

DECEMBER FIRST PRESS

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2021

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

Advent Calendar

First Sunday of Advent—*HOPE*—November 28th

Advent Workshop—Sunday, November 28th
following 11:00 Worship

Second Sunday of Advent—*PEACE*—December 5th

Evensong Service—Sunday, December 5th @ 5:00
in the Sanctuary

Blue Christmas Service—Wednesday, December 8th
@ 6:30 in the Sanctuary

Third Sunday of Advent—*JOY*—December 12th

Saturday Worship—December 18th at 4:00 outside
bring a chair

Fourth Sunday of Advent—*LOVE*—December 19th
9:00 Worship outside—bring a chair.

Live-Nativity—Wednesday, December 22nd @ 5:00
on front lawn (Woodland Blvd. Circle Drive)

Christmas Eve—Friday, December 24th

4:00 Candlelight Worship outside—bring a chair

6:15 Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship

8:00 am, Chapel (Vaccine Required)

Contemporary Worship

9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Traditional Worship

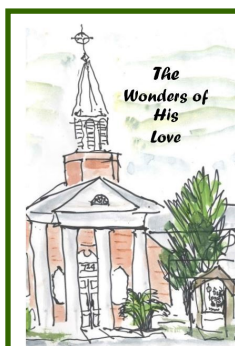
11:00 am, Sanctuary

Live Stream

Worship Services and Recorded Services are available on our website (fpcdeland.org), our Facebook page and our YouTube page.

Rev. Michael Bodger
First Presbyterian Church
724 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32720
386-734-6212
www.fpcdeland.org
pastormichael@fpcdstaff.org

COVID Update



2021 Advent

Devotional



Available

In-print

Online Daily

Via email Daily

On our Face Book page.

Fully Vaccinated?	Not Fully Vaccinated?
	
Masks Are Optional	Masks are Required
	Per CDC Guidelines

December 2021 at First Pres

Deacon Team Meeting—Wednesday the 1st @ 6:30 pm—Large Conference Room
Sleeping Mats for the Homeless—Thursday the 4th @ 10 am in the Mission Room (11B)
Food Distribution—Saturday the 3rd @ 8:00 am (Volunteers) - Event begins @ 10:00—Drive-thru
DeLand Christmas Parade—Saturday the 4th @ 6:00 pm
Evensong Service—Sunday the 5th @ 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Youth Gathering—Sunday the 5th @ 5:00 pm in the One 2 One House
Men's Bible Study Group—Tuesday the 7th @ 7:00 am in Room 11C
Worship Team Meeting—Tuesday the 7th @ 6:30 via ZOOM
Mission Outreach Team Meeting—Tuesday the 7th @ 6:30 in the One 2 One House
Adult Discipleship Team Meeting—Wednesday the 8th @ 10:00 via ZOOM
Student Discipleship Team Meeting—Wednesday the 8th @ 5:30 pm via ZOOM
Blue Christmas Service—Wednesday the 8th @ 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
Sleeping Mats for the Homeless—Thursday the 9th @ 10 am in the Mission Room (11B)
Coordination & Continuity Team Meeting—Thursday the 9th @ 1:00 pm outside in the courtyard
First Presbyterian School Board Meeting—Thursday the 9th @ 5:00 pm via ZOOM
God's Bathhouse—Saturday the 11th @ 9:00 am in the Parking Lot
Congregational Meeting—Sunday the 12th @ 10:30 in the Sanctuary
Children's Discipleship Luncheon— Sunday the 12th @ 12:15 in the Art Room
Youth Gathering—Sunday the 12th @ 5:00 pm in the One 2 One House
Community Garden Workday— Monday the 13th @ 9 am in the Garden (adjacent to FL Ave.)
Men's Bible Study Group—Tuesday the 14th @ 7am in Room 11C
Evangelism and Invitation Team Meeting—Tuesday the 14th @ 3:00 via ZOOM
Property Team Meeting—Tuesday the 14th @ 3:00 via ZOOM
Personnel Team Meeting— Tuesday the 14th @ 5:00 via ZOOM
Session Meeting —Tuesday the 14th @ 6:30 in the Large Conference Room
Sleeping Mats for the Homeless—Thursday the 18th @ 10 am in the Mission Room (11B)
Finance Team Meeting—Wednesday the 17th @ 5:45 pm via ZOOM
Pajama Storytime—Friday the 17th @ 6:00 pm in East Fellowship Hall
Food Distribution—Saturday the 18th @ 8:00 am (Volunteers) - Event begins @ 10:00—Drive-thru
Parents' Night Out—Saturday the 18th @ 5-8:00 pm in the Nursery and Art Room
Saturday Evening Worship—the 18th @ 4:00 pm outside—bring a chair
Men's Bible Study Group—Tuesday the 21st @ 7am in Room 11C
Live Nativity—Wednesday the 22nd @ 5:00 pm on the front lawn (Woodland Blvd.)
Christmas Eve Worship—Friday the 24th @ 4:00 outside (bring a chair) and 6:15 in the Sanctuary
One Worship Service—Sunday the 26th @ 10:30 am
Youth Gathering—Sunday the 26th @ 5:00 pm in the One 2 One House
Church Office Closed—Monday the 27th@
Men's Bible Study Group—Tuesday the 28th @ 7am in Room 11C

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

Michael's Thoughts

Grace and Peace from the Living God,

December beckons us and we anticipate the arrival of the Christ child who has already come. We also anticipate the new church year that lies before us. If the last two years are anything to go by, who knows what might transpire? The normality of what was, no longer is, and a new normal has begun to emerge. Regardless, we are continually urged by the Holy Spirit to live out the calling on our lives. To continue doing what has been placed upon our hearts but also to find new and exciting ways of living into our vision, **"To be a church fully Engaged in Reaching Up, Reaching In and Reaching Out."** What that will look like as we move forward depends upon each and every one of us who are called to First Presbyterian Church Deland.

It has been quite a year. We welcomed Elendea DeGaetano as our Director of Family Ministries, and the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is awaiting Presbytery approval to move forward in our Associate Pastor search. The pavilion has begun to take shape and will hopefully be fully constructed by late January. Plenty of other things have taken place. The fact that we are still called to First Presbyterian means there is work for us to do. I encourage everyone to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in what that looks like. Share your thoughts and ideas, gather together with others who are led in the same path, and hold on tight as the Spirit moves.



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



Our Congregation is meeting at 10:30 on Sunday, December 12th, in the Sanctuary for three purposes:

Approve the 2022 Terms of Call for Pastor Bodger

Approval of the revised Bylaws of the Endowment Fund Team

Vote on the Slate of Elders and Deacons - Class of 2024

Katie Rives, Pastoral Assistant

December 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am often struck by a sense of how arbitrary our perception of time can be. In the calendar year, we are coming to a close. I just finished a wonderfully challenging book study on the soul with a group of delightful people and we are transitioning from “40 Days of Kindness” to “Kindness 4ever!” I know I now have much to do to prepare mentally, physically, and Spiritually for the upcoming holiday season, which actually marks the beginning of the church’s calendar year.

Advent, regardless of your perspective, is an opportunity to be intentional in our thoughts and prayers as we consider Christ’s COMING...Each year, The Holy Spirit brings to mind the challenge for me to examine my heart, thoughts, and actions. Is Jesus The Greatest Gift? Does my life align as an affirmation that He IS?

One of my takeaways from our soul study was the idea that regardless of my circumstances—pandemic or not—can I say it is well with my soul? Am I secure in my relationship with God? Do I believe and trust, no matter what, that God will never leave nor forsake me? How does that shape my choices?

The baby in a manger, The Savior of the world, came so I/we could be confident that God loves us, in spite of ourselves, and has provided The Way, The Truth, and The Life for us. HALLELUJAH! I pray that you sense the gift of His Presence afresh. May wonder over The Greatest Gift overwhelm your very being as God’s Loving Kindness transcends whatever sense of time you have. Eternity is forever and I am counting on God to usher us into it together.

With love, hope, and blessings,

Katie

“Kindness 4ever”



3rd Saturday—Evening Worship
December 18th at 4:00
outside
(bring your own chair)

Gift

is Pastor Bodger’s Sermon Topic

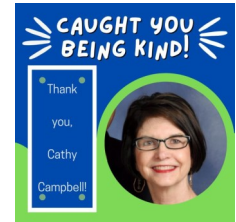


Worship
Wednesday, December 8th at 6:30 in the
Sanctuary

"40 Days of Kindness 4ever"



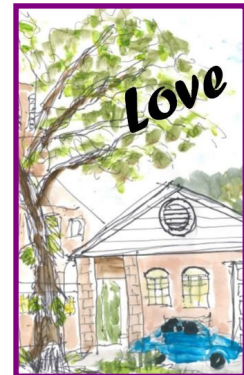
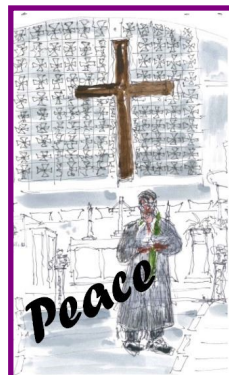
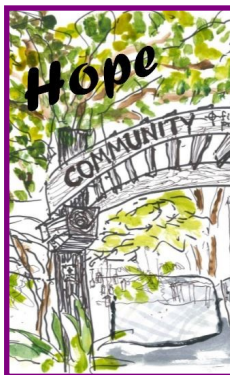
Thanks to Everyone
for a most successful campaign!
October 16th thru November 24th, 2021
Good Job!



first pres
DeLand
40 Days of Kindness 4ever
#KindnessCountsDeLand



Advent Devotional



Thank you

to the Adult Discipleship Team for compiling the 2021 Advent Devotional and to the many who contributed including artist Mary Kay Wareing for the watercolors that have become our Advent Art—some of which are above.

You will also find Mary Kay's paintings in Advent Worship Bulletins and emails throughout the season.

Open Door Sunday School Class



OPEN DOOR CLASS is a diverse group of adults.

We meet for about 45 minutes every Sunday, year-round, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Westminster Room.

It is easy to slide in for a week or join us for a series of weeks.

Several of us share leadership. Our format includes both instruction and discussion, with an emphasis on discussion and learning together.

In December we explore The Prologue in The Gospel of John. We will take a few verses each week from John 1:1-18, listen carefully, examine the words, search for the meaning, and suggest how we might apply the principles in our lives.

Serendipity Sunday School Class

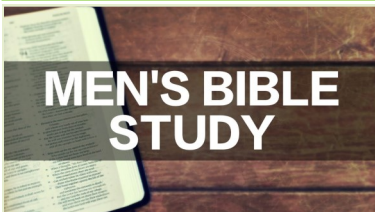
Serendipity Sunday School meets in the Middle Conference Room of the Church Office.

They are currently studying the Book of Nehemiah.

Frank Wilson is the contact for the group.



Men's Bible Study Group



Men's Bible Study Group meets on Tuesday mornings from 7 – 8:30 am in Room 11C. Please contact Paul Jones for more information.

Wednesday Night Small Group



Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 via ZOOM

Ann Small is leading this study about **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**: chosen by God before knowing who God was, theologian before Christian, fearless against the State, ethical beyond ethics, obedient unto death. They are taking a break in December but classes will resume in January.

Contact Ann Small @ asmall@stetson.edu or 386-479-0355 to be included on the ZOOM invitation.

Family Ministries



This month in Children's Church we will be learning about the Nativity in preparation for Christmas. Children ages 4-10 are invited to join us on Sunday mornings during worship at 9:00 and 11:00 in the Art Room. We will not be having Children's Church on December 26th. Elendea DeGaetano at 386-290-6525 or edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org



This month in youth we will continue discussing the topic of living in community with one another. As always, we will be snacking and playing games after we spend time engaging with our topic for the evening. If you have any questions, please contact Elendea DeGaetano at 386-290-6525 or edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org



Youth will be having a Christmas lock-in on Sunday, December 19th, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 am on Monday, December 20th.

We will enjoy games, crafts, movies, and food!

Please contact Elendea DeGaetano at edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org with any questions.



Parents' Time Out for the Holiday Season
Saturday, December 11th, 10:00am-2:00pm
in the Art Room and Nursery.

Free for children ages 6 months to 10 years.

Lunch is provided.

Please call the church office at 386.734-6212 or send an email to Elendea—edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org by December 8th to make a reservation.



Wednesday,
December 22nd,
from 5-7pm front
circle drive on
Woodland Blvd.



Children are invited to wear their PJ's and join us for Pajama Story time on Friday, December 17th, from 6:30 -7:30 pm.

First Presbyterian School



*and many thanks from
students and staff!*

The First Presbyterian School — 60 years — the first MISSION of our church.

Laura Carlisle Preschool Director

386-734-6214 or ext. 202 lcarlisle@fpcdstaff.org

fpcdschool.org



Christmas Joy

Additional Offering

Leadership, Past, Present, and Future

Sunday, December 19, 2021

*God saw the great needs of the world
and offered a perfect gift.*

White Gift Offering

Christmas Eve

Canned Goods
(wrapped or not)
and monetary gifts
to benefit local First Pres
missions, Family Renew
and The Neighborhood
Center..



First Connections Count

Classes begin on January 9th!

This four-week class meets on Sunday mornings
from 10:00 to 10:50 in the large conference
room of the church office.

For people who are new to First Pres or those
who have been here a while:

- What does it mean to be a Christ Follower?
- What is a Presbyterian?
- What are the core values of First Pres—DeLand?
- What ministries and opportunities are there for worship, growing spiritually and service?

This class will meet on January 9, 16, 23. and 30.
Call the church office (386-734-6212) to register.

Worship Team



Diane Slaughter, Moderator of the Worship Team

December Worship Flowers

December 5th	Jane Christeson
December 12th	Jane Christeson
December 19th	Janet Williams
December 26th	Poinsettias

We are now filling the 2022 Worship Flowers Calendar.
Contact the church office to save your preferred date.

The Worship Team feels overwhelmed with your generosity of time preparing the church for Advent on November 21. My heart is filled with thankfulness for your volunteering spirit. Following the 9 a.m. service, seven of you readied the Fellowship Hall for Advent. The 11 a.m. service had a whopping twenty-five folks ready the sanctuary for Advent in a record 75 minutes! Many thanks for helping decorate such a large facility....truly an act of love!

ADVENT: The time of waiting and preparing our heart for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

ADVENT COLORS: Purple signifying a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. White signifying the brightness of day.

ADVENT WREATH: A circle of evergreens to symbolize eternal life, reminding Christians of God, His eternity, and endless mercy which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath signifies the hope that Christians have in God, the hope of newness, renewal, eternal life.

November 28: The first Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Hope.

December 5: The second Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Peace.

@5 PM: EVENSONG presented in the sanctuary by the Chancel Choir, free and open to everyone.

December 8: Blue Christmas Service @ 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

December 12: The third Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Joy.

December 19: The fourth Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Love. Additional Joy Offering is taken.

December 24: Christmas Eve: The Christ Candle. The total offering is White Gifts (money or canned goods)

December 25: Christmas

December 26: Combined service, singing your favorite Christmas carols.

January 2: Epiphany commemorating the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus.

(Removing the decorations after each service.)

What have I learned from the Covid pandemic? How much I treasure my church family. Although I enjoyed the online services which blew me away with the visual content, I missed the community of faith, the power of believers worshipping and praying together, being of service.....it just wasn't the same worshipping at home sitting on the sofa in front of the screen.

Christians are contributors, not just consumers. I want to engage and not just watch. We give, sacrifice, encourage. We pray for the hurting. We do life together. The church needs you and you need the church. We are, indeed, the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in a hurting world.

Looking forward to seeing you in church!

Blessings,
Diane Slaughter
Moderator for the Worship Team

PW—Presbyterian Women of First Pres

2021-2022 Dates to Remember

December 12, 2021 – Pashmina Sunday

February 26, 2022 – Dedication of Birthday Offering

May 14, 2022 – 10:30am – Brunch and Election and Installation of
of PW Officers and Dedication of Least Coin Offering

We are all Presbyterian Women; and if you are not yet a circle member, please consider joining one of our circles for Bible study, fellowship, and mission.

DORCAS CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in the Card Lounge of the Barker Center at John Knox Village. Contact Shirley Carr #386-871-1036.

MARY ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am.

MIRIAM CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am in the One 2 One house. Contact Elaine Bodger #386-337-7303.

RACHEL CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the Eastminster Room. Contact Mary Eggleston #407-325-9982.

RUTH CIRCLE meets at the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon at Mary Kay Wareing's home. Contact Kay Kenney #321-301-7744.

SUSANNA CIRCLE meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm in Westminster Room. Contact Dianne Heidel #386-956-0960.

**Wishing you peace, hope, love, and joy—at
Christmastime and always!**

Many blessings, Karen Murin, Moderator

Looking for ways to help?

The Mission Team is looking for volunteers to help in two ways.

Manna Bags – We are in need of a coordinator for Manna Bags. It is a relatively easy, uncomplicated job. It involves ordering supplies for and assembling fifty Manna Bags a month. There are many people willing to help with the assembling.

Help with clothes sorting – a great deal of clothing is donated each month and our faithful worker Pam King has been handling the sorting all by herself. We are looking for one or two people who could help her with this.

Contact Mary Hoffmann for more information mary100550@aol.com or 386-747-5165

Mission Outreach Team

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



WOW!

What a church!

We have had three incredibly successful food distributions to people who are in great need of food.

At our first event October 16 we had 53 volunteers to help with the event.

On November 6 we had 47 workers who served 200 cars and 400 families.

On Saturday, November 20th, 38 dedicated workers welcomed 250 cars and served 500 families. Because we had more cars and fewer volunteers, our workers worked particularly hard but went away exhausted yet happy.

We are again sponsoring food distributions on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month of December. Dates are 12/4, & 12/18.

We need volunteers for boxing and handing out food.

Let Mary Hoffmann (mary100550@aol.com) know if you can help.

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless

All are invited to join this entertaining group of men and women who meet in the Mission Room 11B on Thursdays from 10:00-12:00.

We weave plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats that we hand out to the homeless in our community.



This year we are participating in the annual U.S. Marine Corp **Toys for Tots** campaign.

We are collecting new unwrapped toys to be distributed to less fortunate children in our county. Look for the collection box in the Fellowship Hall Welcome Center.

We will be collecting unwrapped new toys or gift cards for children ages 1-13. They don't need clothes or books as they will be donated from another source.

Deadline for giving is December 13th



Volunteers are highly valued.

Normally we offer showers for the homeless on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. This month the 4th Saturday falls on Christmas Day so we won't be working that day.

Join us December 11 at 8:30.

The Bathhouse times run from 9:00-11:00, and we are often finished earlier than 11:00.

Clothing Donations

We are in need of men's jeans and shorts as well as new men's underwear. Also needed are men's warm coats and blankets. We are grateful for all the donations for God's Bathhouse. We currently have more women's clothes than we can possibly use. If you have other clothing, please consider donating to the Neighborhood Center or to the First Baptist Clothes Closet.

Thank you all so much for your faithful participation in this project.

Adult Mission Trip to Guatemala



INVITATION TO JOIN
The REV. RADFORD RADER AND A.I.R.
(A Presbytery Mission Partner)
MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA
JUNE 14-21, 2022.



After two years of cancelled plans, the trip is on for 2022 for the fully vaccinated who want to work in the mountains of this beautiful country with the indigenous farmers. This is a work trip which also will give new eyes to those who participate.

There will be two days of seeing a tree nursery and planting trees on the hillsides to prevent mudslides, nurture the soil, and provide fruit. There will be two days of building a family stove that saves wood, slows deforestation, provides heat to the home, raises cooking off the dirt floor, and prevents lung diseases (which are rampant among the people). One day will be spent in the schools where A.I.R. teaches nutrition and leads the children in creating their own organic garden, providing healthy additional foods in school for them to take home.

Presbyterian elder, Anne Hallum, began A.I.R. as an Adult Sunday School class at First Presbyterian, Deland, to give it life. A.I.R. has planted millions of trees, enabled great crop production and cottage industries through the mountain villages. A.I.R. has received money from Presbyterian Women and the Presbytery's 2 cents (now 5 cents) a meal program.

Both the Guatemalan government and the United Nations has awarded its outstanding ministry. It has been hosting mission volunteers safely for over twenty-five years.

Contact Barbara in the church office (bhughes@fpcdstaff.org) for Radford's contact information.

Me Strong 2022

ME STRONG 5K Walk or Run Saturday, February 5th

This is charity supports community members
battling cancer.

If you are interested in joining the First Pres team on Saturday, February 5, 2021,
register now at

https://thedriven.net/event-registration/site.race_reg/eid/39964012389.

Make sure you click on **Join a Team**,
First Presbyterian Church DeLand is the team name.

If you have already signed up and would like to join our team, you will need to contact Me Strong at info@mestrong.net

City of DeLand 2021 Volunteer of the Year



Ceremony honoring the 2021 City of DeLand Volunteer of the Year

Mary Hoffmann and Gail Hallman (nominated) on Monday, November 8, 2021.

Many thanks to all who showed up to support Mary Hoffmann at the Volunteer of the Year presentation on November 15. She feels strongly that this award belongs to all of you at First Presbyterian as we go the extra mile to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus. It meant a great deal to her that so many of you were able to be present.

Operation Christmas Child



On November 16th, 130 shoebox gifts were delivered to the collection center at First Baptist Church, DeLand, to begin their journey to children in the farthest corners of the earth! 109 Shoeboxes built by our incredible congregation; 21 shoeboxes built by the wonderful students of First Pres School; and one box built online.

All will be carrying not only the tangible gifts you all lovingly put in your boxes but also the opportunity for 130 children to learn of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

You also generously donated \$156.00 toward shipping costs and *The Greatest Journey* program.

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to all who shared their loving kindness by participating in Operation Christmas Child this year!

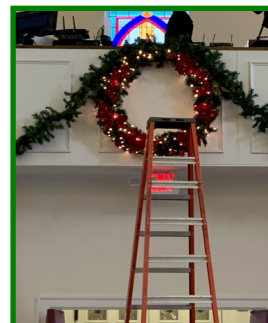
Peace and Blessing to you!

Sandy Guthrie, Project Leader

Family Camping Weekend



The Hanks Family (Addison, Collin, Robert, Baylee and Kristen) at the Family Camping Weekend Pot Luck—Salt Springs on November 12th.



Hanging the Greens on November 21st

Starke Elementary School

It's time to fill-up the **Stark Donations Bin** in the Church Office:

They are so appreciative for all the peanut butter & jelly and could use other canned food and non-perishable items. Detergent, toiletries, extra (accidents happen) underwear for Pre-K and Kindergarten age children.

We need all items!

Thank you for your continued support for the families with kids attending this local school.



The Bridge Kitchen

On the first Thursday each month, First Pres Church members cook and serve carry-out meals at **The Bridge**, located at 434 South Woodland Blvd. Volunteers are always welcome—we always feed between 80 and 100 people. **On December 6th we will serve Chicken Casserole with green beans. Items needed are green beans, instant rice, cream of chicken soup and buttery crackers.**

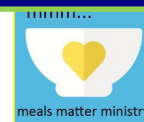
Look for the “Bridge” grocery cart outside worship on Sundays for your donations. Mary Eggleston (386-626-5071) is the coordinator.

On the first and third Sundays each month JoAnn O'Donovan prepares carry-out meals at the Bridge. For information about volunteering, email JoAnn directly (odonovanjc3@gmail.com).



Meals Matter Ministry

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



Stephen Ministry



“The past year and a half has taken its toll.

Many of us are living with a sense of dread... we find our hearts beating in our throats... it's sometimes hard to catch our breaths. If you are feeling a vague sense of dis-ease...talking with a Stephen Minister might bring some peace.”

Contact Alice Foerster (my3sons@earthlink.net or 386-882-2250) or Pastor Michael or Barbara in the church office.

Caring for one another is at the core of the Christian faith community. First Pres has a team of congregation members—called **STEPHEN MINISTERS**— trained to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in our congregation and community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. If you or someone you know might be struggling right now and need a listening ear, please call or email.

APNC Corner

Update on Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) continued to meet during the month of November. In October we completed the Mission Information Form (MIF) and submitted it to the First Presbyterian Church of DeLand Session for their review and approval. The Session completed their review and approval in November, and the MIF is now in the hands of Janet Folly and Dan Williams at Florida Presbytery.

Additionally, in November the APNC formed three teams APNC members. These teams will meet independently and shall work on the task of preliminary review of the various candidate's application and qualifications. This process will formally begin once Presbytery gives final approval to the MIF in December. The APNC is also scheduled to meet with Janet Folly in December to review the aforementioned review process.

As always, the APNC continues to ask for your prayers as the Holy Spirit continues to move us forward on this mission.



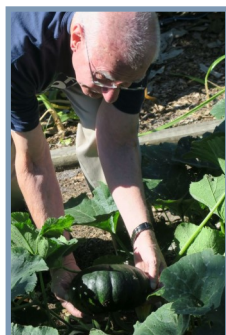
Community Garden

Monday, December 13th, is a Garden Workday....



Norma Thomas and Sharyn Marzullo of the DeLand Garden Club present a \$300 check, proceeds of their November 8th fundraiser, to Carol and Jim Nichols.

Sandy McArthur
picking a beautiful
Calabaza Melon
on November 13th.



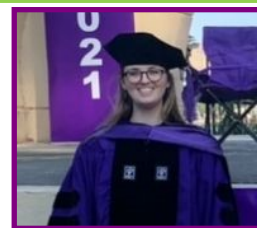
Thank you

*Thank you for the beautiful
floral arrangement. I have it
here where I can enjoy it most
of the time.
I really appreciated it,*

Kay Laws



Frances Chapman



Congratulations!

to Frances Chapman on passing the New York Bar exam, considered to be one of the most difficult in the nation.

Frances has joined the law firm of Latham and Watkins, in New York City as a first year associate.

She is grateful for all of the love and support from her First Presbyterian Family.

Pavilion Progress



Pavilion Update

The concrete pad is poured!

The perimeter dirt and gravel are next.

Steel and roof decking to arrive December 9th! Painting of steel & electrical lights and receptacles to follow in late December and early January!

Get ready to enjoy the new addition to our great campus!

Active Military Names



Do you have an active duty family member or friend?

First Pres would like to know who they are so we can pray for them and send cards at Christmas time.

Send their names, branch of the service, rank, and assignment location to the church office (bhughes@fpcdstaff.org). We will post the list each month in First Press.



2021 Poinsettia Order Form

Please complete this form to order your poinsettia plants for this Christmas Season

Each plant is in an 8" pot wrapped in foil. The cost is \$15.00 each.

Bring orders forms and payment to the church office by Sunday, December 19th or place them in a collection plate.

You may take your plants home with you after the Christmas Eve Service of your choice or wait to take them after Sunday's Worship on the 26th.

Call the church office (386-734-6212) or email Kristen Hanks (khanks@fpcdstaff.org) with questions or for more information.

Name:

Quantity?

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

YEAR END FINANCE INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Did you know that you can deduct up to \$600 of charitable donations even if you do not itemize?

The recently enacted Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021 permits a charitable deduction of up to \$600 on 2021 federal income tax returns for couples filing jointly. This is an above-the-line contribution that is deducted from the individual taxpayer's income prior to the calculation of their adjusted gross income.

Important Tax Reduction Opportunity for IRA owners 70 ½ or older

If you provide financial support to First Presbyterian Church currently, own an IRA, and are 70 ½ years or older – please consider the federal tax savings advantages of donating via a QCD.

WHAT IS A QCD? - A **Q**ualified **C**haritable **D**istribution is a tax benefit that allows most owners of individual retirement accounts to use their IRA to make charitable contributions by directly transferring IRA funds to qualifying charities. The IRA funds that go to the charity are excluded from income. This exclusion from income provides a better tax benefit than an itemized deduction because the QCD reduces adjusted gross income, or AGI.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO DONATE TO A CHARITY VIA A QCD? - The Qualified Charitable Distribution election is available to most IRA owners who are 70 ½ years old before the date of the distribution. The various law changes regarding age thresholds for RMD's DO NOT apply to QCD's.

A QCD donation to First Presbyterian Church can benefit the giver from an income tax standpoint as it can reduce the giver's income tax level even if the giver is not able to "Itemize" deductions!

This communication is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal or tax advice on any specific facts or circumstances. Please consult a tax or financial professional before acting

Dec 31, 2021, Contribution deadline for Income Tax Deductions

If you are qualified to itemize deductions on your 2021 Income Tax – please remember that the IRS restricts current year contribution credits to those monies **actually received** in the church office or **post marked** prior to midnight of December 31st. If it is important that your contribution be included in your 2021 church giving statement - please be **sure** that your contribution is either in the church office or is postmarked by the U. S. Post Office prior to midnight, Dec. 31, 2021. For handwritten checks, the date of receipt governs rather than the check date. For those who use an online bill pay service, be certain to specify that the bank mails your check in time to be postmarked by midnight December 31st.

Year-end giving Statements and Income Tax filing

Please do not file your 2021 Income Tax before receiving your church statement confirming your deductible charitable giving totals or acknowledging your QCD donations. In most instances, the church statement is **required in addition to** your cancelled checks or other records if the IRS were ever to challenge your return. All statements including those for QCD gifts will be mailed on or prior to January 31, 2022; but if you have a special need prior to that date, please call so that we can provide your copy early.

November 2021 Session Snippets

Tuesday November 23, 2021

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

1. Pastor Bodger requests that Session approve changing the date of the January 2022 Stated Session meeting to Friday 21st.
2. The Endowment team recommends that Session approve the withdrawal of 4% of the FPCD Restricted Endowment Fund.
3. The Mission Outreach Team requests that Session approve a Human Trafficking Awareness Event partnering with St. Anne's Catholic Church of DeBary and benefitting Helpers of People Enslaved (H.O.P.E.) outside on church property on January 8th, 22nd or 29th of 2022 from 9:00 to 12:00.
4. Student Discipleship Ministries requests that Session approve Elendea DeGaetano taking the Youth to Dunkin Donuts after the 9AM service on the third Sunday each month, using a church vehicle.
5. Student Discipleship Ministries requests that Session approve moving the date of the Youth Lock-in to December 19th and 20th, 2021.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review the current situation regarding the church buildings' standing open, the use of the church building and grounds for church and outside groups, and the use of the church vans. Motion to make masks optional for those who are vaccinated while those who are unvaccinated to continue to follow the CDC guidelines (wearing masks) for worship. **M/S/C**
2. The Finance team recommends that Session approve the 2022 budget as proposed at the October Session meeting. **M/S/C**
3. Vote on the Slate of Elders and Deacons presented by the Nominating Committee.
Elders: Elder-at-large – Sam Foerster; Mission Outreach Team – Mary Hoffmann (pending Presbytery approval); First Presbyterian School Board – Mike Lafferty. Vacancies – Care and Concern Team, Adult Discipleship Team, Children's Discipleship Team.
Deacons – Mary Kay Wareing (1 year), Larry Welch, Lynn Sorenson, Abby Langenbach, Gina Moreland (all 3 year terms). **M/S/C**
4. Hold a Leadership Gathering on Saturday, January 22nd, from 9 – 12 in Fellowship Hall. **M/S/C**
5. Personnel recommendation to give all eligible staff a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA). **M/S/C**
6. E & I seek permission to sponsor a Family and Friends New Year's Evening at the One 2 One House beginning at 7pm. **M/S/C**

Christian Sympathies



Christian Sympathies to the families and friends of

Chandmuni Shivrattan Jeanette Bransford Bradford
Douglas Keith Bransford



Please keep their families and friends 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**

Myrna Bryson	Scott Burham	Wanda Carlen	Randi Walters	James Coggeshall
Karen & Jeremy DeJong	Carrie Griffin-Hill	Althea McPherson	Harrison Johnson	Arlene Liggett
Dallas Moore	Shirley Grim	Butler Family	Jordan Christeson	Ed Dean
Ed DuFresne	Joan Fowler	Charlotte Glennie	Lily Guzman	Lorraine Dean
Marie Hammond	Nancy Kinsley	Elizabeth Magarian	Bill Pearson	Patty Phelan
Bethanne Schrecengost	Jean Reeves	Trullinger Family	Don & Trish Tutt	Bob Zeiher
Leonora Evans	Betty Gregg Black	Billy Bailey	Ricky Clouse	Evelyn Yates
Walt & Sue Kahrs	Gwynne Williams	Mona Diethrick	Herb Ahlers	Ann Sims
Torry & Diane Slaughter	Heffington Family	Wanda Lipscomb	Jean Marie Bigelow	Jill Hanstein
Mike Davis	Bransford Family	Lori Reinhold	Lorisa Bruk	Brian Seager

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

December Birthdays

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

Helen Morrow 1st	Nancy Frankenberry 10th	Sam Foerster 23rd
Anne Huffman 2nd	Donna Sargent 11th	Vve Galloway 24th
Magaly Cooling 3rd	Margaret Jepson 12th	Lorisa Bruk 26th
Jordan Crane 5th	Harriett McAllaster 12th	Walt Kahrs 26th
Jennifer Seitzer 5th	Cole Christian 13th	Kathy Mahoney 27th
Liam Shive 5th	Louella Haynes 15th	James Yetter 27th
Jeff Bransford 6th	Wayne Dreggors 16th	Stew Burkhammer 27th
Madeline Brees 7th	Robert Dunmire 17th	Steve Bennett 28th
Charlotte Johnston 7th	Sam Prather, Jr. 17th	Janine Keebler 28th
Louis Lockett 7th	Connie Sarson 18th	Trish Tutt 28th
Bob Luebke 7th	Noah Sargent 18th	Kathryn Morganelli 28th
Kailana Sargent 7th	Janet Collum 20th	Roy Trullinger 28th
Dawn Trullinger 7th	Boyd Jones 20th	Thomas Lee 29th
Erin Jeffreys 8th	Ellie Hawes 21st	Dr. Lynn Hawkins 29th
Jean Reeves 8th	Vern Pidgeon 21st	Lee Saxton 29th
David Langell 9th	John Patterson 21st	Joseph Davis 31st
Dawn Christian 10th	Claire Schrecengost 22nd	

First Pres Church Staff is available!

Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am—2:00 pm.

We social distancing and asking for masks worn in the office.

Ring the doorbell or call the church office
(386-734-6212)



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/>



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles

If there is any information that you want to have in the First Press Newsletter, please email Kristen Hanks at khanks@fpcdstaff.org or call the church office (386)734-6212 ext. 102.
All articles must be in by the 20th of the month.

Need a Name Tag?

Everyone wants to know your name!

Please remember to wear your new name tag whenever you come to church. Don't have a new name tag? Please let the church office know (386.734-6212) or bhughes@fpcdstaff.org.

SHELBYNEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY

***Smart Phones, Tablets, or
Computers***

Call Barbara or Kristen in the church office for instructions. It is EASY to access and you will wonder how you lived without it!



Please refer to the church website
fpcdeland.org
for more
information.

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

Katie Rives
Supervised Ministry
ext. 112 krives@fpcdstaff.org

Elendea DeGaetano
Director of Family Ministries
ext. 111 edegaetano@fpcdstaff.org

Jane Christeson
Director of Music Ministry
ext. 109 jchristeson@fpcdstaff.org

Joseph DeGaetano
Contemporary Worship Band Leader
jdegaetano@fpcdstaff.org

Barbara Hughes
Business Manager
ext. 103 bhughes@fpcdstaff.org

Kristen Hanks
Communication Assistant
ext. 102 khanks@fpcdstaff.org

Tom Lee
Finance Director
ext. 104 tleee@fpcdstaff.org