



JANUARY FIRST PRESS

Volume 23, Issue 1

January, 2023

Our Vision: To be a church fully Engaged in Reaching Up, Reaching In, and Reaching Out.



**Sunday, January 1st, and
Sunday, January 29th.**

**One service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.
No Adult Sunday School or Children's Church.**

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship

8:00 am, Chapel

Contemporary Worship

9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Traditional Worship

11:00 am, Sanctuary

Fifth Sundays

One Service @ 10:30 am,
Sanctuary

(no Sunday School or Children's Church)

Live Stream

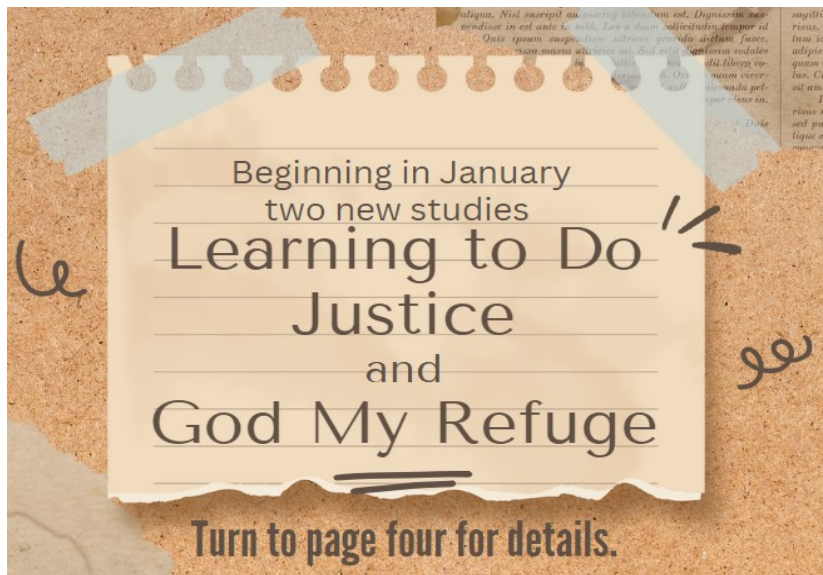
**Worship Services and
Recorded Services are
available on our website
(fpcdeland.org), our Facebook
page, and our YouTube page.**

**Rev. Michael Bodger
First Presbyterian Church
724 N. Woodland Blvd.**



Facebook Reminder

If you like the posts of our
Daily Scripture and Church
events, click on "share" so
that others may receive and
enjoy them.



**Monday, January 2nd,
and**

**Monday, January 16th, in honor of the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.**

January 2023 Calendar

4th Wednesday Cookout—Wednesday the 25th at 5:30 pm in the Pavilion

Adult Discipleship Team Meeting—Wednesday the 11th at 10:00 am in the Large Conference Room

BINGO—Friday the 6th at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Children's Discipleship Team—Sunday the 8th at 12:15 pm the Art Room

Community Garden Workday—Monday the 9th & 23rd and Saturday the 21st at 9:00 am

Deacon Team Meeting—Wednesday the 4th at 6:30 in the Large Conference Room

Evangelism and Invitation Team Meeting—Thursday the 10th at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference Room.

Finance Team Meeting—Wednesday the 25th at 5:45 pm via Zoom

FPS Board Meeting—Thursday the 12th at 5:00 pm via Zoom

God's Bathhouse— the 14th and 28th at 9:00 am in the Courtyard outside of the Mission Room (11B)

Men's Bible Study Group—Tuesday mornings at 7:00 in Room 11C

Men's Bible Study Fellowship—Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and campus-wide

Mission Team Meeting—Tuesday the 10th at 4:30 pm in The Mission Room (11B)

Parents' Night Out—Saturday the 14th at 5:00 am in the Art Room and Nursery—make a reservation

Personnel Team Meeting—Tuesday the 10th at 5:30 pm via Zoom

Property Team Meeting—Tuesday the 10th at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

PW Coordinating Team Meeting—Monday the 9th at 9:00 am in the Large Conference Room

Session Meeting—Tuesday the 24th at 6:30 pm in the Large Conference Room

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless—Thursday mornings at 10 am in the Mission Room (11B)

Student Discipleship Team Meeting—Wednesday the 11th at 5:30 pm via Zoom

Worship Team Meeting—Tuesday the 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Large Conference Room

Youth Gathering—Sunday evenings at 5:00 in The Loft—no meeting on New Years Day

SHELBYNEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY & CALENDAR



***Smart Phones, Tablets,
or Computers***

Call Alice in the church office for instructions.
It is EASY to access, and you will wonder how you
ever lived without it!

First Pres Name Tags

Need a name tag? Contact Alice in the church office.
Everyone should have one!



January Birthday Fellowship

on Sunday, January 1st,
following the worship service in
Fellowship Hall.

Birthday Cake and Coffee!

Michael's Thoughts

Greetings to One and All,

The new year is upon us – what shall we do? The lingering reality of Christmas is that we celebrate 'God with us,' good news for all people. The question for entering into 2023 is, "What shall we do with such news." In light of the information I shared last month on the state of the PCUSA, we are to live out the calling on our lives.



On the second Sunday of January, we acknowledge the baptism of Jesus and reflect on what baptism means for us. "The Book of Order" tells us the following factors;

In Baptism, we die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Christ. Baptism points us back to the grace of God expressed in Jesus Christ, who died for us and who was raised for us. Baptism points us forward to that same Christ who will fulfill God's purpose in God's promised future. Baptism is the sign and symbol of inclusion in God's grace and covenant with the Church. As an identifying mark, Baptism signifies,

the faithfulness of God,
the washing away of sin,
rebirth,
putting on the fresh garment of Christ,
being sealed by God's Spirit,
adoption into the covenant family of the Church,
resurrection and illumination in Christ.

Baptism unites the people of God with each other and with the church of every time and place. Barriers of race, gender, status, and age are to be transcended. Barriers of nationality, history, and practice are to be overcome.

Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to all people. Baptism is God's gift of grace and also God's summons to respond to that grace. Baptism calls to repentance, to faithfulness, and to discipleship. Baptism gives the church its identity and commissions the church for ministry to the world..... Baptism signifies the beginning of life in Christ, not its completion.

As those baptized, we have important work to do. First, the Holy Spirit is calling us to become discerning and mindful of what he is calling us to do; to continue doing what has been placed upon our hearts in this time and in this place called DeLand, FL. TWE must build upon the relationships that we have and stay mindful of the words in the "Letter to the Hebrews:" **"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another....."**

Remember, as we are out in the world, be sure to look around, breathe deeply upon the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and then breathe out that grace on all you encounter – the world will be a better place for it.



Grace and Peace,
Pastor Michael



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IS PROUD TO BE AN
EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

God My Refuge Study

NEW BIBLE STUDY for WOMEN begins January 23, 2023.

We welcome all whether you have done a Bible study before, or not.

A refuge – a place where we can find protection from whatever is threatening us—often becomes hard to find in a world filled with strife and uncertainty. We all need a place where we know we can be safe and receive comfort. For those who follow Christ, we find our refuge in God, who provides all we need.

HIS refuge is filled with calm, peace, and joy. In GOD MY REFUGE we will examine aspects of God's protection and provision and acquire tools to help us abide in HIS refuge. We will look at false refuges, places we may go to protect ourselves but fall short of God's true protection.

Our goal is to depend on HIM alone for all that we need because HE alone provides the refuge that can save and satisfy us.

We will meet for study on Mondays starting January 23, 2023, 10:30 to noon in the Eastminster Room.

(Contact Kathy if you'd like to participate but this time is not good for you.)

Cost is \$10.

Please contact Kathy Bransford via kbransford@hotmail.com, or at 813-786-9984.

DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP IS MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023.

Learning to Do Justice

New Sunday School Class

beginning Sunday, January 8 at 10am

Mission Room (11B).

What is the Bible telling us?

How can we live into that?

We will be exploring a series of books, articles and videos to search for the answers to such questions as "Is Racism 'a thing' in the US, in the Church? "Should First Presbyterian Church DeLand play a role in this issue?"

Come join us for some good Biblically based discussion.

January Events



JOY GROUP
NEW YEAR'S
lunch

Sunday, January 8 @ 12:30
Chili's

RSVP to Kay or
Alice at 734-6212
see you there!



FIRST PRES DELAND

BINGO
FAMILY FRIENDLY
FREE

Friday - January 6th
7:00 to 8:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

FUN PRIZES
SNACKS WILL BE SERVED!



COOKOUT CONVERSATIONS

JANUARY 25TH
5:30 PM
OUTSIDE ON THE PAVILION

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, and Water
provided.

Bring a side dish to share if you like; or
just come and enjoy the fellowship!

CHILLY WEATHER = OUTDOOR HEATERS



December 28th Cookout

Not so cold after all!

Join us on January 25th.

Worship Team News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

The past year has become one of adding back programs removed because of COVID. Thank goodness we have made so much progress, we are nearly back to "normal." It has been a journey of positivity. In this my last month as moderator of the Worship Team, I thank the phenomenal group of team members who serve to make everything move smoothly during all services of worship.

So who are these members? They have included these people: Debra Howard, Maria Jones, Marcia Rosemeier, Sharon Turk, Charlotte Freed, Stewart Burkhammer, Dee Frost, Bill Bailey, David Sutherland, Kay Kenney, Lynelle Tucker. Also staff members who served include: Alice Foerster, Jane Christeson, Joe DeGaetano and Pastor Michael Bodger.

For the next three-year Jean Burns will serve as moderator. Team meetings are open to all of you on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of the Church Office Building. Come join us as a guest to see if you'd be interested in joining the team!

Upcoming dates: Sunday, January 8th: We need "all hands on deck" after each service, to "unhang the greens" which have decorated our worship spaces for the past 6 weeks. We will provide labeled boxes in which to place items for storage until November 2023.

Sundays, January 1st and 29th: one-worship service at 10:30 am.



Diane Slaughter
Worship Team
Moderator

Wanted

1. Are you crafty? Our Chrismons need of repair and need replacing. What a wonderful way to contribute to the next Advent season by replacing the most worn-out ornaments! Made thirty plus years ago by the PW Women of the Church, they need reviving.
2. If you are downsizing or have an extra Nativity set, we could use it for the Narthex.
3. For our Thanksgiving service in the chapel, we can use a large cornucopia, artificial fruits, vegetables, breads, pumpkins, fall garlands.

Call me and leave a message if you wish to donate of the needed items at Diane Slaughter (386-216-2802).

Thank you for your continued support over the past three years. It has been a joy to serve!

Blessings,
Diane Slaughter, Worship Team Moderator



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! "

The Chancel Choir needs YOU!

Contact Jane Christeson via 386-734-6212 or
email: jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org



Calling all "ringers"!

Handbell choir needs YOU!

Contact Jane Christeson @ church office or
email: jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org

January Worship Flowers

January 1st	Anonymous
January 8th	Available
January 15th	Carlyn and David Langell
January 22nd	Janet Williams
January 29th	Jodee Cook



As you can see, the 2023 Worship Flowers Calendar has many available dates.

Contact the Alice Foerster in the church office to reserve your preferred Sunday.



Sunday, the 1st and Sunday, the 29th

No service at 8:00, No service at 9:00
and No service at 11:00.....

ONE SERVICE at 10:30 in the Sanctuary!

PW—Presbyterian Women of First Pres

We hope you have all had a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

There are many PW events coming up this new year so please note the upcoming dates, below.

The next event is the PW Central Florida Annual meeting on February 4th at Wekiva Presbyterian Church. Please let your leaders or Karen Murin know as soon as possible if you are interested in going as we hope to have a group attending. The meeting includes lunch and begins at 8:45 with breakfast and registration. The event ends at 2:00pm. Look to PWCFP.com for more information.

Date Reminders

January 4, 2023 — Pastors Bible Study - 9:30am Large Conference Room

January 15, 2023—Pashmina Sunday

February 4, 2023 — PW Central Florida Presbytery Annual Meeting at Wekiva Presbyterian Church

March 18, 2023 — Dedication of Birthday Offering, brunch and a speaker

May 7, 2023—PW Sunday and Presentation of Honorary Life Member/Fellowship

May 20, 2023—Dedication of the Least Coin and Election & Installation of PW Officers/brunch

PW Circles

DORCAS CIRCLE meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in the Card Lounge of the Barker Center at John Knox Village. Contact Shirley Carr #386-871-1036 or Trish Tutt #386-748-1359.

MIRIAM CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10:00am at Church. Contact Elaine Bodger #386-337-7303.

RACHEL CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 10:30am in the Eastminster Room. Contact Mary Eggleston #407-325-9982.

RUTH CIRCLE meets at the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon at Mary Kay Wareing's home. Contact Kay Kenney #321-301-7744.

SUSANNA CIRCLE meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 12 noon for lunch in the Westminster room. Contact Dianne Heidel #386-956-0960.

It's not too late to join a circle for Bible study. Contact Karen at #386-717-2277 or the church office.

Open Door Sunday School Class



Join with other eager learners in January to explore four important doctrines of the church: Atonement, Resurrection, The Holy Spirit, and Justification.

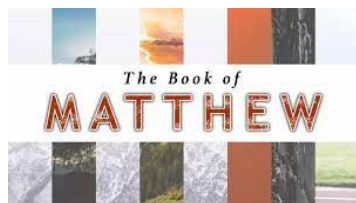
We'll answer questions such as "Is God against us?", "Who is in charge here?", "What's new?" and, "Are you a Christian?"

**The Open Door Class meets in the Westminster Room,
Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.**

Serendipity Sunday School Class

Serendipity Sunday School (10:00 hour) meets in the Middle Conference Room of the Church Office Building.

They will complete their study of the Book of Matthew in January and then move on to a new topic in February.



Men's Bible Study Group



Men's Bible Study Group meets on Tuesday mornings from 7 – 8:30 in Room 11C. Please contact C. Paul Jones (mariastrvl@yahoo.com) for more information.



Men's Bible Study Fellowship

**Monday Evenings
at 6:30**

Offers straight talk and biblical truth built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Exploring God's Word together allowing men to learn from one another, and to encourage each other to live for something larger than themselves.

bsfinternational.org/mens-groups
or contact the church office.

MAKE IT A HABIT

APNC

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee met several times during the month of December.

- We contacted several references of one very promising candidate with very promising results.
- We are scheduled to meet in January as we continue on our very important journey.

As always, the APNC continues to ask for your prayers as the Holy Spirit continues to move us forward on this mission.



Medical Equipment Closet Ministry

The Medical Equipment Closet Ministry provides church members access to free, gently-used medical equipment. Sustained by church member donations, Kurt and Suzi Backstrom manage this purposeful ministry.

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT LIST: Wheelchairs, travel (transport) chairs, rollators (4-wheeled walkers with hand-brakes and seat), front-wheeled walkers, canes, shower chairs, bedside commodes.

TO REQUEST EQUIPMENT, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE: Someone from the ministry will arrange a time to pick-up equipment. A waiver form will be signed. Equipment does NOT have to be returned.

TO MAKE A DONATION CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE: A ministry member will contact the donor and arrange a drop-off time at the church office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CAN ACCEPT ONLY ITEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE AVAILABLE INVENTORY LIST.

If a church member has an item not on that list, the ministry member will assist them in locating other local donation options.

Tune-Up Moves! The Balance Class



Tuesday and Thursday Mornings

9:00—10:00 or 10:30—11:30

in Fellowship Hall

Suzi Backstrom, Instructor

(email suzibackstrom@gmail.com or phone 865-604-5182).

Registration is required before class participation. Contact Suzi if you are interested.

Family Ministries

Parents' Night Out

**Saturday
January 14th
5:00 to 8:00**

Art Room and Nursery

Free for children ages 6 mo. to 10 years.

Dinner Provided!

**Call the Church Office (386-734-6212) or
email Elendea (edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org)
by Wednesday, January 11th to make your
reservation.**



Middle school and high school youth, please join us on Sundays from 5-6:30 pm for food, fun, and fellowship in **The Loft**.



Children ages 4-10 are invited to join us on Sunday mornings during worship at 9:00 and 11:00 in the Art Room for Children's Church.



Elendea DeGaetano serves as our Director of Family Ministries. She works with our Middle and High School Youth (Student Discipleship) as well as our Children's Ministries.

Her contact information includes 386-290-6525 cell, 386-734-6212 ext # 111 at the church, and edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org for email.



The nursery available for children 3 and under for the 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services.

Mission Outreach Team

Members of First Presbyterian Church definitely go the extra mile towards being the Hands and Feet of Jesus.



We are offering showers for the homeless two Saturdays in January, the 14th and the 28th in the courtyard in front the Mission Room (11B) from 9 to 11 am.

We value volunteers highly: please arrive at 8:30!

God's Bathhouse times run from 9:00-11:00.

MANNA BAG FABRIC NEEDED

Nancy Kinsley has been busy sewing the bags we use to for our Manna Bag Outreach – five thousand so far. WOW!

We need more fabric to continue this mission. Please bring any fabric that you are not going to use to the church office.

The Mission Team will be grateful and they will keep this popular, effective mission on track for five thousand more!

**Do You Have a Heart
for Mission?**



**Are You Interested in How Our
Mission Budget is Spent?**

Please consider joining the **Mission Outreach Team**. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm in the *Mission Room (11B)*. We invite you to come and become a part of this important church team.

Thursday Morning

Volunteers

10:00—12:00

Mission Room—11B

Sleeping Mats

for the Homeless

All are invited to join this friendly, entertaining group of men and women who weave plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats to hand out to the homeless in our community.



Manna Bags

Help pack Manna Bags.
An easy job!

**Organizing Clothes for
God's Bathhouse**

If organizing is your gift—we need you!



Clothing Donations

Thanks to your generosity we have a plethora of clothing in all sizes to give to those in need.

Except for the need for jeans in men's size 32, the mission room is filled to the brim so we can't handle anymore clothing donations at the moment. Please consider taking your donations to the Neighborhood Center.

And thanks again for your generosity.

Taguasco Update

Great news from our friends in Taguasco!!

Painting of the complete exterior surfaces of the church has been completed. The front portion facing the street remains white with a burgundy trim. The rear portion of the church which includes the kitchen, dining area, sleeping quarters, and assorted offices, and classrooms. Now a light shade of green is most impressive!!

Their Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary had a large crowd of SRO's in excess of one hundred!

God stands ALIVE in the Presbyterian Church of Taguasco!!

I can't wait to return to reunite with my Cuban friends and family!! Abrazos!! Coco

Mission Fundraiser—Nicaragua 2023

Save the date—Mission Trip Fundraiser—Join the fun on February 18th—funds raised will be shared by those traveling to Nicaragua in 2023. All are invited to enjoy music, food, and fellowship.

Nicaragua Summer Mission Trip Informational Meeting

If you are interested in going to Nicaragua this June, you are invited to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, January 8 at 12:15 pm in the Mission Room 11B. Contact Mary Hoffmann, Coco Allison or Kathy Ambachtsheer for more information.

Political Asylum Hearing for First Pres members on February 6th

The Ibarra family (Rodolfo, Dayring & Josephine) have been waiting for four years for the hearing that will decide whether they have been granted political asylum in the United States or will be sent back to Nicaragua to face a dire outcome. After being cancelled twice, the hearing is finally scheduled for February 6th at 8:00 am at the Orlando Immigration Court - Department of Justice. If anyone would like to attend the asylum hearing, wear your First Pres shirt to show support for the Ibarra's. The church bus leave the Church parking lot at 6:00 that morning. Make a reservation to the ride the bus by calling the Church Office.

Do you have a few hours to give to the Church – First Pres needs you!

As of the end of January, our Church has no one to function as Elder for Missions. Mary Hoffmann has reached the end of her eligibility but no one has stepped up take her place. We have missions of our church that we don't want abandon. Possibly we can divide some of the jobs into smaller parts. We need someone to step up for the following ones:

God's Bathhouse – 2 ½ to 3 hours two Saturdays a month. The job is easy and already set up to run smoothly. A cadre of volunteers know just what to do. We just need a point person

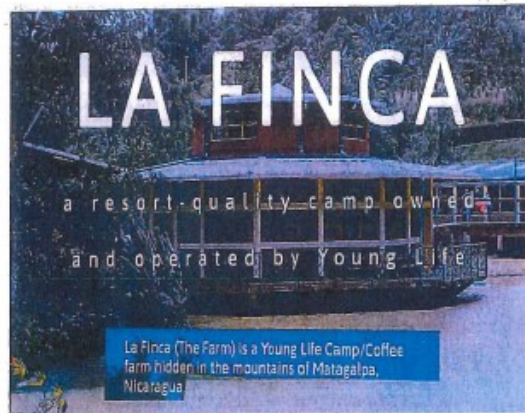
Food Distribution – four to five times a year on a Saturday morning from 8 to 11. This program has already been set up and runs pretty smoothly. We need someone to send out e-mail reminders and assign jobs to volunteers. Pre training as well as on the job training is available. Mary will provide as much assistance as needed.

Mission Room – Clothing donations are regularly coming in and need to be labeled and shelved. If you like to organize, this is for you. Doesn't take more than an hour or two a week and can be done at your convenience.

2023 Mission Trip Nicaragua

Trip Fundraiser
on
February 18th
see page 12 for
details

June 11 – June 17



Be a part of the work team that prepares the camp to host hundreds of street kids experience the love of Christ and to have the best week of their lives.

Please notify Mary Hoffmann or Ron "Coco" Allison if interested

Trip Fundraiser is scheduled for February 18, 2023



Worship on Christmas Day 2022

Save the Dates...



Workshops emphasizing training for Elders, Deacons, Church Committee Members, Church Educators, and Youth & Young Adult Ministry Staff including volunteers.

Topics such as Church Transformation, Leadership Development, Congregational Care, Basics of Presbyterianism, Social Concerns, and Electronic Media.

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Oakland Presbyterian Church in Oakland, FL
(near Winter Garden) or online.

Look for a registration packet at our welcome areas.

Register online: cfpresbytery.org



Save the Date....

Saturday, February 4, 2023

First Pres will once again serve as a “**Friend of MeStrong**” sponsor next year, supporting the fight against cancer.

Open reservation has begun.

Select the First Pres team at mestrong.net.

We will also sponsor a “water station” in the Church Parking Lot if you would like to participate in that way.

Contact the Church Office with any questions.

The Bridge Kitchen



On the first Thursday each month, First Pres Church members and friends cook and serve meals for **The Bridge**, located at 434 S. Woodland Blvd.

We always welcome volunteers as we usually feed between eighty and a hundred people.

On January 5th we will serve corned beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and dessert—all donated.

On February 2nd we will serve chicken casserole. Items needed for this meal are Cream of Chicken Soup, Buttery Crackers and Canned Green Beans.

Look for THE BRIDGE shopping cart when you come to worship and drop-off your donations; or bring them to the church office during the week.

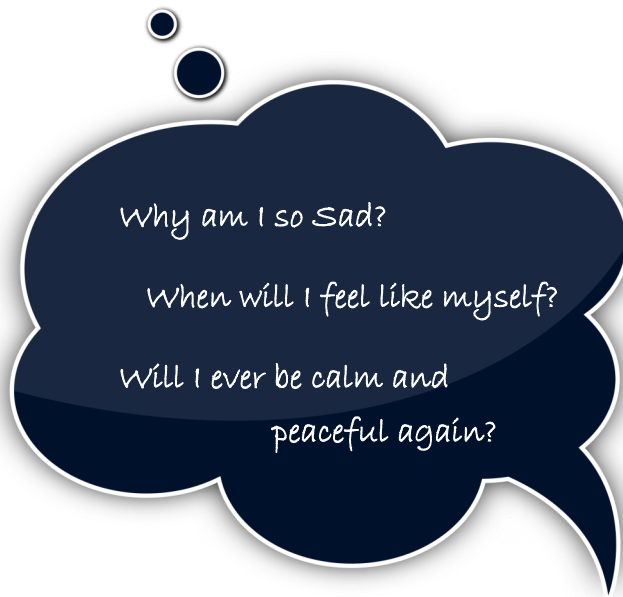
Mary Eggleston (386-626-5071) is the coordinator for this mission.



Meals Matter Ministry



If you know of a need or problematic situation where a meal would help (within our congregation, including friends old and new), please contact Alice Foerster.



Thoughts a Bit Disconcerting?

Please Don't Suffer Alone!

Our Stephen Ministers,
trained caregivers,
stand ready to listen, care for
and encourage you,
pray with and for you,
and help you through a difficult time.

To find out more, call the church office
to talk with Alice Foerster our
Care and Concern Coordinator.



Active Military Names



**Please include our Active Military friends
and their families in your prayers.**

Chief Petty Officer **Andrew J. Clouse**
USS Vicksburg CG69
601 New Lake Court
Norfolk, VA 23462

Senior Airman **Alexis Sutherland**
Special Assignment Supply Officer
Langley Air Force Station, Virginia

FC3 **Jacob Brakeman**
US Navy Core of Engineers
Shipboard Great Lakes to San Francisco

Tech Sgt. **Christopher Aydt**
Assistant Chaplain—Air Force
2536 Grayson Way
San Antonio, TX 78232

HM2 **Matthew Beal**
US Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class
3650 N Spitz Drive #201
Waukegan, IL 60087

AS3 **Daniel Pry**
Navy Petty Officer
456 Crown Crescent
Chesapeake, VA 23325-4329

A1C **Alexander Sutherland**
Elmendorf Air Force Base—Alaska
Apprentice—F22 Raptor

Year End Finance Information

Important Tax Reduction Opportunity for IRA owners 70 ½ or older

If you are at least 70 ½ years old and support First Presbyterian financially and own an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) – consider arranging with your IRA trustee to remit your church contribution(s) directly from your IRA account to the church. This direct giving arrangement is termed a “qualified charitable distribution or QCD”, and if done properly and within certain annual dollar limits, can be treated as a non-taxable IRA withdrawal. If you are also subject to a “Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)”, any contributions sent directly from your IRA custodian to the church by December 31st will be counted as part of your RMD amount -thereby avoiding substantial tax penalties. The subject of whether one is required to withdraw minimum amounts annually from IRA accounts when they reach 70 ½ or 72 years of age is more complex due to recent US legislative changes so please research the subject with a qualified accountant or tax advisor. Below are two Web links that can provide some basic information on QCD’s and RMD’s on both topics.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/reminder-to-ira-owners-age-70-and-a-half-or-over-qualified-charitable-distributions-are-great-options-for-making-tax-free-gifts-to-charity>

<https://www.fidelity.com/insights/retirement/ira-rmd-table>

Dec 31, 2022 Contribution deadline for Income Tax Deductions

For late December giving please remember that the IRS restricts current year contribution credits to those monies **actually received** in the church office or **post marked** prior to midnight of December 31st. It is important that your contribution be included on your 2022 church giving record - please be **sure** that your contribution is either in the church office or is postmarked by the U. S. Post Office prior to midnight, Dec. 31st, 2022. For handwritten checks, the date of receipt at the church governs rather than the check date. For those who use an online bill pay service, be certain to specify that the bank mails your check in time to be postmarked by midnight December 31st.

Year-end giving Statements and Income Tax filing

Note that the 2017 Tax Jobs and Cuts Act is still in effect and raised the Standard Income Tax Deduction substantially. Available statistics indicate that as a result - only 10% to 15% of the taxpayer population are eligible to use itemized deductions (which also enhances the tax avoidance benefit of using Qualified Charitable gifts (discussed above) to realize income tax avoidance on your charitable gifts).

For those who expect to deduct charitable contributions on their 2022 tax return, please do not file before obtaining your church statement confirming your deductible charitable giving totals. In most instances, the church statement is **required in addition to** your cancelled checks or other records if the IRS were ever to challenge the amount you claimed as charitable giving. Statements for all givers will be available on-line for review, downloading and printing by January 31, 2023 via the church online Shelby Next Membership application. If you have a special need or prefer not to use the online resource, please call so that we can provide you with a mailed copy.

Giving Envelopes:

For those who have been using or have requested giving envelopes, they are re-ordered every six months, usually arriving early in December and June. They are placed in the Narthex in alphabetic order by last name. Please be sure to pick up your set and save us time and the cost of postage to mail them.

If you do not find your envelopes or would like some, please send a note or call to Barbara Hughes or Tom Lee in the church office (734-6212) and let us know if you need monthly or weekly envelopes.

Session Snippets December 2022

CONSENT AGENDA:

All items acted **upon** as a single motion. **M/S/C**

Worship team requests that Session approve the following Sundays in 2023 for combined service: January 1 (New Year's Day), February 19 (over 90's birthday celebration), each of the 2023 fifth Sundays: January 29, April 30, July 30, October 29, December 31. Times to be announced.

Worship Team requests that Session approve Alice Foerster and Lynelle Tucker for team membership.

CLERK'S MOTION –

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Stated Session meeting dated November 22, 2022: **M/S/C**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussed the budget and subsequent year approach in anticipation of having to use endowment money to 'bridge the gap.'

Discussed the viability of Solar Panels on church roof – with necessary investment.

Discussed the Vital Congregation initiative.

Discussed relationships - follow up from the leadership gathering last week. Identifying people we already have a relationship with and becoming intentional about reaching out to the ones that are no longer attending church.

Update from the APNC regarding the interviewing of a potential candidate.



Christmas Eve 2022 - 4:00 Worship

Christian Sympathies



Christian Sympathies to the families and friends of the following saints:



Joan Fowler Frank Rossi Billie Laconte Jean Marie Bigelow Vve Galloway
Terrie Fammond

Prayer Requests

**“Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!” Psalm 38:21-22**

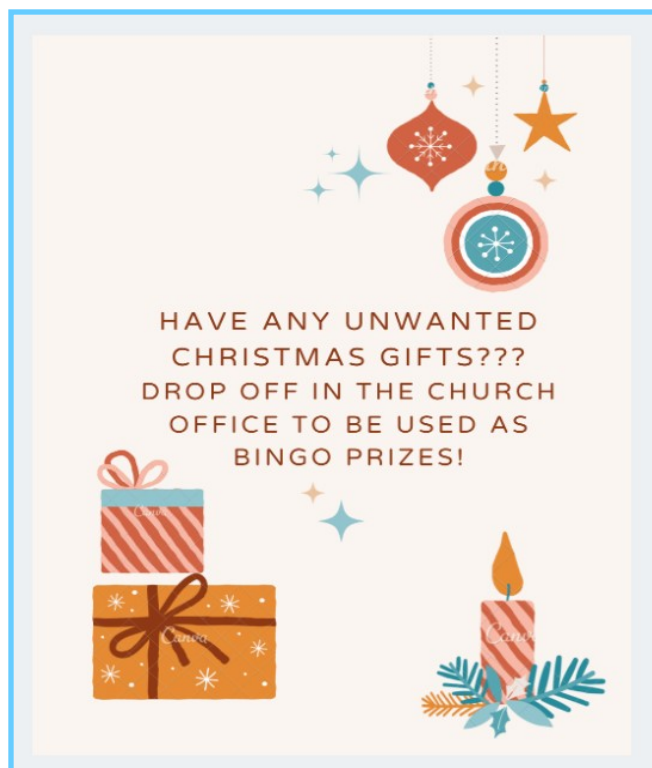
Wanda Carlen	James Coggeshall	Karen & Jeremy DeJong	Althea McPherson
Arlene Liggett	Dallas Moore	Ed Dean	Charlotte Glennie
Lily Guzman	Marie Hammond	Bill Pearson	Leonora Evans
Bethanne Schrecengost	Ricky Clouse	Mike Davis	Lori Reinbold
Marcia Rosemeier	Bette Curtin	Kim Walker	Waleslyn Family
Charles Wareing	Paul O'Donovan	Joanna Payette	Lilyana Aparico
Barbara Reeves	Eva Lurtz	Linda Davis	Shane Gaster
Riley Gaunt	Melissa Gaunt	David Branchett	Maria Nigro
Karla O'Cull	Oliver Wilson	Cora Bradford	Stan Collins

**Please continue to pray for our families, friends, and church family.
Contact the Church Office if you would like to be added to the prayer list.**

January Birthdays

May God's blessings abound for you in every way.

Dawn LaPides 1st	Andrea Finkle 11th	George Fussel 20th
Joey Anderson 1st	Benjamin Hester 13th	Kelisia Williams 20th
Kathy Bransford 2nd	Allison Davis 13th	Diane Denham 20th
Debra Patterson 2nd	Kathy Mills 14th	Maria Jones 22nd
Shirley Carr 3rd	Ann Caskey 15th	Carol Stovka 22nd
Jacob Daus 3rd	Jill Clark 16th	David Sutherland 24th
Trish Kent 4th	Ally Fahey 17th	Oliver Wilson 24th
Jeanette Preston 5th	Alesandra Collins 17th	Lynelle Tucker 26th
Henry Dutton 6th	Sharon Turk 18th	Angie Cottrell 26th
Sandy Guthrie 6th	Michelle Shivrattan 18th	Brandee Millon 28th
Sue Kahrs 6th	Shannon Young 19th	Mary Kay Wareing 29th
Barbara Liska 7th	Michelina Bowman 19th	Donnie McKee 30th
Fred Clark 10th	Suzanne Marshall 19th	Angie Yetter 30th
Jakob Turnage 10th	Tom Baskett 20th	Dorothy Martinez 31st



Christmas Eve 2022 - 6:15 Worship



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Comment on posts you see from First Presbyterian Church, DeLand, FL. Share our posts and our events with your friends. <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchDeLandFL/>



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles

If there is any information that you want printed in our First Press Newsletter, please email Barbara Hughes at bhughes@fpcdstaff.org or call the church office (386)734-6212 ext. 103).

Deadline for articles is the 20th of each month.

Church Office Contact Information

Church Office Phone
386-734-6212

Church Office Hours
Monday through Thursday
8:30 am—2:00 pm

Church Office Staff

Pastor Michael Bodger
ext. 101
pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org

Elendea DeGaetano
Director of Family Ministries
ext. 111 edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org

Alice Foerster
Care Coordinator
ext. 105 afoerster@fpcdstaff.org

Jane Christeson
Director of Music Ministry
ext. 109 jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org

Joseph DeGaetano
Contemporary Worship Band Leader
jdegaetano@fpcdstaff.org

Tom Lee
Finance Director
ext. 104 tleee@fpcdstaff.org

Barbara Hughes
Business Manager
ext. 103 bhughes@fpcdstaff.org

Jackie Metzger
Part-time Bookkeeper
ext. 102 jmetzger@fpcdstaff.org

Laura Carlisle
First Presbyterian School Director
ext. 202 lcarlisle@fpcdstaff.org