

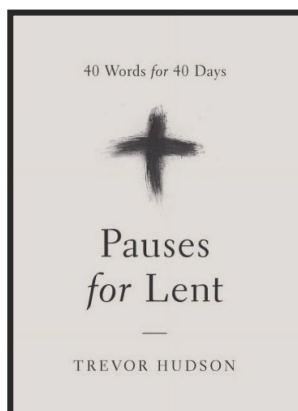
MARCH FIRST PRESS



Volume 25, Issue 3


March, 2025

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



Lenten Series: *Pauses for Lent* daily devotionals are available in the church office or at the Welcome Areas before and after worship.

Additional information on pg. 6



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5th
Joint Service
and Potluck
at
First Pres DeLand
with Bethel AME Church
and Rev. Reggie Johnson

Potluck at 5:30 pm
– Fellowship Hall
Worship at 6:30 pm
– Sanctuary

The graphic shows a hand drawing a cross on a person's forehead with grey ash. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Pop-Up! Tuesday, March 18th
6:30 pm
for a Stetson Baseball Game!



VS



Melching Field at Conrad Park, DeLand
\$10 per person - Limited tickets available.
Please contact Alice in the Church Office to
reserve your ticket! 386-734-6212 ext. 105

www.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

March 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 11th, 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:** Thursday, the 13th, at 5:00 pm in the Middle Conference Room
- 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!

**MARCH
BIRTHDAY
FELLOWSHIP**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Michael's Message

Greetings to One and All,

It is March already! On March 05 we enter into the Lenten Season with our worship service joining our sisters and brothers from Bethel AME on Ash Wednesday. With it we are ushered into the forty days of Lent. These forty days will afford us the opportunity to reflect upon whose we are and what we are called to do. As a congregation, we will do so by using the devotional ***Pauses for Lent***. It's an invitation to invite God into the spaces created by pausing. Please avail yourself of a copy and let us journey together. As I grew up, we were encouraged to "give something up for Lent." This has in recent years turned into a "do something extra." Let me remind you of the words of the Living God to the Prophet Isaiah (58:6-7) and so to the people;



*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless
poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

The Sunday sermons will follow the path of the devotional, using texts from Mark's Gospel. Each Wednesday there will be two opportunities to gather to talk about the sermon and devotions of the week (See Page 6).

As the days begin to turn warmer and more humid, I encourage us all to think of things anew. What is the Living God asking of us as we live life? Our own personal lives and our communal lives as the body of Christ. You will see in a number of locations around the campus "Comment Boxes." Please share with us what the Spirit is putting on your heart that we need to be mindful of as a body of Christ. We have all been given a manifestation of the Spirit for the "common good." What is that "common good" that would benefit from your gifts? We each have a role to play and we are made whole by each other.

Finally, there will be changes afoot in our staff as we move through March. There is nothing so constant as change, and we are looking for both a Communication Assistant and a Bookkeeper. If you know anyone with either set of gifts, then please let us know. A copy of the job descriptions are available in the church office.

As always, 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.

Peace Be with You All,

Pastor Michael

Casey's Corner

I recently had the pleasure of moving. It has quickly become one of my least favorite activities. My advice to anyone considering moving is wait till you are wealthy enough to get a company who can do all the work for you. I was mentally, physically, and emotionally drained after three days of packing and unpacking. Through this whole process I realized how much junk I have acquired. I am only one person; and I didn't have a lot of space to begin with; but as I filled my new house with all of my stuff, I filled countless trash bags and made several trips to Goodwill. Even after all that purging, I still feel overwhelmed with the amount of stuff I have. I thought I was holding on to these things to be prepared for my move, but now I see I don't need any of it.



This really made me think about how we prepare ourselves for Christ. Being raised by a survivalist, I love to be prepared. I love feeling ready for whatever might come my way. But in this move I realized I wasn't prepared at all.

I feel like this is similar to my spiritual life. I like to stock up on good deeds and bible knowledge in hopes that I will be ready when challenged or even when Jesus comes back. But when I actually think about it. I am not ready at all! And even if I were to get one hundred more years here on earth, I would still be unprepared for what is to come.

So, if that is true, what do we do? How do we prepare our hearts for Jesus? This is something I am still wrestling with, and I invite you to do so with me this month. How can we prepare ourselves for Jesus? What can we do now so that we are ready for Jesus?

Music News

Greetings from your church musicians! We enjoyed presenting our program of spirituals to the congregation on Feb. 23rd and were happy to welcome Myra Wooden as our guest pianist for that event. Now on to Lent and Easter music! If anyone is thinking of joining the choir, now is a terrific time as we begin the journey towards this thought-provoking and ultimately joyful season in the church. The Bell Choir is fully operational now with the aid of two Stetson students from the choir, Rachel Castillo and Joey Rumberger, are experienced players who have performed with us recently. **Save the date - April 27th** - for our next concert of the year, celebrating the music of the Lenten and Easter seasons. As always, many thanks for your support!



SPECIAL MUSIC CONCERT
PRESENTED BY THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHANCEL CHOIR
**MUSIC OF THE
EASTER SEASON**
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025
1:00 PM
IN THE SANCTUARY

IF YOU ARE SO LED, A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN AS YOU EXIT
TO SUPPORT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAMS

Presbyterian Women (PW) of First Pres DeLand



Please join us! **Gathering and Dedication of the Birthday Offering**

March 8, 2025 – 10:30 AM \$5.00 payable at the door

Enjoy brunch, fellowship and a delicious variety of cakes

Speaker Dr. Jason Evens, Professor of Environmental Science, Stetson University

All ladies welcome – you do not need to be a church member or member of a circle.

RSVP to me at the number below.

We are looking forward to the annual Women's Retreat, on April 4-6, 2025, at the beautiful San Pedro Center in Winter Park. If you have not yet registered, please do so immediately!! You will not want to miss this wonderful, restful time of spiritual enrichment, along with fun activities and the opportunity for us to get to know each other better. We will provide transportation throughout the entire weekend for both overnights and day attendees.

We are excited to announce that Ginger Johnston will be our new Vice Moderator next year when Susan Allison will become Moderator. Praise God for these dedicated ladies who are so willing to serve!

If you are not a member of a circle, please consider joining one. You do not have to be a church member to join a circle. It is a great way to meet other ladies as we share fellowship and bible study. Note that we now have an evening circle for those who cannot attend during the day. Contact one of the circle 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 Sharon Turk, 407-766-8775, or Mary Eggleston, 407-325-9982.

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 first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Church office. Contact Ginger Johnston, 386-717-8953.

Grace and Blessings,
Dianne Heidel (386) 956-0960

Adult Discipleship News

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

REGISTER NOW!!

DEADLINE is MARCH 16th.

Limited spaces are still available for those wishing to stay for the weekend.

Plenty of room for those who wish to come for the day on Saturday.

Transportation will be available.

Lent begins on March 5th (Lent and Easter schedules below)

Join with friends for this forty day journey or come participate in weekly Wednesday discussion groups with the pastors beginning March 12th in the Large Conference Room.

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm with Pastor Michael

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm with Pastor Casey

Lenten Sermon Series Texts

Sunday, March 9th: Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, March 16th: Mark 3:19-27

Sunday, March 23rd: Mark 8: 27-33

Sunday, March 30th: Mark 9:2-10

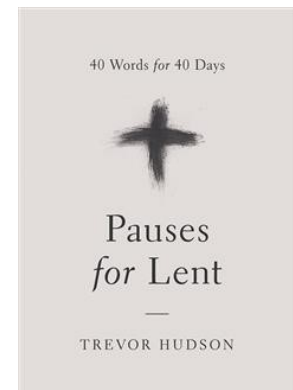
Sunday, April 6th: Mark 10:32-45

Sunday, April 13th: Palm Sunday, Mark 1:9-15

Thursday, April 17th: Maundy Thursday, Worship at 6 pm

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday, Worship at 6 pm

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Sunday, Worship at 7 am, 9 am, and 11 am





Sunday Morning Classes

OPEN DOOR

Why Do We Need The Bible?

The Bible can be intimidating and confusing. It is a complex book, wouldn't you agree?

Would you like to make more sense of the Bible? Jump in with a group of other adults like you as we unpack the Bible's value and importance for everyday believers like us.

Learn what the Bible is, how God communicates through it, and why we should read it.

Join us in March in the Westminster Room at 10am. Harland Merriam leads this class.

LEARNING TO DO JUSTICE

Welcoming the Others: Are We Doing Enough?



Please join us at 10am in the Mission Room as we continue our focus on how we can welcome different "sorts" of people.

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?

Something New ... ACTS 246

Groups within the church are gathering over a meal to grow in relationship with each other and to strengthen our community. They will continue to meet over the next three months. Ask how you can become a part of this "something new" at First Pres DeLand.

Mission Team News



**Bringing dignity to the homeless.
One shower at a time.**

Margie's Story

Margie (not her real name) started coming to God's Bathhouse Saturdays last year and continues to be a regular. Best guess, she is at a time in her life when she should be looking forward to or enjoying retirement. Initially, she was quiet, polite, but very anxious. She did not tolerate anyone getting too close or touching her. She would quickly shy away and object. Margie would request that the shirts not be too loose so it would be harder for someone to "reach up my shirt while I am trying to sleep." Also, she felt too scared to use the bathhouse truck showers so a volunteer set up a private way for her to sponge bathe.

Margie began to develop a trusting relationship with two volunteers who regularly provided clothes for her. She often showed great joy with her new outfits. One visit, she was given a shopping cart. It is always with her and always neatly packed. Now, when Margie comes, she doesn't flinch at closeness or contact. She is one of the first to come and then stays to socialize with everyone. She has an easy smile and a great sense of humor. A real fan of 60's-70's rock music, she likes to share some interesting backstories.

Margie is showing her caring side. She attended the celebration of life service for Maria Jones. She recently has asked if there is volunteer work she can do on the Saturday mornings she is here.

These Saturdays in the church courtyard have become a safe haven.
God's love is transformational!

Food Distribution

February 15th saw another successful food distribution at First Pres DeLand. We gave out enough food to feed 225 families of four for a week. We could have given out more if we had had it. The event was scheduled to begin at 9:00 and by 9:20 we were out of food. By 9:30 we were cleaned up and ready to go home. Thanks so much to the fifty-three volunteers who were able to help.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Next Distribution is March 15, 2025 at 9 am

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

**Please contact Mary Hoffmann
(mary100550@aol.com)**

**to receive your assignment
and plan to arrive no later than 8 am.**





Sleeping Mats are woven and Manna Bags are packed on Thursday mornings.

These items are distributed to the homeless in our community.

All are invited to participate in this local mission.

10 am to noon in the Mission Room (11B)

If you would like to help, just come by.

Contact Mary Hoffmann for more information.

(mary100550@aol.com)

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 March 6th we will serve Quesadilla Casserole.

On April 3rd we will serve shepherd's pie. Items needed are canned corn, peas, carrots, and tomato soup.

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

Laura Finner (407-539-4043)

coordinates this mission.

Medical Equipment Ministry

This ministry accepts donations of gently used walkers, canes, wheelchairs, shower chairs/ benches, and bedside commodes.

This equipment is available to anyone in need for free.

Please contact the Church Office 386-734-6212 to donate or request equipment.

The persistent generosity of church members to this ministry has allowed us to help many who are experiencing difficult and often overwhelming circumstances over the last few years.

THANK YOU!



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

February 2025 - Session Snippets

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

- Pastor Bodger requests that Session approve the following events: FPS Glow Night (School) on March 14th at 5pm, Eggsperience on April 12th at 2pm, Youth Camping Trip to Salt Springs the first week of May, Youth to Montreat from June 1st to June 7th with use of the church bus, Mission Trip to Nicaragua on June 16th to 22nd using one church vehicle for transport to the airport.
- The Mission Outreach Team requests that Session approve Mark Chapman as a new team member.
- The Personnel Team requests that Session approve a four-hour work week for a data input employee supporting the membership side of Shelby.
- The Adult Discipleship Team requests that Pastor Casey Riker be approved to serve Communion at the Women's Retreat in April.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approved the 2025 Mission Outreach Team budget as included with their minutes: M/S/C

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 729 N. Florida Ave Update, Motion to extend the lease for the current resident until December 31, 2025 M/S/C
- Finance Update for 2025/Budget for 2025 Update
- School five-year plan
- Kyra and Sal Chang Update as they are going to Misseo College to further their missionary training.
- Staff Updates



FREE BINGO
FOR ALL AGES
Friday, March 7th
7 to 8:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
FAMILY FUN, SNACKS AND PRIZES!



*2nd Wednesdays
Coffee Club*

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

BRING A BREAKFAST ITEM TO SHARE
OR JUST JOIN US FOR THE
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Worship Flowers

Mar 02: Jane Christeson
Mar 09: Available
Mar 16: Janet Williams
Mar 23: Jean Burns
Mar 30: Sandy DeLillo



Christian Sympathies

Don (Donald Stacey) Tutt
entered his Easter life on
February 12, 2025.



Please keep Trish and all of his family
and friends in your hearts and prayers.

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	Frank Wilson	Stew Burkhammer	Mike Davis
Lilyana Aparicio	Greg Callahan	Mary Eggleston	Trullinger family
Patsy Kanagy	Bob Fischer	Christine Evans	Peter Dramby
Angel Lynch	Montgomery family	Jerry Sather	Lindalee Trumble
Parramore family	Jean Reeves	Charlotte Glennie	Althea McPherson
Janet Lewis	Paul Jones	Kathy DeRestie	Raymond Rollings
Rosemary/Jim Fike	Joe Kelly	Marion family	Gwen Freed
Lily Guzman	Brian Throne	Charlie Wareing	Tutt family
Shane Gaster	Leonora Evans	Olivia White	Carol Stovka

Please continue to pray for our families, friends and church family.

Please contact the Church Office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list

March Birthdays

Frank Liska 1st	Torry Slaughter 13th	Mary Eggleston 25th
Jacob Fussell 1st	Cassandra Ehleringer 15th	Althea McPherson 25th
Valla Fischer 3rd	Devry Nix 15th	Chris Reynolds 26th
Faith Waite 3rd	Janet Williams 15th	Pete Upham 26th
David Finkle 4th	Jean Burns 15th	Lucille Smith 27th
Brian Throne 5th	McKenzie Crane 17th	Henry Barnard 28th
Abby Langenbach 7th	Cecil Morse 17th	Barbara Chapman 29th
Kenneth McClellan 7th	Laura Carlisle 18th	Preston Collum 29th
Faye Smith 9th	Simon Smith 20th	True Pienaar 29th
Cheryl Burkhammer 10th	Leonora Evans 22nd	Peter Marshall 29th
Larry Welch 11th	Liam Crane 24th	John Thomson 30th

**NURSERY FOR CHILDREN
AGE 3 AND UNDER**

AVAILABLE DURING 9:00, 10:30, AND 11:00 AM WORSHIP.
ASK AN USHER OR GREETER FOR HELP.

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IS PROUD TO BE AN
EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

GRIEF SHARE®

Thirteen-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.

If there is any information that you
want printed in our First Press News-
letter, 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.

**First Pres DeLand
Contact Information**

Church Office Phone
386-734-6212
724 N. Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32720
Social:FB

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

Church Office Staff

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pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org

Associate Pastor Casey Riker
ext. 102
pastorcasey@fpcdstaff.org

Brooke Rohr
First Presbyterian School Director
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Alice Foerster
Care and Concern Coordinator
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Jane Christeson
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Joseph DeGaetano
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Karin Ballesteros
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Barbara Hughes
Bookkeeper
ext. 104 bhughes@fpcdstaff.org