

Women's Ministry Newsletter ~ June 2021

“The Times today are a changing”

IN 1963, this song was written by Bob Dylan. We do not endorse the reason/purpose that he wrote this but just too simply say...“The times today are a changing.” As we read our newspapers, watch TV, view social media it is obvious that our country is having an “Identity Crisis”. In a world that's constantly changing it is good to know God our Father is constant and can be counted on.

In view of this changing world around us, we ought to know who we are and to whom we belong. Ladies, when you gave your life to Christ, you became a child of God and inherited your royal position in His family. You didn't earn it, he simply gave it to you because He loves you. God has given us access and the privilege of knowing Him intimately. Ephesians 2:19-22 says, “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you are also being built together into a dwelling place for God by Spirit.”

You are loved. You don't have to work to be loved. As a daughter of Christ, love is your inheritance. He is our “Abba” father. As women, daughters of Christ, we have a responsibility, and we were designed with a purpose. We were designed for His good works, “For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5

In light of who we are, and the works God has prepared us for, our Women's Ministry will be re-focusing in order to work with other ministry teams under the leadership of Pastor Bill Pardue to align ourselves with other ministry teams at FPC. As women we are always changing and rearranging our homes, our closets, our pantries, etc. It is just our nature. And each year we evaluate our priorities and see what worked and what did not. So, it is with FPC Women's Ministry.

FPC Women's Ministry will focus on developing the women of FPC in ways that are grounded in the truth of God's word. We value the systematic study of God's Word. We believe it is vital to seek the face of God through regular, disciplined prayer. We, as women in Christ, are uniquely and wonderfully made to serve the lord. We celebrate our identity in Christ and seek to honor him with lives that reflect Christ. We are committed to developing a diverse and unified body of women who are committed to building relationships across the generations. Realizing the women's ministry is for women but not all about women, we believe in actively loving and serving our Church, our community, and the larger Church of Jesus Christ.

We Welcome Our New Leaders

Phyllis Pemerton, Staff Coach/Advisor - Phyllis has been a member of FPC for 20 years and now serves as the Executive Director of Operations at FPC. She will instruct, advise, provide counsel and assure that the mission and direction of Women's Ministry is aligned with FPC's mission, goals and ministry structure. We are so glad to have her, it is going to be an exciting year!

Coach's Corner

As we prayerfully looked to Scripture and to our FPC Mission Statement, the vision and mission for Women's Ministry at First Presbyterian Church became clear.

*Our vision is to see the women of First Presbyterian Church **flourish in Christ!***

Our mission statement, which guides our ministry is:

First Presbyterian Church's Women's Ministry

Is grounded in God's Word,

***grows** in the context of God's people, and
ultimately **glorifies Christ**, our Savior and King.*

My prayer is that all women at FPC will see the vision and mission unfold over the coming year...and years to come. I am humbled and blessed that the Lord has called me to walk alongside of my sisters at FPC in ministry.



*Jesus Christ is the
same yesterday and
today and forever.*
- Hebrews 13:8 -

Our Co-chairs, Margaret Crego and Emily Katherine Johnson.

Margaret is married to Mike and they have been married for 25 Years. They have two children, Mitch (21) is a senior at Belmont College in Nashville and Meredith (19) is a sophomore at the University of Alabama. They joined FPC in 1998. Margaret is not new to the Women's Ministry council as she has served off and on for many years and also headed up the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program. We are excited to have her in this new capacity.

She has many interests such as, photography, love of travel, yoga, hiking and walking. She loves to give gifts so working part-time at Bella Luna feeds that interest. She desires to improve her flower arranging skills in the near future and most recently learning to play golf.

Margaret gives credit to Anita Smith for mentoring her and walking beside her as a Titus 2 woman. This is the perfect example of spiritually mature women mentoring young women.

When asked what vision she had for Women's Ministry she said, "to regain HOPE, to reach out to women who have felt disconnected and had lost hope." Romans 15:13 says "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Emily Katherine is originally from Spartanburg, S. C. She is a graduate of Berry College.

She married her husband, Emery, during "Shelter in place" on April 4, 2020 in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church with only 10 people. She has a Masters in Divinity in Christian Education, with a specialization in Women's Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Emily Katherine is the Team Leader of the Discipleship Intensives with the WinShape College Program, traveling to equip and train college-aged students to make disciples on their campus through small group Bible study.

Emily Katherine enjoys writing as she reviews books on her blog for various publishing companies, helps create Bible study curriculum, and has published her own book, *Let's Be Real*.

She loves to cook, coach volleyball for Tsunami volleyball club, mentor young women and Atlanta Braves Baseball.

If you attend the Convergent service, you will see her as a member of the Praise Team.

A Message from your co-chairs...

Greetings Ladies of FPC:

We are so excited about what the Lord has in store for the Women of First Presbyterian Church. After a year of so much uncertainty, turmoil, heartache and more, we are overwhelmed by the HOPE that Christ offers to us! It's easy to lose sight of that hope in such tumultuous times, but our prayer as your incoming co-chairs is to hopefully pour HOPE into your lives through the different areas our ministry has in place. So you may see a theme here, and the word of focus for the upcoming May 2021-2022 year is HOPE based on the following verse: Romans 15:13

Our committee is now sub-divided into 5 areas:

- Fellowship
- Discipleship
- Service
- Shepherding a woman's heart
- Communication

May the God of hope fill you with joy
and peace as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



While we have ladies, who will serve on these committees for the next year, please know that there will be lots of opportunities to get involved! As we plan this summer for the Fall & Spring ahead, we will be letting you know as we have areas of need that will come up (ex. decorating for Christmas, Blessed Celebration, Taking meals to Ruth & Naomi Shelter, Spring Retreat & more).

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have questions or ideas you want to share. We are hopeful we can do more hands-on events as things start to open up, and we look forward to seeing how the ministry continues to grow.

Blessings,

Margaret & Emily Katherine (cregom@juno.com & ejohnson@winshape.org)

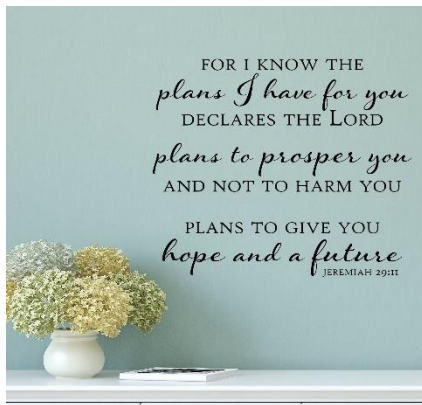
2021-2022 Council Members

Jenny Bojo
Margaret Crego
Frances Edwards
Kelly Espy
Karen Johnson

Susi Manning
Julie Mooring
Chris Morgan
Virginia Saunders
Katey Temple

Jennifer Beard
Donna Edwards
Jenni Glover
Jill Graham
Sheri Hillesheim

Emily Katherine Johnson
Adlynn Keith
CeCe Wallis
Liz Williams



Let's Talk About HOPE...

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you Hope and a future."

Maybe it's not a stretch to say we all desire to have a confident hope. A hope that doesn't fluctuate...not here today, gone tomorrow... depending on what we face.

There is a scripture that speaks to this desire we have, Hebrews 10:23 which reads: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

As Christian women, hope in our lives is not wishful thinking. It is confident expectation. As we move about our daily lives wherever our schedules take us, sometime we notice or hear someone say that they wish things were different and they wish someone could just walk up and change their situation. Maybe you've heard that expressed regularly during this past year of the pandemic. As Christian women, we are personally related to the Lord of the universe, who is sovereign not only over all creation, but also over every situation and circumstance we experience. Therefore, we can live with confidence because our Hope is in the One who is faithful.

When God speaks to us from His word, He stands by His word to see that it comes to pass. Isaiah 55:11 says this. When God speaks to you from His word, you can trust Him completely because He never deceives His children. If God has indicated to us that He is going to do something we can be absolutely confident that He will do it.

Our hope is not mere speculation in what God might do. God has given His word on so many areas of life regarding the things He will do. Because of that we can have confidence in everything He has promised!

Bible scriptures to study HOPE

- Isaiah 40:31
- Psalm 119:114
- Romans 5:5
- Romans 15:13
- Hebrews 10:23
- 1 Peter 1:3
- Hebrew 11:1
- Romans 8:25
- 1 Peter 3:15
- Romans 5:3-4
- Psalm 33:22
- Ephesians 4:4
- Ephesians 1:18



Welcome our New Members, Jennifer and Emily Preston

Jennifer Preston - Our family moved to Rome five years ago with Scott's job as President of NWGA for SYNOVUS. Not long after moving, we bought a small farm and have a few farm animals as well as a retired race horse. Sounds fancy but it's really just a country farm for relaxing when not shoveling out stalls. We enjoy feeding and grooming the animals or just riding the tractor. Recently we moved our membership to FPC after our middle schooler had enjoyed so many youth events here. We all love FPC's warm welcome and kind hearts! As a mom, there is nothing more fulfilling than knowing my child is learning more about how to walk with Christ...nothing! Jackson is completing 7th grade at Darlington and joining Unity Christian for 8th grade next year. He is SO excited! Scott and I may be the oldest parents in 7th grade! Ha! Our oldest, Emily, graduated from UGA last May (aka...no graduation 2020) and now teaches 7th grade science at Armuchee Middle School. As for me, I am a stay at home mom and love to garden, care for my elderly father who lives with us and be the taxi for all as needed. We are all excited to make new friends and be part of an active church family!!



June Birthdays

June 3 – Jennifer Beard
June 4 – Lane Rice
June 7 – Grace Gartman, Madeline Dillmon
June 10 – Virginia Saunders, Ellison Brewster,
Jill Fisher
June 11 – Linda Williams
June 15 – Susan Eubanks
June 16 – Betty carver
June 17 – Lauren Brewster
June 19 – Margaret Martin, CeCe Wallis
June 20 – Cate Reese, Dot Williams-Jordan
June 21 – Wendy Whitley, Jenny Hunt
June 22 – Annie Cowan, Amy Monroe
June 24 – Lauren Walker
June 28 – Jordan Allen, Kathy Mull, Jill Pate

Bible Studies

- Summer Bible study- Study of Philippians- Tuesday mornings 9:30 am, June 29 – July 27. Contact the church office to sign up.
- Amanda Davidson will teach on the book of Isaiah starting September 7, 2021. There will be one at 8:00am and one at 1:30.
- Coming this fall a study will be taught by Louise Hunt. Please look for more details to come.

Ladies, have you ever wanted to lead a Bible study but just didn't know how to get started? We are offering a 6-week Bible study on facilitating and teaching a women's Bible study this summer. Phyllis Pemerton will be teaching this series and providing helpful teaching tools and strategies. Classes will be held on Wednesday mornings (June 16-July 21) from 10am-11:30am. Please contact the church office to sign up.



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