

Enjoy another great recipe using the vegetables we have grown in the church garden. This is a delicious Spanish soup, perfect for a summer heat wave ... serve chilled. No hot stove required.

## GAZPACHO SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- two (2) pounds red tomatoes, cut into chunks
- one (1) green pepper (such as Anaheim or cubenelle) cored, seeded, cut into chunks
- one (1) cucumber, cut into chunks
- one (1) onion (red or white), cut into chunks
- one (1) clove garlic
- two (2) teaspoons sherry vinegar
- salt            -olive oil

### STEP 1

-Combine tomatoes, pepper, cucumber, onion and garlic in a blender. Blend at high speed until smooth, at least two minutes.

### STEP 2

With the motor running, add the vinegar and two teaspoons salt. Slowly drizzle olive oil. If it seems watery, drizzle in more olive oil until texture is creamy.

### STEP 3

Strain the mixture through a strainer or a food mill. Discard Solids. Transfer to a large glass pitcher and chill until very cold, at least 6 hours or overnight.

### STEP 4

Before serving, adjust seasonings with salt and vinegar. If soup is very thick, stir in a few tablespoons ice water. A few drops of olive oil on top or fresh veggies is a nice touch.



# First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia

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

SO TOO, THOUGH THE  
TONGUE IS A SMALL PART  
OF THE BODY, IT BOASTS  
GREAT THINGS. CONSIDER  
HOW LARGE A FOREST A  
SMALL FIRE IGNITES.

JAMES 3:5



*The Epistle James focuses not on doctrine, but on action. The focus is how the Christian Faith is to be lived on a day-to-day basis. Although Jesus is seldom referred to or quoted in James, Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount underlies much of James. Traditionally it has been assumed that the James who wrote this epistle was the brother of Jesus and the leader of the church in Jerusalem. The date the letter was written is uncertain, but could be as early as 45 AD, possibly making it the earliest New Testament book we have.*



# First Presbyterian Church of Americus, GA

Sunday, June 30, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.



\*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

**\*HYMN (#12)**.....Pianist Candice Godby  
*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*It only takes a spark to set off a forest fire.*

**A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.**

*This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done.*

*The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer.*

**With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women God made in God's image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!**

*My friends, this can't go on. We were called for more.*

**We were called to live a life of integrity, a life of faith. So may we learn to tame our tongues and speak words of praise to the God who created us and loves us. And may we use those same words to bless those around us. We are called to live lives of integrity.**

## CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

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

**ELDER OF THE MONTH** ~ June: Sharon McFarland ~ July: Richard Pollette

**GARDEN** ~ It's BEAN PICKIN' time!! Harvested this week: cucumbers, beans & cherry tomatoes! Please feel welcome to come and water, pick vegetables, or simply enjoy some fresh air in the garden. The back gates are always open!

**COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY** ~ Volunteers from member churches of the Sumter Area Ministerial Association help their neighbors in need of assistance with utility expenses. Hosted in the FPC Mission House; 127 South Jackson Street every Thursday 9:00am– 11:30am.

**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** ~ Tuesday, July 30th at 6:00pm.

**4th JULY** ~ CSM will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, as well as the church office.  
Happy Independence Day!

**NEXT FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY TRE (Trained Ruling Elder) CLASS** ~ SAT, July 13th. This session will be hosted in the FPC Fellowship Hall.

**PASTOR SOMMER** ~ Away on family vacation, July 15-23. Elder David Minich will preach Sunday, July 21.

**WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** ~ Come casual for a month of Sundays! We will worship in the fellowship hall the entire month of August.

**ELDER ORDINATION INSTALLATION** ~ Sunday, August 4th we will have an ordination installation service for Elder Carrie Hawkins and Joshua Minich.

**JUNE**

**BIRTHDAYS**

June 8 - Ella Hawkins Hayes  
June 11 - Ray Tripp  
June 18 - Malcolm Perry  
June 19 - Nate Herron  
June 22 - David Minich  
June 23 - Joshua Bower  
June 29 - Karen Gatewood

**ANNIVERSARIES**

June 14 - David and Donna Minich  
June 28 - David and Mary Catron

**\*\*On Tuesday, June 25th Session approved the monthly financial report. If you are a church member interested in receiving a copy of this statement, please contact the church office at 229-924-2162 or [office@americuspresbyterian.org](mailto:office@americuspresbyterian.org).**

Works Cited  
~Christian Copyright Licensing International  
Streaming License Number 20754605

## 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

The Krenson Family  
Pat Hill

\*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

~ MARY CATRON ~ Mary's brother, Fred Roughton, has passed away. Thank-you for keeping Mary and her family in your prayers. Mary Catron; 120 Bell Street, Americus, GA 31709.

~ EMILY COLLINS ~ Emily is receiving treatment at Phoebe Sumter (room 406) for a severe UTI infection. She is improving daily and can be contacted on her cell phone (229) 886-9359. Cards can be mailed to: 171 Westshore Drive, Americus, GA 31709

~ BOB BRYAN ~ Bob Bryan has been receiving medical treatment for an infection in his arm. He is doing well and is hopeful about the outcome. Thank-you for your prayers for Bob and his wife BJ. Cards can be mailed to: 543 Lakewood Ave, Americus, GA 31709.

~ GLORIA JOHNSON ~ Gloria Johnson is now receiving hospice care at home. She is comfortable and in good spirits. The family asks for prayers that she can remain at home until her peaceful end. Correspondence can be sent to: Marcia Seymour; 225 Taylor Street, Americus, GA 31709.

~ PCUSA General Assembly Commissioners ~ Please pray for our Commissioners; Joshua Bower (First Albany & Elmodel), Jane Shelton (First Valdosta) and Ella Hawkins (Northminster) as they travel and participate in a week long General Assembly in Salt Lake City, UT. They have hard and holy work ahead as they discern and vote on several issues.

~ JOSH BOWER; 1726 Marbury Lane, Albany, GA 31707 ~

~ JANE SHELTON; 508 Knob Hill Drive, Valdosta, GA 31602 ~

~ ELLA HAWKINS; 527 Grove Lane, Kathleen, GA 31047 ~

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

SCRIPTURE James 3: 1 - 13

Common English Bible

### *Taming the tongue*

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. **2** We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. **3** When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

**4** Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. **5** In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. **6** The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

**7** People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish.

**8** No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness.

**10** Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

**11** Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? **12** My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

**13** Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom.

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

**Thanks be to God.**



\*HYMN (#610).....Pianist Candice Godby

*"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

SERMON.....Pastor Sommer Bower  
"Small Sparks That Start a Fire"

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

\*HYMN (#338).....Pianist Candice Godby  
"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby



***We are absolutely delighted that you've chosen to worship with us today!***  
***You can revisit this service on our website: [americuspresbyterian.org](http://americuspresbyterian.org)***  
***(click on the WORSHIP tab) and on facebook:***  
***[www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/](http://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 June, we will be collecting 15.3 oz potato flakes.**  
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.

## **Bible Study on James**

### ◆ **Who is James?**

James was probably the oldest of Christ's several brothers and sisters since he heads the list in Matthew 13:55. At first he did not believe in Jesus and even challenged him and misunderstood his mission (John 7: 2-5). Later James became a committed disciple and a leader in Jerusalem.

1. James was one of the select individuals Christ appeared to after his resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7)
2. Paul called him a "pillar" of the church (Galatians 2:9)
3. Paul, on his first post-conversion visit to Jerusalem, saw James (Galatians 1:19)
4. Paul did the same on his last visit (Acts 21:18)
5. When Peter was rescued from prison, he told his friends to tell James (Acts 12:17)
6. James was a leader in the important council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:13)
7. Jude could identify himself simply as a "brother of James" (Jude 1:1), so well-known was James.

### ◆ **How do you think about Taming the Tongue?**

Connect it to every day life....

What radio personality do you appreciate for his or her uplifting words?

What radio personality don't you appreciate? Why?

What kind of speech do you absorb all day long?

What TV, news, movies do you watch? Reality TV, murder mystery, comedy, romance?

### ◆ **Look at Scripture...**

1. James starts off chapter 3 referring to teachers in the church. Why is it such a big responsibility to be a teacher, especially of the scripture?
2. Why are the illustrations of a bit, a rudder and a fire spark so fitting when talking of the tongue?
3. If James 3:8 is true, why should we even try to control our tongues?

### ◆ **Faith in Action**

James is about living ones faith out loud. If that is the case, how do James' words change our everyday actions?

1. In everyday conversation, how seriously do you take verse 9? What does this verse say about the caution and reverence with which we must choose our words?
2. Jesus and the apostles Peter and Paul, were not always very "tame" when it came to the tongue. When is harsh language acceptable? Or is it?
3. How do verse 2 and verse 10 make you feel about your tongue? How will they prompt you to pray?