



**YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FROM**  
*First Presbyterian Church*  
**4437 Clinton Street, Marianna, FL 32446**

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January, 2020

*I hope you all had an extraordinary and meaningful Christmas full of God's hope, peace, joy and love. What a wonderful month with the Sunday School, Circles and Choir parties, the extraordinary Wildflower Brunch, the Children's Christmas Pageant, the Choral Cantata and many special gatherings for children, youth, men's and women's groups. Worship was extra special and God's people gave to help others in generous and meaningful ways.*

*The year 2020 will start off with a Spiritual Growth Campaign called "Transformed." It is based on the Bible verse Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." We will have a series of 7 sermons and 7 Bible Studies on the following areas for "Transformed: How God Changes Us:" spiritual health, physical health, mental health, emotional health, relational health, financial health and your vocational health.*

*A phenomenal workbook will be made available for those who wish to use one to enhance their experience of "Transformed." It is great for small group study and daily devotionals. It includes memory verses, discovery questions, "putting it into practice," help for your prayer life and "diving deeper."*

*Transformation is about more than just putting information in your head. It is about living out what God is working in you. The Bible says "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only." (James 1:22)*

*Conforming means "to make or become the same" or "to behave in a conventional way by accepting without question the customs, traditions and prevailing opinions of others." In other words, to conform is to fit into somebody else's mold; it is to do things the way everybody else does. On the other hand, to transform means to "change the condition, function, nature, character or personality" of something.*

*CONFORMING has to do with Behavior.*

*TRANSFORMING has to do with Character.*

*CONFORMING is from the Outside In.*

*TRANSFORMING is from the Inside Out.*

*CONFORMING is something we do to ourselves.*

*TRANSFORMING is something God does to us.*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY AND DINNER

**Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

*The Bible Study for this series will be Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. We will start with a covered dish dinner and study till about 7:30. There are other ways one can get more out of this study if the Wednesday night group is not for you.*

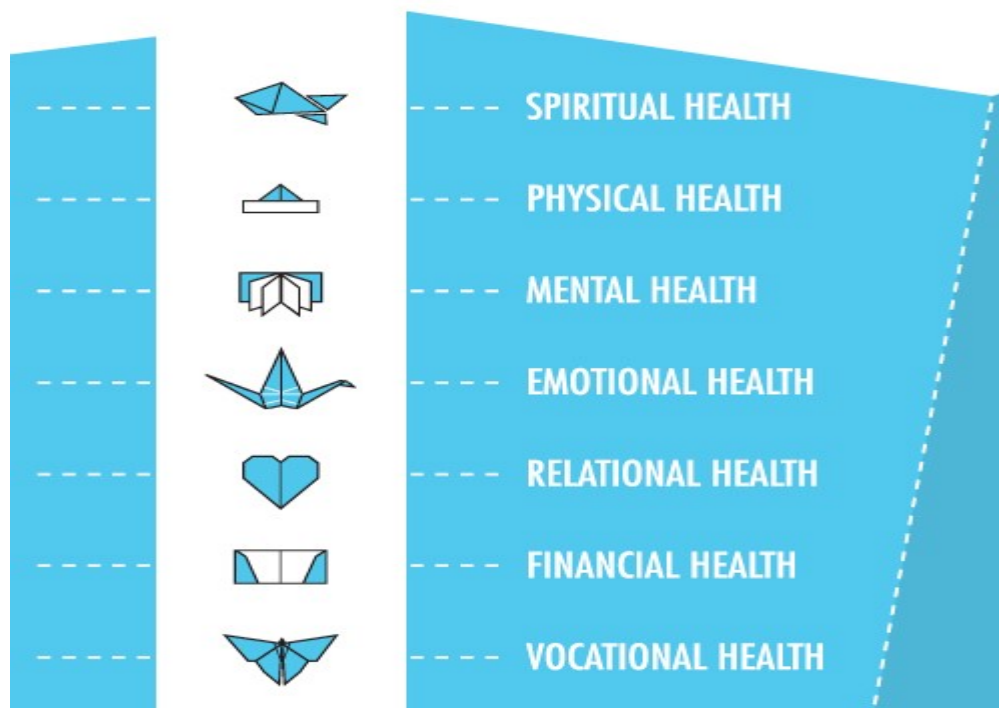


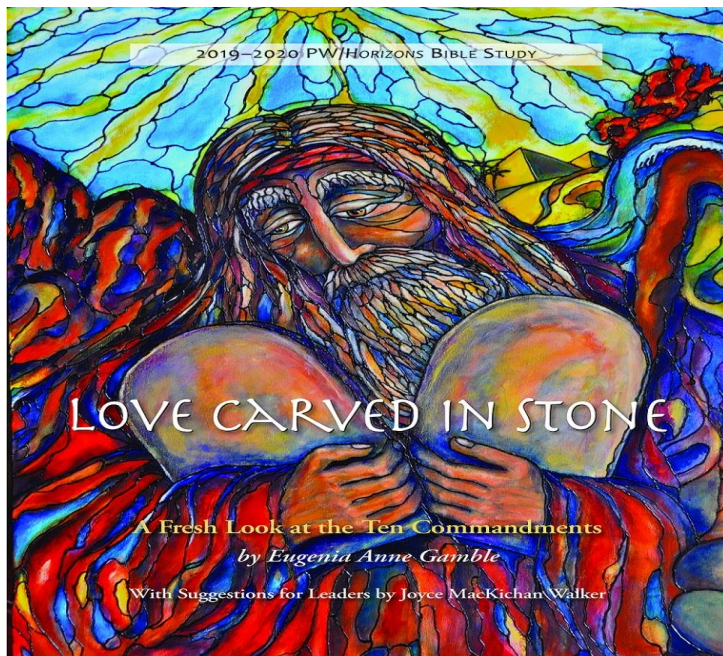
# TRANSFORMED

## *How God Changes Us*

*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .*

ROMANS 12:2





**CIRCLES**  
**FOR THE LADIES**  
*(September thru May)*

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Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton  
 Lesson Planner is Frankie Stewart  
 Meets 1st Monday at 10:30 a.m.

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Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter  
 Lesson Planner — Rotates  
 Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.

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Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch  
 Chair is Peggy Peacock  
 Lesson Planner — Rotates  
 3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m.  
 January will meet at Kathy Milton's home

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Circle 4: Good News Women  
 Will be Joining Circle 2 for Bible Study  
 Will continue to gather together for  
 Fellowship (dates to be determined)

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**A Fresh Look at the Ten Com-  
 mandments — A Love Letter  
 From A Loving God**

Lesson Five — Words of Love: “You shall not murder.”

(Exodus 20:13)

The Word for this lesson is to help us understand the many faces of murder and how the beloved community is to honor life by refusing any and all death-dealing behaviors.

Scripture: Exodus 20:13;

Matthew 5:21-26

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**The Wildflowers**

**The Annual Missions Brunch**

**10:00 am Saturday, December 14th**

**was a beautiful success!**

The ladies of the Wildflowers group did an amazing job of beautifully decorating the tables in Fellowship Hall for this luncheon. The food was delicious and the program meaningful. There were 101 women in attendance and the offering that was received totaled \$1,800. Habitat for Humanity will receive a check for 1/2 (\$900.00) and the balance will be used for local mission assistance.

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*Each women's group has its own  
 flavor and mission.*

*Find the group that fits you.*



*It is never too late to join in.*





The Men's Group in our Church is known as  
**"GOD'S WARRIORS"**

This month the Church's Men's Group will be meeting at the church on **TUESDAY**, January 14th at 6 pm. We will have Linda Wamsley's chicken and sausage GUMBO as well as pizza, salad and dessert. Note the **CHANGE** from traditional 2nd Wednesday to 2nd Tuesday. The program will be to eat and watch the movie, "Overcomer". This is an inspirational movie for the whole family and dads are encouraged to bring their sons. Plan on being here 2 hours. In February we will begin a Bible Study on this movie.

*Movie Synopsis: Life changes overnight for Coach John Harrison when his high school basketball team's state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news. When the largest manufacturing plant in town suddenly shuts down and hundreds of families begin moving away, John must come to grips with the challenges facing his town and his team. Urged by the school's principal to fill in and coach a sport he doesn't know or like, John is frustrated and questions his worth until he crosses paths with a student struggling with her own journey. This movie is filled with faith, humor and heart. OVERCOMER dares to leave you filled with hope, inspired to dream and asks the question: "What would you allow to define you?"*

## GOD'S WARRIORS

First Presbyterian Church

Marianna, FL

Mission Statement:

*"We are committed to being role models to one another and to grow in faith and service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ"*

*"As Iron Sharpens Iron,  
 One Man Sharpens Another"*

Proverbs 27:17

*Invite other men to join in our fellowship,  
 study and service. Let us be strong in the  
 Lord together*

We always have a time of conversational prayer. We learn from one another and are encouraged in our own personal lives.

Special thanks to Matt Milton, Justin Lyons and Barry Stafford for hosting our December mega breakfast. (and Geriann!!) It was amazing and we had a good Bible Study on the Joseph of the Christmas Story. We also had a "James, Chapter 5" healing service for Barry Stafford.

THANKS to Matt and Geriann Milton and Justin and Lauren Lyons for once again shopping for Christmas gifts given to eight foster children. We also gave age-appropriate Bibles to all the 75+ children served through the Anchorage Home for Children. Thanks to all members and friends who donated to this special mission.

Lou Roberts and Barry Stafford are our co-leaders for this Fall. We usually suggest a donation of \$5.00 to help with expenses and our missions during the year.

## OUR YOUTH

### MONTREAT

January 19th you will have another opportunity to help support the youth preparing to go to Montreat this year. We will have a luncheon at noon after the Worship Service. We appreciate the support you provide for our youth!

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## CHRISTMAS EVE



## OUR YOUNGER ONES







## ELDERS & COMMITTEES

Presbyterians get their name from the Greek word, presbyteros, which means ruled by elders. Yes, our name reflects our form of church government.

At First Presbyterian the Session works to “do” and enhance the work/mission of the church by way of committees. Our church is blessed with functional, healthy committees that ensure our church survives and thrives. We have several committees and they are: Administration, Christian Education, Evangelism & Fellowship, Property & Operation, Worship & Music and Mission & Service. Our Committees are self-explanatory by their name.

In 2020 we will add a new committee called Congregational Care. This committee was formed from the Evangelism & Fellowship Committee that had too many responsibilities. The tasks that have been designated for this committee are: hospitality, visitation, card ministry, Sunday School coffee and cookies (thank you Marsha Rodgers!) and the prayer team. Some of you have been working on these tasks, but others of you may feel called to serve on this new committee.

## TIME AND TALENTS

We are grateful for the 48 individuals who filled out a Time and Talents sheet this past Fall. **YOU WILL be contacted with thanksgiving and clarification on how your gifts and time will bless our church and its ministry.**

An example of “jumping in” and helping: New member, Peggy Irvin, owned a floral shop and volunteered to take care of our poinsettias during the month.



## NEW ELDERS

Amanda Hinson, LuAnne Law, Bryan Milton and Matt Milton will be installed as Elders on Sunday, January 12 at the 11 am Worship Service. Amanda and Matt will also be **ORDAINED**. We are very grateful they “answered the call” and said “YES” to the Nominating Committee and to the Holy Spirit. These elders will respond to sacred vows and you the congregation also will reply to two questions — showing your support of them.

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING WHO SERVED THE PAST three years in energy, intelligence, imagination and love: Sam Andreu, Lauren Lyons, Muriel Turner and Beth Westmoreland. They were excellent elders these past three years and our church was strengthened by their service and leadership.**

## HOW TO JOIN THE CHURCH

1. Let the Pastor know you want to join.
2. Meet with the Elders who will receive you via transfer of membership, reaffirmation of faith or profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
3. Participate in Ceremony at a Worship Service where you will be introduced and reaffirm your faith (4 brief questions). A family unit of your choice will pray over you.

**Joining a Church is a sign of commitment to the Lord Jesus and His Church.**

The Elders (Session) meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm but can also meet at 10:45 am any Sunday morning or after worship to receive new members.

# FOOD PANTRY



**Feeding the  
Community**

## FPC FOOD PANTRY

**Open Wednesdays 9-11 am**

**EXCEPT for the years that Christmas  
and New Year's Day fall on Wednesday.**

**(Which was the case in 2019)**

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*Melissa has set up a schedule for teams  
to serve for 2020. However, there is al-  
ways room for more volunteers to assist  
us.*

*If you would consider being on a team,  
an occasional substitute, or if you could  
occasionally work on Tuesday after 3pm  
to bag the food to be distributed on  
Wednesdays, please contact Melissa (693-  
1161).*

***FOOD TRUCK DELIVERY is on the 3rd  
Thursday of every month at 11:00 am  
and we are in need of volunteers to help  
unload and put away. Please let Pastor  
John or Melissa (693-1161) know if you  
will be able to help with this project.***

# UPDATES ON HOSPITALIZED

## FRAN MCNEILL

Fran is back at home after 80 days at hospi-  
tals in Gainesville. She has been through so  
much and is so courageous. Your prayers  
have meant so much to Fran and Ernie.

Their address is 2968 Sunrise Drive

Marianna, FL 32448

## JANIE FRANCIS PULLIAM

Janie is back home after being hospitalized  
and at Marianna Rehab. She will be recover-  
ing for another 4-6 weeks.

Her address is 2736 Indian Springs Rd.

Marianna, FL 32446

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We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for  
**Eric Andrew Neuman**. His parents are  
Brice Neuman and Virginia Tinsley; his  
grandparents are Andy and Gina Tinsley,  
Betty Neuman.

They are a military family living in Virginia  
and feel like we are their current church  
family.



**January 3rd**

Laurie Ward

**January 5th**

Charlotte Hunter

**January 6th**

Jim Gibbs

**January 7th**

Ginger Green  
Kathy Milton

**January 9th**

Suzanne Owens

**January 11th**

Lee Shook

**January 12th**

Adrian Alvarez

**January 17th**

Jared Rackley

**January 19th**

Amanda Yant

**January 21st**

Helen Marie (Taylor)  
Jablonski

**January 22nd**

Ouida Morris

**January 25th**

Anna Beth Milton

**January 26th**

Doris Irwin

**January 27th**

Lou Roberts

**January 29th**

Dale Eade

**January 30th**

Carolena Payne

***This is a list of the birthdays we are currently aware of.***

***If your January birthday is not listed, please contact the Church Office so we can update our list.***

Special Thanks to all of our musicians and vocalists during the month of December.

Choir Director, Kenneth Kelley, Church Musician, Christine Yoshikawa, and our Choir provided special music all month long.

They worked extra hours on the Joint Cantata with the First United Methodist Choir that was held on December 15th. It was beautiful and inspiring.

Many of our members and friends sang with the Chipola Chorus under Dr. Christine's leadership for the "Messiah Sing" on Thursday, December 12th.

Thanks to Christine Yoshikawa and Xylpha Schwehm for music on Christmas Eve; including an extraordinary piano-organ duet.

Thanks to Kenneth Kelley for preaching for a sick Pastor John on December 15th — a message on the Gift of Joy.

Thanks to our Bell Choir who led us in worship Sunday, December 22nd under the leadership of Karen Smith. It was beautiful and a real treat for the worshippers.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Thank you Amanda Hinson and Flora Davis for a fantastic Pageant on Wednesday, December 11th. The children did so well and were all seriously cute and perfect as they presented the Christmas story with narration, song and acting it out. A big crowd attended and stayed for pizza, salad and cake.

Special Thanks to all who decorated the church for Advent/Christmas. Thanks to Beth Westmoreland for extra help with Christmas Eve preparation and to Hanni Daffin, Joy Hinton and Peggy Irvin for extra detail work to help us "feel Christmas" and for God's glory!