

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

February 2026 Epistle



Greetings Church Family,

February 18 is Ash Wednesday, which begins the period of Lent. Starting February 25, for five Wednesdays, we will have our traditional Lenten lunch, with other churches in our community. We host the first Lenten Lunch February 25. The service is at noon with lunch to follow.

Lent is a time to stop, reflect, repent, and be renewed in the love of God who forgives our sins. Lent gives us opportunity, during busy lives, to slow down and reflect on the mercy of God. These verses from Joel 2:12-13 are an excellent summary:

“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

God always invites us to return to him, regardless of our past or present sins. Lent is yet another chance to claim the gospel promise stated in our 1983 Presbyterian Church (USA) confession: "Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still." God always welcomes you home.

Pastor Bruce



Worship With Us!

Join us for worship, Sundays at 11 am. You may also join us virtually through Facebook Live by clicking [here](#). You do not need a Facebook account to view the service.

Sunday, February 1 is Communion Sunday.



February Missions Offering

F.I.S.H.

Please remember that the first Sunday of each month is a special offering for F.I.S.H. Checks can be made out to FPC with FISH in the memo line.

F.I.S.H. Mission

FPC is participating in the "2026 item of the year" with F.I.S.H. **Our item for 2026 is canned fruit.** Please purchase the cans with the pull tab top if you can. We will collect every month of 2026. Each month we will deliver to F.I.S.H. what has been collected. Thank you for your kind assistance in feeding the most needy in our community through the FISH food pantry.

F.I.S.H. is currently in need of clothing and household items. All proceeds from the F.I.S.H. thrift stores pay all operating costs of all aspects of F.I.S.H., FISH4Kids, and F.I.S.H. Medical and Dental. 100% of all financial donations are used to assist someone in need.

Thank You to all who participated by taking a bag, shopping to fill the bag & returning it to the church for delivery to F.I.S.H. Food Pantry. Our efforts will make a difference for many families in our community.

For the month of January, we collected a total of \$75 for our monthly F.I.S.H. Mission.

Missions Special Emphasis for February – Boy Scout Troop 705 (Local) boy Scout Sunday and Luncheon on 2/8

The Mission Emphasis for February is Boy Scout Troop 705. We are celebrating Boy Scout Sunday on February 8 with a fundraising luncheon. Boy Scout Troop 705 is busy raising funds for Summer Camp and ongoing supplies such as merit badges, rank patches, and merit badge pamphlets. Plans are in place to work on restoring the Boy Scout Hut by repairing siding and painting. Please make plans to attend the luncheon following worship on February 8. We ask that you prayerfully consider your donation to this long-standing mission of FPC. Checks will be received until the last Sunday of the month.

FPC 2026 Mission Emphasis Calendar

February - Boy Scout Troop 705 (Local) Boy Scout Sunday & Luncheon 2/8.

March - Memorial Drive Ministries (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta)

April - One Great Hour of Sharing (PCUSA) Easter Sunday April 5

May - Calvin Center (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta)

June - A Child's Voice Advocacy Center (Local)

July - Open

August - Project ReNeWal (Local)

September - Team Up Mentoring (Local)

October - Chogoria (Global)

November - Thornwell Homes (PCUSA)

December - Santa Express (Presbyterian Home of GA) (PCUSA)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS!



Financial Statements

2025 financial statements are available for pick up in the narthex.



Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday

Please join us for a soup and salad luncheon to support the Boy Scouts following worship on February 8.



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18 @ 6p. Join us for our Ash Wednesday service which will include the imposition of ashes that starts us in a journey of Lent moving us to the cross and resurrection.



Viticulture

Will not meet in February.



Monroe Area Lenten Service/Lunch

We will be hosting the first gathering of our community wide Lenten lunch series on February 25. Please join us at noon each Wednesday in Lent for a time of worship followed by lunch at each of the hosting churches.

Lenten Service/Lunch Schedule

TBA



THE SKETCHING PAD

Olde Town Art Studio

Sanctuary Sisters

FPC Sanctuary Sisters are going to The Sketching Pad in Conyers on Thursday, February 19. We will meet at the church and leave at 9:15a. We can carpool. We will choose an art project and complete it. We will have lunch afterwards. We need at least 10 people to sign up.

Please let Susan Evans know if you plan to attend.



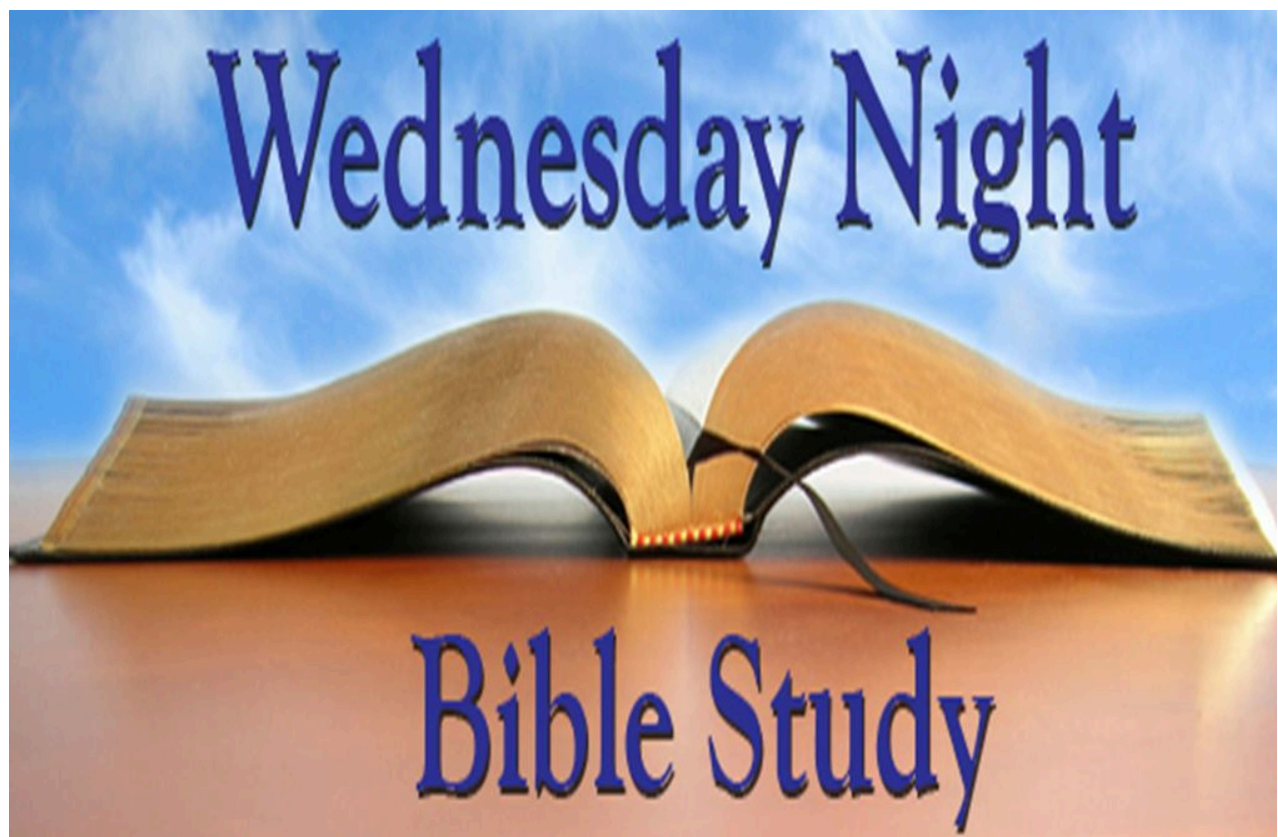
Saints Alive

Will not meet in February.



Joy Circle

Monday, February 9 at 1:30p at the church.



Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Wednesday night Bible Study Group will resume in February. Leaders will include Freda Doster, Gwen Roberts and Sarah Williams. We will meet from 5:30 – 6:30 and would love to have anyone who is interested (both men and women) as well as any friends of the church join us. We will be doing the Bible Study “Angels” by Melissa Spolestra. We will meet in the bible study room.

The study includes 8 Sessions – However, based on our last study, we will be breaking the lessons down so that each session (with the exception of the first session) covers a two-week period. Our first session will be on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. We will conclude on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. We will NOT meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, due to Spring Break.

Study Summary: The author “traverses the terrain from Genesis to Revelation to learn about angels – who they are, what they do and what they have to do with you. There’s no reason to fear or ignore what’s happening in the supernatural, unseen realm – we can live with confidence that God is in

control of it all. Angels is a call to put your hope in the God of angel armies who reigns over heaven and earth.”

Study Books can be purchased from Lifeway, Amazon, The Armory Bookstore (they have two copies in stock)- the cost of the book is \$21.99.



FPC Sunday School Classes

Sunday School starts at 10am
9:45-10am coffee and fellowship

Hanson Sunday School Class -

Teacher - Sarah Williams

Curriculum - Presbytery Materials Quarterly

Fall Quarter we will be covering Isaiah, Jeremiah, & Ezekiel.

There is a book provided for those who like to prepare ahead and to follow along during class. Please join us for fellowship and study.

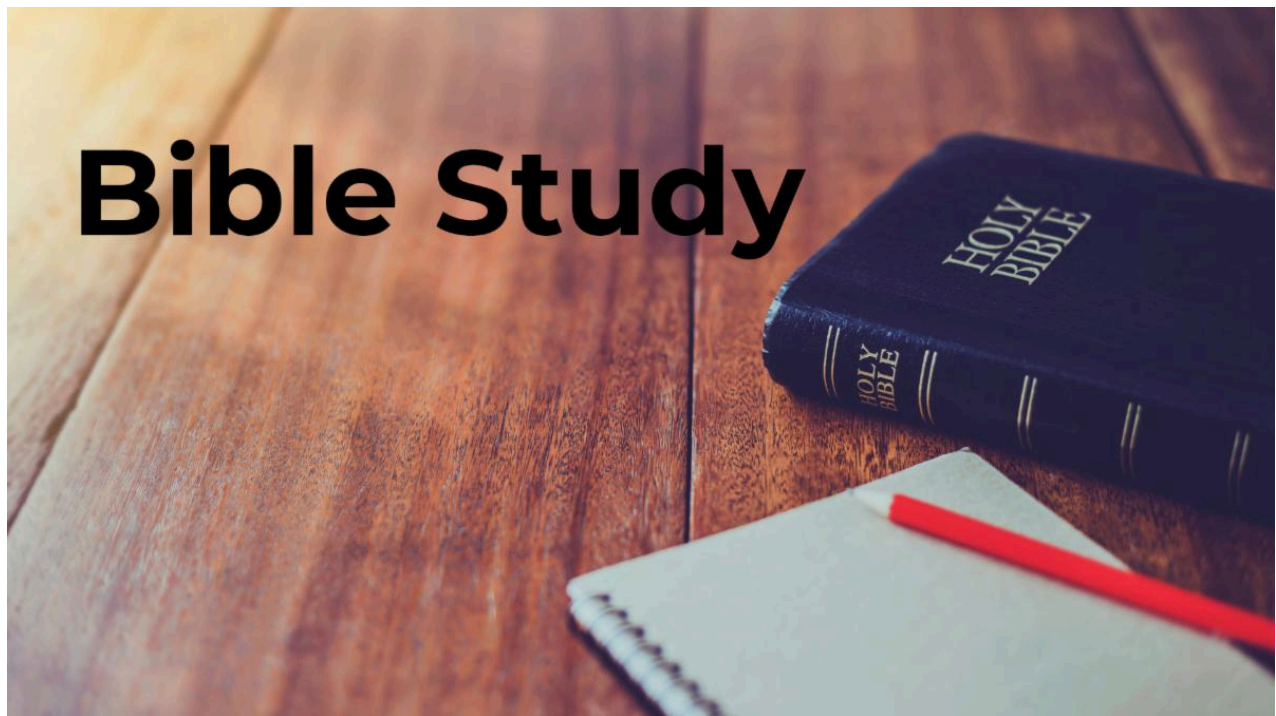
Inquirer's Sunday School Class -

Teaching/study material for the class comes from recommendations from class members, i.e. The Book of John (Bible/Commentaries); books 'Twelve Extraordinary Woman' by John MacArthur; works by Chuck Swindoll. Currently, the Inquirer's class is exploring 'Pleasing God' by R.C. Sproul. The class format is interactive with open discussion facilitated by Kim Smith.

Seekers Sunday School Class -

Teacher - Ann Hall

The Seekers Sunday School class discusses the Bible verses supporting the sermon for Sunday.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday mornings at
10a.



Man Cave

Man Cave meets weekly for fellowship and biscuits on Thursdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.



Bulletin & Epistle Announcements

If you have an announcement for inclusion in the bulletin or monthly Epistle, please email Valarie at office@fpcmonroe.com. Bulletin announcements are due by

Wednesday morning weekly. Epistle announcements are due on the last Wednesday of each month.



Prayer Request

If you know of someone who needs prayer and want them to be included on our Prayer List, please send your prayer request to Valarie at office@fpcmonroe.com, and Beattie at ble1120@icloud.com.



Check Reimbursement

If you need reimbursement by check from the church, please request a reimbursement form from Valarie Malcom or Neal Howard. At that time, the request will be reviewed and a check given. Thank you for helping us as we use our gifts in service to the Lord.

Neal Howard, Treasurer



Main Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9 am - 1 pm

DIRECTORY

Please contact the church office to request a copy of the February 2026 directory.

FPC Session

Freda Doster

Clerk of Session

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Admin. & Finance

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FPC Staff

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Executive Assistant

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Neal Howard

Treasurer

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howardnc@windstream.net



February.

Ketih Taylor	1
Nancy Schnabel	3
Charlotte Hamm	4
Ken Wilmesherr	14
Jim Williams	26
Myles Knauber	26
Mary Clendenen	27

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

500 Breedlove Dr.
Monroe, GA 30655

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