

# Church Chatter

## June, 2019



The following was taken from the Monthly Presbytery Newsletter. The Executive Presbyter's Corner *Prayers of Hope and Lament* by Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

One afternoon I recently decided that I needed to purchase some plants for my office. I was excited about the conversations around congregational vitality and flourishing that we had been having during our presbytery meetings and in other small group settings. I have developed my green thumb for house plants and I have this amazing office window sill that was destined to house newly potted plants filled with life and vitality. I picked three different types of plants - one succulent, one of the cactus variety, one small with thin bright leaves. With joy and zeal, I purposefully chose three different sizes and three different colors. Perhaps on a subconscious level, I was thinking about the diversity among our churches, within our leadership, and throughout the world. We are all called to flourish even though we come in different shapes and sizes. We are all called to flourish even if our flourishing looks and sprouts in different ways.

I was hopeful that all three would not only survive but they would thrive as symbols of life, health, and vitality. I potted each plant in its own unique vessel. I watered them. I even talked to them. And then something happened. The little one died. I watered it. I put it in a different place for less exposure to the light. Even members of the staff would walk by and gently touch the withered leaves and say, "Aisha, I think you can let this one go." Even as I write this article, my poor little dead plant is on the window sill because there is a little piece of me that thinks it will have a Lazarus moment and rise-up if I water it one more time.

I need to let it go. Learning to lament and let go is yet another way to pray without ceasing. When we think of prayers of lament, we tend to focus on them during the forty days of Lent. As we talk about growth, life, and vitality in our lives and in our churches, we must also take a moment to offer prayers of lament for how we imagined things would be versus embracing our present reality. In the third chapter of Lamentations we hear words of lament that encourage us to accept the present pain while embracing the hope and possibility of the future.

Continued on page 2.

*The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'* (Lamentations 3:19-23).

As we approach the summer, you may find pockets of time that allow you to plan, hope, pray, and lay out your dreams for the upcoming liturgical year. In your prayers of hope, may you cultivate space for prayers of release and letting go. In your prayers of reflection, make space to lament what could have gone better and lay it at the foot of the cross.

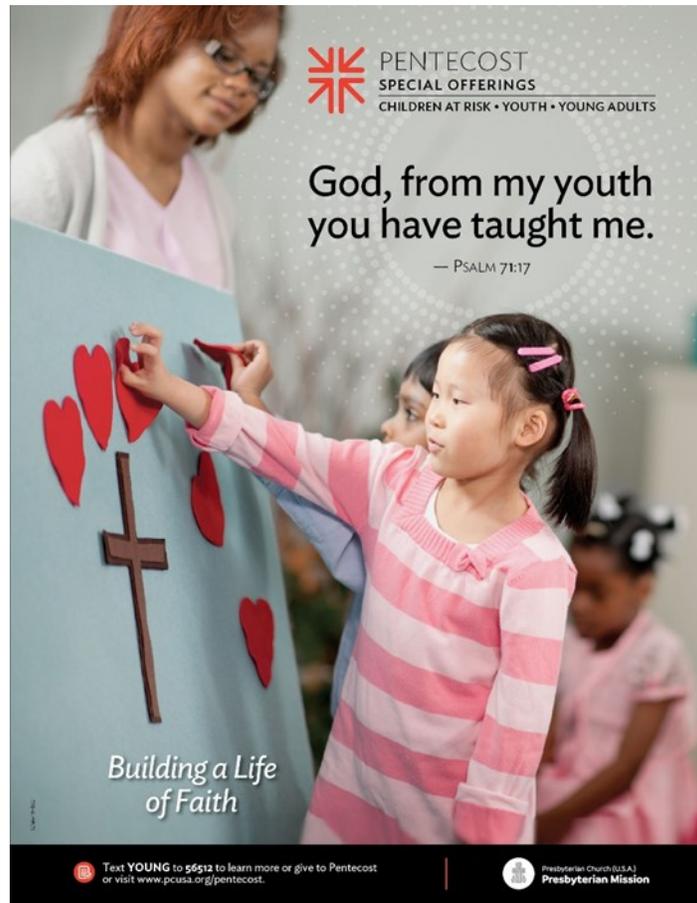
Even as we offer prayers of hope, it is good to take a deep breath, let go of our expectations of the past, and keep our hearts open to face pain as we embrace the hope of greater things to come. For each day we are faced with new mercies, God's faithful and steady hand, and God's love that is from everlasting to everlasting.

May the Lord continue to bless us in our worship and service,

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Olive

# Pentecost Offering



The Pentecost Offering is unique in that congregations direct 40 percent of what they receive for ministries which benefit children at risk. The remaining 60 percent supports mission through child advocacy (10 percent), youth ministry (25 percent), and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities (25 percent).

To give by phone, call 800-872-3283.

To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Or give through FPCJ and on the memo line please include "Pentecost Offering 2019."

You can give through June and July. Thank you for your generosity.



## **FPCJ Welcomes Three New Members**

On Sunday May 26, 2019 FPCJ received three new members through reaffirmation of faith. They were Sue Alford, Rick White and Karen Ferrell White. The FPCJ family warmly welcomes our three new members and look forward to serving Christ's church together. Here's a little information about our three newest members:

**Sue Alford:** Sue has been worshipping at FPCJ and involved in its programs for a little more than 2 years. Her granddaughter had attended VBS at FPCJ about 3 years ago (having been invited by Heather Markovitch). The family had a great experience and was impressed with the VBS leaders. Next Spring, Sue's daughter Brianne and her husband Kevin worshipped at FPCJ, and shared their positive experience with Sue. Sue says "we almost instantly felt at home. Even my parents and my husband Wayne attended the VBS party and liked the atmosphere." Sue has been very involved at FPCJ and is very dedicated to the work of Christ.

**Rick White:** Rick has been a professional counselor for 33 years specializing in mental health and substance abuse counseling. He received his Master's Degree from Western Carolina University. He's worked with men, women, adolescents, and children, in prisons, schools, and for independent counseling agencies. He's been married to Karen Ferrell White for 15 years. Rick worshipped from time to time but admits that after Rev. Mahabir was called to FPCJ Karen convinced him to attend more often. Rick says "I feel more connected to the Lord in this church than I have in over a decade."

**Karen Ferrell White:** Karen has of course been "present" at FPCJ since The Front Porch Players began performing here in 2013. She attended sporadically during Pastor Sue's tenure, but started attending more consistently when Rev. Mahabir began her service. Karen says, "I have always felt more than welcomed here at FPCJ and it has always felt like home. I made the decision last year to join, but it just took this long for me to get the wheels moving. I love this church and its people and admire its dedication to following God's mission to love, to reach out, to minister, and to be concerned about our world."

# Congratulations to Kyle Hudalla and Family!

Submitted by Jessica Hudalla

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Hudalla family. At the end of April, Kyle graduated from the Command and General Staff Officer Course. This course is designed to prepare Maneuver, Fire & Effects, and Force Sustainment officers to serve on battle staffs of operational level headquarters, to lead missions assigned to battalion and brigade sized units, and to develop the professional skills and competencies required to be a senior field-grade officer. This challenging 16 week course focused on critical thinking, strategic and operational studies, Army and Joint Operations, Force Management, the Western Way of War, and Organizational Leadership. It was a lot of long days and even longer nights studying, writing papers and taking exams.

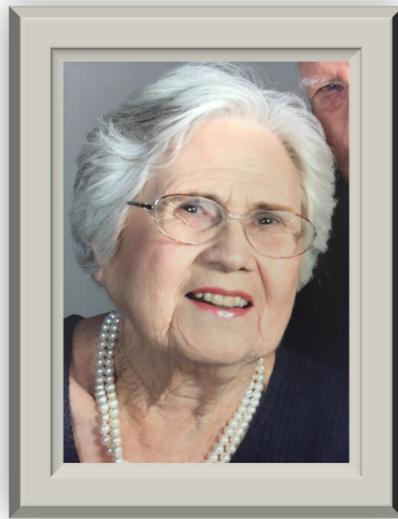
In May, along with Jackson's Pre-K graduation and our 11th wedding anniversary, Kyle was promoted from Captain to Major in the US Army. Kyle whole heartedly feels that it has been an honor to serve our country. To be selected for promotion to Major and move from a Company Grade to Field Grade Officer is truly a blessing in his career, and we are happy to accept the increased responsibility and look forward to our continued service in the Army. We are always so excited to see what God has planned for our family. We are so blessed and truly appreciate the love, support and prayers that we constantly receive from our amazing FPCJ congregation. Thank you for keeping us close even though the miles are sometimes far.



Major Kyle Hudalla

Hudalla Family  
Grant, Kyle,  
Jessica, Jackson

# Thank You



Someone once said, "Circumstances don't determine when something is over - God does." And so it was with the recent passing of Mona. While her passing was so difficult for me and all the family, the outpouring of support from our many friends, and especially our Church family that she loved so much, eased the pain. To try to thank everyone that was there for us during her time in the hospital and in the visitation and funeral service that followed would be impossible. On behalf of all the May family, please accept our thanks and gratitude. There is an old Jewish proverb that sums it up: "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

Stan May and family

## Obituary For The Love Of My Life ...

### Armona May

Armona Delorice Jay May was called home to be with God on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

She was married on February 9, 1952, to her husband Stancel L. May, Jr., and they enjoyed 67 wonderful years together. He and their four sons were at her bedside when she passed.

After Stan returned from Korea in 1953, they lived in Moultrie, Georgia for several years. In 1956 they moved to Atlanta, and in 1965 moved to the Jonesboro area, where they became members of the Jonesboro Presbyterian Church. She found great pleasure in participating in, and being with, members of her Church family.

Born in Jarrell, Texas, on February 18, 1930, her family moved to a farm near Newton, Mississippi, at an early age where she grew up and graduated from Hickory High School. After retiring from J. C. Penney, she enjoyed her hobbies of flower gardening and attracting and feeding birds in her yard. She and Stan enjoyed traveling.

In addition to Stan, she is succeeded by her four sons: Stephen Michael May (Laurel), Jay Anthony May, Stancel Leroy May, III (Kim) and Geoffrey Windom May (Heather). She was preceded in death by her only daughter, Regina Carol May Babb. In addition, she is survived by thirteen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2019, in the Sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro, on Jodeco Road, to be followed immediately by a Memorial Service. Burial will follow at Camp Memorial Park in Fayetteville, Georgia.

All arrangements are by Ford-Stewart Funeral home, Jonesboro, Georgia.

*I miss you and I'll love you forever, sweetheart,*

*Stan May*

A few reminders from Buildings and Grounds:



The Family Life Center locks have now been changed and new keys have been distributed to those who requested them. If you received these, please remember not to give yours to anyone or have it duplicated. Keep track of your keys, as we don't want lost keys floating around Clayton County. This has been a problem in the past – that's the main reason for having the locks changed. There are a few extras for special uses, and we are keeping a list so we know to whom they are given. If you need one for any reason, let Laura Wigington know ([motley30253@yahoo.com](mailto:motley30253@yahoo.com) or call 404-314-1240).

Recently, the FLC alarm has "gone off" a number of times. This has occurred mostly during the day, but there has been an occasion at night. On this occasion, a door had been left unlocked and anyone could have opened the door causing the alarm to trip. Luckily, it appears it scared off whoever opened it. If you aren't aware, the doors must be fully closed to turn the alarm off and to reset it upon leaving. There are two alarm panels, one by the door nearest the office and one by the door off the breezeway. Please use those doors when entering if you are not sure as to whether the alarm is set or disarmed. Upon entering, make sure the door is fully closed prior to entering the code. When you are setting the alarm to leave, again make sure all the doors are closed (and locked). You only need to hit the "EXIT" button to set it. If you accidentally set off the alarm and quickly disarm it, please call me. The alarm company calls me if nobody answers the church phone. I can let them know it's ok and they'll cancel the call. We do not usually have them send the police, as a false alarm costs the church each time. If we arrive at the church and have any doubts, we call the police ourselves.

Regarding the Sanctuary, the only door you can enter to turn off the alarm is the one connected to the breezeway. The panel is just to the right of this door. If you open any other door, the alarm will immediately sound. Also, you must remain perfectly still to disarm or arm this panel as the motion sensor is right above the door in the corner. If anyone is with you, please have them exit the building before you push the "EXIT" button on the panel. Any movement may cause the alarm to not set, or trip and call the alarm company.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura.

Thanks!



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  
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 (Atrial Fibrillation)**

Screens for irregular heart beat.

**Abdominal  
 Aortic Aneurysm  
 Screening**

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

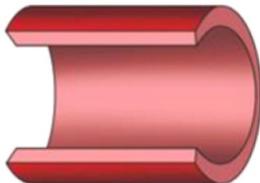
**Peripheral Arterial  
 Disease Screening**

Screens for peripheral arterial disease in the lower extremities.

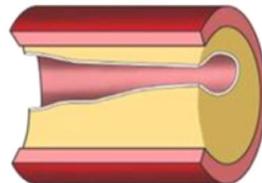
**Osteoporosis Risk  
 Assessment**

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

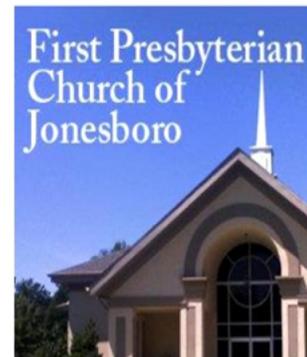
**Plaque buildup in the arteries can lead to heart disease, aneurysm or stroke.**



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

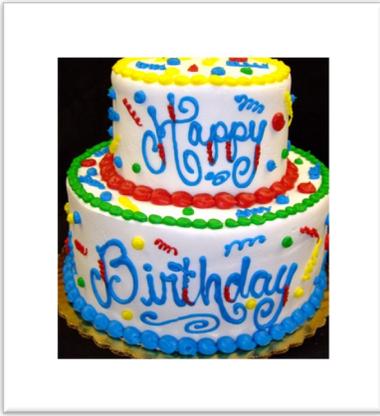
**Please Note: June 20, 2019**

This price is a special discount that the general public will not be getting .Pre-registration is required. Sign up now by calling toll free to **1-888-653-6441**

or **text** the word **circle** to **797979**

or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) .

If you need assistance, please call the church office at 770.478.8118.



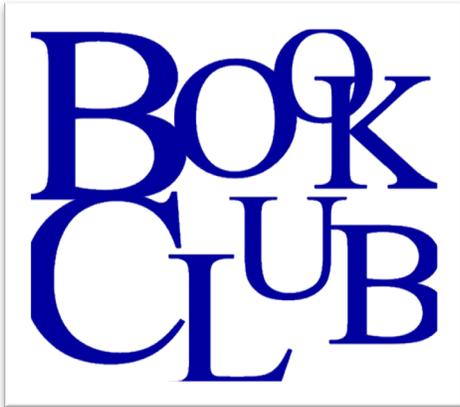
### June

6/01 - Bailey Wallace  
6/03 - Billy Luetkemeyer  
6/03 - Ronnie Piper  
6/05 - Betty Bush  
6/06 - Rhonda Fox  
6/07 - Carol Abdo-Bergmann  
6/27 - Mike Wigington  
6/28 - Carl Mahabir



### June

6/12 - Elaine & Randy Clokey  
6/21 - Vicki & John Westervelt



The Book Club will be reading *All Over But The Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg. Nancy Parkhouse will lead the discussion. All are welcome.

**June 13th , (Thursday),  
5:00 pm, Church Office.**

### School Graduation and Transition Recognition

Congregational Care would like to recognize our children as they transition in their school grades. Please let the office know if you have someone in your family who is moving up (kindergarten to elementary, elementary to middle, middle to high school). We will plan a luncheon sometime in June or July and let you know. See Jane if you have a question. Let's celebrate with our youth as they grow in the love of Christ!



The Presbyterian Women's' Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Eloise Belle Isle's home and will be followed by an outing for lunch. We are studying from *2018/2019 Horizons Bible Study* and are is on Lesson 8, "God with Us as Emmanuel." Please read prior to the meeting. **The Evening Circle will not meet during the summer months and will resume in September 2019;** but, all women are welcome at the Morning Circle during this time.

Information regarding playing Bunco during June will be forthcoming. With it being the summer months, we're not sure we will have enough players. Please watch your email for upcoming information.

We will be collecting for the 2019 Birthday Offering until June 7, 2019. The Birthday Offering began in 1922 and has become an annual tradition to celebrate Presbyterian Women's history of giving. It has funded more than 200 mission projects that have touch the lives of women and children. If you haven't given yet and would like to donate, please give your donation to Carol Hatfield or Julie Hancock.

Hope to see all at the Morning Circle!

**Please note: Summer Office Hours**

**During June, 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.**

# June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Holy Communion Mission Trip Leaves	3	4	5 Choir 7 pm	6	7	8 Mission Trip returns pm
9	10	11 PW Morning Circle 10 am	12 Breakfast Club 9 am Choir 7 pm	13 Book Club 5 pm Church Office	14	15 PW Bunco 11:30 am-2 pm
16 	17	18	19 Choir 7 pm	20 Life Line Screening FLC	21	22
23 Session Stated Meeting 12:30 pm-2 pm	24	25	26 Deadline CC Newsletter Choir 7 pm	27	28	29
30						

## Extended Prayer List

### Church Member

Sue Alford  
Raymond and Susan Baggaly  
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 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, May Etheridge  
John and Carol Abbott  
Brenda Henson and Family, Lee White  
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  
secretaryfp@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.

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

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