

# MAY FIRST PRESS



Volume 24, Issue 5

May, 2024

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



## Drive Through Food Distribution



**Saturday  
May 18, 2024  
9am**



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

**ALL HANDS ON DECK!**  
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



*Are you willing to give a church member a lift to a service or church event?  
Please call Alice  
in the church office  
for more information  
386-734-6212 ext. 105*

Join us this summer as we reach in and reach up with

## A FOCUS ON *Spiritual Practices*

**June 12**  
An Intro to  
Spiritual  
Practices and  
a Focus on  
Solitude

**June 19**  
A Focus on  
Intentional  
Conversations

**June 26**  
A Focus on  
The Word

**July 3**  
A Focus on  
Creativity

**July 10**  
A Focus on  
Movement

**July 17**  
A Focus on  
Prayer

**Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm**  
See further details on page 19

**[fpcdeland.org](http://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 ([fpcdeland.org](http://fpcdeland.org)),  
Facebook page, and YouTube page

# May 2024 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 12:15 pm in the Art Room  
**Community Garden Workday**—Saturday, the 18th, at 8:00 am  
**Cookout (2nd Wednesday)** - Wednesday, the 8th, at 5:30 pm in the Pavilion.  
**Deacons' Meeting**—Wednesday, the 1st, at 6:00 pm in the Large Conference Room  
**Farm Share Food Distribution**— Saturday, the 18th, at 9 am in the Pavilion.  
**God's Bathhouse**— Saturdays, the 11th and the 25th, at 9:00 am in the Courtyard—Mission Room(11B)  
**Men's Bible Study Group**—Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am in Room 11C  
**Men's Bible Study Fellowship**—Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary and various classrooms  
**Mission Outreach Team Meeting**—Tuesday, the 14th, at 4:30 pm in the Mission Room (11B)  
**Parents' Night Out**— This event will not be available for May 2024.  
**Personnel Team Meeting**—Wednesday, the 8th, at 5:45 pm via Zoom  
**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 15th, at 4:00 pm via Zoom  
**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 Thoughts



Brothers and Sisters,

Wow! It's May already! A month of transitions on many levels as students graduate and Spring begins to turn to Summer. Many things are going on within the Church, and my sabbatical is fast approaching. We have many events to prepare for.

An important aspect of the Church as the body of Christ involves transparency with one another about this preparation. In early May, the congregation will meet to discuss our positions on many issues. As staff and congregation, this is a time for discussing, gathering input, giving feedback, and exploring issues that impact our finances, staffing, school, property, and our presence in this community. I encourage each of you to please select one of the Gatherings listed below and bring your questions and input. The Holy Spirit does call each of us to be present while we journey together. We must take the time to determine our path.

Why has the Holy Spirit put it upon your heart to become a part of First Pres? What does being a part of this worshiping community look like for you? To explore answers, please join your brothers and sisters at one of these Gatherings:

Sunday, May 5, at 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 9, at John Knox Village (details to be announced)

As you may know, much activity has been taking place on our physical Church campus. I invite you to take a stroll to see updated school classrooms, the somewhat dormant but maintained Community Garden, the newly erected Carriage Canopy (special thanks to John Turk and team), the refreshed stained glass windows, and much more.

Our Vision Statement declares us, "To be a church fully Engaged in Reaching Up, Reaching In, and Reaching Out." Each of us has one or more roles in what this looks like! God continues to have work for us to do.. As always, we have to remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit into what that looks like for us in the days to come.

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





## Casey's Corner



Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> was my one-year anniversary here at First Pres. I can't believe it has been a year. I feel like I just got here, and at the same time I feel like I have been here for years. First Pres feels like such a perfect fit and even a year later I am still full of gratitude that God sent me here. Through this year I have learned a lot. Ministry is such a weird job. But I am so lucky to have such a supportive church.

As summer approaches and as Pastor Michael prepares for his sabbatical, we have an opportunity to pause. To evaluate where our church is and where we are going. Let us take time to appreciate this Church's ministries that are doing great things and also identify the ministries that need support!

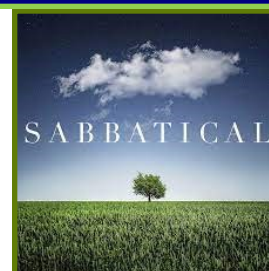
✝ Thank you to our church youth for your help and participation during the 9am and 11am worship services on Sunday, April 14, 2024.



After their hard work at the April 20th Food Distribution, these menacing students earned an afternoon of playing paintball!

## Sabbatical Team

The countdown toward Michael's sabbatical continues, the respite will start in sixty days. Impressively, Michael has been laying significant groundwork so that as he and Elaine step away to renew and refresh; our First Pres congregation will be cared for, and the business of our church affairs will continue uninterrupted. As mentioned in previous articles, The Reverend Casey Riker will lead worship on numerous Sundays with three additional ordained ministers in our midst (Reverends Michael Foley, Donna McClellan, and Harland Merriam) rotating in to bring their wise and varied voices to the forefront. Pastor Casey will lead August and September Session meetings (Session traditionally does not meet in July). Casey has experience stepping into the temporary responsibility during the ministry at her first church, when her senior pastor engaged in a sabbatical. A mentoring group will fully support Casey and this sabbatical team as she enters this period caring for the community and growing in her own skills and strengths.



The amazing church staff includes these people: Alice Foerster, Elendea DeGaetano, Karin Ballesteros, Barbara Hughes, Flor Moran, Bob McLeod; the music ministry Joe DeGaetano, Jane Christeson, and Boyd Jones; and the new preschool director, Brooke Rohr. The full Session and individuals in committee leadership will support this group. Next month, we will publish contact procedures for everyone.

As you prayerfully support Pastor Michael and Elaine in their sabbatical, we would encourage you to consider donating to financially support the sabbatical as well. Partial support for the Bodgers during their sabbatical is expected to come from a small grant from the Central Florida Presbytery. If you wish to help out, a reminder: "Donations made to church employees for the express purposes of a sabbatical, cannot be made to the church and thus claimed as a tax deductible donation and then passed on to a specific employee. Donations to support a sabbatical have to take the form of a gift made directly to the employees themselves."

If you do wish to give a gift, then you can do so by making out a check payable directly to Michael. If you want to make an anonymous donation, it can be made out to the Church with a notation on the memo line "**Personal Sabbatical gift**". The aggregate of all individual gifts will go to Michael.

We are grateful for your consideration and your contribution. Giving Michael this time to reconnect with the Lord, to rest, and to return to our First Pres community after refreshment will bless him and will shower blessings on us all. If you have remaining questions or wish to contact any of us, please reach us directly.

Your Sabbatical Team,

Joe Guthrie: 386-717-1206   Jodee Cook: 386-846-4974   Mary Napier: 386-747-7765

## Sabbatical Planning

Greetings to Each and Everyone,

As May is about to unfold in front of us, it marks just sixty one days before the beginning of our sabbatical. Planning still continues in both areas of our time away and here at the church during my absence.



It has been quite the struggle for Elaine and me to focus in on the details of our time away. As God would have it, by a circuitous route we have found a Sabbatical Coach to help us step through the process and bring us greater clarity on our time away. At the same time, this coach, a Spiritual Director will be help us develop what that means. Our discussions have led to some shuffling around of our intended travel and locations. Our focus, however, remains on “Enrichment with God, with family and with creation.”

We have already picked a Bible-based study (which we will actually begin before the sabbatical starts) and our intentional daily routine of prayer, scripture, study, and journaling. After our initial few days of adjustment and entry the sabbatical routine, we will then move into a time travelling to Massachusetts and Maine to engage with our Spiritual Director. Then we will have a time of rest to enjoy God’s creation on the east coast of Florida. During the month of August, we will travel back to the UK to spend time with family and hopefully look at parts of England we have not yet experienced. The plans for the end of August and September are still forming as I write.

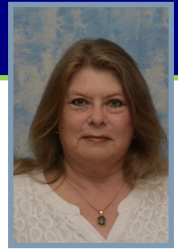
As we continue to develop our travel itinerary, please pray for the details to fall into place, both for our sabbatical and the Church in our absence.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Michael





# Chancel Choir News



Thank you to everyone who attended or watched the concert on April 14th, Music of the Easter Season, which featured the Adult Choir, Handbell Ensemble, Boyd Jones, and Vicki Fey. We are most appreciative for the opportunity to remind ourselves and church members that the liturgical season of Easter extends for several weeks beyond the celebration on Easter Sunday. It was a chance for us to revisit some of our favorite music that normally we would perform only once per year.


May 12th is the graduation date for seven Stetson seniors who have choral scholarships in our Adult Choir. We will really miss them! But we also look forward to bringing in some new faces to fill those spots in each section. Our graduates will be recognized at the 11:00am service on May 5th.

The bell group is taking a brief break due to travel plans of members but will be back soon. Summer Choir will begin the week of May 20th, and provides a great opportunity for anyone interested in joining us - or just coming to a rehearsal to see what we do!

As always, thank you for all of your support!  
Jane Christeson



**Mother**  
*"..... a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."  
Prov 31:30*

  
**first pres**  
DELAND

*Happy Mother's Day*  
**May 12, 2024**

**Special thanks to Shane and Ruby Gaster for the thoughtful Mother's Day bookmarks they are giving at worship on May 12th.**

# Worship Team News

## He is risen...He is risen indeed!

As we continue the Easter season, I am reminded of 1 Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." May HOPE bring you peace.



April showers bring May flowers! We will distribute flowers to all the women at our Mother's Day worship services. "This thought of love is an act of kindness and a heart of hope." (Mary Davis)

Do you see a place for you to serve at our 11 am worship service? We are looking for a once a month commitment to become a greeter, sign-in sheet collector, cleaner of the communion table, OR washer of the linens? The time commitment is minimal if shared by worshipers. Please consider stepping up to serve in our church. Middle School, High School students, and adults are welcome to make a this commitment as a servant of God. Look for me at the 11 am service for more information or call me if you have and questions!

The Middle School and High School Youth participated in the worship services on April 14 at the 9 and 11 am services (see pg 4). We look forward to their participation on a regular basis in the future. Bravo for stepping up!

Grace and Blessings,  
Jean Burns  
Worship Team Moderator

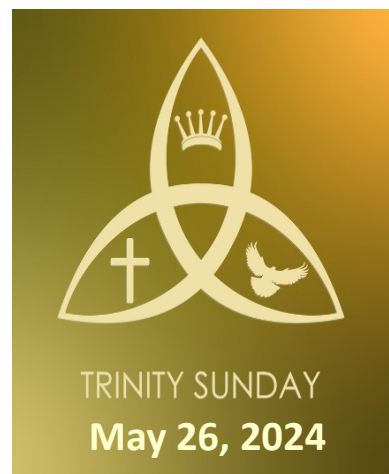


(pictured above)

**The Baptisms of Mckenzie Elizabeth Graham Crane  
and her brother, Collin Alan Crane  
on April 21, 2024  
at the 9 am Worship Service.**



**Day of Pentecost  
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**





## April 28, 2024 - Combined Worship Service



Dianne Heidel Presents  
the PW Honorary Life  
Member Award to  
Donna McClellan.  
(pictured left)

The Chancel Choir looks on as Donna Receives her award.  
(pictured below)



Pastor Michael welcomed new  
members Bob Wood, Dave Warren,  
Steve Mueller, Connie Mueller,  
Jim Whittet, and Pam Whittet .  
(pictured above)



The Praise Band led an energetic  
closing as people exited this well  
attended service.  
(pictured left)

Harland Merriam led an informative presentation regarding our mission in Taguasco, Cuba,  
as folks enjoyed the food and fellowship at our monthly potluck luncheon. (pictured below)



## Reaching out Events!



**FREE**

**BINGO**

**fun for all ages**

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD | 7 TO 8:30 PM

*Fun Prizes*  
*Snacks Provided*

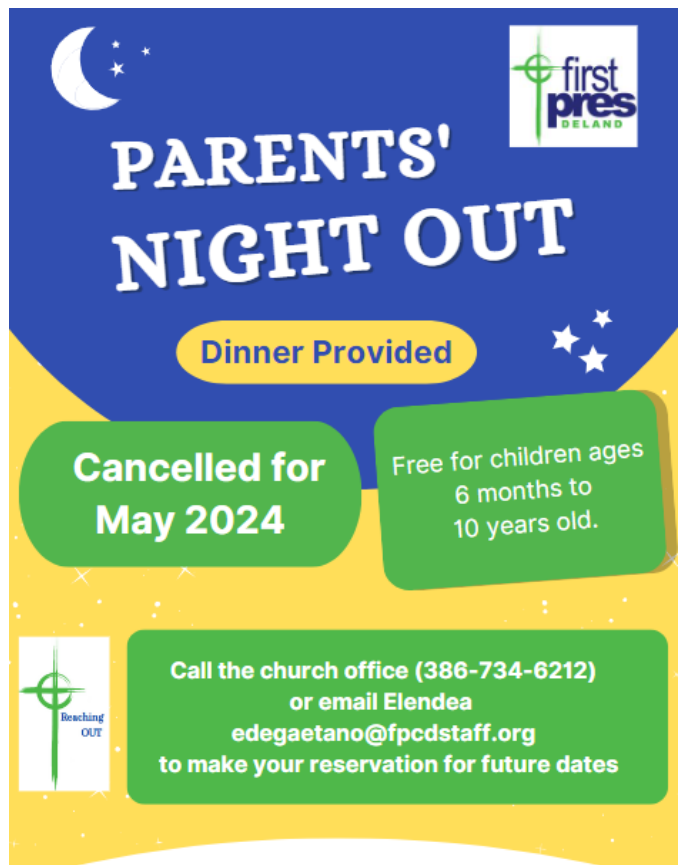


**2ND WEDNESDAYS**

**COOKOUT**

MAY 8TH, 5:30 PM  
MAIN DISH WILL BE SERVED.  
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH  
OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

Stop by to meet our new Finance Mgr, Flor Moran



**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**

**Dinner Provided**

**Cancelled for May 2024**

Free for children ages 6 months to 10 years old.

Call the church office (386-734-6212) or email Elendea edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org to make your reservation for future dates



**Community Garden**

WORK DAY  
SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, AT 8 AM





# FIRST PRES KIDS

*News for our children*

**MAY 2024**

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MAY 5TH - 9AM & 11AM  
MAY 12TH - 9AM & 11AM  
MAY 19TH - 9AM & 11AM  
MAY 26TH - 1030AM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

WATER DAY FOLLOWING OUR  
COMBINED SERVICE  
ON **MAY 26TH**. BRING  
YOUR SWIMSUIT  
AND TOWEL!!



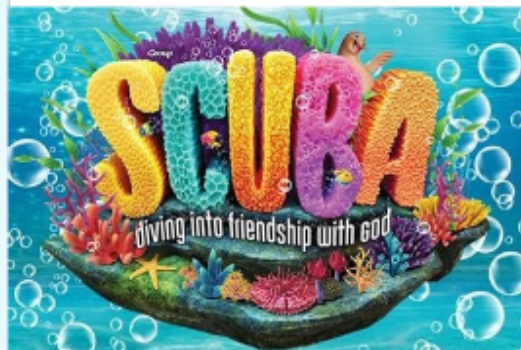
BACKYARD BIBLE  
STUDY- TBA

## SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

**July 22nd-26th**

Dive into Friendship with God  
at our SCUBA VBS



## MEMORY VERSE

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and you will be saved.

Acts 16:31





## Family Ministries



Looking for a way to support the Sunday youth ministry?

We have an opportunity for you!

We are looking for volunteers to sign up for one Sunday night a month to provide dinner and dessert for our Sunday night youth group. If you are interested, please contact Elendea.



The youth are going to Montreat!

June 2nd-8th

We are asking for Walmart Gift Card donations to help buy snacks and meals.

Donations can be dropped off at the church office.



### 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](mailto:edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org) for email.

Feel free to contact her for information about everything on this page.



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

### Children's Church Leader

Interested in leading our Children's Church Program? Contact Elendea in the church office extension # 111 or [edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org)



**The First Presbyterian School  
teachers and students  
celebrated Earth Day  
enjoying the sunshine  
in the courtyard on  
April 22, 2024 with Pastor Casey.**



## **Congratulations Bethel!**

**Twenty-three members complete two year study of the Bible.**



Pictured above—some of the members of the Bethel Class.

“This was my first time to read through the whole Bible,” said one student. “I have learned so much and made good friends with the others in the class. I am sure glad I did this.” commented another.

The second two-year Bethel Bible Study class finished in April. These 23 members join another 24 members who completed Bethel in the previous class.

“As we read through Scripture, we explored various themes, asked a lot of questions, and connected deeply with other members. I still have a lot to learn but do appreciate the experience,” another member of the class noted.

## Adult Sunday School Classes—10 am



### OPEN DOOR CLASS

Engage with others in a study of The Gospel of Mark from beginning to end. Come whenever you can.

You will join a group of about a dozen. Watch a video filmed in Israel for each week. Read a section of the Gospel. Talk together about the impact these stories are having.

Class meets in the Westminster Room, 10:00—10:50 am each Sunday.



### Serendipity Class

Middle Conference Room  
of the Church Office Building.  
Currently studying Timothy.

Frank Wilson serves as the leader for this group.

## Learning to Do Justice Class

All It Takes for Evil to Exist is for Good Men to Do Nothing.

Think about it !



We will spend time discussing Matthew 25  
and how it relates to us as a church.

Sundays 10:00 am in room 11B (9:00 am on Sundays with combined service)



# Mission Outreach Team

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



## **SLEEPING MATS FOR THE HOMELESS Thursday mornings 10-noon Mission Room (11B)**

All are invited to join this entertaining group of men and women who weave plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats. No previous skill is required. This group also doubles as a book club and shares jigsaw puzzles.

## **Manna Bags**



Manna Bags are packed on Thursday mornings in the Mission Room (11B). If you would like to help, just come by. It's easy and entertaining!

Contact Mary Hoffmann for more information.



## **God's Bathhouse Needs Sneakers!**

Our attendance has been growing so there is a desperate need for shoes. If you have sneakers in good condition that you no longer wear, please consider donating them to the church.



**May 11th and 25th**

Thanks to our loyal crew of volunteers! The bathhouse process has been running smoothly as more individuals have been showing up for showers.

We always welcome more volunteers!

**Please arrive at 8:30  
and plan to stay till 11:00!**

God's Bathhouse times are 9:00-11:00.



**Bathhouse attendance has  
been increasing !**

Suzi Backstrom and Nancy Hill are doing a fabulous job of organizing the clothes for this mission.

Please contact them if you are able and willing to help.

**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 second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm in the *Mission Room (11B)*.

If you would like to come to a meeting, let us know in case we have a schedule change.

## Mission Team News

**Your generosity is helping and greatly appreciated.**

A short while ago, a broken soul, who needed a job, a home, food, and clothing started visiting God's Bathhouse. He had no self-esteem.

Volunteers provided him with clothes, conversation, encouragement, resume help, and sincere caring. That man is now employed, housed, and doing well in his job. He has clothes on his back and food on his table. He says his success is due to the volunteers at the Bathhouse caring for him and building his self-esteem.

Having clean, decent clothes and shoes helps build self-esteem. It is hard to feel good about yourself if you do not have decent clothes.



**God's Bathhouse**

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### Drive Through Food Distribution - March 2, 2024

Thanks to our volunteers. Many hands do indeed make light work!





## Tiny Houses for the Unhoused

Ask Kurt Backstrom about our Church's partnership with the Neighborhood Center to build tiny houses made from shipping containers. The tiny homes would provide transitional housing for those who have been homeless, are leaving the Bridge, but also waiting for permanent housing.



GO.GIVE. PRAY.  
*for clean water*

### **LIVING WATERS for the WORLD!!**

This is a global outreach mission of the Presbyterian Church whose primary goal is to make safe, clean water available and accessible to people who would otherwise live their daily lives without that necessity. First Presbyterian Church Deland is partnering with like-minded Presbyterian churches in NY, Baltimore, and Tennessee to sign a minimum three-year covenant to bring the Living Waters System to our sister church in Taguasco, Cuba. Fred Hoffman and Coco Allison travelled to a Clean Water University Center in Oxford, Mississippi on April 23-27 to receive the required training to implement the system at Taguasco. Please keep them both in your prayers as we begin this new global outreach mission. Contact Coco Allison for further information and updates.

Abrazos! Coco

### **Interested in gleaning?**



As the spring harvest abounds, The Society of St. Andrews needs more generous volunteers to help glean produce. Gleaning is harvesting the fields after farmers have harvested commercially. What's picked by the volunteers is then given to soup kitchen or food pantries to feed the hungry. We've had several opportunities to give to our local Neighborhood Center who are very appreciative to receive fresh produce. With the peach season about to begin, we'll have more opportunities. Several weekday gleanings occur within 45 minutes or an hour from DeLand. If there's enough interest, we could request a Saturday gleaning for our group. We can also arrange carpooling. Please contact Pastor Casey if you're interested; and register online with the Society of St. Andrews. [fl-glean@endhunger.org](mailto:fl-glean@endhunger.org)



**Stephen Ministers  
Provide One on One Care  
for Hurting People**



**Broken hearted? . . . Heavy  
hearted? . . . Afraid? . . .  
Lonely? . . . Confused?**

**You are not alone.**

**A Stephen Minister  
Could Help.**

**Call the church office and ask  
for Alice**

**Presbyterian Counseling Center  
May Open House  
Celebrating**

**Mental Health Awareness Month**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**

**2p -4:30p**

**121 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, DeLand  
386-258-1618**

Please join us and meet our staff, tour our space,  
receive mental health resources,  
and enjoy light refreshments



***Meals Matter  
Ministry***

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

## **The Bridge Kitchen**



On the first Thursday 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 May 2nd we will be serving taco casserole.**

**On June 6th we are serving chicken and tater tot casserole.  
Items needed are cream of chicken soup and packaged Original  
Ranch Dressing Mix.**

Look for THE BRIDGE shopping cart when you come to worship and drop off your donations. Mary Eggleston (386-626-5071) coordinates this mission.

## Property Team News

**Proverbs 4:26** “Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.” gives the Property Team guidance as we face numerous repairs and upgrades necessary to improve and maintain our church operation. We are grateful to our contractors and church volunteers.

The Property Team and its church approved contractors, have been busy in April finalizing several projects listed below:

1. The Stained-Glass Window Project has been completed for the seven windows facing Woodland Boulevard.
2. Designer John Turk and Property Team members along with church volunteers have completed the church vehicle canopy.
3. The cracked patio stones leading into the pavilion have been replaced with much heavier paver stones.
4. Millings raked, leveled, and packed in front of the Preschool by John Turk, Bob McCloud, and Kurt Backstrom.
5. Roof repairs to the One 2 One House completed.
6. Several upgrades and repairs to the Preschool including new ceiling tiles and recessed LED lighting to the office area along with several electrical repairs and upgrades.

Stew Burkhammer, Safety Director  
Joe Guthrie, Moderator



### *Spiritual Practices*

continued from page 1

You are invited to join us this summer for a 6-week series on Spiritual Practices. Come to one or come to all of them. The first one will be an introduction led by Pastor Bodger.

The following weeks you will have an opportunity to engage in different spiritual practices led by different members of the congregation.

Contact Cathy Campbell  
ccampbell@fpcdstaff.org  
or 386-747-0022  
for more information



### Let's Worship Together

Sunday, May 26th at 10:30 am  
Potluck Luncheon following worship.

Main dish will be  
provided  
Please bring a side dish or  
dessert to share.



## Presbyterian Women (PW) of First Pres DeLand

During Presbyterian Women Sunday on April 28, 2024, we proudly presented the Honorary Life Membership Award for this year to Donna McClellan. Congratulations, Donna! Thank you for your many years of faithful service.

Our final gathering of this year, the Ladies' Tea and Dedication of the Least Coin Offering, will begin at 10:30 AM on May 25, 2024, in Fellowship Hall. During this gathering we will install our officers for the coming year: Dianne Heidel, Moderator; Susan Allison, Vice Moderator; Betsy Craig, Secretary; and Kay Kenney, Treasurer. All ladies are welcome – you do not have to be a member of a circle to attend. Come and enjoy brunch and fellowship with us!

Circles will meet this month for the last time until we resume in September. We have enjoyed our study of *Sacred Encounters – the Power & Presence of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke*. Did you join a Circle this year? It is not too late to visit one of our Circles during this month. Contact one of the Circle leaders listed below:

**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.

**RUTH CIRCLE** meets on 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 12:00 noon in the Westminster Room. Contact Pat Andrews #386-747-5453.

Happy Mothers' Day to all our wonderful mothers!!

Grace and Blessings,  
Dianne Heidel, Moderator  
386-956-0960



Dianne Heidel pictured with her husband, John.

Pashmina Sunday  
May 12th

Interested in learning about PW and  
circle meetings?

Look for the woman in a turquoise  
pashmina!





Wednesdays  
11am - 12:30pm  
Light Snack Provided  
Eastminster Room  
Next cycle begins August 14, 2024

You are welcome to join at anytime for  
one meeting or as many as you choose.

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

Contact Alice Foerster in the  
church office for more information.  
*Tips, encouragement, and direction  
about Loneliness, Fear, Anger, Regrets,  
Relationships, Hope, AND much more!*

### Medical Equipment Closet Ministry

This ministry provides church members access to free ,  
gently used medical equipment. Kurt and Suzi Backstrom  
manage this purposeful ministry. Please contact the  
Church office to donate or request equipment.



### Tune-Up Moves! The Balance Class

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings  
9:00 -10:00 am or 10:30 - 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall  
Suzi Backstrom , Instructor  
email [suzibackstrom@gmail.com](mailto:suzibackstrom@gmail.com) or phone 865-604-5182  
Registration is required before class participation.

## 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**

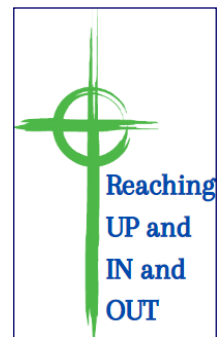
US Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class  
3650 N Spitz Drive #201  
Waukegan, IL 60087

AS3 **Daniel Pry**

Navy Petty Officer  
456 Crown Crescent  
Chesapeake, VA 23325-4329

A1C **Alexander Sutherland**

Elmendorf Air Force Base—Alaska  
Apprentice—F22 Raptor



## Session Snippets—April 2024

**Guest: C. Paul Jones, Jr.**

**M/S/C to approve Paul to speak about the history of the 729 N Florida Avenue house.**

### CONSENT AGENDA:

*The following items are reported by Team and are in need of limited action by the Session. If any single item needs further attention, an Elder may request that the item be moved to the Action Items and it shall be done without discussion. All items acceptable to the group shall be acted **upon** as a single motion.*

1. Pastor Bodger requests that Session approve Congregational Gatherings to take place on May 5 @ 12:15 pm, May 8 at 6:30 pm and May 9 @ TBD at JKV.
2. Pastor Bodger (on behalf of the Children's Discipleship Team) requests that Session approve a *Water Day* between 12 – 2pm on May 26 after the Pot Luck for families/children up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Invite both church and school.
3. Pastor Bodger (on behalf of the Children's Discipleship Team) requests that Session approve a *Backyard Bible Study* at the Hoffmann's House in June, date/time TBD. Invite both church and school.
4. Pastor Bodger (on behalf of the Students' Discipleship Team) requests that Session approve Lori Hansard as a new team member.
5. The First Presbyterian School Board requests that Session approve the new Tuition Rates effective June 3, 2024 presented with their April Minutes.
6. The MOT requests that Session approve the assembly of food bags for Starke after the May 26<sup>th</sup> combined worship service.

Clerk of Session: Baptisms: McKenzie Elizabeth Graham Crane & Collin Alan Crane.

Deaths: Bob Gallagher on February 10, 2024; Jacquie Gallagher on July 19, 2023; Helen Morrow on April 4, 2024. Membership Changes - New Members: Affirmation of Faith: Art and Lauren Young; Transfers In: Carolyn Cook from First Presbyterian Church in Marion, NC; James (Jim) and Pamela (Pam) Whittet from Ormond Beach Presbyterian Church; Reinstated none; Transfers out: none; Removed from Church Roles: none; Moved to Elderly Inactive: none; Dismissed: none. Weddings: none.

**ACTION ITEM:** Pastor Bodger (on behalf of the Students Discipleship Team) requests that Session approve a fundraiser consisting of "support letters" to be sent out by the students' ahead of the 2024 summer Montreat trip to non-church members. These letters will be sent to important people in the lives of the students and a student "Talent Sale" fundraiser (including perhaps a Car Wash)

**Motion to approve the "Support Letters" fundraiser and the "Talent Sale" fundraiser: M/S/C**

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Sabbatical Planning Update** - pastor Bodger gave an update on planning
2. **Tabled motion from Mission to use time at the Cookout Conversations for Mission related activity. Motion Withdrawn by Mary Hoffmann on behalf of the Mission Team.**
3. **Congregational Meeting on N. Florida Ave 729.** The necessary Congregational Meeting has not taken place and will only do so after input from the congregation facilitated by the Congregational Gatherings.

**M/S/C to approve an updated survey of the 729 house.**

4. **Tiny House update** - a significant contribution will be sought from the HAF Funds to support this initiative from the Neighborhood Center

## Worship Flowers

May 5: Jane Christeson  
and Valerie and Cecil Morse  
May 12: The Morrows  
May 19: Paul and Maria Jones  
and Michael Bodger  
May 26: Greg and Debbie Howard



## Christian Sympathies

Are extended to the families  
of Helen Morrow, Doris Jahnke  
and Ricky Vanderlip  
Please keep their friends  
and family 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**

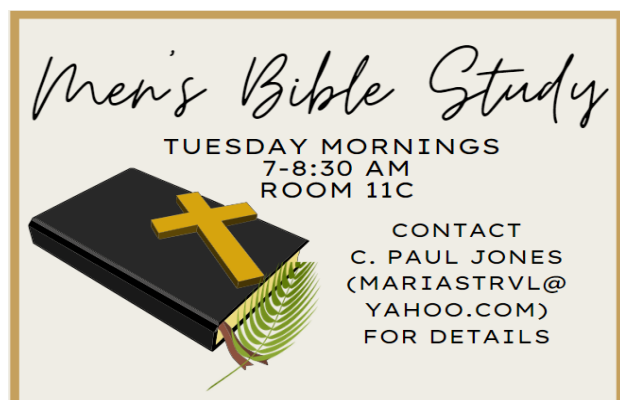
Karen DeJong	Arlene Liggett	Lily Guzman	Leonora Evans
Bethanne Schrecengost	Charlie Wareing	Lilyana Aparico	Shane Gaster
Stan Collins	Stew Burkhammer	Krystel Elder	Greg Callahan
Olivia White	Paige & Jacob Nealis	Patsy Kanagy	Amber Leiber
Eva Lurtz	Karin Yaris	Barbara Olsen	Janet Velleff
David Sutherland	Jean Reeves	Tyanna Weeks	Randy Fike
Maria Jones	Carole Eklund		

**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.**

## May Birthdays

Mona Diethrick 1st	Eloise Pfeifauf 10th	Caroline Brees 24th
Dick Devaney 2nd	Donna McClellan 11th	Barbara Hughes 25th
Bev Schlect 2nd	Sherrie McMillan 11th	Patti Conroy 25th
Jim Elmore 3rd	Linda Davis 12th	Kristine Moses 25th
Chip Slaughter 3rd	Mac Moses 12th	Bonnie Wood 26th
Jamie Vanderlip 3rd	Sarah Jeffreys 14th	Russell Sager 27th
Richard Chapman 4th	Alex Lockenbach 15th	Gail Hallmon 28th
Amanda Levi 4th	Susan Johnston 16th	Victoria Estivaleti 28th
Shirley McCune 4th	Reed McMillan 16th	Patsy Kanagy 30th
Corey McKee 4th	Mark Mizer 18th	Stewart Warren 30th
Daisy Stewart 4th	Matt Hallman 19th	Trish Richeson 31st
Karen Wilson 5th	Mary Ethel Prather 20th	
Jake Yetter 5th	Ginger Johnston 21st	
Melissa Gaunt 7th	Tiffany Freed 22nd	
Jerry Yaris 7th	Jodee Cook 23rd	
Vic Barnhart 10th	Charlotte Freed 23rd	





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



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**DEADLINE:**  
**Newsletter Articles**

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](mailto:pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org)

**Associate Pastor Casey Riker**  
 ext. 102

[pastorcasey@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:pastorcasey@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Brooke Rohr**

First Presbyterian School Director  
 ext. 202 [brohr@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:brohr@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Elendea DeGaetano**

Director of Family Ministries  
 ext. 111 [edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Alice Foerster**

Care Coordinator  
 ext. 105 [afoerster@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:afoerster@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Jane Christeson**

Director of Music Ministry  
 ext. 109 [jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Joseph DeGaetano**

Contemporary Worship Band Leader  
[jdegaetano@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:jdegaetano@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Flor Moran**

Finance Director  
 ext. 104 [fmoran@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:fmoran@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Karin Ballesteros**

Communication Assistant  
 ext. 103 [kballesteros@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:kballesteros@fpcdstaff.org)

### **Barbara Hughes**

Bookkeeper  
 ext. 112 [bhughes@fpcdstaff.org](mailto:bhughes@fpcdstaff.org)