

First Presbyterian
Church of Palm Bay

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February, 2026

The CHIMES

Pastor's Thoughts



You may have heard me announce that I will be out of town the first week of

February as a continuation of my Sabbatical time. When we wrote the Pastoral portion of the Renewal plans, I built in two, week-long “check-in” times for me to take in the year after I went away on the main part of my journeys. These are supposed to be intentional times of reflection and accountability, where I can ask whether I’ve fallen back into old habits in my leadership of the church or continued to seek healthy growth in my personal and professional life.

During the first week of February, I’ve made plans to go to New Jersey and stay at Princeton Theological Seminary, where I studied for ministry. While not the best season to be there (it’s going to be FREEZING!), I wanted to

be present at a time when students were present on campus and regular worship services were held in order to reflect on my vocation as a pastor and my commitment to being a lifelong learner. It will be an opportunity to remember the journey I took in becoming a pastor and consider the ways I have grown as a person and minister in the time I have been privileged to serve at FPC Palm Bay.

I’ve also set myself a research project to work on in the seminary library. From time to time, I have considered working on a Doctoral degree, but it has now been a long time since I’ve had to do the academic research and writing associated with the classes involved. I also am not sure it would make me a better minister, which is a big part of the consideration. There is also the time involved, and whether I would want to

engage in a multi-year course of study that would take time from my family and hobbies. Therefore, I picked a topic of personal curiosity, which is comparing the various Temples in Jerusalem in the Old Testament, and I’m going to see how it feels to dive into some research again while questioning whether I want to pursue further academic study going forward.

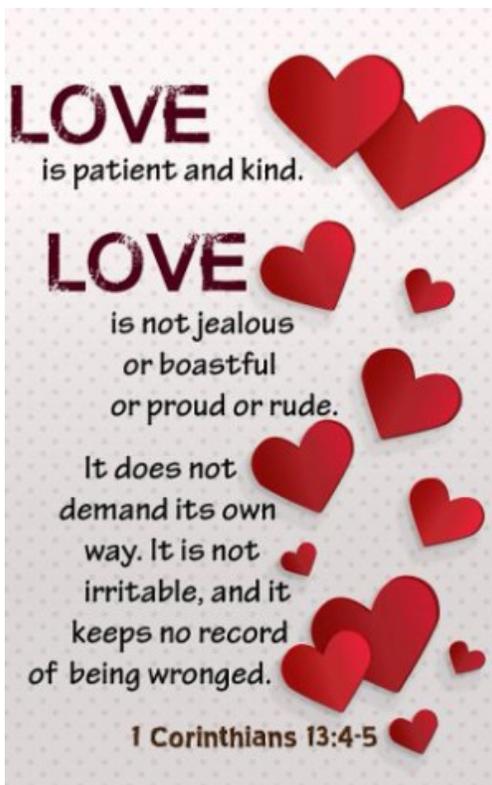
Finally, I’m going to soak in the opportunity to be in a place that holds a lot of fond memories. I’ll be visiting a favorite pancake restaurant, coffee shop, and possibly ice cream place, and spending a lot of time in the seminary chapel and dining hall, enjoying the atmosphere of being in a place where so many people are committed to loving and following Jesus, and helping others to do the same. Please pray for my journeys and that this opportunity for reflection and discernment bears fruit!

Thank you to our Elders who have finished their terms of office!

As we welcome new officers to the Session and Deacon Board, let us take a moment to acknowledge the work of those who are rotating off those bodies:

On the Session side, Karola Deluca and Anna Wood are completing terms as elders. Karola chaired our Fellowship Committee, so you may have seen her in the kitchen during church dinners! Anna was in charge of our Christian Education Committee, and worked a lot behind the scenes to ensure there were activities and coloring sheets for children in worship, recruit people to be potential Bible Study or Small Group leaders, and also served as an elder representative to the Nominating Committee this year.

Thank you to these officers who are now taking an opportunity to rest from their work – you have our deepest appreciation!



February Special Offering

The February Special Offering will be taken up on Sunday, February 1st in support of Colombia Kids. This organization was established by the children of Bill and Kathryn Wood, missionaries to Colombia for over 35 years. The goal of Colombia Kids is to provide a means for to support educational opportunities for at-risk children in Colombia, South America, giving them a pathway to an improved life.

They began the organization by targeting existing organizations in Colombia and then expanded their reach and now partner with the Fe Y Esperanza Methodist Church in Cartagena, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Armenia, and the Casa de Oracion Methodist Church in Cali – all of their partners work with children in their area to help love and care for school-aged children.



COLOMBIA KIDS



NON PROFIT

Growing Learning Loving

This past spring, 15 supporters went on a first-ever 10-day learning journey to the Colombia Kids

programs to see the work first hand. Participants experienced the culture and beauty of Colombia, learned about their mission and met the volunteers and children! They hope that the next trip will be in 2027.

The first recipients of the Eunice Caicedo Meneses Scholarship are in their third semester of studies at Institucion Universitaria Antonia Jose Camacho. They hope to open more scholarship opportunities.

In their annual message, the Colombia Kids board said, “thank you for being part of our mission to help children learn, grow, and love in the light of God’s love. Your support makes a lasting impact, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Thank you from Children’s Hunger Program

Thank you for your generous support of The Children’s Hunger Project throughout 2025. Because of your kindness and commitment, we are able to provide weekend nutrition to 4,800 deserving students across 60 Brevard County elementary schools each week. Your contributions make a real and immediate difference in the lives of children who rely on us for consistent nutrition and the comfort of knowing they won’t go hungry on weekends.

Your compassion fuels our mission. It is because of caring donors like you that we are able to continue offering both hope and nourishment to the children who need it most.

We look forward to your continued support and to sharing our successes with you in the future. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Cheryl Cominsky, Executive Director

2026 Special Offerings Calendar

January	25	5¢ per meal
February	1 22	Colombia Kids 5¢ per meal
March	1 29 29	Shoe Mission 5¢ per meal One Great Hour of Sharing
April	26 19+26	5¢ per meal Mother's Day Goods (Op Hope)
May	3 31 31	Mother's Day Goods (Op Hope) Father's Day Fans (Op Hope) 5¢ per meal
June	7 & 14 28	Father's Day Fans (Op Hope) 5¢ per meal
July	5 & 12 26	Back-to-School supplies (Op Hope) 5¢ per meal
August	2 30	Shoe Mission 5¢ per meal
September	6 27	Children's Backpack Program 5¢ per meal
October	4 25	E.C.H.O. 5¢ per meal
November	2 1-22 29	Thanksgiving Baskets Offering Christmas Tag Tree Gifts 5¢ per meal
December	6 13 27	Christmas Baskets Offering Joy Offering 5¢ per meal



Word from the Herd

With full confidence of the hope of the Resurrection, we share that Jim Lilley passed away January 18th. As we gain information about a memorial service held it will be announced in the bulletin and at worship.

The osprey cam is back! John and Monia Yust have an osprey pair that have nested on top of their dock for many years, building nests, laying and hatching eggs, and raising chicks. They've set up a camera to catch the activity of the pair and live-stream video for all to see. If you would like to watch the ospreys, search for Brevard Osprey Nest on Youtube!



Remember, Ash Wednesday is February 18th! This begins the Lenten Season.

2026 Lenten Study:

24 Hours that Changed the World by Adam Hamilton

Walk with Jesus on his final day.

Sit beside him at the Last Supper.

Pray with him in Gethsemane.

Follow him to the cross.

Desert him. Deny him.

Experience the Resurrection.

This year's Lenten Study is a book that takes readers through the 24 hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter covers a moment of his last day that is designed to help illustrate and explain the suffering and death that he endures. Our group study will include videos to accompany our discussions that were filmed on location in Jerusalem to help put image to text and bring the story to life in a new way.

The author of this book is Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Our Lenten Studies will meet each Wednesday from February 18th (Ash Wednesday) through March 25th. There will be a class at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and they will last about an hour and a half. At each session, we will share a simple meal of soup and bread and then discuss a chapter of the book. Questions are always welcome, so please come and bring your voice to the table!

There are sign up sheets in the sanctuary to let us know you would like to participate in the study (we will be ordering books, so we need to know how many to get!), as well as signing up to bring soup or bread to one day of the study. If you have questions, or any food allergies, please talk with Pastor Debra.

Sunday School Class

The Sunday School class, under the leadership of Chris Cox, has started their study of the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings. These books cover the transition of reign between King David and King Solomon and subsequent rulers as the nation divides. Some kings keep covenant with God and lead their people with righteousness, and other lead the people astray. Throughout it all, God offers blessings and holds his people accountable for their disobedience.

The class meets on all Sundays EXCEPT the Second Sunday of the month at 8:45 a.m. in the CE Building Library. All are welcome to join!

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study has been talking about the Old Testament Prophetic Book of Ezekiel. The class will not be meeting on the 4th, but will have one last meeting on Wednesday the 11th to finish our discussion of Ezekiel before Lenten Studies start. We meet at noon in the CE Building Library. All are welcome to attend and to bring a lunch or snack!

Flower Chart Signups

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 2026 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).



Happy
Wedding
Anniversary

Cheryl & Grady Evans

February 6

Senior Luncheon



Senior Luncheon for February will be held Thursday, February 26th at 11:30 a.m. at Longhorn's Steakhouse, 255 Palm Bay Rd. NE., West Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Corton at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day to sign up will be February 22nd.

Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in January

Elder of Month: **Clyde Yust, Sue D'Imperio**

Ushers: **Robert & Linda Riggleman, Brian & Sue Clark, Marsha Corton, Chris Cox, Evelyn Cox, Nancy Cox, Carolyn Teal, Brian Young, Marylynn Yust, Sue D'Imperio**

Flowers Donated By: **Marsha Corton, Cindi Cundari, Judy Irvine, Tom Glew**

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Bill McMaster

February 3

Emmy Wohlenberg

February 4

Lorraine Burns

February 11

Kevin Oldenboom

February 12

Ronnie Dayton

February 14

Judy Irvine

February 15

Rosa Doig

February 24

Susan Allison

February 26

Mark Cather

February 26

Fran Phillips

February 26



Session Summary

Session met for its January stated meeting on Tuesday the 20th. Matters discussed included the following:

- Session upheld the examination of Patty Darcy to be ordained and installed as a Deacon and Nancy Cox to be installed as an Elder, contingent upon their election by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.
- Session confirmed votes that were approved unanimously over email, which included updating the 2026 budget, contracting with a cleaning company for janitorial work, approving an insurance policy, and the calling of the Annual Congregation and Corporation meeting for January 25th.
- Accepted the resignation of Terry Twardzik and approved Anna Wood as the new Receiving Treasurer.
- Approved the 2026 Special Offerings Calendar
- Approved inviting Lucas Pina to be our Guest Preacher on Sunday, February 8th.
- Discussed and Tabled a motion related to holding a Rummage Sale in 2026—we need to have a plan in place for what will be done with leftover items before we begin collecting any.

Treasurer's Report: We ended 2025 with a surplus, due in part to payments made by insurance during our flood. All but \$1000 was moved to Capital Reserve.

- Income in 2025: \$206,118.09
- Expenses in 2025: \$205,118.09
- Surplus in 2025: \$1000

Session adjourned to the Corporation Board meeting and elected Jack Dayton president and Judy Irvine vice-president for 2026.

Per Capita 2026

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 2026 will be \$28.26 per active member, divided between General Assembly, Synod, and Central Florida 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.

SUPER BOWL
Party

FEBRUARY 8, 2026
6PM

Bring a food dish to share!

1845 Barkley Ave Melbourne FL 32935

Do Not park on Corner
(Cars drive crazy!)

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE COLUMBIA KIDS SPECIAL OFFERING	2 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	3 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	4 NO BIBLE STUDY	5 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	6	7
8 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	9 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	10 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	11 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 5:00 pm ADMIN MEETING	12 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
15 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACON'S MEETING	16 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	17 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 12 p.m. LENTEN STUDY 6 p.m. LENTEN STUDY	19 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	20	21
22 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	23 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	24 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	25 12 p.m. LENTEN STUDY 6 p.m. LENTEN STUDY	26 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	27	28

IN THE WORD

Daily Devotion

February 1st through February 7th:

Read Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes are one of the most famous (and often quoted) teachings of Jesus in the New Testament. When Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about them, he constructed a visualization of the list as concentric circles, saying that Christians should stand out from the world around them by exemplifying the virtues, enduring the difficulties, and drawing strength from the blessings described, as part of what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. As you read and contemplate the Beatitudes this week, consider whether you agree with Bonhoeffer's thoughts about them, or have your own image of how this teaching of Jesus applies to his followers and all people.

- **February 1:** Matthew's description of the scene makes it clear Jesus is about to deliver a formal teaching. What makes this different than an off-the-cuff quote?
- **February 2:** In verses 3 through 5, Jesus speaks of the poor in spirit, those who mourn, and the meek. Why might someone want to be identified as such? Why not?
- **February 3:** The comfort offered is a promise to those who struggle now that one day, all will be well. How does that promise help us endure? How does it prompt us to act in the face of difficulty, whether others' or our own?
- **February 4:** Verses 6 through 9 focus on a mindset or activity rather than a condition or experience. How closely do the descriptions describe you?
- **February 5:** How might the promises of verses 6 through 9 help people in their determination to act in ways that align with God's priorities? Do they inspire? Challenge?
- **February 6:** In verses 10-11, Jesus talks about those who are persecuted and reviled for their faith. What stories of persecution or martyrdom are your familiar with that are currently happening around the world?
- **February 7:** In verse 12, Jesus mentions the prophets that were persecuted? What do you know about their stories? Why did people persecute them? What did they do in response?

February 8th through February 14th

Read Matthew 5:13-20

The section of the Sermon on the Mount right after the Beatitudes looks like it holds a couple disparate statements and then a defense of Jesus' own ministry. However, they are not a new thought, but rather a continuation of what Jesus was already teaching in the verses before. Being salt and light in the world means living up to the attitudes and actions described in verses 1-12. And acting in this way is not counter to scriptural law that had been given to God's people. As you reflect on this week's passage, consider how Jesus desires to enkindle a passion for being visible in our personal righteousness and communal service. How do we help each other be visible children and servants of God?

- **February 8:** Salt is used in cooking to draw water out of food, allowing flavors to come through more strongly. What is the "water" in your life you need to address?
- **February 9:** There is a tug-of-war in our spiritual life between knowing we should be doing things to serve God and not basing our value in what we can produce. How do you handle this balance in your life?
- **February 10:** It is frightening to be visible. You are vulnerable to attack and others seek you out for support or safety. How can you prepare to be able to successfully handle becoming visible in your faith to others?
- **February 11:** There is a reminder in verse 16 that as our activity and actions draw attention, we should ensure that the glory is directed at God. How can good attention be a trap? How do we avoid it?
- **February 12:** Jesus often was accused of trying to abolish the law, yet he said he came to fulfill it. How is it possible for people to see the same actions in such different light?
- **February 13:** In verse 19, there is caution against breaking law, but particularly, in teaching others to do the same. Similarly, teaching obedience is praised. Why?
- **February 14:** In verse 20, Jesus aims his people towards a life of righteousness. How have you established your life for this pursuit?

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

February 15th through February 21st:

Read Matthew 4:1-11

The account of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by Satan for 40 days is the basis for the length of the season of Lent. As Ash Wednesday falls this week and Lent begins, read through Jesus' encounter with Satan and the types of arguments Satan used to convince Jesus to abandon his purpose and change his allegiance. How might those translate to temptations in the world today?

- **February 15:** Notice that Satan comes to Jesus after his period of fasting, when he is weak and hungry. How can you care for yourself to guard against evil?
- **February 16:** The first temptation is for Jesus to use his authority to meet his own needs. Why would this course of action be harmful?
- **February 17:** The second temptation is to gain attention and followers through fantastic display. Why is this a dangerous course?
- **February 18:** The third temptation is for political power and authority over nations. Where are the dangers or pitfalls here?
- **February 19:** What are the common threads in Jesus' responses to Satan's temptations? How can we learn from them?
- **February 20:** How does knowledge of scripture help us to know what to do in the face of temptation?
- **February 21:** Ultimately, Jesus refuses all comfort, honor, glory, or authority that Satan offers, choosing instead to keep God as the sole recipient of obedience, honor, and praise. How can we do likewise in our lives?

February 22nd through February 28th:

Read Romans 5:12-19

In this week's passage, Paul makes a comparison between Adam and Jesus as a way of explaining how Jesus' one act of sacrifice would be sufficient to effect the salvation of all people. Paul reminds us that it was through the actions of one person—Adam—that all people are bound to sin, therefore it is reasonable that through the actions of one person—Jesus—we can be freed from that bondage and set free.

- **February 22:** Paul argues that sin predates the giving of the law. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you have insight into what is right and good.
- **February 23:** Paul also points out that the consequence of sin, death, also applies to those not part of the covenants God has established. So too, then, can grace.
- **February 24:** Paul differentiates Jesus' and Adams' actions, due to their differing consequences. What are the drawbacks to on person's actions affecting everyone?
- **February 25:** Paul wants to reassure that Jesus' actions and their effects are real—why would someone be worried otherwise?
- **February 26:** Notice Paul keeps Jesus front and center as being the reason that salvation is possible—our hope needs to be in him alone.
- **February 27:** How does this passage make you understand or appreciate your salvation?
- **February 28:** How does this passage challenge your understanding of how salvation in Jesus Christ is possible, or who it applies to?

March 1st through March 7th:

Read Genesis 12:1-4 & Romans 4:1-5

This week is not a comparison, but a callback—Paul in Romans evokes the significance of Abraham's faithful response to God's call and makes the point that his obedience predates any covenant God established—there was neither the Law received by Moses nor was there the sign of circumcision, which would be instituted by Abraham's son. Therefore, Paul argues, Abraham's faith must be the significant foundation for his relationship with God.

- **March 1:** Put yourself in Abraham's shoes. Even with the promised blessing of God, leaving everything and everyone behind is very hard!
- **March 2:** What do you think it means that through Abraham, all the families of the earth shall be blessed?
- **March 3:** How important do you think it was that Abraham had someone with him that he knew? Lot accompanied him even though there were no promises for Lot.
- **March 4:** Paul holds up Abraham as an example of how faith is more important than works in being considered "worthy" of grace. What do you think about this?
- **March 5:** Is there anything that you do simply because you believe it is pleasing to God? What motivates you to do this?
- **March 6:** Do you love others only because of what they do for you? Why is it common for people to try to "earn" others' regard?
- **March 7:** What do you think it means to trust God? What actions does it prompt you to? What considerations does it prompt you to value?