

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

March 2026 Epistle



Greetings Church Family,

As we move toward Easter, during this time of Lent, take some time to “reconnect” with Jesus through repentance and reflection. Like Nicodemus who came to Jesus at night with questions, ask yourself, “where do I need to see be enlightened to become a better follower of Jesus?”

Please consider coming to the Lenten community services, with a lunch afterwards, the next four Wednesdays:

- March 4 First Methodist Church
- March 11 Faith Baptist Church
- March 18 First African Baptist Church
- March 25 First Baptist Church

I also want to recommend a book, called “Lent,” by Dr. Esau McCaulley, professor of New Testament at Wheaton College.

Here is his opening summary:

“Lent is inescapably about repenting. Repentance is a change in direction, a Spirit-empowered turning around. Repentance, then, is the first step we make toward God. But to turn toward God we must turn away from something else. That something else is our sins. Lent, then, is about turning away from our sins and toward the living God. A season dedicated to repentance and renewal should not lead us to despair; it should cause us to praise God for his grace. Central to Lent is the idea that we need this kind of renewal consistently throughout our lives. We do not receive God’s grace only when we turn to him at the beginning of our spiritual journey. God’s grace meets us again and again.”

I pray that during this time of Lent God’s grace will meet you again, and again, and again.

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, March 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.

For the month of February, we collected a total of \$385 for our monthly F.I.S.H. Mission. We also collected for Boy Scout Troop 705 with a total of \$1143.00. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Missions Special Emphasis for March – Memorial Drive Ministry

Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM), created as a nonprofit in 2017, serves the greater Clarkston, GA community which has been the site of refugee resettlement for decades. Here they find space for reconnecting and rebuilding a new sense of belonging. Currently the Memorial Drive campus is home to more than a dozen churches and nonprofits on its large, multi-building campus. FPC will be collecting donations through the month of March. Checks may be made payable to FPC with MDM on the memo line.

FPC 2026 Mission Emphasis Calendar

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)

Easter Lilies



Easter Lillies

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily, please fill out the card found in your bulletin OR call the church office at 770-267-3404 and place your order with Valarie. All orders are due by Sunday, March 15.



Flowering the Cross on Easter

If you would like to contribute to “Flowering the Cross” please give your contribution to Dianne Cown or leave it in the office with Valarie. Make sure to designate it for the Easter Cross. Thank you!



Chili/Soup Cook-off

The chili/soup cook-off will be on Sunday, March 15 following worship service. We will put the sign-up board back out in the Narthex and let people continue to bring or make what they had signed up for in January. If you have a conflict, please contact Sarah Williams or Dianne Cown.



Viticulture

Will not meet in March.



Monroe Area Lenten Service/Lunch

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

March 4 – First Methodist Church

March 11 – Faith Baptist Church

March 18 – First African Baptist Church

March 25 – First Baptist Church



Sanctuary Sisters

We will go to the Monroe Walton Center for the arts on Thursday, March 19 at 11a to tour the exhibit and gift shop. We will each lunch in town. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to indicate if you wish to meet at the church or go directly to the Arts building. Hope to see you there!



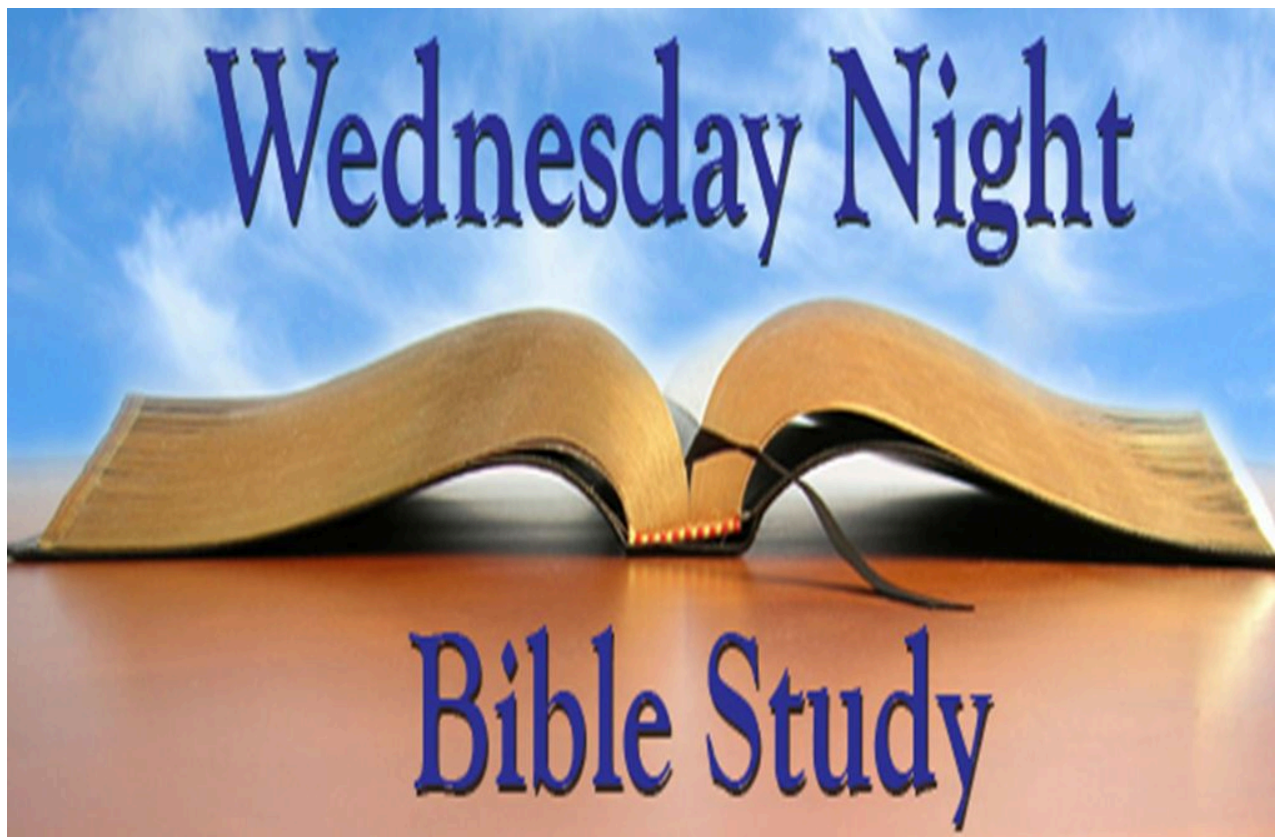
Saints Alive

Join us Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30p in the fellowship hall for our St. Patrick's Day celebration dinner. Hosted by Susan Fogleman. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up for the dinner of your choice. Dinner choices: corned beef & cabbage or a chicken dish. \$20/person.



Joy Circle

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



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday evenings from 5:00p - 6:00p. Leaders are Freda Doster and Gwen Roberts. We will meet in the bible study room. We would love to have anyone who is interested, both men and women, as well as any friends of the church join us.

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.

{ JOIN US FOR }

SUNDAY SCHOOL



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.

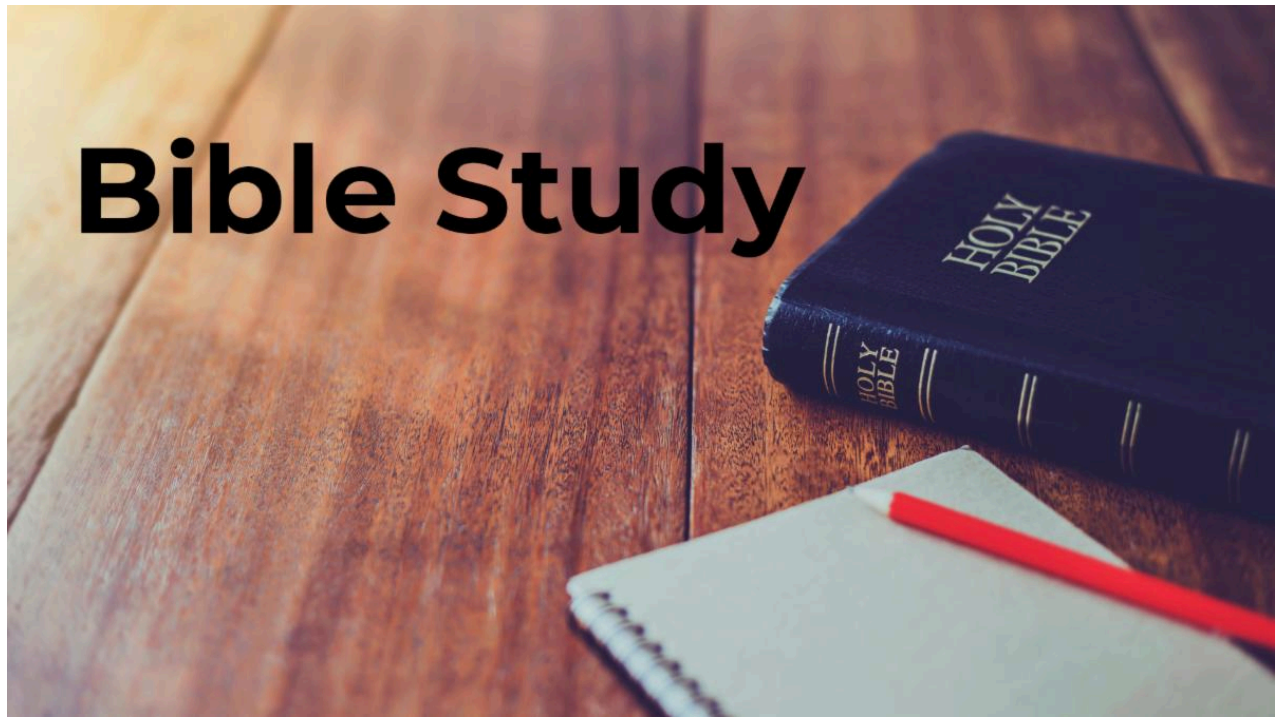
Inquirer's Sunday School Class -

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.



Bible Study

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



Office hours

Main Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9 am - 1 pm

DIRECTORY

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

FPC Session

Freda Doster
Clerk of Session
404.213.3304
fdoster@comcast.net

George Carroll [Class of 2027, Term 1]
At Large
770-266-5288
gmcmmc@monroeaccess.com

Neal Howard [Class of 2027, Term 2]
Admin. & Finance
678-642-4476
howardnc@windstream.net

Tim Blalock [Class of 2028, Term 2]
Building & Grounds
678-859-4476
blalockwilliam@bellsouth.net

Ann Hall [Class of 2027, Term 1]
Congregational Care
770-466-8919
sthall9@comcast.net

Carole Queen[Class of 2026, Term1]
Missions
678-858-3745
carolesqueen@gmail.com

Sarah Williams [Class of 2027, Term 2]
Hospitality & Care
770-601-1699
s.hester.williams@gmail.com

FPC Staff

Dr. Bruce McRae
Pastor
770-331-1378
bruce@fpcmonroe.com

Beattie Evans
Music Director
770-601-9315
ble1120@icloud.com

Harriet Jett
Pianist
678-427-5686
harriet.kilpatrick@gmail.com

Valarie Malcom
Executive Assistant
770-267-3404 - office
470-707-4597 - cell
office@fpcmonroe.com

Neal Howard
Treasurer
678-642-4476 - cell
howardnc@windstream.net



March

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Nia Ramsey | 1 |
| Sue Strauss | 2 |
| Barb Greer | 3 |
| Margy DeGeorge | 4 |
| Gail Whitley | 4 |
| Linda Gleason | 6 |
| Carole Burns | 7 |
| Billy Knight | 14 |
| Harriet Jett | 23 |

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

500 Breedlove Dr.
Monroe, GA 30655

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