

Faith Speaks

The Thanksgiving meal is right around the corner. Soon, long wooden tables will be decorated with clean linens, platters will be overflowing with turkey and ham, the steam of fresh-baked rolls will fill the air, and the words, "Pass the gravy," will be repeated by all. Hopefully, though, food isn't the only reason you'll be gathering. Hopefully, you'll be gathering together around a table to celebrate more than your stomach. You'll be gathering around a table to celebrate family, freedom, and maybe even hospitality.

Hospitality is one of those things we think of lightly. We consider it a kind gesture or just good manners. But have you ever considered how seriously the Bible takes hospitality? The Apostle Peter, in his letter, is speaking about the struggles of getting along with one another in a sinful world, and he gives this command: 1 Peter 4:8-9 "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling." The Apostle Paul, when he gives his lists of qualifications for elders, pastors, and overseers, includes hospitality as a requirement. 1 Timothy 3:2: "Therefore an overseer

must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach." The author of Hebrews even warns us that hospitality towards strangers is not something we should ever neglect because when we host strangers, we might be entertaining angels without realizing it! (Hebrews 13:2).

It feels as though God's word considers hospitality a weightier thing, something more than just 'good manners.' In fact, hospitality is tied into the very heart of the gospel. How so? Well, first, there's the word itself. In the greek, the word for "hospitable" is **PHILOZENOS**. This is a compound word. You probably recognize the first word - **PHILEO**, which is the Greek word for "brotherly love." And the second word, **XENOS**, is the word for "stranger." So, hospitality literally translates to "loving strangers."

Isn't that what God has done for you, Christian? You were once an enemy of God, a stranger, a foreigner to his grace and love, and now God has brought you near. All

of us Gentiles were once alienated from the commonwealth of Israel from being God's people, but now God has grafted us in and made us his people. Ephesians 2:19: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

And get this! When God brings you into his family, he invites you to sit at his table. At the Lord's table, we get to regularly experience the grace and hospitality of God. So, when you are preparing your table this Thanksgiving, who will be invited? Will you bring in someone who can experience the love of Jesus through your family? And let's think past the holidays! Is your home a base of gospel hospitality? Is your home a place where that new unbelieving in-law can feel welcome? Is your home a place where your kid's friends get to see what dinner-time prayer looks like? Is your home a place where the gospel is absent or present? (Continued on page 2)



Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. John Cleveland

Church Administrator

Melinda Hawkins

Music Director

Nancy Lowry

Financial Secretary

Brooke Echols

Treasurer

Ronnie Burch

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2023

Session Members

John Cleveland
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Dan Patterson
Mark Watts

Deacons

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian

Pray that the Lord will bless the preaching and teaching ministry of the church to gather and build up the saints, that God's word will grow and multiply, and that our witness, love, and holiness will increase by the power of the Holy Spirit.

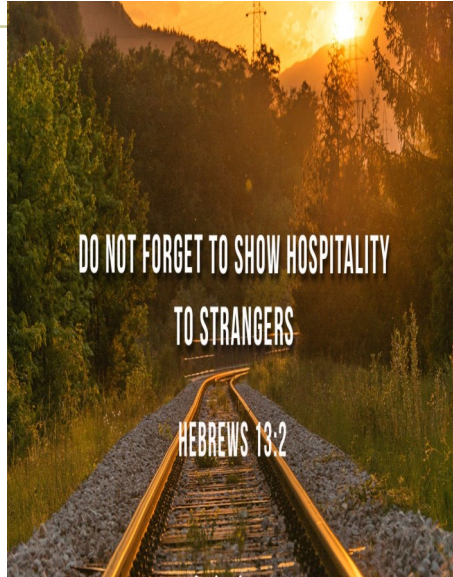
Ask the Lord to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit for counsel, wisdom, understanding, and the fear of the Lord, that we may share in our Savior's life and grace.

For the following, pray for health, comfort and fellowship with God during a period of sickness, that the Lord will give them faith, patience, joy and submission to his will.

- ♦ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ♦ **Miles Pass:** 5y/o with leukemia
- ♦ **Jordan Israel:** speedy recovery from brain surgery
- ♦ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ♦ **Chris Ober:** continued chemo treatments
- ♦ **Jimmy Brock:** upcoming scans and possible treatments
- ♦ **Peggy Savory:** recently diagnosed liver cancer
- ♦ **Donna Criger:** Corticobasal Degeneration
- ♦ **Bob Brown:** unrelenting pain
- ♦ **Kristi Bush:** needs new employment
- ♦ **Wayne Mitchell:** tumor on kidney
- ♦ **Teresa Harvey:** move to England
- ♦ **Wilson Station EPC in Tennessee**
- ♦ **Children in Foster Care**
- ♦ **Our Shut-Ins**
- ♦ **The Lost**
- ♦ **Our Elders and Deacons**
- ♦ **President Biden and Congress**
- ♦ **Supreme Court**
- ♦ **Persons serving in our Military**
- ♦ **Law Enforcement Officers**
- ♦ **Emergency Responders**
- ♦ **Our Nation**

Please pray for our missionaries:

- ♦ **Phil and Diane Thrash**
- ♦ **Gary and Jackie Burnett**
- ♦ **Santosh John**
- ♦ **Keith and Rachel Keller**
- ♦ **Jeff & Veronique Kim**
- ♦ **Jenny Coon**
- ♦ **Mike Rasmussen**



If you have a prayer request or a praise report that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please email them to: faithepcrus@gmail.com by Thursday, November 30th.

This would include any **NEW** or **OLD** requests that you would like to have included. This section is renewed monthly.



(Continued from page 1)

God's call for hospitality to happen throughout the church is a call for all of us to make the Great Commission something that takes place in the center of our lives. The Great Commission isn't just something that missionaries and preachers do. It's something your family is called to do, outside your home and **IN** your home. Beloved, for the sake of the lost, for the sake of the gospel, let's be hospitable. Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor John

Hospitality pictures aspects of God's generous love in the Gospel.

Jonathan Leeman

Reference: Greed and Liberality, Tabletalk, May 2008, p. 15, Used by Permission.

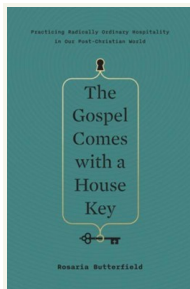
MEMBERSHIP class

New Members Information Class
Sunday, November 12th
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Lunch provided

Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex
Please see Pastor John if you have any questions.

This is a great opportunity to get to know more about Faith Church, Pastor John, the reformed faith and what it means to be a church member.

From the Pastor's Shelf...



"The Gospel Comes With a House Key"
By: Rosaria Butterfield

If you haven't heard of Rosaria Butterfield, you should really look her up. In another life, Rosaria was a lesbian and a fierce academic advocate for LGBTQ rights. But, when the gospel got a hold of her, it led her towards repentance. She is now married to a reformed presbyterian minister. She is a homeschooling mother, author, and speaker. In her latest book, "The Gospel Comes With a House Key," she shows the amazing power of a Christian family inviting an unbeliever to their dinner table. She calls it "radical ordinary hospitality." We will have a copy of this book in our library soon, but you can also download the audiobook for free on Amazon if you have an Amazon Prime membership.

"Those who live out radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as theirs at all but as God's gift to use for the furtherance of his kingdom. They open doors; they seek out the underprivileged. They know that the gospel comes with a house key. They take biblical theology seriously, as well as Christian creeds and confessions and traditions."

Rosaria Butterfield

Reference: "The Gospel Comes with a House Key"

If you are afraid of hospitality – that you don't have much personal strength or personal wealth – good.

Then you won't intimidate anybody. You will depend all the more on God's grace. You will look all the more to the work of Christ and not your own work. And what a blessing people will get in your simple home or little apartment.

John Piper

Reference: This Momentary Marriage – A Parable of Permanence, Desiring God Foundation, 2008, p. 123, www.DesiringGod.org.

Fellowship News

Girlfriends in Faith

Our next event will be on Saturday, November 4th at 1:00 pm.

We will gather to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Daniel.

Men's Book Study

Our Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. We are studying 1 Corinthians.

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. Contact Mark Watts for more information.

Ladies Bible Study

We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and are studying True Woman 201, the 10 "design elements" of Biblical Womanhood.

All are welcome at any time during the study. There is a video and discussion around the topic. We would love to have you! Contact Sara Cleveland for more information.

BOOK NOOK

Check out the bookshelf in the Narthex. We have excellent books available for your Christian growth.

The October regular Session Meeting was held on Thursday, October 5th, at the church.

The Session discussed the reading of the final chapters of "Gentle and Lowly" and reviewed options for the new monthly readings.

The Session reviewed the contributions versus expenditures, and all is on track thanks to God's blessings.

There was a discussion of Home Fellowship groups, and they are going well. We talked about potential Deacon and Elder candidates for 2024.

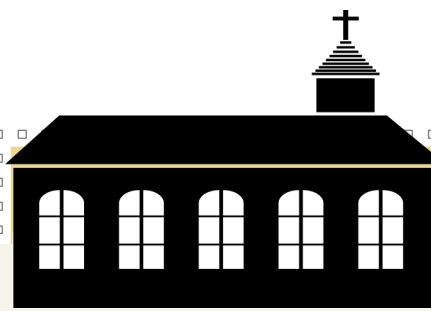
We discussed communion procedures from suggestions.

A church workday was planned for Saturday, October 14th.

The Session is planning an informal outing for the Session members in November.

The next Session meeting will be November 2nd at 5:30 PM.

John Cleveland, Moderator
Dan Patterson, Clerk
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Mark Watts



Calendar

- ◆ November 2 Men's Study
- ◆ November 3 Youth Lockout
- ◆ November 4 Pack Shoeboxes
- ◆ November 5 The Lord's Day
- ◆ November 5 Communion
- ◆ November 7 Ladies Study
- ◆ November 9 Men's Study
- ◆ November 12 The Lord's Day
- ◆ November 14 Ladies Study
- ◆ November 16 Men's Study
- ◆ November 19 The Lord's Day
- ◆ November 19 Thanksgiving Meal
- ◆ November 26 The Lord's Day
- ◆ November 28 Ladies Study
- ◆ November 30 Men's Study



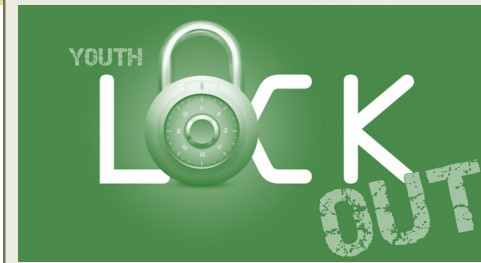
October 2023 Financial News

Donations:
\$24,405.00

Expenses:
\$26,979.91

P.O.P. Fund:
\$575.00

Mortgage Principal:
\$780,318.97



Are you a
4th to 12th
grader?

You don't want to
miss out on the fun
and excitement of
our hangouts!

Our next hangout
is a lock-out
November 3rd
at 6:00 pm
Bring a friend!



Sunday,
November 19th
at 6:00 pm

*Make plans to attend this
year's churchwide*

Thanksgiving dinner!

*We will share a meal and
have a time of thanksgiving
to God for his blessings to
us this past year!*

Mark your calendars!

Outreach News

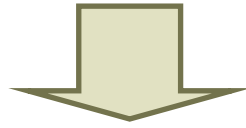
If you have a need that arises, or know of anyone that is in need, please reach out to our Deacons for assistance. They have the ability to reach out to the congregation on your behalf as well as physically meet your needs, or they can point you in the right direction for help.

Deacons of Faith

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian

Children's Sunday School

We have Sunday School classes for all ages!
We are in need of teachers!
Contact Susan Jones if you are interested in serving the children of Faith!



November Mission of the Month Jesus Place Inner City Mission

www.jesusplace.com

Needs

Bibles (Translations only, no paraphrases; Large print is a plus), Coats or Jackets (Sizes Large – 3XL), Men's work pants/ jeans (waist 30-40, length 31+ new or gently used, Belts: (all waist sizes), Men's Work boots or Tennis Shoes (new or gently used, sizes 9 -13, 14,15), Shirts (Large, XL, and XXL long-sleeved, gently used), Baseball caps (new or gently used), Blankets (twin size preferred, please no lap blankets, bedspreads, or comforters), Athletic Socks (new only), Underwear (boxers and briefs, new only, Medium, Large, and X-large), Book bags or Gym bags ,(dark colors preferred, suitable for men), Dollar Store Reading Glasses (all strengths), Deodorant, Combs, Disposable Razors, Washcloths (new preferred), Sample / Travel Sized Shampoo

Please place your items in the mission box in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for always giving so generously to those in need!



Volunteers Needed For Fellowship Time!

If you would like to provide refreshments, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Speak to a Deacon if you have any questions!



Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
hebrews 13:1-2

UPDATE FROM JENNY COON

Firmly Rooted:
Living in Lebanon:
October Update

Marhaba!

"When fear prevails and the night gets darker / in the shadow of the silence of truth, the sound of anguish rises / Your spirit hovers over the looming darkness you say a word and reveal your light / My nation, O Lord, cries out to You won't you come and save the works of Your hands"

These were the lyrics to a song that we sang on Sunday ((تصريح إلبك)) and have remained close to my heart throughout this period. I want to say thank you to all of you that have reached out to me. My friend described our lives as "learning to live at a higher temperature a little closer to the boiling point." As I ran 22 miles this morning in preparing for the Beirut marathon next month, I prayed over the city and the country and tried to process through the events of this past week. A country that so often drives me crazy, and yet my heart is so tender towards it. There is the tension of watching atrocities unfold in front of you and not being that many degrees removed and wanting to cry out for justice. There is the tension of watching embassies release alerts/advisories and watching a country desperate to stay out of yet another war as skirmishes continue at the border. At the same time at clinic, we talk daily about how we are here "for such a time as this" as we care for our patients and try to show them a piece of the hope that is within us. We have talked with

church leadership about tangible ways we may be able to help if the situation escalates. And we pray with anyone and everyone who is willing. Many of my patients share with me stories about what they went through in 2006 or in the civil war as this brings back many memories. Some have families they worry about that live near the border. I want to be that safe space for them. But sometimes I don't know what to say. When they ask me questions like how many more children have to die or if we are witnessing a genocide - I don't have an answer.

One brief update is that the decision has been made that starting in December, I will become co-director at Balassan with Alex, our current lead administrative assistant. She is a young Lebanese-Armenian who joined us early this summer and has really matured and developed a heart for ministry. I look forward to working together with her and hopefully continuing to grow the ministry. We would appreciate your prayers as we sit down next week to divide responsibilities, do a SWOT analysis, and develop a plan moving forward.

Thank you for your prayers for "Olive." She had a complication arise before the surgery and had a very slim chance to live through the operation. But through the power of prayer, she made it and was discharged early last week and should make a full recovery.

So what does all of this mean for me? I and my team have contingency plans in place for a variety of circumstances and levels of response. As some of you know, I have always been a "news junkie" so I continue to follow

a variety of sources closely as well as constantly communicate with my local friends and my church. I try to support my friends who have chosen to leave and those that have chosen to stay as well as all of those who do not have that choice to make. I try to love a little harder, pray stronger, and give an extra hug or two.

Pray for peace. Pray for an end to this horrible conflict. Pray that Lebanon does not get further involved. And pray for strength, wisdom, and unity for those of us that are here are ministering to the people that God has placed in front of us.

With gratitude,



Jenny

I took this photo from a village in south Lebanon, visiting a patient's family earlier this year.



One of my patient's gave birth this month to this little cutie!



It's always a joy to welcome friends from back home!



To the glory of God, Faith Presbyterian Church has been called together to faithfully proclaim the Gospel, to make and equip disciples for Christ, and to advance God's Kingdom in our families, community, and world.



Faith Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (www.epc.org) and the Presbytery of the Southeast (www.epcsoutheast.org).

Our Church Website:
www.FaithMcDonough.com

Church Email:
faithepcrus@gmail.com

Church Phone Number:
770-648-5288

Mailing Address:
Faith Presbyterian Church EPC
1185 East Lake Road
McDonough, GA 30252



Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:9-21

CHOIR NEWS

If you would like to join our choir, contact Nancy Lowry! We would love for you to join us!

If you are interested in joining Faith Presbyterian Church (EPC), you may do so by a profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, by a re-affirmation of your faith, or by a transfer of your membership from another church. Please speak with the an Elder if you have any questions about joining.

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



Isaac Skelton	11/02
Bill Herndon	11/03
Becky Fowler	11/08
Lauren Aaron	11/09
Cassidy Glinski	11/10
Lorelei Evans	11/11
Asher Anderson	11/14
Nathan Aaron	11/16
Bob Brown	11/16
Michelle Aaron	11/17
Dan Burer	11/22
John Cleveland	11/25
Crystal Hubbard	11/26
Levi McClendon	11/26
Ellen Brown	11/27
Erin Evans	11/30



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

November 2023

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 7:00 Men's Bible Study	3 Youth LOCKOUT 6:00 pm	4  Pack Shoeboxes 1:00 pm
5 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	6	7 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	8	9 7:00 Men's Bible Study	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	13	14 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	15	16 7:00 Men's Bible Study	17	18 Youth Thanksgiving Hangout 6:00 pm
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 6:00 Thanksgiving Meal	20	21	22	23 HAPPY Thanksgiving	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	27	28 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	29	30 7:00 Men's Bible Study		