

FEBRUARY FIRST PRESS




Volume 25, Issue 2

February, 2025

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

NEW!
**2nd Wednesdays
Coffee Club**



**FEBRUARY 12, 2025
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**COFFEE AND DONUTS PROVIDED
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENTS

**A CONCERT
OF SPIRITUALS**

IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025
3 PM**

IN THE SANCTUARY

IF YOU ARE SO LED, A LOVE OFFERING WILL
BE TAKEN AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY



February *POP-UP!*
Historic DeLand Walking Tour
Wednesday, February 26th, 10 am
\$10 per person.
Please contact the church office
for details.

fpcdeland.org

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship

8:00 am, Chapel

Contemporary Worship

9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Traditional Worship

11:00 am, Sanctuary

Adult Sunday School Classes

10 am

Last Sunday Each Month

One Service @ 10:30 am,
Sanctuary, followed by
potluck luncheon

**Live Stream Worship Services
and Recorded Services
available on our website**

February 2025 Calendar

Adult Discipleship Team Meeting: Wednesday, the 12th, at 1:00 pm in the Middle Conference Room

Children's Discipleship Team: Sunday, the 9th, at 12:00 pm in the Art Room

Coffee Club: Wednesday, the 12th, at 9 am in Fellowship Hall

Finance Team Meeting-: Thursday, the 13th, at 6:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

God's Bathhouse: Saturdays, the 8th and the 22nd, at 9:00 am in the Courtyard—Mission Room(11B)

Kids Club: Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the Art Room

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

Mission Outreach Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 11th, at 4:30 pm in the Mission Room (11B)

Personnel Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 4th, at 5:00 pm in the Small Conference Room

Property Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 11th, at 1:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

PW Coordinating Team Meeting: Monday, the 3rd, at 9:00 am in the Large Conference Room

Session Meeting: Tuesday, the 25th, at 6:30 pm in the Large Conference Room

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless: Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the Mission Room (11B)

Student Discipleship Team Meeting: Wednesday, the 5th, at 4:00 pm via Zoom

Worship Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 4th, at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

Youth Gathering: Sunday evenings at 5:00 in The Loft

Check the ShelbyNext Church Calendar
for other events during the month.

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!



Michael's Message

Greetings,

A month into 2025 already! During January, we have been journeying with the Corinthians and the first letter that Paul wrote to them. Many things have occurred with the Corinthian church, not least of which is the encroachment of the world into their thinking. Paul re-orientes them back to Jesus. It has afforded us the opportunity to take a look at ourselves and our own respective roles within the church and the gifts we have been given (for the common good). There is so much to celebrate in all that we do here at First Presbyterian, DeLand. The very fact that God continues to call us together, by the power of the Holy Spirit, means there is still work for us to do in joining in what God is already doing. That doesn't mean staying with the status quo! We are to look around and listen to what the Spirit is telling us. What is the Spirit telling you? Share with your church brothers and sisters what it is. Sometimes that might feel strange to do or even threatening. Yet share we must. If you feel more comfortable, please place your thoughts in the new Comment Boxes in the Ministries Building and Fellowship Hall. They are waiting for your input.



Although LENT does not begin in February this year (it starts in early March) we are already preparing for it. This year we will be using a daily devotional written by Trevor Hudson titled, ***Pauses for Lent***. It gives us 40 Words for 40 Days and invites us to pause each day.

"Sometimes we all need to pause, to put life on hold for a few moments. The act of pausing can create space for God in our hectic lives.....As you carve out even a few minutes to spend with God, you just might find yourself listening to God in a new way. God wants to meet you in your daily life just as it is, messiness and all."

We will begin the journey on Ash Wednesday (March 5) with our sisters and brothers from Bethel AME. They will be joining us here at First Presbyterian for a potluck and our worship service with the Rev. Reggie Johnson preaching.

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



Save the date...
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Potluck and Worship Service
at First Pres DeLand
with Rev. Reggie Johnson.
Details to follow.

Casey's Corner



February, the best month out of the year if you ask me. Yes, I might be biased as my birthday is in February, but the real reason I love February is because of Valentine's Day. I know many people roll their eyes at this hallmark holiday, thinking its just another way to make money. Some cynics would say that Valentine's Day is just a holiday to make people who have a significant other spend a lot of money and for the single people to feel sad and lonely.

But not for me! I LOVE Valentine's Day.! I love the flowers, the chocolates, and the cards. I love seeing people out and about celebrating their love. And whether you have a partner or are doing life alone, you can still celebrate the love in your life.

I encourage you all this month to celebrate the love that you share with God. Take time to give thanks for the unconditional love we receive everyday through Christ. Take time to read God's love letter to you (the Bible) and maybe take time to write out a little love letter to God. Make this Valentine's Day about you and your loving Father in Heaven.

Worship Team News



A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the people who helped with the "Unhanging of the Greens" in our Chapel (12) Fellowship Hall (8) and Sanctuary (26-28) on January 5th! It was truly amazing to have this huge task completed. Your time and energy made this a positive experience. Some new people stepped up and made it extra fast at 11 am. Your efforts are so appreciated!. Our two new Christmas banners in the Fellowship Hall were well received and the newly-donated quilt hung from the choir balcony received rave reviews. We featured pictures in the January newsletter.

Liturgically, we stand in "ordinary time", not marked by any specific festival or season. We use green liturgical colors, largely because we associate that color with growing. Let us continue to grow in our faith and service to God.

We are looking for people interested in serving on the Worship Team. We could use one or two volunteers for some practical tasks as well as people willing to join the team for fresh discussions and perspectives. Times are flexible. Contact me if you might be able to serve in any capacity. I will gladly share what the Worship Team does on a regular basis. Many hands make for light work.

The next Worship Team meeting is Tuesday, February 4th at 3 PM in the large conference room in the Church Office building. Guests are welcome to attend.

Grace & Blessings.

Jean Burns, Worship Team Moderator

Email jeanburns15@gmail.com. Cell: (262) 844-3644

Presbyterian Women (PW) of First Pres DeLand

Presbyterian Women are looking forward to a busy couple of months. We have several upcoming events:

The Birthday Offering Gathering will be held on March 8, 2025. We will enjoy brunch and a variety of delicious cakes as we dedicate the Birthday Offering, which provides grants for PW ministries. All ladies are welcome – you do not have to be a member of a circle or a member of the Church to attend. Watch for more information.

Presbyterian Women Sunday will be celebrated on April 27, 2025, in one service at 10:30 AM. We will present the award to this year's Honorary Life Member. Fellowship will follow the service.

Dedication of the Least Coin Gathering, our last gathering of the year, will be held on May 3, 2025. At that time we will install officers for the coming year.

We need someone to serve as vice moderator beginning in September 2025. The Vice Moderator assists the Moderator for two years, and then becomes the Moderator the following year. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to help Presbyterian Women continue to flourish at First Pres. If you would like to know more about this position, please contact me or our incoming moderator, Susan Allison.

If you are not a member of a circle, please try one out!! You do not need to become a church member to join a circle. Contact one of the leaders below for more information:

DORCAS CIRCLE meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM, 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 of the month at 10:00 AM in the Church Office Building. Contact Elaine Bodger, 386-337-7303

RACHEL CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the Eastminster Room. Contact Mary Eggleston, 407-325-9982, or Sharon Turk, 407-766-8775.

RUTH CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon at Mary Kay Wareing's home. Contact Kathy Ambachtsheer, 386-822-1298.

SUSANNA CIRCLE meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 12:00 noon in the Eastminster Room. Contact Pat Andrews, 386-747-5453.

EVENING CIRCLE meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Church Office. Contact Ginger Johnston, 386-717-8953.

Happy Valentine's Day!! Let's make this a day—and a month—of showing Christ's love to all we encounter.

Blessings,
Dianne Heidel, Moderator
386-956-0960



Adult Sunday School Classes

Open Door Class



Are you unashamed? Are you confident in your faith?
Join other people like you as we are encouraged, equipped, and empowered to live unashamed of our faith and of who God created us to be.
Join us in February on Sunday mornings in the Westminster Room, 10:00—10:50 am.
Harland Merriam facilitates this class.

Learning To Do Justice Class

In the LEARNING TO DO JUSTICE class we are challenging ourselves in our *"Welcoming the Others: Are We Doing Enough?"* series. We continue with these topics:

February 2: Welcoming the Children (and their parents). There are little ones all around us. How can we better make them feel loved and happy to be among us!

February 9: Rev. Laura Walters Baskett leads us in a quest to know, "What does the Bible tell us about welcoming LGBTQ individuals?"

February 16: Jamie Vanderlip will share her personal testimony as an LGBTQ member of 1st Pres.

February 23: Welcoming the homeless. What can we do to help them find a home with us? Linda Carson Atkinson, director of Family Renew will join us.

March 2: Cass, who has benefited from the Bath House ministry, will share his personal experiences with homelessness. He is excited that we want to hear from him and will share from his heart.

March 9: We welcome Sorrel Ann, coordinator of Living Waters for the World. Fred Hoffmann and Ron Allison are certified to train members of our sister church in Cuba to install filters and maintain safe, drinkable water.

March 16: How to welcome and love those who are grieving. Alice Foerster will help us better welcome and care for those who have lost loved ones.

March 23: Pastor Michael will wrap up our series. What will we do about what we have learned?

Adult Discipleship News

SOMETHING NEW IS BEGINNING!

*Join us on Saturday, February 19th at 6:00
to gather and eat together in
Fellowship Hall.*

*We will be forming groups of 6-9 people that
will meet together at least monthly for 3
months (March, April, and May).
Purpose: to grow in relationship with each
other and to strengthen our community.*



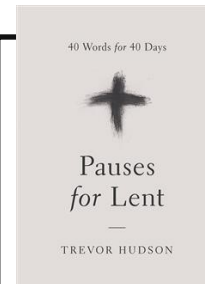
REGISTER NOW!!



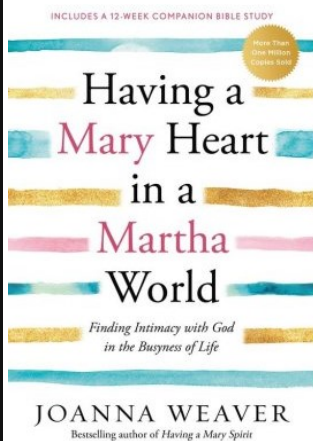
Bee-attitudes
becoming your best self

**FIRST PRES ANNUAL
WOMEN'S RETREAT
APRIL 4-6, 2025
SAN PEDRO CENTER
WINTER PARK**

contact Cathy Campbell
ccampbell@fpcdstaff.org
for more information



Daily Devotionals will
become available
before Lent begins
on March 5th.



NEW Bible Study for Women (No matter the season of life you are in)

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life by Joanna Weaver

Joanna Weaver shows how all of us, Marys and Marthas alike, can draw closer to our Lord no matter the season of life we are in -- deepening our devotion, strengthening our service, and doing both with less stress and greater joy.

You will find value in reading this book as well as in studying the scriptures throughout God's Word, which provides much wisdom and guidance.

Let's allow Jesus to come into the midst of our lives as Mary and Martha did and accept His invitation to choose "the better part" – a joyful life of intimacy with Him that flows naturally into loving service.

We will meet Thursdays, February 27 to May 15, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Eastminster Room. Please contact Kathy Bransford at 813-786-9984 or via email at kbransford@hotmail to sign up for the class. The deadline to sign up is February 20. The cost is \$10.

Mission Team News



Medicine Needed

Carolyn Cook, a member of our church, and Hank

Walton will be joining the Central Florida Presbytery group leaving for Cuba on February 18th.

They are asking for donations of much needed medicines to take with them.

Please consider donating these items:

Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen (children and adults)

Allergy Medicines

Vitamins

Antibiotic ointments

Items can be dropped off at the Church Office or brought with you on a Sunday.

Donations needed no later than February 16th.



Two of our members, Fred Hoffmann and Coco Allison, will be an integral part of

Living Waters for the World

mission team which is scheduled to install a community-wide water purification system at our sister church in Taguasco, Cuba next month. They will join fellow Presbyterians from New York, Maryland, Tennessee, and California on this mission which has been planned for over a year. Fred will serve as the project installation manager, and Coco will serve as the administrator of Health Education during their stay in Taguasco. Please keep Fred, Coco, and the entire team in your thoughts and prayers.



Bringing dignity to the homeless.

One shower at a time.

January 11th was our first God's Bathhouse Saturday of 2025 with showers, a change of clothes and food available for the fourteen people who came. Some were here for the first time. Many stayed to enjoy the chance to visit and socialize in the safety of our church courtyard.

We continue in prayer and support of the Bathhouse Ministry as they pursue a replacement for the truck that was destroyed by a fire in December.

Cold weather clothes for men and women are especially helpful now:

Jackets/Hoodies

Long sleeved T-shirts and flannel shirts

Gloves, winter hats

Sweatpants

Women's leggings

We are so grateful for the ongoing and generous clothing donations.

Our baseball cap supply has been restored!



**13 Week Series begins on
Wednesday, February 5th
11 am - 12:30 pm**

Light Snack Provided

This group will meet in the Eastminster Room.

13 week support group with video, workbook,
and discussion time.

Contact Alice Foerster in the Church Office
for more information

@ 386-734-6212 ext. 105 or email
afoerster@fpcdstaff.org.

On the first Thursday of each
month, First Pres Church
members and friends cook
and serve meals at **The Bridge**,



located at 434 S. Woodland Blvd, Deland.

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

On February 6th we will serve Jambalaya.

On March 6th we will serve Quesadilla Casserole.

**Items needed are canned black beans, whole
kernel corn, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce,
chopped green chilis, and 8" flour tortillas.**

Look for THE BRIDGE shopping cart when you
come to worship to drop off your donations.

Laura Finner (407-539-4043)
coordinates this mission.



**Drive Through
Food Distribution**



**Saturday
Feb 15, 2025
9am**



**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

**Volunteers are needed
to help organize and
distribute the food we receive.**

**Contact Mary Hoffman
(mary100550@aol.com) for
your assignment and plan to
arrive at 8am.**

**Save the date... our next Food Drive
is March 15, 2025, 9 am**



BALANCE CLASS



**Tuesday 9:00 & 10:30
Thursday 9:00 & 10:30**



Contact Suzi Backstrom, instructor,
for information or to register.

(required before class participation)

suzibackstrom@gmail.com
or 865-604-5182

January 2025 - Session Snippets

Session Snippets Stated Session Meeting Annual Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons Tuesday, January 28, 2025

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Approved 'Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World' study by Joanna Weaver led by Kathy Bransford on Thursday afternoons from February 27th through May 15th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Eastminster Room.
2. Pastor Bodger requests that Session approve him officiating the Baptism of Katelin Stovka on Sunday, February 16th.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Elder/Deacon Testimonies: Elaine Bodger, Nancy Hill, Greg Waite, Ron Allison **M/S/C** to accept as Deacons (EB,GW) and Elders (RA,NH) - Class of 2027.
2. Treasurer and Clerk of Session for 2025: **M/S/C** to approve Trish Kent as Treasurer for 2025 and **M/S/C** to approve Barbara Jo Hughes as Clerk of Session for 2025.
3. The First Presbyterian School requests that Session approves the change from hourly employees to salary employees for employees who are: Kindergarten Teachers, VPK Certified Teachers and First Grade Teachers. **M/S/C** to approve this change - Fall 2025.
4. Property Use Request by Journey Church Bible Study classes before Lent. Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 on six Thursdays (March 13th through April 17th). They will pay us \$1,500 for this use. **M/S/C** to approve this Building Use Request with a change to the March 17th date and a limit on the children to age three or older.



**Look for the new Comment Boxes
in the Church Office and Fellowship Hall.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Worship Flowers

Feb 02: The Ballesteros Family
 Feb 09: Fay, Vorna and
 Lucille Smith
 Feb 16: John and Sharon Turk
 Feb 23: Janet Williams



"Don and I have enjoyed the flowers from the Sanctuary knowing they bring the prayers and songs to Don in his room at Memory Care.



Each day is a treasure as God's presence is as close as our breath. Thank you for the love we feel from our church family ".

Don and Trish Tutt

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**

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Karen DeJong | Lily Guzman | Leonora Evans | Charlie Wareing |
| Lilyana Aparico | Shane Gaster | Stew Burkhammer | Olivia White |
| Patsy Kanagy | Frank Wilson | Mary Eggleston | Don Tutt |
| Mike Davis | Angel Lynch | Greg Callahan | Christine Evans |
| Trullinger family | Parramore family | Bob Fischer | Michelle Krach |
| Peter Dramby | Carl Canto | Montgomery family | Jerry Sather |
| Lindalee Trumble | Steve Rollings | Jean Reeves | Charlotte Glennie |
| Althea McPherson | Janet Lewis | Paul Jones | Kathy DeRestie |
| Rosemary/Jim Fike | Brian Throne | Steve Marion | |

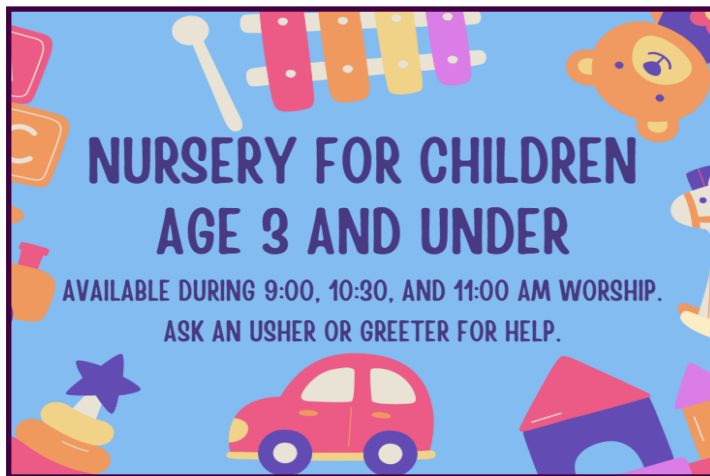
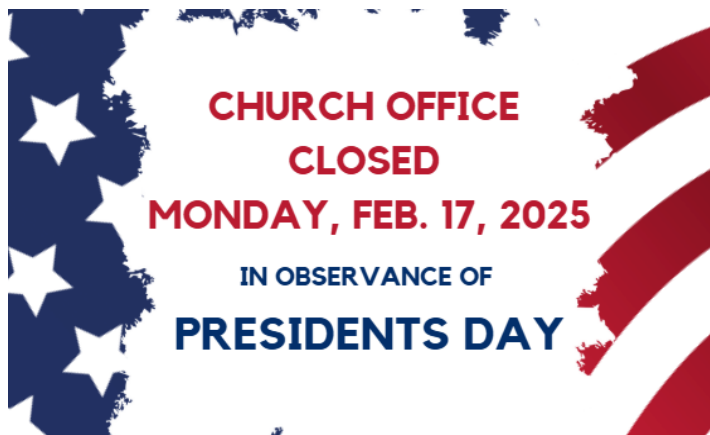
**Please continue to pray for our families, friends, and church family.
 Contact the Church Office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list.**

February Birthdays

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Norma Pidgeon 1st | George Foerester 14th | Hudson Carroll 25th |
| Ciaran Pickren 1st | Weiland Jones 14th | Andrew Raynor 26th |
| Benjamin Estiveleti 1st | Dave Warren 15th | Judy Preston 26th |
| Elaine Bodger 2nd | Andrew Fussell 15th | Kay Laws 28th |
| Keith Napier 2nd | Jan Herr 17th | David Thomas 28th |
| Paul Jones 3rd | Gene Schlecht 18th | |
| Melissa Sorensen 3rd | Janet Krohn 19th | |
| Pieter Ambachtsheer 6th | Greg Freed 21st | |
| Mary White 6th | Lyda Wilson 21st | |
| Amanda Hutchinson 7th | Casey Riker 22nd | |
| JJ Payette 9th | Jim Whittet 23rd | |
| John Turk 9th | Bob Apgar 24th | |
| Chris Perkins 12th | Kathy Barnard 24th | |
| Harland Merriam 14th | Ed DuFresne 24th | |

**February Birthday
 Fellowship
 February 2, 2025
 following worship**





First Presbyterian Church
724 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32720
386-734-6212
fpcdeland.org



If you are a Facebook user, have you noticed the increase of posts and followers? Please follow us and like our page. 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/>



If there is any information that you want printed in our First Press Newsletter, please email Karin Ballesteros (kballesteros@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

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ext. 101
pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org

Associate Pastor Casey Riker
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pastorcasey@fpcdstaff.org

Brooke Rohr
First Presbyterian School Director
ext. 202 brohr@fpcdstaff.org

Alice Foerster
Care and Concern Coordinator
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Jane Christeson
Director of Music Ministry
ext. 109 jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org

Joseph DeGaetano
Contemporary Worship Band Leader
jdegaetano@fpcdstaff.org

Karin Ballesteros
Communication Assistant
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Barbara Hughes
Bookkeeper
ext. 104 bhughes@fpcdstaff.org