



The CHIMES Newsletter

JANUARY 1, 2023



On Sunday, January 1st, one of the scripture readings will contain the words to an ancient song in the church known as the

“Nunc Dimitis”. It is also known as the Song of Simeon, and is the response of Simeon when he sees Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem after his birth. It is a song about fulfillment, peace, and rest, and has been used in the church for millennia now as an especially appropriate song for the end of the day. It is used in evening prayer services in churches and monastic communities alike, which is where I was introduced to it in practice.

On the few occasions in which I have stayed at monastic retreat centers, I have enjoyed participating in the singing of the “offices” – times of prayer and scripture spread throughout the day and evening hours. It is a practice by which the monastic community orders their day – all work to be done must be begun and completed within the boundaries of the times set for these prayer services – and is a foundational aspect of their life together, a life ordered around prayer and seeking to be closer to God.

Such a life is not for everyone, and I’ll admit, I’ve never actually woken up

Pastor’s Thoughts

on any of these retreats to participate in the 3:00 a.m. Vigils service. But I have deeply appreciated being able to spend time in environments where there is such an intentional way of life that prioritizes simplicity, prayer, hospitality, and being present in all you do.

“Regular life” may not offer much in the way of opportunities to let my inner contemplative follow a set schedule of prayer times and quiet reflection, but that doesn’t mean I should give up on the possibility – for those of you who also flourish with times of reflection and silence, contemplation and stillness, I’d like to offer this invitation / challenge in the new year – make the Nunc Dimitis a part of an evening prayer practice for you at least once a week, preferably on a Saturday evening. Now for the difficult part of the challenge – each week, spend time considering what you might need to look for, learn, or accomplish in order to give truth to the words you will pray:

- † Now, Master, you let your servant go in peace (is there something in your life that needs resolution so that you can be at peace?)
- † You have fulfilled your promise (What promises do you feel that God is making you in your relationship with him? What signs

of fulfillment are present in your life? What signs do you need to look for?)

- † My own eyes have seen your salvation, (What signs of God’s work have you seen around you?)
- † Which you have prepared in the sight of all peoples (What signs of God’s work are present around the world?)
- † A light to bring the Gentiles from darkness; (Where is there hope shining, and people responding to it? Where is hope needed, and can you help in any way?)
- † The glory of your people Israel. (Where are God’s people bringing him glory?)

I hope that this practice may help bring you some hope, peace, and joy in the new year, as you look for and celebrate the work of God in and around you!



Per Capita 2023

In the PC(USA) denomination, individual churches help support the mission of the larger denomination, including Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assembly. This is done through the per capita apportionment, an amount paid by each church based on its membership – it translates to “per head”. This annual per-member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly is used by the national church as well as synods and presbyteries to enable all Presbyterians to mutually and equitably share the administrative and ecclesiastical costs of sustaining our witness to Christ. It helps fund the work and mission projects of the church locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. For a more detailed explanation of how Per Capita is used at the various church levels, go to the Presbytery’s website at www.cfpresbytery.org and click on the “explanation of Per Capita & Shared Mission” button on the home screen.

The per capita rate for 2023 will be \$20.25 per active member., with \$9.85 going to GA, \$1.50 to Synod, and \$8.90 to Presbytery. The church pays this apportionment amount out of our general fund, but members may choose to offset their per capita amount if they so desire. If you wish to make a contribution to Per Capita, you can use the designated envelope or indicate your wish in a check’s memo line.



“STAR WORDS” FOR 2023

This year, First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay will again be giving out “star words” or “star gifts.” It is connected to the celebration of Epiphany, which marks the visit of the magi to Jesus after his birth in Bethlehem. It commemorates both the star which guided them to find Jesus as well as the gifts they gave of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On Sunday, January 8th, we will each receive a card with a star and a unique word on it, which is supposed to be placed somewhere easily seen for the next year (perhaps the refrigerator, a bathroom mirror, or the door you leave through when going somewhere). The word will be both a gift and a guide – a way to look for God’s presence and activity in our lives and a way for us to respond in gratitude and faith. It is a way of finding meaning in events that might otherwise seem random or coincidental every day, and to seek to understand ways in which God is active among us.

If you miss worship on January 8th, we will keep extra Star Word cards in the office or send them out to anyone who requests one – just give us a call or send an email and tell us you would like one mailed to you. I hope we all find guidance and blessing in this practice for 2023, not just in January, but through the entire year!

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Basket effort. We sent out Christmas baskets to 10 families to bless them during the holiday season. Your contributions of food, money, and time made it possible for these families to have Christmas dinner and staple items for their pantries. Volunteers did some advanced shopping, but also took over Publix and organized over \$1400 worth of groceries (not counting the ones that had already been donated), delivering and distributing the baskets around all of the setting up for the Christmas dinner!

Information Updates for Directory

Have you had any of your contact information change in 2022? Did you get rid of a phone line? Switch to a new email address? Please let the church office know before the end of the year so that we can include your changes in the new directory, which will be printed in January. Forms are available in the office and the sanctuary.

Flower Chart Sign-Up Calendar

Do you enjoy the flowers we have in the sanctuary each Sunday? Are there special people or occasions in your life you wish to honor with flowers? We are now taking names for our 2023 Sunday flower ministry. Please sign up on the new chart in the sanctuary or call the office at (321) 725-8484 to reserve your desired spot(s).

Thank you to all who helped support the Gifts from the Heart Christmas Shop – hundreds of children in Brevard were blessed through the efforts of all of those who contributed items and money to the program. A special Thank You to the Musgraves for delivering items to the Shop in Eau Gallie.

Also, a big Thank You from all the children who you supported through our Shoe Mission.

Poinsettia Memoriam and Honors

Anna Wood	To the Glory of God.
Clyde & Marylynn Yust	In honor of our parents Charles & Jean Yust and James & Eleanor Berry.
Grady Evans	To the Glory of God.
Jack & Ronnie Dayton	In memory of family members.
Jim Corton	In memory of Virginia Corton and in Honor of Mother and Father.
Judy Irvine	In honor of my family & friends.
Judy Rutter & Ken Reither	In memory of Ron Rutter and R Lou Reither.
Mark & Vicki Cather	In memory of Calvin & Laura Ball and Robert & Pat Cather.
Ron & Georgia Shane	To the Glory of God.
Sue & Vince D'Imperio	In memory of Mary D'Imperio & Joann Warwick.
Tom Glew	In memory of loved ones.
The Cox Family	In honor of family and friends.
Inez Rose	In memory of Noel Rose



It takes a lot of people in many different areas of the church to make sure everything happens here. Members of the church come to the property to trim trees, weed gardens, and pick up fallen branches. Every Monday the office hears the voices of those who have come to enter donations and prepare deposits. Attendance is noted, choirs practice, repairs in buildings are made, collections for missions are delivered to local organizations – all behind the scenes during the week. Sometimes the projects are short-term, like performing an audit of a previous year’s books. Sometimes the work is ongoing, like setting up Senior Luncheon, or proofreading the monthly newsletter. A group of volunteers even go out to Daily Bread once a month to ensure that those in need in our communities have hot food to eat. On Sundays, we see ushers, A/V workers and kitchen volunteers show up early to ensure all is ready, but the full body of those who put their time and effort into the programs of the church is truly astounding. To all those who give their time leading and volunteering in the church, we are grateful for all you have done!



Thank you!

The Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings’ Day

Christmas and New Year’s may have ended, but that doesn’t mean the holiday season is over.

For many Christians, the holiday season officially ends on January 6, which is the 12th day of Christmas known as the Feast of the Epiphany, or Three Kings’ Day. The holiday celebrates the biblical tale in which the Three Kings, or Three Wise Men, visit baby Jesus after his birth.



In the Gospel of Mathew, the three Kings find baby Jesus by following the path of a star across the desert for twelve days. According to the Gospel, the three Kings, named Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar traveled to Bethlehem to bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the time of King Herod, the Three Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

The gifts the Three Kings gave Jesus were meant to be symbolic. Gold was associated with the belief that Jesus was the King of Jews. Frankincense, which is often burned in churches today, was meant to represent the divine nature of Jesus and the fact that people would come to worship him as the Son of God. And myrrh, a perfume sometimes used to embalm dead bodies, represented the fact that Jesus would eventually suffer and die. Each gift represented a distinct part of the baby’s destiny.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Class has a new Bible Study – the minor prophets Jonah, Micah, and Nahum. Do you know about the conversations Jonah and God had after Nineveh was not destroyed? Do you know any of the prophecies of Micah and Nahum? Come on Sunday morning at 8:45 to learn more about these Old Testament prophets and how their prophecies impact our Christian faith today!



Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study is still working “Essential Stories of the Bible.” Each Wednesday at noon, we dive into the story of a person or event in scripture that many consider to be essential to knowing the story of God’s people. Sometimes, we learn that our heroes have flaws, but that God’s grace is even bigger than we thought. Sometimes, we learn that people were better than we expected, and saw how big a difference they made in their time and in the faith of all who followed. Occasionally, the entire class is a Q&A session with the Pastor where anyone can ask any question about the Bible or Church History. Every week is different, but every week, all are welcome to come and learn something new!

**The church office will be closed
January 2nd in observance of
the New Year Holiday.**

Happy
Wedding
Anniversary

Bill & Fran Phillips

January 10

Ken & Phyllis Knapp

January 27

The Senior Luncheon

January’s Senior Luncheon will be held Thursday the 26th at Wagon Wheel Pizza, 1760 Palm Bay Road NE, Palm Bay. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be January 23rd.

DAILY BREAD

The following volunteers that served Daily Bread in 2022 were Vicki Cather, Marsha Carter, Jim Corton, Vince and Sue D’Imperio, Ron Niemeyer, Sam Musgrave, Terry Twardzik, John and Monia Yust and Clyde Yust. A big thank you to you all. If you want to be added as a sub let me know.

Judy Irvine, Daily Bread Coordinator.

Thank You to those who blessed us in worship in November

Elders of Month: John Yust and Jamie Woods

Ushers: Judy Rutter, Elvie Marshall, John & Monia Yust, Ron & Georgia Shane, Marsha Carter, Barbara Musgrave, Carolyn Teal, Brian Young

Flowers Donated By: Brian Young & Carolyn Teal, Clyde Yust, Donna Aguilera



Evelyn Cox
January 1

Mike Allison
January 2

Richard Edwards
January 8

Donna Wolford
January 15

Brian Clark
January 16

Marylynn Yust
January 16

Angela Singh
January 21

Barbara Musgrave
January 26



Election of Officers January 8th

The Nominating Committee is prepared to present a slate of officers to the congregation to be elected to the Session and Deacon Board. They are still at work finding members for the 2023 Nominating Committee, but that group will be elected at the Annual Congregational meeting on January 29th. Please stay for a few minutes after worship on Sunday, January 8th for a congregational meeting to elect officers. The slate being presented by the Nominating Committee includes the following members:

Deacons: *Judy Rutter* (class of 2025), *Barbara Musgrave* and *Drew Woods* (class of 2026)

Elders: *John Yust* (class of 2025), *Karola Deluca*, *Sue D’Imperio* (class of 2026).

Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting

On January 29th, we will hold our annual meeting of the congregation and corporation after the worship service. This is an important meeting where the work of the church in the last year is reviewed, the new year’s budget is shared, and the goals and plans for the congregation can be discussed as a community. Please plan on attending if you are able.

Thank You to Those Who Have Served!

As we prepare to bring in a new group of officers to the Session and Deacon Board, we want to thank those who have served the congregation as officers: Deacon *Mavis Mattadeen*, as well as Elders *Mike Allison* and *Jack Dayton*. You have all served God and the entire congregation by your efforts and you are all appreciated!

Session Summary

The session met on December 20th. Matters discussed included the following:

- † Approved the Pastor’s request to use a few days of left-over vacation time the week of December 25th.
- † Approved the creation of new designated accounts for Gifts from the Heart, Colombia Kids, and Children’s Hunger project donations. This will help the bookkeeper ensure monies designated for these causes are clearly marked for distribution.
- † Approved a non-budgeted expenditure to cover a shortage in flower funds.
- † Reviewed and approved the 2023 budget with amendments (exact figure of 2023 insurance)
- † Renewed discussion from November meeting of holding a non-perishable food drive / event. Need to recruit 3 leaders to keep working on ideas.
- † Received Nominating Committee report and approved calling a congregational meeting January

8th for the purpose of electing officers.

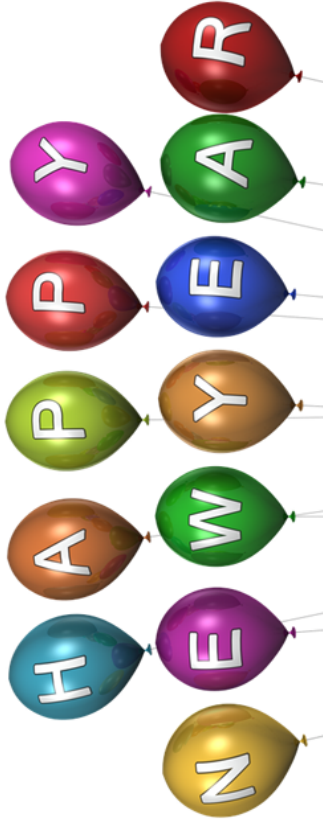
- † Approved calling the Annual Congregational meeting for January 29th, 2023.
- † Treasurer’s Report: The surplus increased in November by over \$13,000. Overall, the church is doing very well in limiting its expenses and is under budget in that regard. We anticipate December to have higher bills as the first quarter insurance payment will be made, but are confident we will end the year in the black.
- † Average Monthly Expenses: \$18,842.58
- † Actual Expenses in November: \$16,459.92
- † Contributions in November: \$29,964.27
- † Income year-to-date: \$203,659.59
- † Expenses year-to-date: \$182,652.51
- † Surplus year-to-date: \$21,007.08

Word from the Herd

We know many have been faithfully praying for our son, Darryl. Yesterday we received the best Christmas present ever, his recent CT scan came back, “No new evidence of cancer or areas of concern.” He further said that next they will on Jan 3 “restart chemo for 12 weeks to be sure all the little cooties in my bloodstream & tissues are well and truly clobbered.” All going well, he can then truly get his strength back without chemo and surgeries taking their toll. We all realize this will be with him long term, but next year should be so much better than this one. Thanks again for your prayers and celebrate with us and pray the “cooties” stay away long term.

Blessings and Merry Christmas, John and Monia





January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	3 10:30 am DAILY BREAD 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	4 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	5 6:15 pm NA	6 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	7
8 10:00 am WORSHIP CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS	9 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	10 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	11 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND 6:00 pm ADMIN	12 6:15 pm NA	13 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	14
15 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS MEETING WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	16 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	17 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION	18 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	19 6:15 pm NA	20 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	21
22 10:00 am WORSHIP	23 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	24 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	25 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	26 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 6:15 pm NA	27 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	28
29 10:00 am WORSHIP 5 PER MEAL ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	30 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	31 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS				

IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>January 1 Read Galatians 4:4-5 Why is it that God sent salvation in the form of a child? How do children change us and change the world around them?</p>	<p>January 2 Read Galatians 4:6 Normally, having a child makes you a parent. In this case, Jesus' birth makes it possible for us to be children. What is the best part of this?</p>	<p>January 3 Read Galatians 4:7 The positions listed are dramatically different: slave, child, heir. What are the roles and responsibilities of each?</p>
<p>January 4 Read Luke 2:25-26 Simeon had a connection to God that led him to know the Spirit's will, but he had to wait a long time for it to come to fruition.</p>	<p>January 5 Read Luke 2:27 Simeon and Jesus were not at the temple at the same time by accident - Simeon was still responsive to God's prodding to show up.</p>	<p>January 6 Read Luke 2:28-32 Simeon rejoices, but not for the end of his wait - he rejoices for the salvation God is sending to the whole world!</p>
<p>January 7 Read Luke 2:33 Joseph and Mary went to the temple to follow a tradition, but instead discovered they were in the midst of the Spirit's work.</p>	<p>January 8 Read Matthew 2:1-2 Of all the people in the world who might have seen the star, only three made the journey to find Jesus. Why do you think they made the effort?</p>	<p>January 9 Read Matthew 2:3-4 Of all the possible reactions to the birth of Jesus, Herod feared it. Is there anything you fear losing because of Jesus in your life?</p>
<p>January 10 Read Matthew 2:5-6 Have you ever felt forgotten? Abandoned? How would it feel for God to tell you that you will never be either?</p>	<p>January 11 Read Matthew 2:7-8 Herod both seeks out information on the birth of the new king while hiding his actions at the same time.</p>	<p>January 12 Read Matthew 2:9-10 When the wise men started out, they did not know how long they would journey. Their joy at reaching the end must have been immense.</p>
<p>January 13 Read Matthew 2:11 The gifts given to Jesus are indications of his purpose in the world - they brought him personal presents, not just fancy ones.</p>	<p>January 14 Read Matthew 2:12 The wise men return home by another road, refusing to be participants in Herod's plans to use them for information.</p>	<p>January 15 Read Isaiah 49:1 Isaiah wants all to pay attention to his proclamation, but why might he think it is important to state when God chose him?</p>

Prayer is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>January 16 Read Isaiah 49:2-3 The images Isaiah uses for his words are weapons - what experiences do you have with words being used to hurt? How do they do this?</p>	<p>January 17 Read Isaiah 49:4 Even though Isaiah recognizes he has used his gifts wrongly in the past, he still believes in them, the one who gave them, and the purpose behind it.</p>	<p>January 18 Read Isaiah 49:5-6 Isaiah knows that God's plans are big because he cares for all peoples, not just one group in one place in one time.</p>
<p>January 19 Read John 1:29-31 John the Baptist's purpose has always been to prepare others for Jesus' coming. What does he do now that they are both on the scene?</p>	<p>January 20 Read John 1:32-34 John has always known who Jesus is - why do you think his testimony about him was about what others would have seen at the Jordan River?</p>	<p>January 21 Read John 1:35-39 Notice that though John points others towards Christ, they still have to choose to seek Jesus out and choose to follow him.</p>
<p>January 22 Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 What is it about a common purpose that brings people together? What causes divisions within groups?</p>	<p>January 23 Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-12 With the world being a place where people can be easily divided, how important is it to find a place where you belong?</p>	<p>January 24 Read 1 Corinthians 1:13 What does our arguments and divisions with other believers do to our witness for Jesus? Knowing this, why do we keep doing it?</p>
<p>January 25 Read 1 Corinthians 1:14-17 Paul doesn't regret baptizing members of the church in Corinth as much as how it might give people reason to argue.</p>	<p>January 26 Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 Paul doesn't want people crediting him with anything, he wants their focus on Christ. This will also unify everyone rather than dividing them.</p>	<p>January 27 Read Psalm 27:1 Do you feel more confident when you know you are standing on solid ground? What confidence does knowing you are God's give you?</p>
<p>January 28 Read Psalm 27:4-5 What do you understand the desire behind this request to be? A hiding place? Proximity? Belonging? How would you make this prayer your own?</p>	<p>January 29 Read Matthew 5:1-3 Jesus' teachings flip a lot of ideas on their head – those experiencing troubles were thought to be cursed by God, not loved by him.</p>	<p>January 30 Read Matthew 5:4-5 Have you ever experienced any emotion, attitude, or situation that felt like it would never end? How powerful are God's promises are resolution?</p>
<p>January 31 Read Matthew 5:6 What is the difference in desiring righteousness instead of justice, or vindication, or revenge? What is the inspiration and goal of righteousness?</p>	<p>February 1 Read Matthew 5:7-8 How often are the people who are merciful or pure in heart seen as weak? What kind of strength of character and action does it take to be this way?</p>	<p>February 2 Read Matthew 5:9 To be a peacemaker, one cannot choose one sides' needs, wants, or attitudes over the objective of making peace. How hard is it to do this?</p>