

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



Advent 2022 Calendar

First Sunday of Advent	November 27th
Second Sunday of Advent	December 4th
Third Sunday of Advent	December 11th
Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 18th

Events

December 2nd

6:00pm Pajama Storytime

7:00 pm Family Bingo

December 4th

5:00pm Evensong

December 7th

6:00pm Blue Christmas

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 Candlelight - Outside

6:15 pm Candlelight - Sanctuary

Nursery upon request

Christmas Day Worship

10:30 am

No Nursery 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

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.
DeLand, FL 32720
386-734-6212

www.fpcdeland.org
pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org



Merry Christmas

Church Office will be closed Monday, December 26th



The Neighborhood Center of West Volusia County has an urgent need for food during the holidays. Drop-off in Fellowship Hall or in the grocery carts outside of worship. See page 13 for more details.

November 2022 Calendar

- 4th Wednesday Cookout**—Wednesday the 28th at 5:00 pm in the Pavilion
- Adult Discipleship Team Meeting**—Wednesday the 14th at 10:00 am in the Large Conference Room
- BINGO**—Friday the 2nd at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall following Pajama Story time
- Children’s Discipleship Team**—Monday the 12th at 6:00 pm in Room 11C
- Community Garden Workday**—Monday the 12th & 26th and Saturday the 17th at 9:00 am
- Deacon Team Meeting**—Wednesday the 7th at 6:30 in the Large Conference Room
- Evangelism and Invitation Team Meeting**—Thursday the 13th at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference Room.
- Finance Team Meeting**—Wednesday the 21st at 5:45 pm via Zoom
- FPS Board Meeting**—Thursday the 8th at 5:00 pm via Zoom
- God’s Bathhouse**— December 10th and December 31st at 9:00 am in the Courtyard
- 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 13th at 4:30 pm in The Mission Room (11B)
- Parents’ Time Out**—Saturday the 10th at 10:00 am in the Art Room and Nursery
- Personnel Team Meeting**—Tuesday the 13th at 5:30 pm via Zoom
- Property Team Meeting**—Tuesday the 13th at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference Room
- PW Coordinating Team Meeting**—Monday the 5th at 9:00 am in the Large Conference Room
- Session Meeting**—Tuesday the 13th 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 14th at 5:30 pm via Zoom
- Worship Team Meeting**—Tuesday the 6th at 6:30 pm in the Large Conference Room
- Youth Gathering**—Sunday evenings at 5:00 in the One 2 One House—no meeting on Christmas 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!



December Birthday Fellowship

on Sunday, December 4th,
following each worship service in
Fellowship Hall.

Birthday Cake and Coffee!

Michael's Thoughts



Grace, Peace, and Glad Tidings from the Living God,

As the month of December rolls around once again, we already find ourselves in the Advent Season. In *The Book of Common Worship*, we read: “Advent is a season of HOPE, during which we anticipate the future coming of Christ to judge, and to establish his rule over all things. In the light of Christ’s first coming, we have hope for fulfillment of the realm of God in the future.....What is “Christmas”? It is three words: God in flesh; or four syllables: in-car-na-tion.....What we pay homage to at Christmas, therefore, is that the ultimate fulfillment of God’s saving purpose begins with the birth of Jesus, the messianic Savior. God’s only Son is born among us in order to save the world. This is the message of Christmas.”

The beacon of HOPE that beckons us in Christ Jesus, stands in sharp contrast to the world around us. A world that is increasingly moving away from the Living God. Last year I wrote, “The normality of what was, no longer is, and a new normal has begun to emerge.” We are living into that new normal in a whole variety of ways. One of them is the fact that more and more people are abandoning a life of faith. What does that mean for us as we do our utmost to continue to proclaim the good news? Many churches are reducing in numbers, other churches are closing due to lack of numbers and insufficient funding.

The office of the General Assembly released these figures in April, 2022.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Churches	9,451	9,304	9,161	9,041	8,925	8,813
Active Members	1,482,767	1,415,053	1,352,678	1,302,043	1,245,354	1,193,770

Regardless of what is going on, we are urged by the Holy Spirit to live out the calling on our lives. To continue doing what has been placed upon our hearts in this time and in this place called DeLand, FL: “**To be a church fully Engaged in Reaching Up, Reaching In and Reaching Out.**” Thus, we are building on our relationship with God, with one another, and with those in our community. How we do that depends upon each and every one of us called by the Holy Spirit to First Presbyterian Church, DeLand. Together, we can wrestle with what that calling looks like for each of us.

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

Advent

*First Pres
DeLand's*

Pajama Storytime AND BINGO!

Christmas stories, cookie
decorating, cocoa AND stay for a
rollicking Christmas edition of
Bingo

DECEMBER 2, 2022
PAJAMA STORY TIME 6 PM
BINGO AT 7 PM



Blue Christmas

A service of love and remembrance

Wednesday, December 7
6 PM
in the Sanctuary



DeLand Christmas Parade



Saturday, December 3rd
6:00 pm

Contact Elendea or Alice to volunteer
to help with the First Pres float.



CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT EVENSONG

Sunday, December 4th
5:00 pm
Sanctuary

Presented by the First Pres
Chancel Choir

Worship Team News



Diane Slaughter
Worship Team
Moderator

First and foremost, many thanks to all of you who took time to help with “Hanging of the Greens” to ready the church for worship during Advent season. It is a huge undertaking if done by a few; but so many helping hands reached out, everything was in place in the sanctuary in only 1 1/2 hours. The chapel and fellowship hall each took an hour or less. Take a look around our worship spaces to see and enjoy your handiwork.

The Chrismon trees in the chancel and welcome center display handmade ornaments from years ago, a gift from the circles comprising the women of the church. Each Chrismon symbolizes Christianity, such as fish, dove, crosses, sheep, shell, etc.

The Advent Wreath: the circular shape, a never-ending circle, reminds us of the endless love of God. Worshippers will light candles, one each Sunday of Advent for Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the Christ candle on Christmas Eve.

The beautiful Advent quilt on the Lord’s Table, made by our talented quilting group, depicts the Christmas story. The Moravian star, a gift from the Bailey family, symbolizes Jesus who came into the world to become the “light of men.” The points of the star radiating from the center representing the universal love of Jesus and his concern for all mankind. We hang the greens to reflect our joy in the abundant life through Christ. Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking us to make room for the arrival of Christ the King. Let us prepare him room in our hearts, our lives and our homes.

Sunday, December 4th at 5 pm: Invite your friends to enjoy the Evensong Service with you. Our chancel choir presents sacred music to enrich the Advent season as a time for reflection and preparation with joy. An exceptional evening of music and readings!

Wednesday, December 7th at 6 pm: Blue Christmas service in the sanctuary. A quiet and contemplative worship service as an enrichment to the more traditional gatherings. A beautiful service sponsored by our Stephen Ministry!

Saturday, December 24th, 4:00 and 6:15 pm: Christmas Eve services celebrating the birth of Jesus. Bring your “white gift” of nonperishable food for the Neighborhood Center (wrapped or unwrapped). Monetary “white gifts” will benefit Family Renew.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Sunday, December 25th, 10:30 am (no nursery of children’s church): truly celebrating Christ’s birthday, knowing Jesus Christ gives YOU the gift for your best life here on earth and eternally!

Merry Christmas!
Diane Slaughter



“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! “

The Chancel Choir needs YOU for the holidays and beyond.

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



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Sunday, December 18th

December Worship Flowers

December 04 Debbie and Greg Howard
December 11 Available
December 18 Janet Williams
December 25 Poinsettias



The 2023 Worship Flowers Calendar has many available dates.

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

Poinsettia Order Forms

Are available as you enter worship or pick-one up at the church office.
Deadline for ordering is Sunday, the 18th.



Take your poinsettia(s) home after Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship.

PW—Presbyterian Women of First Pres

Please note the upcoming dates and especially plan to join us at our next gathering March 18, 2023 for fellowship, a speaker, and especially **CAKES** for the Dedication of the Birthday offering.

Reminders:

December 7, 2022 — Pastor's Bible Study - 9:30am Large Conference Room
December 11, 2022 — 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, 202— **Dedication of the Least Coin** and Election & Installation of PW Officers/brunch

The Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace calendar can be viewed at presbyterianwomen.org and search **Justice and Peace calendar**. The January–December 2022 calendar notes dates for justice and peace awareness or action days, links to websites, and additional information and action suggestions.

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 12:00am with 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.

May you have a very blessed Christmas!

Musicians Wanted!

The First Pres Praise Band is looking to expand its roster of musicians. If you can sing or play the piano, drums or guitar, and have an interest in making a joyful noise with the band for the 9 o'clock worship service, please email or call Joe DeGaetano.

Email: jdegaetano@fpcdstaff.org



Tiny Transitional Homes

The project continues.....



Contact Kurt Backstrom (kurtbeast@aol.com) or Mary Hoffmann (mary1005500@aol.com) to join the First Pres Tiny House team.



SOLAR THINKING

Have you ever noticed just how much the sun shines in Florida?

Much is spoken of about that fact, but in reality we harness very little of it.

On the south-facing side of the church roofing, we have the capacity to have approximately 7,500 sq. ft. of solar paneling.

This amount would create power in excess of the usage we now have as a church throughout the year (yearly electricity costs are in the region of \$30,000 and growing) and allow for "net metering" to occur. By selling back electricity to the power company, we will generate income for the upkeep of the church campus.

This is, of course, all just thoughts at present.

We are looking for and inviting individuals who either have experience with solar panels or simply an interest and desire to find out if this idea is possible.

We are looking to form a feasibility team to evaluate these possibilities. Please let me know if you are interested in joining such a team.

Peace,
Pastor Michael



Men's Bible Study Fellowship

Monday Evenings
at 6:30

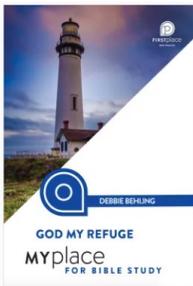
Offers straight talk and biblical truth built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Exploring God's Word together allowing men to learn from one another, and to encourage each other to live for something larger than themselves.

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

MAKE IT A HABIT



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 Westminster 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.**

Open Door Sunday School Class

Explore what Christmas means with other adults like you. Be curious. Discuss three truths about Jesus in the Christmas story. First, Jesus is Fully God (December 4). Second, Jesus is Fully Human (December 11). Third, Jesus is God-With-Us. (December 18). Hear and understand the traditional stories of the Incarnation in the Bible with fresh understanding. (No Open Door Class on December 25 or January 1.) Even if you haven't come in a while or never, plan on enjoying some deep, meaningful conversations on our way to Christmas this year in the Open Door Class.

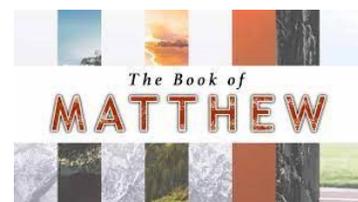
Sunday mornings, 10:00—10:50 in the Westminster Room.

Serendipity Sunday School Class

Serendipity Sunday School meets in the Middle Conference Room of the Church Office Building.

They are currently studying the Book of Matthew with

Frank Wilson serving as the leader for this group.



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.

Property Team



It's Clean-up Time, Everyone!

We are so blessed that our campus is busy, our spaces are being used and God's work is being done everyday here at First Pres DeLand. BUT our campus is looking a bit shabby...doors and windows need to be washed....walls need touch-up paint....pressure washing would be nice. Gardens need weeding...window sills need dusting...pews need to be wiped off...chairs need cleaning. May we count on your help? Joe Guthrie (jaguthri@stetson.edu or 386-717-1206) is coordinating this effort or contact the church office (we will find you a bucket and hot soapy water!)

Medical Equipment Closet Ministry

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

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' TIME OUT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Contact Elendea (edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org) or the church office by December 7th to make a reservation

YOUR CHANCE TO SHOP!



Middle school and high school youth, please join us on Sundays from 5-6:30 pm for food, fun, and fellowship in the *One 2 One House*.



Youth Christmas Lock-in

December 9th and 10th

Arrive at 7 pm on Friday for a trip to *5 Below* and then stay over at the church till Saturday at 8 am.

Contact Elendea for more information:
edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org



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.



Nursery

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 Value Volunteers Highly!

We are offering showers for the homeless two Saturdays in December.

Join us **December 10th and December 31st** at 8:30 am in front of the Mission Room.

The 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.



Congratulations and Thanks!

to everyone who participated in the 2022 Shoebox Drive

120 filled shoeboxes were delivered to Samaritans Purse from our church—they are headed to children around the world.



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 December 1st we will serve ham, mashed potatoes and corn casserole— we will need canned corn.

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

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.



Save the Date...

Saturday, February 4, 2023

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

Registration is open. Select the First Pres team at mestrong.net.

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

Contact the church office with any questions.

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.



The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee met several times during the month of November. We held one face to face meeting with one very promising candidate via zoom. As always, the APNC continues to ask for your prayers as the Holy Spirit continues to move us forward on this mission.

**FIRST PRES
MISSION TEAM**

FOOD DRIVE

LETS FEED THE HUNGRY



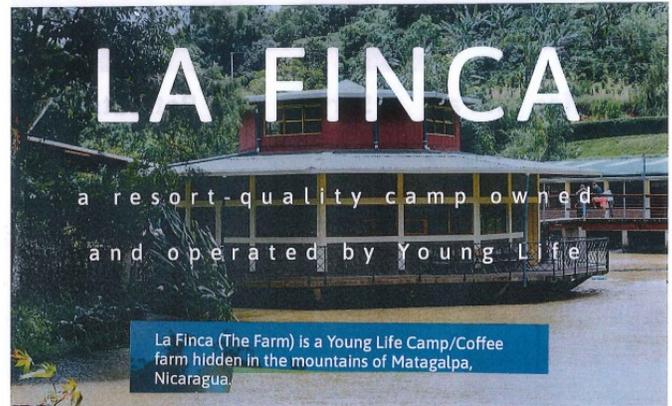
**WHAT
WE NEED?**

**UNEXPIRED &
NON PERISHABLE
FOOD ONLY**

**through
December 15th**

DROP-OFF IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
**Benefits The Neighborhood
Center - DeLand**

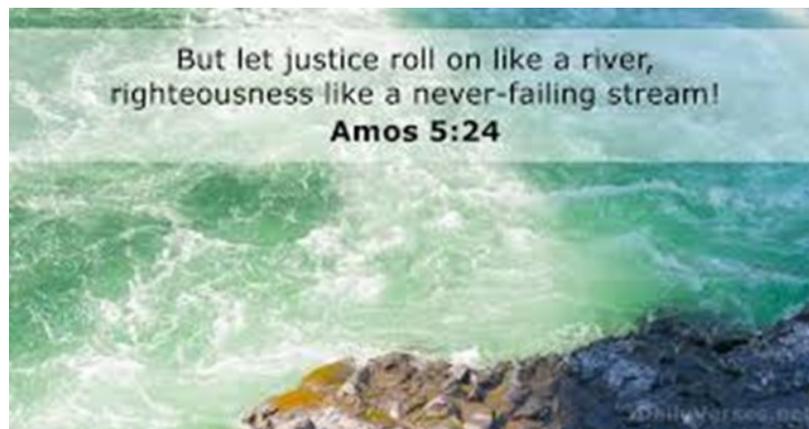
2023 Mission Trip to Nicaragua June 11-June 17 (approx. dates)



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

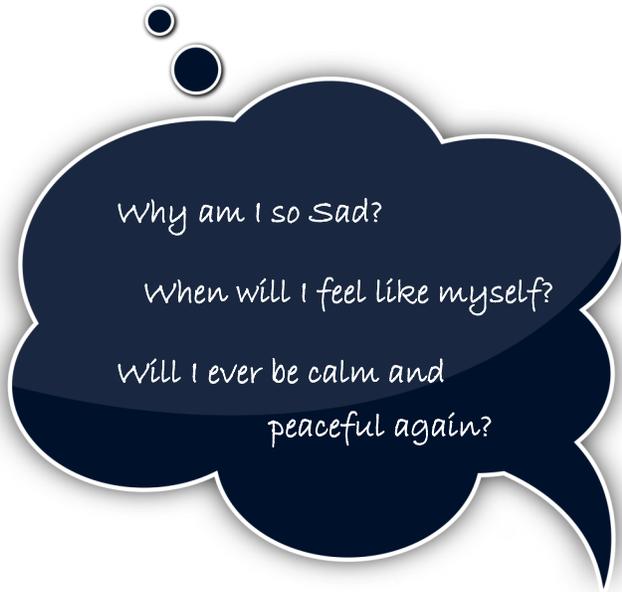


Biblical and Social Justice - Join us for a New Sunday School Class Beginning January 8 – 10:00 in Mission Room 11B.

- 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
with Mary Hoffmann as the contact.



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 Items

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. If 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 November 2022

CONSENT AGENDA: All items were acted upon as a single motion. **M/S/C**

1. The date of the Youth Lock-in was changed to December 9 and 10 and in addition the use of the church van during the Lock-in was approved.
2. Session approved the use of up to \$16,000 from the unrestricted endowment fund for the emergency replacement of a 3-ton Carrier air conditioner unit.
3. Session approve the Employee 2023 Holiday Schedule.
4. The dates of November 10-12, 2023 were approved for the Salt Springs family camping trip.

Clerk Motions:

Minutes of the Stated Session meeting dated October 25, 2022: **M/S/C**

ACTION ITEMS:

Session approved the 2023 church budget as presented, with approximately \$141,000 currently unfunded. It was noted that there is \$51,000 in reserve funding available. However, there are also three positions, Director of Family Ministries, Care Coordinator and the Associate Pastor that are funded outside the operational budget. It was agreed after final estimates of giving are received and end-of-year closing, details or how we propose to move forward will be provided to the congregation.

- Motion to approve the 2023 church budget as presented: **M/S/C**
- Approve Pastor's Terms of Call for the December 11th Congregational Meeting.
- The 2023 Pastor's Terms of Call to present to the congregation: **M/S/C**
- Approval of the Class of 2023 Slate of Elders and Deacons.
 - Care and Concern: Alice Foerster – 2 year term Mission – **open**
 - Property: Sam Foerster – 2 year term Worship – Jean Burns – 3 year term
 - Evangelism and Invitation – **open** Adult Discipleship – **open**
 - Elder-at-large – Suzi Backstrom – 3 year term
 - Deacons – Mary Kay Wareing, Natalie Brown, Marcia Rosemeier
- **Motion to approve the Class of 2025 Elders and Deacons: M/S/C**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Associate Pastor Nominating Committee – discussion confirming the Session decision to go forward with the APNC search as planned and previously approved.
2. **Tiny House Presentation:** by Kurt Backstrom. Motion to continue evaluation **M/S/C**

Christian Sympathies



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



Merl Clerex

Bette Richter

Lorraine Dean

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	Joan Fowler
Charlotte Glennie	Lily Guzman	Marie Hammond	Bill Pearson
Leonora Evans	Bethanne Schrecengost	Ricky Clouse	Jean Marie Bigelow
Mike Davis	Lori Reinhold	Marcia Rosemeier	Bette Curtin
Kim Walker	Waleslyn Family	Charles Wareing	Paul O'Donovan
Gwynne Freed	Joanna Payette	Lilyana Aparico	Barbara Reeves
Eva Lurtz	Linda Davis	Shane Gaster	Michael Bilek
Riley Gaunt	Melissa Gaunt	David Branchett	Gould Family
Maria Nigro	Karla O'Cull		

**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.**

December Birthdays

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

Helen Morrow 1st	Nancy Frankenberry 10th	Vve Galloway 24th
Anne Huffman 2nd	Donna Sergent 11th	Lorisa Bruk 26th
Magaly Cooling 3rd	Harriett McAllaster 12th	Walter Kahrs 26th
Jordan (Crane) Smith 5th	Cole Christian 13th	Kathy Mahoney 27th
Jennifer Seitzer 5th	Louella Haynes 15th	James Yetter 27th
Liam Shive 5th	Wayne Dreggors 16th	Stew Burkhammer 27th
Jeff Bransford 6th	Roark Vanderlip 16th	Kailana Sergent 27th
Maddie Brees 7th	Connie Sarson 18th	Steve Bennett 28th
Charlotte Johnston 7th	Noah Sergent 18th	Janine Keebler 28th
Louis Luckett 7th	Janet Collum 20th	Trish Tutt 28th
Bob Luebke 7th	Boyd Jones 20th	Kathryn Morganelli 28th
Dawn Trullinger 7th	Ellie Hawes 21st	Roy Trullinger 28th
Erin Jeffreys 8th	Vern Pidgeon 21st	Lynn Hawkins 29th
Jean Reeves 8th	John Patterson 21st	Joseph Davis 31st
David Langell 9th	Claire Schrecengost 22nd	
Dawn Christian 10th	Sam Foerster 23rd	



**Men's Bible Study Fellowship
Cookout on Monday, November 14th**



Alex MacArthur

**Community
Garden
Work Day**

October 24, 2022



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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.

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