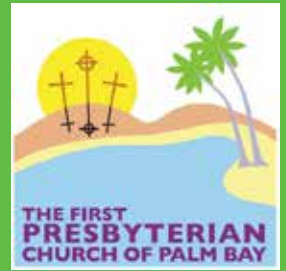




The CHIMES Newsletter

FEBRUARY 1, 2023



Pastor's Thoughts



As I shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting, I have a plan for this year's newsletters to celebrate and lift up

something special each month about the church, the work that we do together, what we are accomplishing as God's people, and ways in which we can expand and share these joys with the community around us.

This month, I want to celebrate the work that First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay does in missions. One of the first things that I learned about the church when I came here to be the pastor was that there was a deep commitment to helping others through the many mission programs of the church, supporting them through giving and in-person volunteering.

To this day, we have volunteers who work with Daily Bread each month. We have members who volunteer their personal time to help at local hospitals, the Sharing Center, Meals on Wheels, go on mission trips, build with Habitat for Humanity, the Women's Center, and more. We collect items, take up offerings, and distribute food and goods to people and organizations throughout the year. And if our recognition gets in the way of carrying out the mission, we shelve

the opportunity to get thank you notes or take pictures for the newsletter and prioritize the help getting to where it is needed.

There is a lot to celebrate when it comes to mission here at FPC. There is the amount that gets done (seriously – every month we are supporting something new), there is the variety of what we are supporting (food, children, housing, migrant workers, clothing, toys, school supplies, and more), and there is the reach of what is supported through the church (local, state, national, and international programs).

It isn't always easy to see the cumulative effect of the programs that we support. Usually, there are small "thank you" articles that will appear in the Chimes in following months, and if you look in the budget documents, you don't see how much comes in and flows out through the designated funds, which is where mission program giving often goes through. I appreciated the Treasurer sharing at the Annual Meeting that in 2022, more than \$25,000 was given through all of the mission programs of the church. That is over 10% of the annual budget.

This year, we would like to do something new to support a long-time partner of the church. The South Brevard Sharing Center is a community-based agency whose mission is to

support, strengthen, and empower families to achieve self-sufficiency in our area of the county. They do this through food, clothing, household items, and financial vouchers. Our hope is to put together a community event along our street that will see churches, businesses, and families working together to amass items to stock the pantry at SBSC. We want to host a celebration event for this at our church, and I am looking for some volunteers to help me plan this, and to help spread the word along Port Malabar.

In all that we do, we exemplify what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves. And we do our best to make sure that God gets the glory – we choose to partner with programs and organizations who make it clear that it is the love of Christ in our lives that inspires us to be generous with others. Well done, FPC. Let's keep up the good work!



Where Does the 5 Cents a Meal Money Go?

In 2022 your 5 cents helped plant millions of trees and start vegetable gardens in Guatemala and Madagascar; enabled Society of St Andrew and Second Harvest to provide nutritious food for hungry people across Florida, and emergency food relief to thousands of people who lost their homes in the hurricanes.

A portion of Your 5 cents stayed right here in Central Florida Presbytery's own congregations in the form of small grants to churches providing hunger relief in their own communities. Merritt Island, St. Luke's (Titusville) and Markham Woods received small grants in 2022 – "The grant money has and is being used towards our preschool food pantry. The food pantry will be used to help our preschool teachers and families in need." (Merritt Island Church). St. Luke's used their small grant to support their 'Meals for Moms and Dads' program which supplies monthly groceries to 9 families in their community. "The PATH grant also helped us provide a complete Thanksgiving meal to five families, in addition to the monthly groceries.(St Luke's). The PATH committee awarded small grants to two churches in 2023 for their hunger programs, Merritt Island and First Presbyterian, Eustis.

In addition to the small grants, the 12% of donations kept within the Presbytery helps fund a part-time staff person at Presbytery (Barbara Sayles, the Hunger Action Enable), creation of materials like posters and placemats that are made available at no cost to churches, and obtaining envelopes that churches can use for taking up 5 cents a meal donations. The other organizations and amount of support they receive from the 5 cents a meal program are listed below:

Alliance for International Reforestation (20%) AIR's mission is to transform the lives of indigenous Guatemalans, who suffer among the highest malnutrition rates in our hemisphere. Through restoring the timber-stripped mountainsides into fertile land and teaching sustainable farming techniques, AIR breathes life and health into the land and the people. AIR establishes tree nurseries, plants trees, provides environmental education for teachers and farmers, installs cisterns, and builds fuel-efficient brick ovens.

Second Harvest Food Bank (27%) - Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a private, non-profit organization that collects and distributes donated food to more than 550 non-profit partner agencies in six Central Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia. After opening its new facility in 2012, Second Harvest now distributes approximately 56 million meals every year. PATH funding helps cover freight costs for food distribution.

Society of St. Andrew (21%) - Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) is a private national non-profit organization that partners with local farmers and coordinates thousands of volunteers to enter the fields and groves and even back yards of private homeowners to glean fresh fruits and vegetables that would not be harvested for size or blemish reasons. SoSA distributes 3-4 million pounds of fresh produce to food banks, pantries and shelters. In 2015 SoSA distributed 4.2 mil pounds of nutritious food with 4,029 participating volunteers. PATH funding supports the Florida Regional Gleaning Network.

Madagascar (20%) - Dr. Daniel Turk (Elizabeth) – Madagascar (PC-USA Mission Workers): In 2015 PATH voted to fund a new project in Madagascar under the leadership of Dan Turk. This project trains Seminary students at Ivato, Mandritsara, Fianarantsoa, and Befeta Seminaries to plant and grow fruit trees and vegetables. This training will be a valuable tool for students when they graduate and pastor churches in rural areas of Madagascar, where growing food is not seen as a hobby or past time, but as an important means of survival and self-sustenance.

Did You Know...

FPC hosts three different groups that support individuals and families that are affected by addiction? We host a Monday afternoon Al-Anon group, a Monday Evening Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for women, and a Thursday night Narcotics Anonymous meeting. All of these groups have expressed appreciation for the church hosting their meetings and take up love offerings to support the church in thanks for the use of the space.

Thank You for Your Support of The Children's Hunger Project in 2022.



With your generous gifts, we are able to provide weekend nutrition to 3,500 deserving students in 53 Brevard County elementary schools each week. Because of donors like you, we move closer to accomplishing our goal of providing essential weekend nutrition to every at-risk Brevard County student. Thank you for joining us as we strive to provide every kid the right to healthy and nutritious food, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential. So many of the kids we serve do not have the ability to provide for themselves and we willingly take on the task to support their basic need.



Thanks for Supporting Colombia Kids

Here at First Presbyterian, we have been supporting Colombia Kids for a number of years. Colombia Kids was started by the children of Bill and Kathryn Wood, parents of Celia Keen, and longtime missionaries in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to Colombia, South America. They dedicated their work to improving the lives of Colombian children. Their efforts lifted children and families from desperate situations to lives of hope and prosperity. Colombia Kids, with the help of donors, continues their legacy by making possible educational opportunities for under served children and families in Colombia.



Young children receiving instruction from the leaders in Cartagena.

Currently we have programs running in three cities in Colombia. A Special Offering will be taken on Sunday, February 5th to support this program. Below is a note from them about the work they do.

In Cartagena, 85 children ranging in age from 3 to 16 gather every weekend for art, singing, worship and other activities. The program also serves lunch to 120 children each weekday and breakfast on Sundays, helping to address the difficult economic situation in the community. A recent report in Cartagena noted that 68% of families in Cartagena did not have sufficient resources to provide more than two meals a day for their children. Our Cartagena program helps to fill that gap.

In Armenia, at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Homework Club meets daily with twenty children from disadvantaged and immigrant families with many social and financial needs. Two dedicated professionals provide educational support reinforcing math, reading, English, arts and music. The staff also assists the families of the children with groceries. The program provides healthy snacks and assistance with purchase of school supplies, school shoes and other necessities.

In Cali (pronounced "Collie") we partner with a Methodist church, and the big, exciting news this year is they have expanded by finding a permanent location to host activities right in the neighborhood where the children live. Now, up to 90 children are meeting each Saturday, organized by age group, for homework assistance in math and reading, movie time, monthly birthday celebrations and parenting skills seminars for the parents in the neighborhood. Soon they will be expanding their food service, recognizing that poverty and hunger are a constant threat to the healthy development of the children, by serving eighty special nutritious snacks each Saturday.

Colombia Kids works with their amazing partners, churches and program leaders to serve the children and their families with compassion, love, and great imagination. The financial contributions by First Presbyterian and other churches and individuals make it all possible. You are putting kids on a positive path to overcome their social and economic challenges.

Thank you for your continued support of Colombia Kids.



We served over 1,500 families in 2022 thanks to your support. These numbers are a testament to our community-powered approach and your willingness to invest in local families. The need in our community is great, and together, we are capable of impacting so many lives.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Class is continuing their look at 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!

BIBLE STUDY

Lenten Studies: Savior

The Bible uses many images to understand the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection. But how exactly does Jesus' death on the cross become the means of salvation for those who believe in him? By studying the images in scripture and learning about different theories of atonement, we can deepen our gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and strengthen our commitment to follow him.

The Lenten study this year will use the book *Savior* by Magret R. deVega, to explore six ways to understand how it is that Jesus' death on the cross provides salvation for us all through examination of various atonement theories. The study will begin on March 1st and run through April 29th. Classes will be held at both noon and 6:00 p.m. and are open for anyone who wishes to attend, so consider bringing a friend to the study.

Sign-up sheets will be in the sanctuary beginning on February 12th. There will be books available for \$5, so we need a good head count of how many people wish to participate. We would also like to bring back the practice of sharing in a simple meal during Lenten studies, so we will be looking for volunteers to make soup and bring in bread each week.

Happy
Wedding
Anniversary

Cheryl & Grady Evans
February 6

The Senior Luncheon

February's Senior Luncheon will be held Thursday the 23rd, 11:30 a.m. at Shells, 1490 W New Haven Ave, Melbourne, 32904. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be January 20th.



Thank You to those who
blessed us in worship in
January

Elders of Month: Jamie Woods,
Clyde Yust

Ushers: John & Monia Yust, Mike
Nardelli, Karola Deluca, Judy Rutter,
Ron Shane, Jim Corton, Elvie
Marshall, Marsha Carter, Evelyn Cox

Flowers Donated By: Chris & Debra
Cox, John & Monia Yust, Donna
Aguilera, Lorraine Blair, Tom Glew



Emmy Wohlenberg
February 4

Stephen Dixon
February 8

Kaylee Clark
February 10

Phyllis Stone
February 10

Lorraine Burns
February 11

Ronnie Dayton
February 14

Judy Irvine
February 15

Rosa Doig
February 24

Cali Karnetsky
February 24

Susan Allison
February 26

Mark Cather
February 26

Fran Phillips
February 26



2023 Special Offerings Calendar

Each month, we will take up the 5 Cents a Meal offering on the last Sunday of the month.

February 5 – **Colombia Kids**

March 5 – **Shoe Mission**

April 9 – **One Great Hour of Sharing**

April 23 – May 7 – **Mother's Day Goods (Operation Hope)**

May 28 – **Pentecost Offering**

June 4 & 11 – **Father's Day Goods (Operation Hope)**

July 16 & 23 – **Back to School Supplies (Operation Hope)**

August 13 – **Shoe Mission**

September 3 – **Children's Hunger Program (Backpacks)**

October 1 – **E.C.H.O.**

November 5 – **Thanksgiving Baskets**

November 12-December 3 – **Tag Tree Gifts**

December 3 – **Christmas Baskets**

December 17 – **Joy Offering**

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? There are still dates available in March, April, June, July, and October. Please sign up on the new chart in the sanctuary or call the office at (321) 725-8484 to reserve your desired spot(s).

Session Summary

The session met on January 17th. Matters discussed included the following:

- † The audit of the 2021 fiscal year was approved, with recommendations by the auditors for improvements on the instructions also approved.
- † Session approved the hiring out of debris removal from the hurricanes, with an expenditure of up to \$600 from the General Grounds Maintenance line item.
- † John Yust reported on investigations he had done for water flow actuator, which would help prevent leaks in the future. It was approved to spend up to \$1000 from capital reserve funds to get actuators installed for both buildings.
- † The Special Offerings Calendar will be sent out to session members for approval by email, but it was moved and approved to hold the special offering for Colombia Kids on February 5th, and for 5 Cents a Meal offerings to be taken at the last Sunday of each month.
- † It was approved by Session to have communion served the first Sunday of each month through January 2024, as well as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.
- † It was approved to invite Deacons

to assist with the serving of communion elements in worship services and to shut-ins as needed.

- † The election of Sam Musgrave as Treasurer and Clyde Yust as Clerk of Session for 2023.
- † Treasurer's Report: The end of the year had a strong finish, which puts the church in good position for the coming year. In all areas, expenses were kept under control and the quarterly reviews are helpful in this area.
- † Average Monthly Expenses: \$18,842.58
- † Actual Expenses in December: \$16,069.17
- † Contributions in December: \$22,941.77
- † Income for 2022: \$219,728.76
- † Expenses for 2022: \$205,594.28
- † Surplus end-of-year: \$14,134.48

The session adjourned to the Corporation Board meeting. At that meeting, David Collins was elected as president and Jamie Woods was elected to be Vice President in 2023. Sam Musgrave and Clyde Yust will serve as Treasurer and Secretary of the Corporation, respectively, by virtue of their offices.

Word from the Herd

The Rev. Dr. Edward (Ed) Harold Barrett Riedesel passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community in Harrisonburg, Virginia where he had been a resident for the past fourteen years. Dr. Riedesel was a previous Interim Minister here at First Presbyterian, Palm Bay.

Fedmin Davis passed away on Wednesday, January 18th. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held Friday, February 3rd at 11:00 a.m., with a viewing to be held beforehand at 10:00 a.m. and an interment and repast following the service at Florida Memorial Gardens.





February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	2 6:15 pm NA	3 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	4
5 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING FOR COLOMBIA KIDS	6 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	7 1:30 pm CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	8 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND 6:00 pm ADMIN	9 6:15 pm NA	10 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	11
12 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	13 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	14 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	15 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	16 6:15 pm NA	17 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	18
19 10:00 am WORSHIP 4:00 pm NEW MEMBERS DINNER	20 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	21 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	22 12:00 BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	23 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 6:15 pm NA	24 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	25
26 10:00 am WORSHIP 5 PER MEAL DEACONS MEETING	27 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	28 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>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>	<p>February 3 Read Matthew 5:10 What are some of the reasons for which a person might be persecuted? Why is it that being such for righteousness sake seems a virtue?</p>
<p>February 4 Read Matthew 5:11-12 Can you think of who was rejected for their faith and what it caused them to support or advocate? Why does our faith lead to such conflicts?</p>	<p>February 5 Read Deuteronomy 30:15 When laid out as options, life and death seem pretty easy to choose from. But they are actually the consequences of much harder choices.</p>	<p>February 6 Read Deuteronomy 30:15-16 When reading the full list of what leads to life, what do you think looks the most difficult, even with the promised rewards for being obedient?</p>
<p>February 7 Read Deuteronomy 30:17-18 Knowing the consequence of not following the Lord, why is it still so easy to turn away from God and pursue something else?</p>	<p>February 8 Read Deuteronomy 30:17-18 To be "led astray" implies that someone or something else is doing the leading? What or who, either internal or external, might it be?</p>	<p>February 9 Read Deuteronomy 30:19 The choice made affects not just the individual, but their descendants as well. Why do you think that blessings and curses snowball like this?</p>
<p>February 10 Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20 The choice made affects not just the individual, but their descendants as well. Why do you think that blessings and curses snowball like this?</p>	<p>February 11 Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20 How does the list in verse 20 compare to the one in 16? Do you see any differences or is it just a summary of the previous commands?</p>	<p>February 12 Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-2 What are the ways people try to get attention? What are things we do to impress others, and why do we put the effort into doing so?</p>
<p>February 13 Read 1 Corinthians 2:2-3 Paul shares that he presented a message of shame as one of pride, and that he himself appeared weak rather than strong – why?</p>	<p>February 14 Read 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 Paul gets to his reasons in this verse – he wanted Christ to be the main focal point, and God's power to be clearly seen, rather than his own.</p>	<p>February 15 Read 1 Corinthians 2:5 People, their abilities, and their understanding will always fail in the long-term, but God's goodness clearly lasts forever.</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>February 16 Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-7 Paul wants people to know Christ's actions and teachings may not make sense in this world, but are sensible and in alignment with God's actions.</p>	<p>February 17 Read 1 Corinthians 2:8-10 Only those with the Spirit can see God's wisdom in his actions. If everyone could do so, they would behave in a very different way.</p>	<p>February 18 Read 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 Paul presents the ability we have in the Spirit, but also our choice – will we listen to the wisdom of the world, or the wisdom that comes from the Spirit?</p>
<p>February 19 Read Matthew 16:21-28 Jesus has just spent a lot of time teaching his disciples that he must die and be raised, and that to follow him would mean suffering. What's next?</p>	<p>February 20 Read Matthew 17:1 Jesus takes three disciples aside – why, do you think? Are they the most trusted? Do they need remedial teaching? Is this an experiment?</p>	<p>February 21 Read Matthew 17:2-3 Jesus suddenly stands in full power and authority, with heroic companions. What meanings and impact do you read into this moment?</p>
<p>February 22 Read Matthew 17:4 Peter's response is to stay in this spot and set up houses. Why do we work so hard to hold onto moments that bring us joy and peace?</p>	<p>February 23 Read Matthew 17:5-6 The disciples react to the voice with fear - why are they afraid now when they were so content and joyful a moment ago?</p>	<p>February 24 Read Matthew 17:7-8 Another change – as Jesus tells the disciples to rise, they find themselves alone with Jesus. How might they feel at this point?</p>
<p>February 25 Read Matthew 17:9 After such an exciting day, Jesus tells the disciples to keep everything a secret for now. Would you be able to? How hard would it be?</p>	<p>February 26 Read Matthew 4:1-2 If we had the choice, we would choose a strong position to resist temptation from. Why would Jesus weaken himself first?</p>	<p>February 27 Read Matthew 4:3 Satan challenges Jesus to exercise his authority over the physical world to relieve his hunger. When do we give into our hungers?</p>
<p>February 28 Read Matthew 4:4 Jesus responds by pointing out our spiritual needs are just as important as the physical, and we cannot starve one for the other.</p>	<p>March 1 Read Matthew 4:5-6 Satan's next challenge is to show his mastery over the forces of heaven, but Jesus is fully human – what do you think he is trying to accomplish?</p>	<p>March 2 Read Matthew 4:7 Jesus chooses not to use his divine nature, power, or authority to force his will, but to accept the limitations of his humanity in this struggle.</p>
<p>March 3 Read Matthew 4:8-9 Satan now offers Jesus power in the way that the world views it – adulation, riches, political power. Why is this a trap?</p>		