6:30 pm; High School, 6:30-7:30 pm. Life Center.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON**, noon in Mullin Life Center, for those who RSVP'd. Donna Chase will lead on the Book of Ruth.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

- **BIBLE & BISCUITS**, 7:45-8:30 am in the Solarium. Before heading to work, join us for food and fellowship and reading & discussing scripture. Bibles and food provided – just show up to meet God and your FPC community.
- **STAFF-LED DISCIPLESHIP STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**, noon-1 pm in the Garden Room. Continues until March 18s. Contact Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST & DEVOTIONS:** 7:15-7:45 am at Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.
- **PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL** for the 2025-2026 school year,



January 15-19. Members can register infants (2 months) through age 5. Info & registration: Lana Burske, director, 336-478-4770 or LBURSKE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

- **HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST & PRAYER**, 7:30 am at Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

- **RSVP DEADLINE FOR FORK & FAITH** monthly lunch for women, being held January 22 at noon in the Life Center. Contact Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

OUR 200TH CELEBRATION CONTINUES

LATER TODAY: GUIDED TOUR OF THE GREENSBORO HISTORY MUSEUM, 2 pm. The museum occupies our third church building, and its collection includes many items related to FPC's history.

TOUR OF THE OLD PRESBYTERIAN GRAVEYARD, 11 am Wednesday (Jan. 15) and Saturday (Jan. 18). Many early FPC members, including founding minister William Paisley, and people notable in Greensboro history are buried in the graveyard behind the Greensboro History Museum.

Events are free. Park next to the museum or in the lot on Church Street between Summit and Lindsay.

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/200

BOOK CLUBS THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 13 at 10:30 am and **TUESDAY, JANUARY 14** at 1:30 pm.
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, facilitated by Rev. Kate Huddelson Gillespie. Meets in the Garden Room.



MONDAY, JANUARY 20:
CAMPUS CLOSED FOR MLK DAY

NEXT SUNDAY IN CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM

- **The Disciples of Jesus.** According to the New Testament, Jesus selected a close circle of followers to learn from him and to carry out his work. This study will discover what we can know about the named disciples, who also become the first apostles of the new movement, and what their lives say being a person dedicated to the work of Christ in the world. Sandie Gravett series in YMBC & Agape classes, Redhead Hall.
- Barbara Brown Taylor's book **Always a Guest** in the Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room.
- **200th anniversary: Pastoral Leadership.** FPC members and church historians Betty K. Phipps & Kitty Robison on our pastors from Father Paisley through Jacob Henry Smith (1824-1906). Come as You Are class, Garden Room.
- **Gospel of John** in the Seekers class, Main 125.

The following classes will NOT meet due to the MLK weekend:

- Faithful Families class (*Thrivors*)
- Children, youth and Confirmation

MEALS ON WHEELS TEAM

HAS OPENINGS: FPC delivers a hot meal to those in need on the third Wednesday of each month and the fifth Monday of each quarter. We need 1-2 people for a third Wednesday route and 3-4 volunteers to substitute when a regular driver is unavailable. Routes only require about 1.5-2 hours of your time. Contact Linda Allen, LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM or 336-549-3367.

BACKPACK BEGINNINGS WORKDAY

JANUARY 26, TWO SESSIONS:

- 10 am-noon for parents with children (*GCS teacher workday*). This group will sort food & assemble food bags for children and families experiencing food insecurity. Children 5+ can participate (*under 16 with an adult*).
- 1:30-3:30 pm for adults only. This group will likely sort donations, hang clothes & assemble comfort backpacks.

If you can't come, please donate these items, leave in the Welcome Center: New boys underwear in sizes 6, 8, and 10; canned fruit in pop-top cans; and breakfast items such as full-sized oatmeal and cereal boxes, oatmeal packets, and granola bars.

SIGN UP HERE



GROWING DEEPER LENTEN RETREAT SATURDAY, MARCH 8

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for our Growing Deeper Lenten Retreat, *Listening to the Language of the Soul*, being held Saturday, March 8, 9 am-3 pm at the church. Join author Jeff Crosby and Rev. Grier Booker to deepen our understanding of ourselves and cultivate a more profound connection with our spirituality. Worship leaders will be Jill Duffield, Anne Albert & Will Edwards. Donna Chase and the Adult Formation Committee will guide activities. Registration including catered lunch is \$50. Books can be purchased at the Welcome Center reception desk. *RSVP by Monday, March 3.*

