

# Church Chatter

## Newsletter

### August 2019



The past few months have been challenging for us here at First Jonesboro. There have been several deaths in our church family, newly diagnosed illnesses, and on-going family issues. This has left many of us feeling emotionally and spiritually depleted. But in times like these, there are a few things which carry us through- leaning on each other, finding refreshment in our worship together and prayer. We must never underestimate the power of prayer.

Throughout the world, probably throughout the entirety of human history, people have been praying in one form or another. Every religion has a method or a model of prayer which they follow as their attempt to communicate with something greater, and to ask something of that higher power. But the religions of the world vary in *how* they pray. In Judea in the first century, prayer was a very important element of Jesus' life and ministry.

Since the disciples recognized the importance of prayer for Jesus, in Luke 11 vs. 1: one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray. And so in response to this, Jesus sets forth a model prayer, we refer to it as "The Lord's Prayer." Luke 11:1-4 says: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

In his book, *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer* author John Dominic Crossan describes the Lord's Prayer as "a revolutionary manifesto and a hymn of hope not just for Christianity but for all the world. Better, it is addressed from Christianity to all the world. Better still, it is from the heart of Judaism, through the mouth of Christianity to the conscience of the earth." This is our model, and God calls us to find solace in this prayer. May we also find strength and courage in this prayer as individuals and as a church community. As we continue repeating these words, it is my prayer that they will continue to transform us and shape us into the people God wants us to be.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Olive.

### **Change of Date for Holy Communion for August, 2019**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be administered on Sunday, August 11, 2019.

Please note the change of date from the first Sunday.

### **Annual Back to School Blessing**

All school kids and teachers are asked to join us at worship on Sunday, August 11th for our annual Back to School Blessing. We pray for God's blessings and grace for the new school year 2019-2020.



### *Note from Worship Committee*

*Why do we place the baptismal font at the entrance of the sanctuary?*

The presence of the baptismal font in worship should serve as a constant reminder of the new life that is ours in Christ Jesus, through our dying and rising with Christ in baptism, the forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, our incorporation into Christ's body and the promise of life eternal and abundant in the kingdom of God. The font should be in full view of the congregation and open and filled with water on every Lord's Day, so that all may see and sense the depth of meaning associated with Christian baptism.

We place the font near the entrance to the worship space to symbolize baptism as the entry into the community of faith and allow worshipers to actively remember their baptism as they enter the place of worship.

## The Presbyterian Church (USA) has ordained a minister of Gun Violence Prevention



The Rev. Deanna Hollas is now the Presbyterian Church USA's gun violence prevention minister.

Deanna Hollas' daughter was in college in Texas in 2016 when that state enacted a "campus carry law," allowing people 21 and older with concealed handgun licenses to take their weapons onto public university campuses. That didn't sit well with Hollas. "I felt like she wasn't going to be safe," she said. Statistics show that the chances of being fatally shot increase when there's a gun in the home. She thought they probably increased when one was in the classroom, carried by a student who may not have fully understood the risks. That worried her.

She joined Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, an organization that advocates for gun control, and started visiting lawmakers in Texas, petitioning for gun violence prevention efforts.

This month, Hollas, now the Rev. Deanna Hollas, was ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA, the largest Presbyterian denomination in the United States, as a minister of word and sacrament. Her new job title is gun violence prevention minister, the first position of its kind in the nation, the church says.

Making gun violence prevention a priority:

The Presbyterian Church USA has more than 1.7 million members in more than 10,000 congregations, its website says. Hollas, 52, who is based in the Dallas area, will oversee over 800 local Presbyterian gun violence prevention advocates across the country and work toward making churches more active in preventing gun violence, a role she says will be different for each place. She will help people at different levels of the church stay involved and informed about preventing gun violence.

The church had been outspoken about gun control since the assassinations of people like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and President John F. Kennedy in the late 1960s, calling for stricter laws around the sale and possession of firearms.

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New Presbyterian Minister (continued)

In 1998, the church called on Presbyterians to work toward removing guns from their homes and communities, citing safety reasons.

And in 2010, it adopted a resolution urging its congregations to be active in preventing gun violence.

But the church had never hired someone to oversee its efforts, and work done at the top was not necessarily trickling down into individual congregations. In conversations with churchgoers, Hollas said, none could remember a time when their congregations had specifically spoken about gun violence.

"It's the intentionality that's hopefully going to make a change," she said.

Moving beyond left vs. right:

Hollas' appointment comes in the midst of what some politicians and advocacy groups are calling a gun violence epidemic. CNN analysis shows that school shootings have been increasing over the past decade, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says almost that 40,000 Americans died by guns in 2017 -- the highest level in almost 40 years.

Just this week, at least three people were killed in a shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in California.

"Our role as a church is to not care and love ourselves but to care and love our neighbors," Hollas said. And part of that is keeping them safe.

Hollas grew up around guns in Texas, so she has some familiarity with firearms. She's not against them -- she's even had them in her home -- but she wants to keep people safe.

"When I talk to folks that are generally gun-rights folks, the first thing they say is that we just want to take their guns away," Hollas said. "And that's not true."

She is hoping that her background with guns will help her connect across both sides of the issue.

But ultimately, it's not about being left or right, liberal or conservative. Being from traditionally conservative Texas, Hollas expected some opposition from gun-rights supporters in the church, but she said there hasn't been any.

"I think it's because people are just tired of this. People are tired of children being shot in their schools; people are tired of the high numbers of gun violence in communities of color; people are tired of dying by suicide," she said.

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### New Presbyterian Minister (continued)

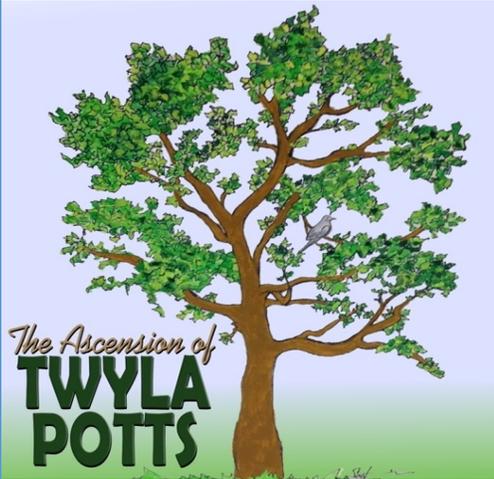
The conversation, she admitted, sometimes gets stuck in liberal vs. conservative, left vs. right. And sometimes churches don't want to talk about these divisive issues because they're afraid of making waves -- but she says that's exactly what they should be doing.

"I want to move beyond red and blue and be about Christ," she said. "This isn't a political matter, it's a matter of life and death, and what we're called to do as Christians is to bring life."



School supplies collection for our neighbor, Suder Elementary.

The items most needed are Kleenex boxes and hand sanitizer. Composition books, paper, pencils, and crayons are always needed. A complete list is posted in FLC. Any questions see Julie Hancock or any PW member.



# The Front Porch Players

Proudly Present

## ***THE ASCENSION OF TWYLA POTTS***

Fridays, August 9 & 16, 2019 – 7:30 pm

Saturdays, August 10 & 17, 2019 – 7:30 pm

Sundays, August 11 & 18, 2019 – 2:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

Family Life Center

1842 Lake Jodeco Road, Jonesboro, GA 30236

**Tickets Available Now! Ticket Information for  
The *Ascension* of Twyla Potts**

[www.thefrontporchplayers.com](http://www.thefrontporchplayers.com) | 770.897.1404

***The Ascension of Twyla Potts***, winner in the 2013 London Film Festival (stage play category) and Special Marquee Award (stage play category), is a comedy by Fred Perry who is a playwright, co-writer of six feature films, and winner of multiple screenplay awards.

This two-act play takes place around 2002 in the living room of a middle-class home built in the 1940s near Sandy Point, Maryland. Ariel, the 80 year old widowed Mamma of Twyla Potts, has just made a decision after looking at scrapbooks on her wedding anniversary to her late husband, Howard. “I’m going to see Howard now”, she says as she puts on her wedding gown, picks up her cell phone and a hammock, and climbs up a 20 foot tree in their yard that has lots of birds in it. One is a pigeon that Momma thinks is a white dove and a sign from God that prompts her to make special preparations to ascend into heaven.

So what do you do when your mother’s up a tree? Twyla Potts knows—you call the fire department. After all, her mother did this same thing last year on her wedding anniversary, but this doesn’t keep Twyla from being beside herself. Twyla has power of attorney and says as soon as they get her down from the tree, “Momma is going into a nursing home.” How all of this plays out remains to be seen.

According to Karen Ferrell-White, Director, “whether you believe in the mysteries and the after-life or just enjoy the possibility of mystical wonders, you will love this funny and overwhelmingly touching story.”

Jean Peacock, Advertising/Public Relations/Sponsorships  
The Front Porch Players  
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## Christian Ed “Summer Camp”

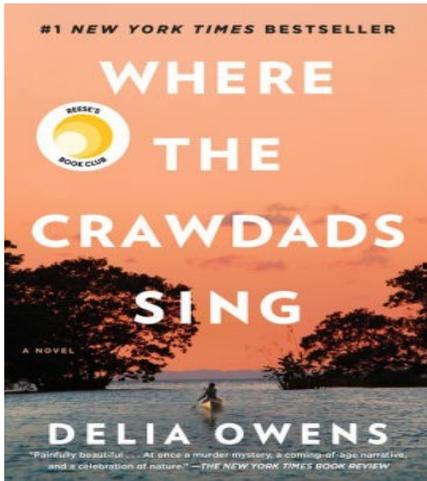
Have you noticed the new raised flower/vegetable bed between the sanctuary and FLC? This was one of the activities the children of our church enjoyed creating during a two-day summer camp held this past month. Instead of the traditional vacation Bible school, the CE committee decided to try something a little different. On the first day we met at the Atlanta Harvest Farmers Market at the old Walker’s Nursery. Here the children explored the hoop houses, learned about growing vegetables, fed the sheep, and petted the chickens (only Keatyn was brave enough to hold one). Then we went back to the church to make home-made pizza. The kids quickly found out that rolling out pizza dough is not as easy as it looks but Cyndi’s sauce and the fresh mozzarella cheese gave them amazing results. The raised bed was part of the second day’s activities. We planted tomatoes, basil, oregano, rosemary, a potato vine, and vinca. Then it was back inside to help Cyndi crack eggs and measure ingredients to make popovers. Yum! While they were in the oven, we painted our pots for our windchimes. The day ended with a short balance class (short attention spans) and games.





# August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3  Sandwich Party 5-7:30 pm Morrow Center
4	5	6	7 Breakfast Club 9am  Book Club 5 pm Office  Choir 7pm	8	9   FPP Production 7:30 pm FLC	10   FPP Production 7:30 pm FLC
11  <b>Communion</b>  FPP Production 2:30 pm FLC	12	13	14   Choir 7pm	15	16   FPP Production 7:30 pm FLC	17  11:30 FLC PW Bunco  FPP Production 7:30 pm FLC
18   FPP Production 2:30 pm FLC	19	20	21   Choir 7pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28  <b>CC Newsletter Deadline</b>  Choir 7pm	29	30	31



## Book Club

The group will meet Thursday, August 7 at 5:00 pm in the church office. Jane Luetkemeyer will be leading the discussion on *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. All are welcome.



## Tomato Sandwich Party!

Saturday, August 3rd, 5 pm-7:30 pm,

Morrow Center,

1180 Southlake Circle, Suite 100, Morrow, Ga.

Drop in event fundraiser for the Good Shepherd Clinic

Minimum donation \$20.00.

Mrs. Eloise Bell Isle will be honored for her service to the Clinic.



Carolyn Fox-Dupree and Alan Bergmann have submitted some reliable names for appliance repair:

Clayton Appliance 770. 461.8331

All Major Appliance & HVAC 770.389.1000

Trotman Appliance 770.356.8695



### August

8/08 - Suzanne Anzalone

8/20 - Derek Apronti

8/27 - Bentley Smith

8/30 - Alan Bergmann



### August

8/22 - Leah & Terry Sapp

8/22 - Traci & James White

## Congregational Care Graduation Breakfast

Congregational Care would like to recognize those transitioning from kindergarten to elementary, elementary to middle school, middle to high and graduation. Please contact either the office or Jane Luetkemeyer if you have someone in your family who is moving up (kindergarten to elementary, elementary to middle, middle to high school, or college students). This will coincide with Christian Education Sunday in September.



## Extended Prayer List

### Church Member

### Pray For:

Sue Alford	Richard Baldwin
Raymond and Susan Baggarly	Rodney Mitchell
Betty Bush	Marilyn Vaughan
Faye Callina	Pat Goggin
Carolyn Fox DuPree	Randy Bradley
Mike and Ronda Fox	Stephen Mitchell
Carol Francis	Francine Walker
Brianne and Kevin Graham	Libby Graham, Melissa Gunter
Mike and Julie Hancock	Henry Hancock, Donna Pratt, Kenny Edmondson, Matt and Skylar Guarnieri
Carol Hatfield	Ann, Dorothy, and Amelia Patterson
Julie Hester	Lauren Parker
Mary Huie-Jolly	Lucie Huie
Stan May	Karen Pearce, Tony May, Paul Carrington-May
Ronnie and Elaine Piper	Linda Harris, Nancey Lester
Bill and Barbara Rhinehart	Rocky Boulware
Keith and Jennifer Taylor	Lauren Hutchinson, Barry Smith, Sandy Hawkins
Walt and Gwen Taylor	Dewey Ellenburg, Betty Lovin, Sarah Corley, Charles Kelley, Mike Pickett, Nancy Hendrix, May Etheridge, Richard Whitton
Brian and Deanie Turner	Christopher Turner
Laura and Mike Wigington	John and Carol Abbott
Rick and Karen Ferrell-White	Lacy Rabanal, Wanda Hubbard
Pat Wood	Randy Clokey, Bob and Charlotte Roach
Debbie Woodard	Howard Marsh, Rebecca Browning

## Church Member and Friends Prayer List

### With On-Going Concerns

John Anzalone, Raymond and Susan Baggarly, Dave Harland, Carol Hatfield, Eloise Belle Isle, Dorothy and Fred Kobus, Chris Lizama, Stan May, Bill and Barbara Rhinehart, James White, Lee White, Rick White and Karen Ferrell White, and Russell Wood.



Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference”, Winston Churchill. And so it is with the Mission Team of FPCJ. When I asked a couple of friends at the Church to help me clean out and prepare our home for sale, they showed up with a whole team, put together an Estate Sale, and helped empty the house. To just say thanks for all their help seems inadequate, but to them, that is all you can say. Their attitude in helping not only members of our Church family, but going great distances to help others, is the name of the game for them. So, for the family, I’ll just say thanks for a job well done.

Stan May and family

#### **Military Prayer List**

Jason Ali-Talha, John Ham, Philip Ham, Josh Hamby, Chris Harvill, Daniel Hudalla, Kyle Hudalla, Austin Kobus, Logan May, Paul Weathers

## First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro

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### Committee Chairpersons

Administration	Julie Hancock
Building & Grounds	Laura Wigington
Christian Education	Carol Abdo
Congregational Care	Jane Luetkemeyer
Outreach	Melissa Ham
Stewardship & Finance	Brian Turner
Endowment	Keith Parkhouse
Worship	Debbie Woodward
Treasurer	James White

Cyndi Smith — Clerk

### SESSION

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir  
Moderator  
Carol Abdo  
Julie Hancock  
Jane Luetkemeyer  
Brian Turner  
Laura Wigington  
Debbie Woodward

### Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir  
pastorfpcj@gmail.com

#### Music Director/Organist

Blakely Hardy  
BlakelyHardy@gmail.com

#### Office Administrator

Toni Wilkerson  
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At **First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro**,  
we believe Jesus calls us to **love** *wholly*, **connect** *fully*, and **serve**  
*abundantly* each and every day; spreading the Good News of God's  
redeeming love by act, word, and deed.

### **Please note: Summer Office Hours**

**During July and August, please call ahead for an appointment with Pastor Olive or if you need assistance in the office. Hours will change weekly. Thank you.**