

February 2024

The Good News at VPC



Vidalia Presbyterian Church



Special points of interest:

- * Centering Prayer study begins February 14th.
- * Thanks, Mike, for the new website about to be launched.
- * Thank you for the care shown during Pastor Russell's absence.

Inside this issue:

Centering Prayer, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayer List.	2
Music Notes, Second Sunday Dinner & Sign Ups	3
Sermons, Finance Updates, Ladies Lunch, Greeters	4
Children's Sunday School, Liturgists Schedule, Share Your Mission	5
Church Information	6
February Calendar	7

Glad tidings from the Pastor's Pen

Dear friends,

I am writing The February edition of my pen on the last day of January. Due to demons in our printer, that wouldn't allow it to print for all most two weeks, we are getting the printed copies ready for January's final distribution to those who don't do email or have access to print.

But wait, that's not all! Our Guru of all administrative things, Juanita Carpenter, is moving quickly to deliver the February edition as soon as possible. Contributors to the newsletter are encouraged to have their articles to the office by today, January 31st .

Other good news concerns our new website, which is almost complete. Thanks to Mike Walton for his diligence in making this happen.

On Valentines Day, February 14th there is a lot going on, other than Hallmark.

Ash Wednesday is a day of confession, as we move into Lent for 46 days. The imposition of ashes reminds us of our mortality and the need for reconciliation.

Our Lenten journey also begins on Wednesday

the 14th. Peggy Davis will be leading us in Centering Prayer, as we seek to center awareness on the presence of God. You won't want to miss this seven week study, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Ewell Nelson Room.

Lastly, I want to say thank you for all of the love and kindness this congregation has extended to me during my absence. I thought the sciatica was the cause of my falls, but now I know it was my left knee that gave way.

So, I'll be having replacement surgery, the date is not firm yet.

Grace and Peace,

Russell

PS: Sciatica is still enemy # 1.

Centering Prayer—a new study beginning February 14th

Our newest Christian education series begins Wednesday, February 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the Ewell Nelson Room. Led by Peggy Davis, the focus of the study is Centering Prayer. The study will continue on Wednesdays through March 27th.

What is Centering Prayer?

All the major lasting religions of the world contain branches, or streams, of contemplative practice in which practitioners can seek to know God more deeply. These streams are present in Christianity. This class will offer an opportunity to learn about some of these streams and will provide training in contemplative practices so that anyone who wishes will be equipped to enter the stream provided in our deep Christian tradition.

Peggy Davis is a retired minister in the United Church of Christ. She grew up in the Presbyterian Church, became a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) as a young adult. In her years of active ministry after transitioning into the UCC she practiced and taught Centering Prayer.

Be sure to mark your calendar to begin your journey to know God more deeply through Centering Prayer.

February Anniversary

John & Mary Colvin	21st	54 years
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February Birthdays

Loree Paradise	2nd	John Killian	14th
Rob Hilton	4th	John Colvin	18th
Abigail Chesser	5th	Peggy Thompson	27th
Sharon Achenbach	12th		

Prayer List

Our Service Members:

Jonathan Brand — Navy

Trace Thompson — Navy Special Operations

Our College Students:

Jansen Killian— University of Georgia School of Law

Bess Wilcox—Georgia Southern University

Our Friends and Family:

Kathy Buder, Jimmy Carter, Melba Claxton, Emory, Bart, Christy, & Andrew Davis Angela Cloud, Charlotte Sisson, Stephen Sisson
James & Peggy Thompson,

Updates, Please

Congratulations to all of you who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month! *May God bless you on your special day!*

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact Juanita Carpenter in the church office via email at VidaliaPresDFC@gmail.com or call 912-537-3500, so that we can correct our records.



Jesus LOVES ME

"Jesus Loves Me"; is one of the best-loved children's songs of all time. The words to this simple hymn were written by Anna Warner to be included in one of her sister's novels "Say and Seal" in 1860. It was meant to be a poem of comfort for a dying child. Here are the four original verses:

Jesus loves me—this I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to him belong,—
They are weak, but he is strong.

Jesus loves me—loves me still,
Though I'm very weak and ill;
From his shining throne on high,
Comes to watch me where I lie.

Jesus loves me—he who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let his little child come in.

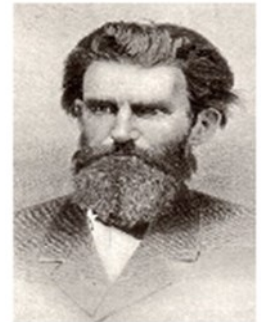
Jesus loves me—he will stay
Close beside me all the way.
Then his little child will take
Up to heaven for his dear sake.

The tune was written by Dr. William Batchelder Bradbury in 1862. Bradbury added his own chorus "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me..." to the verses written by Warner. Bradbury also wrote the hymns "He Leadeth Me," "Just As I Am," "My Hope is Built," and "Sweet Hour of Prayer."



Above: Anna Warner, 1827-1915.

Below: William Bradbury 1816-1868



Second Sunday Lunch

Mark your calendars for the February Lunch on the 12th. Leba Goode and Claudia Walton will be hosting. The church will provide fried chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

See you there!

You, Too, Can Be A Host!

Are you ready to pitch in some month to host a Second Sunday Lunch?

It's not hard. The church buys the chicken, you have fun with the drinks, decorations (if you want them), and clean up. You can even recruit a crew to help you. Add your name to the sign up sheet on the table under the bulletin board.

Make one month your special month!

Sermons for January

4th	<i>"Waiting in a Solitary Place"</i>	Mark 1:29-39
14th	<i>"Revealing God in the Face of Jesus"</i>	Mark 9:2-9
21st	<i>"Reconciling Everything"</i>	Mark 1:9-15
28th	<i>"We Are Peter"</i>	Mark 8:31-38

Finance Update

January income is typically lower after the end of the year. Income was \$9,055; expenses \$13,039. We had an annual insurance payment plus high utilities with the cold weather. The Session will consider a new budget for 2024 in the February session meeting. End of year statements will be ready by this Sunday, February 11, and can be picked up at church. Please let the office know if you want us to mail or email the statement to you.



Ladies Lunch is at Hardware Pizza February 14th

This month, the VPC ladies are gathering at Hardware Pizza in Lyons at 11:30 on Wednesday, February 14th.

Share the love by joining the ladies group for lunch, fellowship, and fun.

Stay tuned for the restaurant location for March!

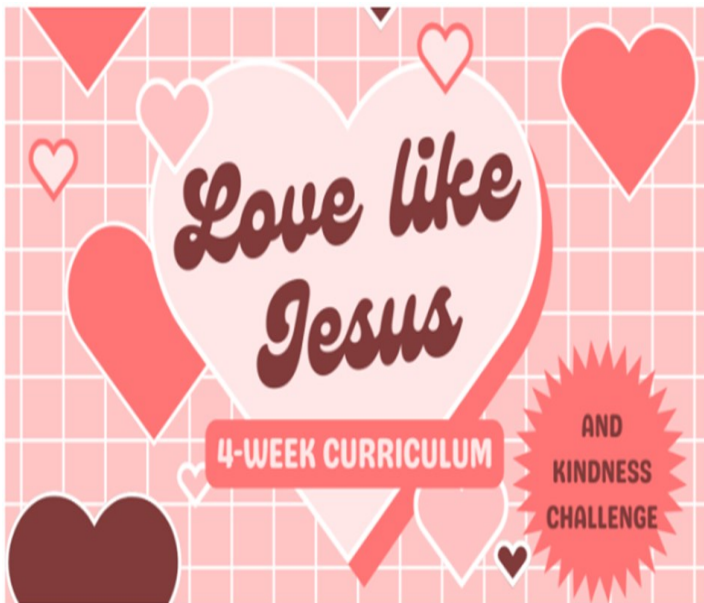
Shouldn't You Be a Greeter?

Would you like to see more of your fellow congregants? Does making visitors feel welcome give you a warm sense of purpose? If so, we have a great opportunity for you!

Join those of us who commit to be a greeter on Sundays that work for you. It's easy. Just go to signup.com and choose a date, or simply call or email the church office.

You can renew old acquaintances and start new friendships as you serve others.





Children's Sunday School

The children's Sunday School Class is working on a 28-Day Kindness Challenge for the month of February. We'll read Bible stories about the love of Jesus, become detectives as we look for examples of Jesus'; love in action, and have a unique activity each day that helps us see, show, and celebrate Jesus' love. Some examples of our daily activities for the month are:

- ♥ Do a surprise chore for a family member without them asking.
- ♥ Look for examples of kindness in your community.
- ♥ Donate some of your old toys or clothes to a charity.
- ♥ Write a thank you note to someone who has been kind to you.

Liturgists Schedule January—March

A liturgist schedule for January, February, and March is posted on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary. As a Liturgist, you serve in an important role in our Sunday services as we worship God.

We welcome others to join the group of individuals willing to serve in this role. If you are interested in becoming a Liturgist, please contact Pastor Russell.

Share Your Mission...

Is there something you do for your community that most people probably do not know about? Do you deliver Meals on Wheels? Or perhaps serve at The Mercy Ministries? Maybe you make a special effort to help others in some other, less organized way. Whatever it is you do for others, wouldn't it be great if others from your church family did so, too? But what if they don't know the opportunity to serve is there. Over the next few months, we hope to share the stories of how some of your church family gives back to the community. If you are not currently mindfully giving back, perhaps you will learn about something you feel led to do for others.

If there is something you do for others that you care about, please contact Juanita in the church office at VidaliaPresDFC@gmail.com or 912-537-3500. We want to get the word out about ways our church family does help and ways others can join the effort.

A Few Words On Love

- ♥ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
- ♥ It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
- ♥ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- ♥ Love never ends...
- ♥ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-9, 13

Find us on the web...
VidaliaPres.org

The Session

Cissy Alderman-Class of 2024
Ben Davis-Class of 2024
Angela Lane-Class of 2024
Angela Cloud-Class of 2025
Glenn Goode-Class of 2025
Elizabeth Killian Wilkes-Class of 2025
Michael Brand-Class of 2026
Karen Hilton-Class of 2026
Kyle Montford-Class of 2026

Officer & Associates reporting to the Session

Cissy Alderman-Clerk of Session
James Thompson-Treasurer
Mike Walton-Associate Treasurer

Staff

Rev. Russell B. Gladding, Jr., Pastor
Sarah Montford, Director of Music
Juanita Carpenter, Office Administrator
Samuel L. Dixon, Sexton

Vidalia Presbyterian
Church



400 Church Street
Vidalia, GA 30474

E-mail:
VidaliaPresOFC@gmail.com

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Publication Deadlines


Articles for Good News at VPC are due by 1:00 p.m. on the day before the publication date. The next newsletter will be published on February 1st.

Bulletin insert information is due by 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

Email:
VidaliaPresOFC@gmail.com

Or call Juanita at
912-537-3500.

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Office Open: 9am-2pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm	NA: 7:30pm
Communion Sunday 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday School: 10-10:45am Worship:11am Live Stream Available	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA/Narron: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open:9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Choir Practice: 7pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm	NA: 7:30pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School: 10-10:45am Worship:11am Live Stream Available Followed by Congregational Dinner	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm Session Meeting: 5:30pm NA/Narron: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open:9am-2pm Ladies Lunch: 11:30am Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Centering Prayer 5:30pm Choir Practice: 7pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm	NA: 7:30pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School: 10-10:45am Worship:11am Live Stream Available	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm Investment Club: 6pm NA/Narron: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open:9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Centering Prayer 5:30pm Choir Practice: 7pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm	NA: 7:30pm
25	26	27	28	29		
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