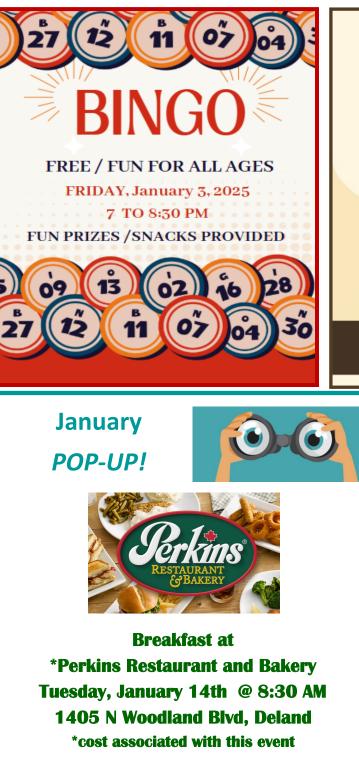
JANUARY FIRST PRESS



Volume 25, Issue 1

January, 2025

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



NEW! 2ndWednesdays Coffee Club With the configure of t

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

January 2025 Calendar

Adult Discipleship Team Meeting: Wednesday, the 8th, at 1:00 pm in the Middle Conference Room Children's Discipleship Team: Sunday, the 12th, at 12:00 pm in the Art Room Cookout Conversations: Wednesday, the 8th, at 5:30 pm **Deacons' Meeting**: No meeting scheduled in January Finance Team Meeting-: Thursday, the 2nd, at 6:00 pm in the Large Conference Room God's Bathhouse: Saturdays, the 11th and the 25th, 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 14th, at 4:30 pm in the Mission Room (11B) Personnel Team Meeting: Wednesday, the 8th, at 6:00 pm in the Small Conference Room Property Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 14th, at 1:00 pm in the Large Conference Room PW Coordinating Team Meeting: Monday, the 6th, at 9:00 am in the Large Conference Room Session Meeting: Tuesday, the 28th, 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 8th, at 4:00 pm via Zoom Worship Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 7th, 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.

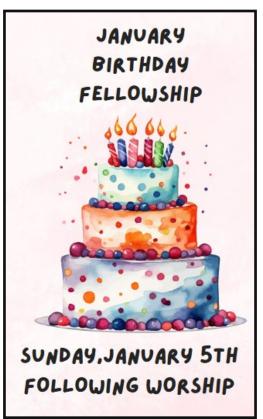
SHELBYNEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY & CALENDAR



Smart Phones, Tablets, or ComputersCall 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 to One and All,

Well 2024 was quite the year! As we move into 2025, I would first and foremost like to thank everyone for the stewardship of their time, talent and treasures throughout the past year. We were involved in many, many ministries, both inside and outside the church. The positive response to our financial shortfall in late October was absolutely fabulous. We eventually finished the year financially stronger than we had envisaged at the beginning of the year. We can do nothing as a church without the movement of the Holy Spirit and our individual and collective response to the Spirit's nudging. I am personally grateful for the discernment of the Holy Spirit by those who gather at First Presbyterian.

That discernment needs to become evident in 2025 as we enter into a new year. I am excited with anticipation and expectation as to what the Spirit will have us do this coming year. Change will be afoot in a number of areas. We will embrace some new things, celebrate the ongoing, and we will let go of things that have run their course. I love the text from Isaiah 43, **"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."** That perceiving comes as we engage with the Holy Spirit's leading. I pray for eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit has in store for us this year.

It all comes down to our relationship with the Living God and how we live into **Reaching Up**, **Reaching In, and Reaching Out**. <u>Making sure</u> of our own walks with the Lord – how and what can we do? <u>Making sure</u> that we take care and look after one another within the body – being willing to give but also receive the love of those around us. Even though that might prove difficult as we disagree with each other on many fronts. <u>Making sure</u> we engage with the community around us, near and far, by serving others in Jesus' name. Let us all, in the ways we are led, live into the words from I Peter 4:10, **"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."**

Much was accomplished in 2024 and God is still at work in the world in 2025 and beyond. There is work for us to do here in Deland, FL, as First Pres, and it comes with joining in the places that God is already at work and to God be the glory.

I leave 2024 behind with a heart full of gratitude for the gift of sabbatical that the congregation gave to Elaine and me. I look forward to God's plans for 2025.

Remember, as we are out in the world, let us each give glimpses of the kingdom of God in all the places God puts us, and be sure when we do, the world will be a better place.

Happy New Year,

Grace and Peace, Pastor Michael

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Financial Stewardship Update

Sisters and Brothers,

What an amazing response! As we entered into October, we were in danger of missing our 'expected giving' total for the year. This would have meant that we would have had to use more of the reserves that we had in place than we previously thought, which would have impacted us for 2025. As it stands right now, our preliminary end-of-year figures, put us just ahead of what we expected. The generosity of the congregation has been both heart-warming, but more importantly Spirit affirming, as we build on 2024 and enter into 2025.

As we step into 2025, there will of course be challenges ahead, but we can now meet those challenges head on with a solid platform financially. A number of you have commented that we should be more forthcoming with the financial data/situation throughout the year, in an ongoing dialogue. We will endeavor to do this this coming year in *First Press* starting in March.

As a starting point for that dialogue, the 2025 budget for the church stands at \$800,000 of which \$721,000 has been covered by estimates of giving or in their absence, previous giving history. This leaves a planning shortfall of approximately 10%. That sum is more than covered in an 'operational reserve' if it is needed. Not withstanding the reserve, Session approved moving forward on the basis of a **faith based budget**, that we will not be required to use the reserve in 2025.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Michael and Pastor Casey



On December 29, 2024 at 10:30 am the congregation gathered to worship together at the combined service and potluck luncheon. Please continue to join us in 2025 on the last Sunday of each month for worship, food, and fellowship. All are welcome!



Casey's Corner

Happy New Year!

Wow, 2025! I have a love/hate relationship with the holiday of New Years Eve and New Years Day. On the one hand, it feels a little uneasy that time is moving so quickly. Oftentimes I get the new years blues and feel like another year has passed and not much has changed. On the other hand, I am full of hope that this year will be MY year! And friends, I believe that 2025 will be MY year. I will eat better, read my Bible more, and I will promise many other things that I will be doomed to fail at come February. When I fail and break my new year's resolution, I give up. Instead of getting back on the wagon, I just go back to my old bad habits. This year I encourage us to do something different. This year I want to challenge all of you and myself to write down your new year's resolutions. Then at the bottom write the word GRACE. Remember that God has forgiven us for much worse than breaking a new year's resolution; and instead of giving up, let us forgive ourselves and try again. Remember Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*





Many children and youth participated in Pajama Story Time on Friday, December 13th, followed by the Youth Lock In. They continued by participating early the next morning, Saturday, December 14th, at our Farm Share Food Distribution. Thanks to all of the many helpers!







Worship Team News

Philippians 4:8 "From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.

As we bring in the New Year, we need to acknowledge the incredible volunteers who made our Christmas season memorable. Our "Hanging of the Greens" *Pop-Up* group was twenty seven people strong, which made for record time setting everything in place and ended with a delicious pizza and salad meal to celebrate. Thank you to the donors who supported this fellowship meal!

Our newly donated Christmas quilt (see photo below) was hung in the back of the Sanctuary over the choir loft wall. Made by Karen Jacobs, the quilt looks lovely there. Also, We hung new banners in Fellowship Hall. Then we added a new tree with ornaments made by the children here at First Presbyterian School. Our chapel was decorated in fifteen minutes after a November service with helping hands from the attendees with treats provided, of course.

Our Blue Christmas and Evensong services provided time to reflect and listen to meaningful passages and songs - a bit of calm in the midst of a busy season. Both well-attended events were proved especially moving. Thank you to all who were involved in these services.

Excellent...Admirable...Holy...Lovely...Praiseworthy

Jean Burns Worship Team Moderator





Did you see all of our beautiful Christmas Trees? Thank you to the Worship Team and all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make our worship spaces beautiful!







Presbyterian Women (PW) of First Pres DeLand

Happy New Year!!

As we begin this year, we have over eighty ladies participating in Presbyterian Women circles. But there is room for more! If you are not a member of a circle, please consider joining us this year. Visit one or more circles to see how we study, pray, enjoy fellowship, and meet new friends. Contact me or 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 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.

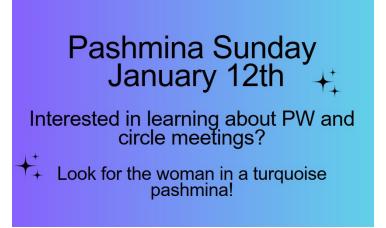
SUSANNA CIRCLE meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 12:00 noon in the Eastminster Room. Contact Pat Andrews, 386-747-5453.

EVENING CIRCLE meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Middle Conference Room Contact Ginger Johnston, 386-717-8953.

Best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, and prosperous New Year!

Blessings, Dianne Heidel, Moderator 386-956-0960





Adult Sunday School Classes—10 am

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 January and February on Sunday mornings in the Westminster Room, 10:00—10:50 am. Harland Merriam facilitates this class.

Diggin' In Class

Diggin' In to the Word of God. An Old-Fashioned Sunday School class for all who want to go deeper into the Word of God. Class meets in the Middle Conference Room at 10:00 am on Sundays. For more information contact Sandy Escontrias (386)216-0622.



Learning To Do Justice Class

Jesus welcomed people of all sorts: Fisherman, Children, Women, Tax collectors, Lepers, Paralytics, Prostitutes, Prodigal Son, Roman centurions, Religious zealots, the doubting.

In the Learning To Do Justice Class we are starting a new lesson series called Welcoming the Others: Are We Doing Enough?

Like Jesus, we want to welcome people of all sorts to First Pres DeLand.

Alice Foerster, our care coordinator, and Pastor Michael will start us off on January 5th and 12th by

laying a welcoming foundation. Then we build our welcome by focusing on different "sorts"

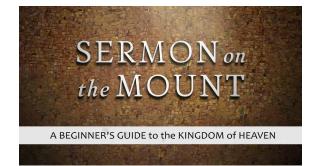
of people: the grieving, the disabled, the children, the hungry, the homeless,

the immigrant, the LGBTQ+ individual, and others.

Please join us Sundays at 10:00 am in the Mission Room.

(9 am on Sundays with combined worship) because you are welcome!

NEW OPPORTUNITIES Wednesday in the Word



Book by Amy-Jill Levine Meeting in Westminster Room at 4:00 pm January 8th through February 19th For more information contact Cathy Campbell (ccampbell@fpcdstaff.org) or call 386-747-0022



 Pick Up a brochure in the Church Office or at the Welcome Areas on Sunday.
 Early registration discount by January 31st For more information contact
 Cathy Campbell (ccampbell@fpcdstaff.org) or Kristine Moses (kristinemoses@gmail.com).







Presbyterian Connections Class

Thinking of joining and want to know more? What is a Presbyterian & why might you want to be one? What makes us unique? Our Foundations of the faith. Learn more about First Pres DeLand!

Four Week Series begins Sunday, January 12, 2025,
10 am - 10:45 am in the Large Conference Room.
Mark and Ann Mizer will lead the discussion.
Please contact the Church Office to sign up 386-734-6212

Mission Team News

God's Bathhouse suffers a devastating loss



"The loss of this truck, which required so much time and effort to retrofit, and which served so many, is devastating to the Bathhouse family," the organization wrote on their website. "Please keep the Bathhouse in your prayers at this difficult time."



Summer 2025 Don't miss your opportunity to participate in this trip of a lifetime!

Let Pastor Casey know if you are interested in going on next summer's Nicaragua Mission Trip. Dates are usually towards the middle of June.

Cost will depend on team members' willingness to organize and plan a fundraiser .

CHRISTMAS TIME IS A TIME OF GIVING! Two of our own young adults are giving of themselves and need our continued support. Kyra and Sal Chang have been serving as Young Adult volunteers with the PCUSA in Chinook, Montana, since August. They are doing amazing things, building relationships with people in Chinook and serving in schools and nursing homes and throughout the community.



They have raised more than half of their financial goal of \$8,000 through your generous donations. They still need a little more than \$3,000. Won't you prayerfully consider making a contribution to help them reach their goal?

Mailing address for those who would like to send checks to the program : Presbyterian Church (USA) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700 **REF. ECO #E052125** Website to make a donation online: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e052125/

A message from Kyra: "We are overwhelmed with peace and contentment, a true blessing from God's presence in our lives. To everyone back home who has been supporting, praying for, and encouraging us, Thank You from the bottom of our hearts."

Mission Team News



Broccoli Gleaning

Volunteers are needed on January 6, 2025 . If you are interested in checking out the details or signing up please visit the website: https://www.mobilize.us/endhunger/event/746219/ If you have any questions, email Rebecca Brockman, the Florida Program Coordinator at <u>fl-glean@endhunger.org</u>. We look forward to seeing you in the field! 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 January 2nd we will serve lasagna, salad, and garlic bread. On February 6th we will serve Jambalaya.

Look for THE BRIDGE shopping cart when you come to worship to drop off your donations. Laura Finner (407-539-4043) coordinates this mission.

Property Team News

9. 2 Corinthians 9:15: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

This is the season of giving and receiving, and this verse reminds us that Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive. It's a call to give thanks for God's abundant blessings. We are ending a year of both difficulties and blessings for many of us. It has been a year of facing challenging repairs and unexpected storms. But the church has survived and is moving forward into a pathway to 2025! We have met many goals and are setting new ones for the future. The Church Family is reminded by the Apostle Paul that our difficulties and gifts are temporary, but God's gift to us was the permanent gift of salvation through his Son Jesus Christ. Celebrate God's gift to mankind as we look back over this year with the Property Team: Joe Guthrie, Moderator, Stew Burkhammer, Mark Chapman, Fred Hoffman, Paul Jones, Dave Langell, John Thomson, and John Turk. Thank you Property Team members for your many hours of volunteering. **This team has overseen the completion of forty one major projects this past year** from the repaving of the First Pres parking lot to the installation of commercial HVAC units to the building of a Carriage Canopy. Please give thanks with us to Session, to our many contractors, and to the hard-working office staff without whom we could not function. Please face 2025 with joy, hope and anticipation with us!

Joseph Guthrie, Moderator Stewart Burkhammer, Safety Director



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 information386-734-6212 ext. 105 or email afoerster@fpcdstaff.org.



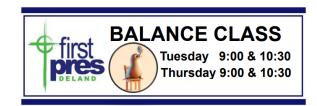
Medical Equipment Ministry

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!





Contact Suzi Backstrom, instructor, for information or to register. (required before class participation) suzibackstrom@gmail.com or 865-604-5182

December 2024 - Session Snippets

Snippets Minutes Tuesday, December 17, 2024

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

Session approved Shane Gaster and Richard Oates as new members of the Adult Discipleship Team. The Adult Discipleship Team requests that Session approve an ongoing (once a month) opportunity beginning in February to share a meal in small group settings of 6-8 people with the purpose of building relationships within the church and growing together in our faith, thus strengthening our First Pres community.

The Endowment Requests that Session approve a 5% distribution from the restricted endowment and place it in the Prior-Year gain Reserve account.

Session approved the Deland Swimming Team Banquet to be held Sunday, January 19th, using the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen from noon to 8pm. C. Paul Jones is the responsible party for this event.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Finance Update for 2024/Budget for 2024 - Update on amazing congregational response to budget shortfall.

729 N FL Ave. House - Status update

20-Year Planning - implications of new roof and solar panels.

Sal and Kyra Chang - update - they have fulfilled \$4,800 of the \$8K required by January 2025. <u>Motion to approve using funds from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to fulfill their \$8,000.00</u> <u>requirement (estimated at about \$3K)</u> <u>M/S/C</u>



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS PROUD TO BE AN

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION



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 23665

Theodore Brakeman US Navy Shipboard Curtis Wilbur, San Diego, CA 92136

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

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

David Brittain Navy E-2 Pensacola, FL Children ages 4-10 are invited to join us on Sunday mornings during worship at 9:00 am and 11:00 am in the Art Room.



Children are dismissed following the Children's Message during worship.

NURSERY FOR CHILDREN AGE 3 AND UNDER AVAILABLE DURING 9:00, 10:30, AND 11:00 AM WORSHIP.

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

KIDS CLUB

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 3:30PM-4:30PM FOR KIDS AGE K-GRADE 5

KIDS CLUB will meet every Sunday in the Art Room for an hour of learning, snacks and games! Bring a Friend and join the fun!



Worship Flowers

Jan 05: Anonymous Jan 12: Available Jan 19: Janet Williams Jan 26: Jane Christeson



Christian Sympathies

To the families and friends of

Ray Veech

Maria Jones

Wayne Dreggors

Carol Haase

Please keep them in your thoughts 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 Lilyana Aparico Patsy Kanagy Don Tutt Greg Callahan Parramore family Carl Canto Steve Rollings Janet Lewis Rosemary and Jim Fike

Lily Guzman Shane Gaster Maria Jones Mike Davis Christine Evans Bob Fischer Montgomery family Jean Reeves Baby Mikael Leonora Evans Stew Burkhammer Frank Wilson Angel Lynch Brad Tucker Michelle Krach Jerry Sather Charlotte Glennie Paul Jones Charlie Wareing Olivia White Mary Eggleston Nancy Hill Trullinger family Peter Dramby Lindalee Trumble Althea McPherson Kathy DeRestie

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

January Birthdays

Joyce Anderson 1st Kathy Bransford 2nd Debra Patterson 2nd Shirley Carr 3rd Jacob Daus 3rd Lisa Peterson 3rd Trish Kent 4th Henry Dutton 6th Sandy Guthrie 6th Sue Kahrs 6th Barbara Liska 6th Katelin Stovka 7th Fred Clark 10th Andrea Finkle 11th Benjamin Hester 13th Allison Davis 13th Kathy Mills 14th Ann Caskey 15th Jill Clark 16th Sharon Turk 18th Michelle Shivrattan 18th Shannon Young 19th Michelina Bowman 19th Suzanne Marshall 19th Tom Baskett 20th George Fussell 20th Kelisia Williams 20th Diane Denham 20th Carol Stovka 22nd Nancy Ballesteros 23rd Dave Sutherland 24th Judi Eady 25th Lynelle Tucker 26th Brandee Millon 28th Mary Kay Wareing 29th Angie Yetter 30th



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday January 1, 2025

Church Office will be CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

> 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

Pastor Michael Bodger ext. 101 pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org

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

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

Alice Foerster

Care and Concern 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

Karin Ballesteros

Communication Assistant ext. 103 kballesteros@fpcdstaff.org

Barbara Hughes Bookkeeper ext. 104 bhughes@fpcdstaff.org