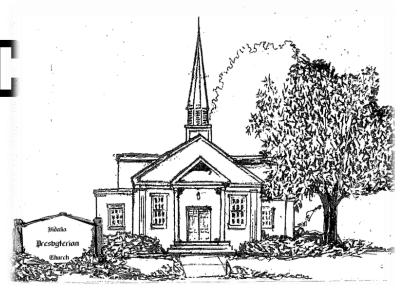


March 2024

# The Good News at VPC



Vidalia Presbyterian Church



## Special points of interest:

- \* Palm Sunday March 24th.
- \* Friday March 22: 7 a.m. preaching and breakfast.
- \* Saturday evening and Sunday morning, March 30th & 31st we will celebrate with the flowering of the cross.
- \* Watch for other events among community churches during Holy Week.

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## Glad tidings from the Pastor's Pen

Dear friends,

Lent continues for three more weeks as we move into March 2024. The last two Sundays will be Palm Sunday followed by Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Just to let you know, many pastors take a two-week vacation to recover from the helter-skelter of trying to make sure everything is perfect. So far, I haven't taken but a few days as Eastertide concludes.

This month's sermons will be from the Gospel of John, except for Easter Sunday when the sermon will be from Luke. But before Easter Sunday, we will have waved our palm branches with loud Hosannas sung at the beginning of the service, which, as it moves through, we contemplate the passion of Christ as the service concludes and follows into the remainder of Holy Week.

During Holy Week the ministers of our community will be inviting our community to come to services and a meal on the days of this week. Watch for the dates, locations, and times of the services.

I will be preaching at The Oaks Baptist Church on Tuesday evening of Holy Week at 6 PM. There will be another service at lunchtime on Wednesday at the Cornerstone Church. Our church is invited to come to The Oaks Baptist Church on Maundy Thursday. And finally Christian Burton will be preaching at VPC on Friday morning at 7 o'clock A.M. with a light breakfast afterwards. The full schedule will be posted for these days and others as they are firmed up.

As is our custom, on Saturday evening and Easter Sunday morning we will celebrate again as we place flowers upon the cross as it has been done for many years. It is a beautiful symbol reminding us that Christ is risen. We will continue the celebration entering the sanctuary with Song and Praise and Celebration. The Lord is risen. Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

## In Search of VPC History – Can You Help?



As we prepare for our 134th anniversary with a Homecoming Event this October 12th and 13th, one project that is underway is the compilation of the history of Vidalia Presbyterian Church. Vickie Mixon is heading up this effort. She has found a great resource that documents the history from 1890 until 1990. However, the period between 1990 and now is without much documentation. Can you help? Do you have memories to share about the 1990's and beyond at Vidalia Presbyterian? Vicki is looking for information on the following:

- \* Regular activities at the church;
- \* Special events that took place;
- \* Changes in leadership during that period;
- \* Special projects taken on by the church or specific members;
- \* Anything else you remember and would like to share.
- \* Photos of anything VPC related would be greatly appreciated, too!

If you have any information or photos to share, please contact Vicki Mixon. Or, you can reach out to Juanita in the church office to get the information to Vicki. Call or email: 912-537-3500, or [vidaliapresofc@gmail.com](mailto:vidaliapresofc@gmail.com).

### March Anniversaries

Zeke & Lynn Addison	20th	26 years	James & Peggy Thompson	28th	61 years
Bill & Ann Bedingfield	25th	45 years			



Coming alongside each  
other with celebration and  
caring.

### March Birthdays

Charles Lane	1st	Tracy Adams	15th
Hank Davis V	2nd	Logan Harper	17th
Caroline Hilton	4th	Daniel Rice	17th
Beau Jackson	4th	Kyle Montford	27th
Mike Holland	6th	Dwight Montford	24th
Donnie Alderman	11th	Meagan Millsaps	25th
Shannon Evans	11th	Brady Lane	26th
Angie Meredith	13th	Will Rice	30th
Melissa Branch	13th		

### 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.



## Music During Lent

As we prepare for the Resurrection of Christ and the Easter season, our music becomes more somber and reflective. Lent is the 40-day period where we spend more time in thoughtful prayer and analysis of our walk in faith. Our church music tends to mirror this through the lyrics and the minor tonalities that the composers used to convey this contemplation of Jesus' preparation for the Crucifixion.

As we sing Lenten hymns such as *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, What Wondrous Love Is This*, and *Ah, Holy Jesus*, may we pay extra attention to the lyrics of these songs, and focus our hearts and minds on the extraordinary gift of the forgiveness of our sins.

## Join us March 10th for Second Sunday Lunch!

Enjoy time with your church family over lunch.

Mark your calendars for the Second Sunday Lunch on March 10th. Garrett and Blythe Wilcox will be hosting. The church will provide the chicken. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

See you there!

## Only Four Opportunities Remaining!

Have you been thinking about helping with Second Sunday lunches? There are only four opportunities remaining for sign up this year. You can still choose a month that works for you, and know that you are serving your Vidalia Presbyterian family.

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!

## 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.

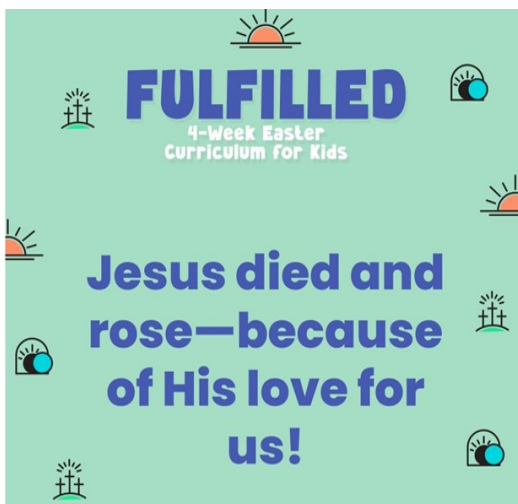
## Shouldn't You Be a Greeter?

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](http://signup.com) and choose a date, or simply call or email the church office.

## Sermons for March

3rd	<i>"Spring Cleaning"</i>	John 2:13-22
10th	<i>"Bumper Stickers &amp; Billboards"</i>	John 3:14-21
17th	<i>"Mysteries of Life &amp; Death"</i>	John 12:20-33
24th	<i>"Dinner Is Served"</i>	John 12:2-16
31st	<i>"Recognizing Jesus"</i>	Luke 24:13-49



### Children's Sunday School focuses on the question, "Why?"

Easter and Jesus' love for us is the focus for the Children's Sunday School class for March. The series will help children understand why Jesus died and rose — because of His love for us! Studying the Old Testament prophecies, the children will be able to connect God's messages about the coming Messiah to the purpose of His death and resurrection.

### Finance Update for March 2024

The session approved a 2024 budget that forecasts 4.4% higher income than 2023. Actual 2023 pledged and unplugged income was higher than budgeted for both categories. The new budget includes roughly the same amount of transfers from our savings as budgeted for 2023; actual transfers in 2023 were lower than planned.

As always, thank you for your support for the ministry of our church!

Thank you also for your contributions towards new tables for Fellowship Hall. To date, we have received \$1,450 towards the goal.

### Ladies Lunch goes to Uvalda and Jan's Fried Chicken!

This month, the VPC ladies are going to Jan's Fried Chicken in Uvalda at 11:30 on Wednesday, March 13th.

Enjoy the short trip, and share the love by joining the ladies group for lunch, fellowship, and fun.

Where will they go in April?





## A Special Thank You to Michael Brand

As a church family we are so blessed by the talents of our family members, as well as by the willingness to put those talents to use for service. We would like to extend a special thank you to Michael Brand for his sharing of his talents and skills to install railings on the steps to the podium in the sanctuary. The short trip up the stairs is a much safer and more comfortable one with the rails in place. Thank you, Michael!

## Stewardship

We recognize that all we have belongs to God, and we cheerfully give our time, talents and resources for His glory.

### Romans 12:1-2

**1-2** So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings out the best in you, and develops within you a well-formed maturity.

### Malachi 3:10

**10** Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

## Like, Comment, and Share...

Have you visited the Vidalia Presbyterian Church Facebook page recently? It's certainly worth a look! Elizabeth Killian Wilkes is doing a great job adding posts to keep us all informed.

Be sure you stop by regularly to stay up to date. And be certain to like, comment, or share a post you find particularly relevant. By visiting and interacting, you can help us boost the reach of our Facebook page by enhancing the algorithm and making our posts more visible on the news feed.

Help us spread a positive message in the Facebook community.



Find us on the web...

**VidaliaPres.org**



Find us on Facebook at Vidalia Presbyterian Church. Be sure to like, comment, and share!

### 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:  
VidaliaPresDFC@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 22nd of the month before the publication date. If the 22nd falls on a weekend, the due date is moved to the Friday before that weekend. The next newsletter will be published on or about April 1st.

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

Email:  
VidaliaPresDFC@gmail.com  
Or call Juanita at  
912-537-3500.

# March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Sunday School: 10-10:45am Worship: 11am Live Stream Available	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA/Narmon: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA: 7:30pm	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm DAR: 3pm 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
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
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/Narmon: 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
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
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/Narmon: 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	Baby Shower: 2pm-4pm NA: 7:30pm
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Sunday School: 10-10:45am Worship: 11am Live Stream Available	Office Open: 9am-2pm Women's Exercise: 2:15pm Twirling: 4:30pm-6pm NA/Narmon: 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	Good Friday <i>Office Closed</i> Women's Exercise: 2:15pm	NA: 7:30pm
<b>31</b>						
Easter Sunday Sunday School: 10-10:45am Worship: 11am Live Stream Available						