

# Church Chatter

## May, 2019



### **Response to mass shooting at California synagogue emphasizes shared humanity**

**By *The Christian Science Monitor* staff and *Christian Century* staff, April 30, 2019**

“We are all created equal,” said the pastor of the Presbyterian church where the 19-year-old shooter is a member.

After a 19-year-old gunman killed one and injured three at a synagogue in Poway, California, on April 27, neighbors sought to repair the rupture. Two Muslims and a Sikh quickly went to the scene to offer aid. A nearby Orthodox church opened its door to the victims. Another church organized a candlelit interfaith vigil.

In the shooting at the Passover service, Lori Gilbert-Kaye died shielding Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein from further harm. He was struck in his hand and lost a finger. Gilbert-Kaye, who was 60, was a founding member of the congregation, he said in a video circulated by news outlets. “We are all created in God’s image; we’re all partners in creation,” Goldstein said of the community response. “No matter what faith or religion you’re from, we all have to make this world a better place.”

The suspect and his family belong to an Orthodox Presbyterian Church there. Zachary Keele, the church’s pastor, spoke at a congregational meeting called the day after the shooting, *USA Today* reported. He led prayers for all involved and responded to the suspect’s writings online. “There is no superior race; we are all created equal,” Keele said. “We are committed to loving all people.”

We at First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro could have done nothing to prevent or stop the attack mentioned above, or the other attacks we’ve seen recently on Christians in Sri Lanka and Muslims in New Zealand. It is my hope and prayer that in our daily lives we’ll do all we can to share Christ’s love and peace with everyone we meet. Encourage those you encounter to share love not hate.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Olive

## NO ONE UNDERSTANDS...

*Written by David Epps*

"Forsaken," (adjective), "abandoned or deserted." Most of us, somewhere in our lives, have been forsaken—abandoned...deserted-- by those we thought were close to us. In fact, I would say that all clergy, who have been in that task for a while, have experienced being forsaken, and worse, by people they thought were close to them.

I read on social media that, "Being a pastor is just a walk in the park. It may be Jurassic Park, but it's still a park." I can't tell you the number of times someone has said to me over the years, "I wish I had your job." And, sometimes, my response has been, "I wish you did too." I'm going to reveal some clergy secrets to you.

Consider this: 90% of pastors report working between 55 to 75 hours per week and 50% feel unable to meet the demands of the job.

70% of pastors feel grossly underpaid. In the US, 62.2% of churches do not have a full time pastor but are served by pastors who have a job that pays the bills. Sadly, there is still the idea that the prayer, "Lord you keep 'em humble and we'll keep 'em poor," is a godly prayer. The average US salary for a full-time pastor is a little over \$39,000 a year.

Most pastors feel unprepared. 90% feel they are inadequately trained to cope with the ministry demands, and 90% of pastors said the ministry was completely different than what they thought it would be like before they entered the ministry.

70% of pastors constantly fight depression, and 50% of pastors feel so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living. And yet, even without knowing what they will do for a living, 1,700 or so pastors leave the ministry each month.

80% believe pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families, and 80% of clergy spouses feel the pastor is overworked and they feel left out and under-appreciated by church members.

Many pastors are lonely. 70% do not have someone—not a single person they consider a close friend, and 40% report serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month.

And then there is this: 50% of the ministers starting out will not last 5 years. Only 1 out of every 10 ministers will actually retire as a minister in some form.

And forsaken? If you Google, "how many pastors feel betrayed by a friend?" it will take less than one second to have 10,800,000 responses.

**Continued on page 3**

A recent article, whose title startled me, asks, “Why are so many pastors committing suicide?”

So, why am I sharing all this? To get you to feel sorry for pastors? No. We clergy people tend not to share any of this information with you. We have our pride after all, even if pride is considered a sin. Besides, pastors receive enough criticism without handing out additional ammunition. I am sharing this so that you will know that those who serve you—your pastor, priest, or rabbi, understand life, stress, loneliness, heartache, loss, betrayal, financial uncertainty and all the sorrow that you encounter in life better than you think they do.

We, those of us in ministry who have seen some life, know what you feel, and how you hurt, and the shock of betrayal and of being abandoned and deserted. But, generally, we hide it all from you and even from each other -and we do that pretty well. We’re good at putting on our “game face” in public.

But far more important than what pastors understand about the human condition, Jesus Himself, understands us better than we know.

Hebrew 4:15, The Message Bible, “Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let’s not let it slip through our fingers. We don’t have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He’s been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let’s walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.”

And though the reality is that He will never abandon or desert you, He knows what it’s like to feel that even God has forsaken you. After all, it was he who cried from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken (abandoned, deserted) me?”

You do not need to hide from Him. You do not need to put on a mask for Him. You do not need to pretend in His presence to be something you aren’t or to hide your feelings, pain, anguish, disappointment, sorrow, and loneliness. He knows who you are. He knows where you are. He embraced the pain of the cross in order to be there for you. He is with you in the struggles. Take the mercy, accept the help.

David Epps is the pastor of the Cathedral of Christ the King, 4881 Hwy 34 E., Sharpsburg, GA between Newnan and Peachtree City ([www.ctk.life](http://www.ctk.life)). He is the bishop of the Charismatic Episcopal Diocese of the Mid-South which consists of Georgia and Tennessee. Much of the statistical data for this article was gleaned from [expastors.com](http://expastors.com). He writes an opinion piece for *The Citizen* newspaper each week. Most of the time, they are non-religious but sometimes, like this one, they are. This, in different form, was given as a devotional at the Peachtree City Ecumenical Good Friday Service at First Baptist Church.

## **FPCJ's Security Team**

In the Fall of 2017, the Session approved the formation of a Security Team for the congregation. While there haven't been any incidents at the church, the Session decided that this committee could shape plans and policies which will help us be proactive. The Session recognizes that the world around us has changed and so must we.

The members of the Security Team are: Mike Hancock, Mike Wigington, Alan Bergmann, Carol Abdo, Julie Hester, Kevin Taylor, Billy Luetkemeyer and Jane Luetkemeyer.

This has been a learning experience for the Team. Members of the Team have already attended two seminars presented by the Office of the Sheriff of Henry County. A request was made to Lt. Patterson from Clayton County to assess the safety of both the FLC and the sanctuary. He was pleased with what the church has done thus far, and encouraged us to have a plan as it relates to the following:

- An active shooter
- Severe weather warnings
- Medical emergencies.

The goal in any and all emergencies is to have a plan to protect the congregation as best we can. As the team finalizes our plans for each of the areas identified above, a report will be presented to session and then shared with the entire congregation.

## **Weather Emergencies**

### **From the Security Team**

The National Weather Service has developed a method of identifying storm conditions that foster the development of tornadoes. A tornado is wind spouts spawned by several thunderstorms or hurricanes. Winds may approach 300 miles per hour. Their usual direction of travel is from the southwest to northeast. The weather service uses a two-stage system to alert people to a tornado danger:

**WATCH:** Atmospheric conditions are conducive for tornadoes although none have been sighted.

**WARNING:** A tornado has been spotted, visually or on radar.

In the event of severe weather or a tornado warning, the following procedures should be followed:

### **Emergency Plan for First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro**

#### **Sanctuary**

If a tornado threat is present, the congregation will proceed to their assigned safe place. These are as follows:

- (1) Closet in Narthex
- (2) Bathroom in Parlor
- (3) Female Bathroom
- (4) Male Bathroom
- (5) Closet across from stairwell
- (6) Stairwell

**Assignments are as follows: Numbers signs will be posted above doors.**

- (1) Service staff (Preacher, Worship Assistant, Organist, and Pianist)
- (2) Choir
- (3) Pew Section(s)1 and 2 (these are the sections to your left as you enter the sanctuary)
- (4) Pew Section(s)3 (this is the section to your immediate right as you enter the sanctuary)
- (5) Pew Section(s)4 (this is the section to the far right as you enter the sanctuary)
- (6) As Needed (for overflow or for anyone who needs help sitting down in the safe position)

**All doors should be closed.**

Everyone should stay clear of windows and exterior doors.

If a tornado were to hit the building, everyone is to crouch on their elbows and knees and put their hands over the back of their head.

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## Weather Emergencies From the Security Team

### Family Life Center

- Anyone in the FLC including teachers, nursery workers, and children will proceed to either one of the bathrooms next to the kitchen, or the one between nursery and Godly Playground classroom.
  - If these do not accommodate everyone, the utility room next to kitchen is available.
  - Classrooms should be used as last resorts.
- “Inclement Weather Safe Room”** signs will be posted above doors.
- If a tornado were to hit the building, everyone is to crouch on their elbows and knees and put their hands over the back of their head.



First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro  
1842 Lake Jodeco Rd. Jonesboro, GA 30236  
**Friends, and Family Discount.**  
**One day only at**  
**On 6/20/2019**

### All 5 Screenings for \$139

#### Carotid Artery/ Plaque Screening

Ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries that screens for plaque buildup.

#### Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)

Screens for irregular heart beat.

#### Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Screens for an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta, which could rupture.

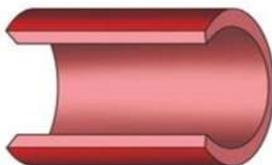
#### Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

Screens for peripheral arterial disease in the lower extremities.

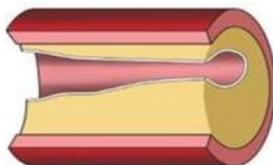
#### Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

Ultrasound screen of the heel bone to determine abnormal bone mass density.

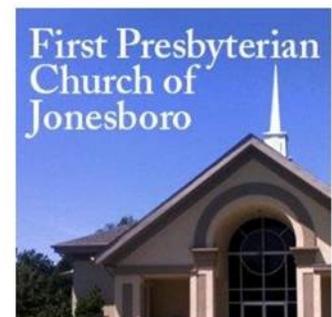
**Plaque buildup in the arteries can lead to heart disease, aneurysm or stroke.**



A normal artery allows blood to flow through easily.



Plaque buildup in the arteries reduces your blood flow and can be dangerous if left untreated.



- Call 800-679-5609 ● Visit [LifeLineScreening.com/communitycircle](http://LifeLineScreening.com/communitycircle) ● Text “Circle” to 797979



### May

5/02 - Dung Sun Wykstra  
5/05 - John Wykstra  
5/08 - Traci White  
5/20 - Edward Hatfield  
5/26 - Dave Harland  
5/28 - Pat Hockett  
5/28 - James White



### May

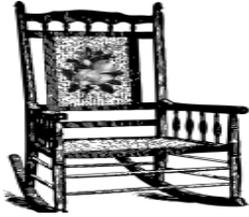
5/02 - Julie & Mike Hancock  
5/20 - Wendy & Kevin Taylor  
5/21 - Jennifer & Keith Taylor  
5/24 - Jessica & Kyle Hudalla

# Mission Trip 2019

“Time to get off the mountain: to leave and make a difference.” Pastor Olive, March 3, 2019.

That opportunity for members of the church will be June 2-8, 2019 in Columbia, SC. We will be staying in the Eastminster Presbyterian Church and working with SBP. This will be the first time we have stayed at the Eastminster Church but is our second time working with SBP. SBP is a highly organized and well-equipped group. If you would like to go and make a difference (and have a good time) see Alan Bergmann for details.

## The Front Porch Players



### *You Can't Take It with You*

Directed by Elton Todd & Danny Cook

May 3, 4, 5 & 10, 11, 12

"Sweet-natured Alice Sycamore falls for banker's son Tony Kirby. But when she invites her snooty prospective in-laws to dinner to give their blessing to the marriage, Alice's peculiar extended family-- including philosophical grandfather Martin Vanderhof, hapless fledgling ballerina sister Essie, and fireworks enthusiast father, Paul--might be too eccentric for the staid Kirbys."

#### *Tickets*

*Reserved Seating: Adults - \$15 Seniors - \$12 Children - \$12*  
*General Admission: Adults - \$12 Seniors - \$10 Children - \$10*  
*Season Passes: Adults - \$52 Seniors - \$42 Children - \$42*  
*Group rates available; call 770-897-1404*

#### **Show Times**

**Fridays/Saturdays: 7:30 p.m. & Sundays: 2:30 p.m.**

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter @frontporchplyrs

Call us at 770-897-1404

E-mail: [thefrontporchplayers2@gmail.com](mailto:thefrontporchplayers2@gmail.com)

Website: [www.thefrontporchplayers.com](http://www.thefrontporchplayers.com)



Comedian Chonda Pierce

"the country comic" (Billboard Magazine ) and noted  
Christian Comic

Friday, May 17th 6:15 pm

First Baptist Church, Jonesboro

Tickets: <https://chonda.org/>

# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Breakfast Club 9:00 am Chick –fil –A Choir 7 pm	2	3 FPP Performance 7:30 pm	4 FPP Performance 7:30 pm
5 Communion FPP Performance 2:30 pm	6	7	8 Choir 7 pm	9	10 FPP Performance 7:30 pm	11 FPP Performance 7:30 pm
12 Mother's Day FPP Performance 2:30 pm	13 PW Morning Circle 10 am	14 PW 6:30 pm PM 6:30 pm Meal Provided	15 Choir 7 pm	16	17	18 Women's Re- treat Study 10 am PW Bunco FLC Noon
19	20 PW Spring Birthday Gath- ering 5:30 pm FLC	21	22 Choir 7 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Deadline June CC Newsletter Choir 7 pm	30	31	

**First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro recently purchased and dedicated new *Glory to God Hymnals*. These hymn books were made possible through the kindness and generosity of our members and friends. Hymnals have been dedicated "in memory of" and "in honor of" loved ones of church members. Please review the following list, and contact the church office if there have been an omissions or errors in the list. This information will be used for the bookplates that will be affixed in the hymnals.**

<b>In Memory of:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
Wayne L. Alford	Sue Alford, Brianne, Kevin, Betsy , and Henry Graham
Regina May Babb	Stan and Mona May
Doris "Bart" Barton	Julie Hester
Judy Kodaras Belle Isle	Hal Belle Isle
Karl Douglas Belle Isle	Eloise Belle Isle
Martin Preston Belle Isle	Eloise Belle Isle
Otis Martin Belle Isle	Eloise Belle Isle
William Austin Belle Isle, Sr.	Eloise Belle Isle
Frances, Harold, and Michael Bergmann	Alan Bergmann and Carol Abdo
Bud Brewer Phil Bush	Betty Bush
Robert P. and Joanne S. Foster	Mike and Julie Hancock
Jack Giddens	James and Traci White
Frank H. and Emma "Sue" Hancock	Mike and Julie Hancock
Charles and Dorothy Harbaugh	Alan Bergmann and Carol Abdo
Mrs. Ruth Hay	Ervin (Sonny) Wade and Lynda Wade and Chris Graf
Eugene A. Hatfield	Carol Hatfield
Teresa Belle Isle Hughes	Eloise Belle Isle
M.C. and Etheleen Kelley	Walter and Gwen Taylor
Sara Lanier	Sid Lanier
Timothy Arthur Luedtke	Eloise Belle Isle
Helen O'Neill	James and Traci White

Our Grandparents	Mike and Laura Wigington
Dawson and Ethel Parkhouse	Keith and Nancy Parkhouse
Lester and Gladys Ratcliff	Debbie Woodward
Ann and Ed Rozier	Carol Hatfield
Avis Shearouse	Debbie Woodward and Tonya Shearouse
Mr. and Mrs. George Smith	Cyndi and Jack Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Sundstrom	Mr. and Mrs. John Anzalone
Frank and Mattie Taylor	Walter and Gwen Taylor
Jennifer H. Taylor	Walter and Gwen Taylor
Doris Terrell	Terra Terrell
Howard and Vicky Turner Glenn Howard Turner II Glenn and Estelle Turner Olive Turner	Brian, Deanie, and Nathan Turner
Mr. Ervin Wade Sr.	Ervin (Sonny) Wade and Lynda Wade and Chris Graf
Bob White	Ruby M. White
Bob White	James and Traci White
Paula White	Karen Ferrell-White and Rick White
Carl and Ruth Whitworth	Debbie Woodward
Grover and Cliff Williams	Carol Hatfield
<b>In Honor of:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
Eloise Belle Isle	Children, Grandchildren and Great -Grandchildren
Edward Hatfield	Carol Hatfield
Walter Harryman and Melissa Ham	To honor their wedding 4-13-2019
Brian Luetkemeyer	Billy and Jane Luetkemeyer
My children, grandchildren and great grandchildren	Ruby M. White
Our Children and Grandchildren	Walter and Gwen Taylor
Our Parents	Mike and Laura Wigington

<b>In Honor of:</b>	<b>Given by:</b>
Dorothy Patterson Millie Patterson Ryan and Ann Patterson	Carol Hatfield
Andrew Luke Taylor	Billy and Jane Luetkemeyer
Wendy and Kevin Taylor	Billy and Jane Luetkemeyer
Suri Smith and Bentley Smith	Cyndi and Jack Smith
Leonard White, Sr.	Karen Ferrell White and Rick White
Ruby White	James and Traci White
<b>Gift</b>	John and Vicki Westervelt



## Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women 's Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 10:00 am at Eloise Belle Isle's home and will be followed by an outing for lunch. The Evening Circle will meet Monday, May 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The PW will be providing the meal for the Men of the Church this month; Night Circle Moderator, Melissa Ham, will be contacting PW members regarding the meal – BLT's, Salad or Soup and dessert. Both Circles are studying from *2018/2019 Horizons Bible Study* and are is on Lesson 6, "God with Us Through Our Trials," so please read the lesson before the meeting.

On Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 10 am we will continue our study of *Gifts of Imperfection*. Bunco will follow at noon. A reminder of the rules...\$5 to play per person, two winners only - the one with the most wins and the one with the most Buncos. All winnings must be donated to one of three missions - Good Shepherd, Marion Mission Wells or Haven Mission, as chosen together by the winners. Please bring your own sandwich or salad for lunch - drinks and dessert will be provided. Please let Jane Luetkemeyer or Julie Hancock if you plan to attend by Saturday, May 11, 2019.

PW's annual Spring Birthday Gathering will be held on May 20, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center. This gathering is a wonderful time for fellowship, a little Presbyterian Women business and celebration of the 2019 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women. Please bring a soup, salad, sandwich or dessert to share.

We hope to see you there!



We would like to express our sincere thanks for all the prayers and cards for our daughter, Nikki Holcomb, during her pregnancy and the subsequent birth of our granddaughter, Coraline Margaret Holcomb. Both Nikki and Coraline are doing great. Praise be to God!

Mike and Rhonda Fox

For all the cards and the many, many prayers offered up for us, we give you thanks. We have felt your caring and strength and will be forever grateful to you.

God bless each of you,

Fred, Dottie and Eric Kobus (Dottie is the sister of Ruby White)

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,

Thank you so much for agreeing to be a \$500 Sponsor for the Good Shepherd Clinic's Annual Pillars Luncheon.

This year we raised over \$22,000 at the event with the help of your generous donation. We really appreciate your support!

Chelsea Folds,  
Executive Director  
Good Shepherd Clinic



## Extended Prayer List

### Church Member

Sue Alford

Raymond and Susan Baggarly

Eloise Belle Isle

Betty Bush

Faye Callina

Carolyn Fox DuPree

Mike and Ronda Fox

Carol Francis

Brianne and Kevin Graham

Mike and Julie Hancock

David Harland

Carol Hatfield

Julie Hester

Mary Huie-Jolly

Jane and Billy Luetkemeyer

Stan and Mona May

Ronnie and Elaine Piper

Bill and Barbara Rhinehart

Keith and Jennifer Taylor

Walt and Gwen Taylor

Laura and Mike Wigington

James and Traci White

Ruby White

Pat Wood

Debbie Woodard

### Pray For:

Richard Baldwin, Paul Brueckner

Rodney Mitchell, Kim Farmer

Stacey Luedtke, Simone Luedtke, Colton Jones

Marilyn Vaughan

Pat Goggin

Randy Bradley

Stephen Mitchell, Nikki Holcomb,

Francine Walker

Libby Graham

Pat Hunt-Nelson, Henry Hancock, Donna Pratt, Kenny Edmondson,  
Tom Nelson

Jen Adorno, Pat Melarango

Ryan Patterson

Lauren Parker

Lucie Huie

Kent Alvis

Karen Pearce, Tony May, Paul Carrington-May

Luke Gilman, Linda Harris, Nancey Lester

Rocky Boulware

Bruce Andrews, Cheryl Denny, Roger Moore, Scott Betsil, Lauren Hutchinson,  
Barbara Lacey, Barry Smith, Sandy Hawkins

Dewey Ellenburg, Betty Lovon, Sarah Corley, Charles Kelley,  
Mike Pickett, Nancy Hendrix, Laura Etheridge, May Etheridge,  
Robert Kelley

John and Carol Abbott

Brenda Henson and Family

Dorothy Kobus, Chris Lizama

Randy Clokey, Bob and Charlotte Roach

Sandra Ellard, Howard Marsh, Rebecca Browning

## 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

1842 Lake Jodeco Road Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

(770)478-8118

www.firstpresjonesboroga.org

secretaryfpcj@gmail.com

### 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  
secretaryfpcj@gmail.com

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.