

First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia

A community of faith responding to God's call.
Loving, learning and leading people to Jesus Christ.



Photo of the Apostle Peter in front of Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City
by [tommao wang](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Cornelius was a Roman Centurion stationed in Caesarea who was a 'God-fearer'; what Gentiles were called who had come to believe in one God, the same God that their Jewish neighbors believed in, but had not converted to Judaism. An angel told Cornelius to go to Simon Peter, who was staying with Simon the tanner. While Cornelius was on his way, Peter also had a vision - of a large tablecloth descending from heaven with all sorts of food, those considered clean and unclean by the dietary restrictions of Judaism. A voice told him to eat, but Peter refused, because he had never eaten anything ritually impure. However, the voice told him to never call unclean what God had made clean. This happened three times before the tablecloth returned to heaven. Peter wondered what the vision meant, and then Cornelius came to see him. Cornelius explained his own encounter with an angel, and Peter recognized that God had shown him a new truth: there was no one considered impure by God. There was no one who could not be included in Christ's reign who loved Jesus Christ. This was the message: Christ had died for all people. Christ rose from the dead and commanded the disciples to preach to all people. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all those gathered, Jews and Gentiles. Peter then had Cornelius and all with him baptized.

Sumter Area Ministerial Association

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER.

SAMA Banquet Covered Dish

9TH OF MAY AT 5:30 P.M.
CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
408 SOUTH LEE STREET, AMERICUS

Join us on Thursday, May 9 @ 5:30 as we give thanks for this incredible ministry in our community and install our new officers. Bring a dish to share. All are invited.

2024 Adult Church Softball League



First Presbyterian Game Schedule

- * Tuesday, May 7 @ 8:00pm *
- * Thursday, May 9 @ 8:00pm *
- * Thursday, May 16 @ 6:45pm *
- * Thursday, May 23 @ 6:45pm *
- * Thursday, May 30 @ 6:45pm *



Single elimination tournament: Monday, June 3rd and Tuesday, June 4th

Championship Game: Thursday, June 6 @ 6:45pm

All games played at Sumter Co Regional Park Annex: 726 S MLK Blvd, Americus, GA 31709

First Presbyterian Church of Americus, GA

Sunday, May 5, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.

6th SUNDAY of EASTER



*All Are Invited to Stand in Body or in Spirit.
The Congregation is invited to respond at the **bold** print.

PRELUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Pastor Sommer Bower

CALL TO WORSHIP

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

And also with you

*You know the message God sent to all
through the people of Israel.*

**It is a message of salvation and peace by Jesus Christ,
who has been made Lord of all.**

*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.
As God's anointed son Jesus went about doing good.*

**Jesus served, Jesus healed, Jesus preached, Jesus prayed,
for God was with him.**

*Jesus was put to death on the cross
but God raised him up on the third day.*

**He then appeared to many witnesses
and commanded them to preach to everyone
and testify that he is the one ordained by God
as judge of the living and the dead.**

*All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

Today we gather in his name.

Today we bless God

for the salvation that is freely offered us in Jesus Christ.

CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

*For a complete calendar, please visit: <https://www.americuspresbyterian.org/calendar/>

~ May 2024 ~ Elder of the Month ~ Mary Catron ~

GARDEN ~ The church garden is growing, plenty of sugar peas for the pickin!!

CHURCH SOFTBALL ~ If you are interested in playing church softball this season, please contact Coach Nate Herron at (229) 815-2914. It's time to Root, Root, ROOT for the home team at the old ball game! Presbyterians have two games this week! Tuesday, May 7 at 8pm & Thursday, May 9 at 8pm.

TRE (Trained Ruling Elder) ~ Flint River Presbytery Pastoral Leadership classes began SAT, April 13th. The 12-month course will meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Elder David Minich is attending from 1stPres.

MOVIE NIGHT ~ Every Friday at 7pm (thru the first week of July) join Elder Richard Pollette in the church library featuring "The Chosen" Seasons 1-3 miniseries.

NEXT STATED SESSION MEETING ~ Tues, May 7th at 6:00pm. (April meeting is postponed.)

MAY "SEEKERS" CHURCH BOOK CLUB ~ The church book club is meeting Wednesday, May 8th at 11:30am in the First Presbyterian Church Parlor.

SAMA & CSM APPRECIATION BANQUET ~ Thursday, May 9, at 5:30pm Calvary Episcopal Church (408 South Lee Street) is hosting a covered dish banquet on behalf of Sumter Area Ministerial Association to install their new officers and give thanks for the ministry and volunteers. All are invited to come and bring a favorite dish to share.

May Birthdays

- May 7 - Richard Pollette
- May 16 - Wynonna Norton
- May 20 - Terry McDonald
- May 26 - Fred Richmond

Anniversaries

- May 11 - Jim and Pat Buffaloe
- May 12 - John and Sharon Parks
- May 12 - Joshua and Sommer Bower
- May 25 - Tom and Sharon McFarland
- May 27 - Bob and BJ Bryan



If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let us know. A sign up sheet is on the narthax table.

Works Cited

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~Today's call to worship was adapted from a prayer by Rev. Richard Fairchild and posted on his *Kir-Shalom* website.

PRAYER LIST

We lift up prayers for those listening Sunday mornings on WISK 98.7, Radio.
May they be spiritually fed. Please Pray for; Our Nation, Our Church;
Our Presbytery, Our Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus Ministry,
Our Community and especially:

MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS AT HOME &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Bob & B.J. Bryan Nancy Miller Gloria Johnson Pat Hill
Blanche Palmer Kathy Newkirk Anne & Malcolm Perry

MEMBERS REMEMBERED

Joy Thompson
Ray and Donja Tripp

*You are invited to sign the Prayergrams on the narthex table in fellowship.

MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

-Ben & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl.
- Tim & Lois Hunter, Spoken Worldwide
- Rev. George Haugen (PC USA Minister), Antioch Partners

PRAYER REQUESTS

~ Edgewood Presbyterian Church ~ From the Flint River Presbytery perpetual prayer calendar, we celebrate and pray for the Pastor, Session and Congregation of Edgewood.

~ Richmond Family ~ Congratulations are on the horizon for the Richmond family! Tyler Richmond is graduating on May 17th from George Washington University with a Masters Degree in Environmental Resource Policy. Keven Richmond is studying at UGA and will be doing a Study Abroad program, starting May 17, for the Center for Tropical and Global Emerging Diseases in Kerala, India.

The Richmond Family, 345 Flint Side Drive, Cobb, Georgia 31735.

SESSION (Ruling Elders):

Class of 2024

Carrie Hawkins
Sharon McFarland (clerk)

Class of 2025

Ronnie Greer
Terry McDonald
Richard Pollette

Class of 2026

Mary Catron
Jim Griffith
David Minich

2024 Corporation Officers elected on Feb. 4, 2024

President: Ronnie Greer - VP: Terry McDonald
Secretary: Sharon McFarland - Chief Financial Officer: Bill Krenson

*HYMN (#385).....Pianist Candice Godby

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

SCRIPTURE Acts 10: 17, 21-22, 30-48

NRSV updated edition

17 Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate.

21 So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" **22** They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish people, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say."

30 Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. **31** He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms have been remembered before God. **32** Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' **33** Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35** but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. **36** You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37** That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the Word of God, for the People of God,

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN (#318).....Pianist Candice Godby
"In Christ There Is No East or West"

SERMON.....Pastor Sommer Bower
"Nothing and No One Impedes God"

OFFERTORY.....Pianist Candice Godby

*DOXOLOGY (#606)Pianist Candice Godby

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord with the action of this offering we give you our allegiance; we proclaim you Lord over our lives, over our families, over our finances, over our future. We give you thanks for all you have given us, and all we have the privilege to give. Use these gifts for the work of your church, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION & INVITATION TO THE TABLE



PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

We celebrate the Lord's Supper today as a community of faith.

During communion, you are invited forward down the center aisle to partake of the communion elements (juice & bread).

*When you come forward, you can immediately partake...
take, eat and be blessed.*

If you are unable to come forward, please remain seated and an Elder will come to you with the communion elements.

*HYMN (#370).....Pianist Candice Godby
"This Is My Father's World"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby



We are absolutely delighted that you've chosen to worship with us today!

***You can revisit this service and more on our
website: americuspresbyterian.org and on
facebook: www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/.***

May Christ's peace be with you until we meet again!



*First Presbyterian supports the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry each month financially and with food donations. **The month of May, we will be collecting 3oz. Jello Gelatin.***

Donations can be brought to Sunday 11am Worship or to the office Mon - Thurs 9am - 3pm.

*As we are fed each month by our Lord Jesus through Holy Communion,
we do our best to help feed others in need.*

*Harvest of Hope also collects egg cartons and plastic bags. Those items can be delivered directly to
606 McGarrah Street on Tuesday Mornings 8:30am - 11:am.*