

We at FPC have so much to be thankful for, and have a great story to tell! The Gratitude Team was recently formed to share our story to raise awareness and celebrate all the exciting and wonderful things we are doing at FPC with the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted into our care. Through this culture of gratitude, we realize how abundantly we are blessed, and we are encouraged to be good stewards and care for all God has given to us. This month we celebrate gratitude through the eyes of members who have recently joined or returned to FPC.

Connie & Stuart Shiplett

Fellowship. Support. Faith. Words that are simple enough to say and understand. However, finding them is often very hard even when you look in what seem to be the right places. When we moved to Marietta 4 years ago from the East Cobb/Roswell area, we were eager to find a new church home. We were members of Roswell Presbyterian (RPC) and happy with the church. Our children grew up in RPC and were very active in the youth program. While we could have continued to attend RPC, we wanted to find a church closer to our new home. One in which we could find fellowship, support and faith. Thankfully, we have found such a church in First Presbyterian. With our children grown and out of the house, along with them went our prior paths of getting involved with the church. Fortunately, we have found new ways to get involved thanks to the persistent support and encouragement of the members of FPC. We are very thankful to have found such a great church in our new community and look forward to getting even more involved in the future.

Kelly Lee

My husband and I returned to the Atlanta area in 2015 after several years of moving around the country. During those years, we transferred our membership to a church in Charleston, SC that no longer exists. After stints in Rhode Island and Mississippi, we came home to Marietta.

It was natural for us to attend services at First Presbyterian. It is the church that I grew up attending, my grandparents and parents have been integral members and we were married in the sanctuary almost 17 years ago. After a few years of attending services sporadically to see nieces and nephews sing in the choir or read scripture, we decided that we need to affirm our commitment to the church and become part of the church community. We wanted to be active on committees, in Bible studies and many other ways, so we became members again in January of 2019. As lovers of all things Scottish, we will also admit to being swayed by getting to participate in the Kirkin of the Tartan!"

Jauana Eidelwein

Our history with FPC of Marietta started around one year ago when we visited for the first time. It was the summer of 2018, and we came on the day when 410 Youth Ministry was praying for the youth going on the mission trip to Mexico.

As leaders of teenagers for so many years in Brazil, involved with international missions and especially now, as parents of a 4 year old boy, we were wowed! What a great first impression. Life flowed after that service, and we visited few other churches during that year.

Coming from a Baptist church in Brazil, where we served for more than 10 years, we were looking for a community to not only become members, but also to be part of this community.

When we arrived in America in 2013 as International Students, we were part of a Brazilian church from 2013 to 2015, when our son was born. Parenthood changed our lives and our schedule, and then we decided to be focused on our family and studies. At the University we met Dr. Reginaldo Braga, pastor from the Presbyterian Church, and professor, who we embraced as our pastor. He taught us about the Presbyterian Church, and we fell in love with the church and with this new theological way of seeing the Good Word. It's a new time in our lives.

By 2019 we came back to visit FPC of Marietta again, on the day when 410 Youth Ministry was praying for the youth going on the mission trip in Mexico. Our hearts were decided, and we wanted to be part of this church that was showing us the importance of preparing our kids to live their lives with a purpose where the life of Christ in our lives results in serving others, in Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.