



**YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FROM**  
*First Presbyterian Church*  
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December, 2020

THE AUDACITY OF CHRISTMAS

*“So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, and you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.”*  
1 Corinthians 3:21-23

This Christmas people will STILL find gifts under their Christmas tree. Many will be beautiful and meaningful and many will be practical and “just what I wanted.” But, whatever the gift — they cannot compare to the audacity of God’s gift given at Christmas.

Consider the staggering promise of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:21. He says, “all things are yours” by virtue of being in Christ. And what does Paul include in “all things?” Things like the world, life, death, the present and the future. Breathtaking. How can this be?

Galatians 4:4-7 shows how the Christian comes to inherit “all things.” (This is actually a Christmas passage!)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son and then an heir through God.

Christmas marks the “fullness of time” when God, in His sovereign freedom, “sent forth His Son.” The One who dispenses times and seasons determined that it was time to send forth the Son who had existed with the Father from eternity. Indeed, the second person of the Trinity, “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6-7). He was born of a woman, born under the law. Here we have the wonder of the INCARNATION: God assuming a human nature.

Why would the Son of God take on flesh and dwell among sinful mankind? Why would divinity take on humanity and “become obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8)?

He did this to secure SALVATION. In other words, “to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters..” (Galatians 4:5) Christ came into the world not only to free us from the tyranny of sin, death and the devil, but to crown us with unimaginable glory.

It is true that at the Cross Christ “redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” (Galatians 3:3) But we have not been saved only in the “negative” sense. We have been ADOPTED INTO God’s family and given all the rights and privileges of legitimate heirs. Paul captures this beautifully in 2 Corinthians 2:8-9; “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor so that you by His poverty might become rich.” And the riches that are ours in Christ are far greater than anything merely monetary. These riches are in fact “all things” for “all are yours and you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s” (1 Corinthians 3:23). This is the audacity of Christmas and it is intended to resound “to the praise of God’s glorious grace, with which He blessed us in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:6)

THIS CHRISTMAS I want to think and live as one adopted!!!

One way to do this is to let every gift given to a loved one serve as a pointer to the Gospel. And when all of us children get so excited with opening special but temporal gifts, let us remember the ETERNAL weight of glory that awaits the heirs of the King.

## GOD'S WARRIORS

Saturday, December 12th

8:00 am Breakfast and Bible Study

At the Church

(We will gather at 7:30 to prepare food.)

We will take a look at Matthew's version of the Christmas story (Chapter 1:18-25)

The men of the Church are once again supporting Christmas gifts for the Foster Children associated with the Anchorage Home. We usually gift about 15 children. Donations can be given at the church office or Sunday during worship.

## GOD'S WARRIORS

### Men's Group of

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"

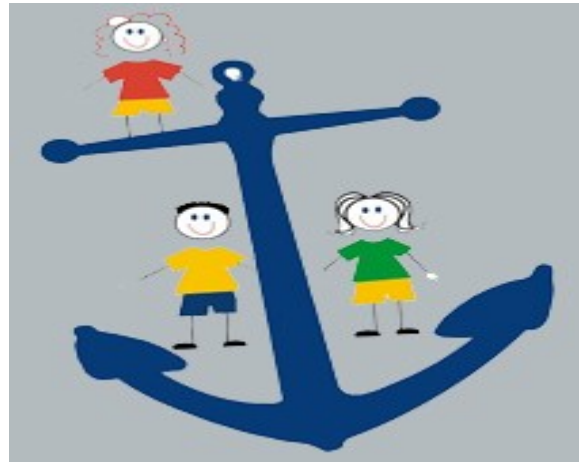
"As Iron Sharpens Iron,

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](#)



Anchorage Children's Home is a non-profit organization, founded on Christian principles and beliefs, which serves, protects and strengthens children, families and community.

Our mission is to be an anchor for today's children, strengthening tomorrow's families.

[www.anchoragechildrenshome.org](http://www.anchoragechildrenshome.org)

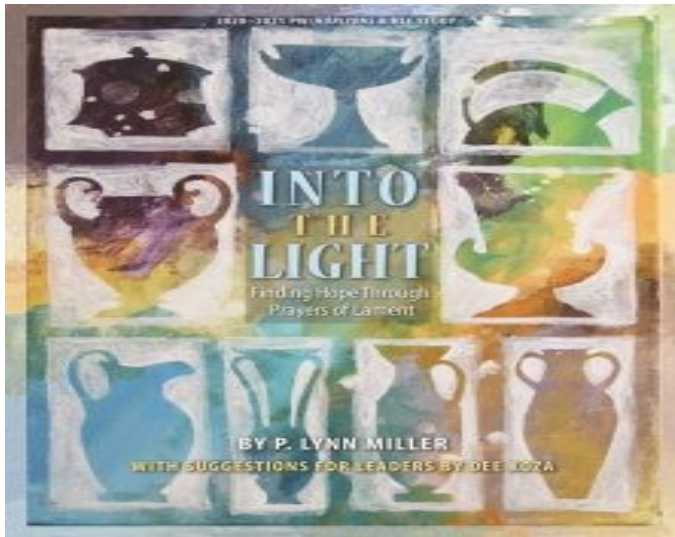


**TIME AND TALENT**

**VOLUNTEERS FOR 2021**

Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of the Time and Talent Volunteer form for 2021.

Please fill this out and return it to the church office before the end of the year so that the Elders for 2021 will know who their helpers are in all of the various categories.



**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.  
**NO MEETING DEC 2020**

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Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter  
 Lesson Planner — Rotates  
 Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.  
**NO MEETING DEC 2020**

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Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch  
 Chair is Peggy Peacock  
 Lesson Planner — Rotates  
 3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m.  
**NO MEETING DEC 2020**

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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)

**The Wildflowers**

Lesson Planner — Rotates  
 Meets Year Round on the  
 1st Wednesday at 6:30 in homes.

**NO MEETING DEC 2020**

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**INTO THE LIGHT**

**(Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament)**

*The Heart of Lament*

Main Idea: The perceived absence of God is at the heart of lament.

Scripture: Psalm 22:1-19; Matthew 27:45-56

“When we lament, we may feel as if there is a God-shaped hole in us, that we are alone in a hostile world. In times like these.....we are reminded that God has claimed us and is always with us.”

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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.*

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**DURING THE COVID-19 OUR CIRCLE  
 ATTENDANCE IS ON A  
 MONTH-BY-MONTH BASIS**

**TOGETHER**





## PRAY FOR OTHERS



Jim and Jodi McGill Missionaries

Jim and Jodi are the missionaries that we specifically support.

They began mission service in 1995. They serve in the Republic of Niger. Jim works with clean water and sanitation at both community and user levels. He works with the church in being a strong participant in the rural development of Niger and South Sudan and is a strong advocate for the health of its people.

Jodi serves the efforts to create and staff church-run health clinics and to train students in its new nursing school. She also works in the health clinic on a regular basis.

They are the parents of six children!

Please remember to pray for our missionaries and the work they are doing.

We will have a Christmas Eve offering for Jim and Jodi McGill.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evenings

6:30 pm ZOOM

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### INCARNATION

We will be studying the Incarnation to rediscover the significance of Christmas.

December 2nd — We will explore what Jesus's first followers meant when they called Him King and Messiah, and how calling Jesus King can help us grow in faith and obedience today.

December 9th — We will reflect on the literal meaning of Jesus' name and consider how Jesus has saved us, is saving us and will save us.

December 16th — We will explore how the message of "Emmanuel" was one of hope in both the Old and New Testaments, and how it can still be a message of hope in times of sadness, doubt and fear today.





**We offer deep sympathy and prayers for the following:**

*Kitty and Ronnie Myers on the death of Kitty's mom, Jean Beall Neel.*

*She went home to be with her Lord on November 7th — almost 98 years old.*

*Amy Norville and her family and friends on the sudden death of husband, Jeff, on Saturday, November 14th. A Celebration of Jeff's life was held at Citizen's Lodge on Wednesday, November 18th.*

*Family and friends of Doris Irwin who died November 18th (101 years old). We honored Doris in January, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall during worship and with a reception that afternoon. Daughters Mary Jane Seymour and Norma Jean Dillon want you to know that memorials can be given to First Presbyterian Church of Marianna in her memory. Thank you, Kenneth Kelley for officiating at her graveside service on November 21st.*



SUNDAY, December 6, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Pastor John will guide you through communion on the Radio Broadcast and FB Live; both of which are at 11 am. Beginning October 4th, the radio broadcast is no longer pre-recorded. It is the "live" Sanctuary Worship.

Please have your bread and fruit of the vine close by if you are listening via the Radio Broadcast or watching FB Live.



***Linda Wamsley (death of her sister, Carolyn)***

*Family and friends of Jeff Norville (Amy's husband)*

*Family and friends of Doris Irwin*

*Family and friends of Jean Beall Neel (Kitty Myers mother)*

Family and Friends of Gina Stuart

Sherry Barber (Amanda Hinson's mother)

Cindy Yant

Jane Powell

Bradley Krons (Joe Busby's brother)

Hedy Williams (Hanni Daffin's sister)

Ruth Hammett (Scott Yant's mother)

Debbie Johnson (Cindy Yant's aunt)

Fran McNeill and Ernie McNeill

Christine Yoshikawa

Charlotte Hunter

Bud Wierman

Dr. Megan Johnson (Wamsley's niece)

Charlton Keen Jr. and niece, Kathryn Keen

Doug Woolery (requested by Cindy Morgan)

Zooey Chancey (requested by Ginger Green)

Jeff Yon, Grade Taylor and Harold Willis (requested by Scott Yant)

Billy Herrington (requested by Jared Roberts)

Joy Gilbert

Sumi Hanstine (requested by Ashley Rackley)

Melanie McCroan

Ronnie Heath (requested by Larry & Jackie Spivey)

Michael Schouest and Family ((requested by Kathy Roberts)

Dennis Maxson

Mary Bevis Schmidt (requested by Mel McLure Clark)

Howard Alig (Cindy Morgan's brother)

Steven Quigley

Roy Turner

Jim Gibson (Mary Ann Gibbs' brother)

Joy Lewis

Cindy Yant

Our Missionaries — Jim and Jodi McGill





*The Elders voted to indeed have a worship service on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm.*

*The service will be briefer than normal and we will not sing entire songs except for Silent Night at the end with lights out and candles held up in the special way we do it.*

*The Peanut Gallery will be available for larger families who feel they can sit together.*

*Christmas Eve will be like our Sunday morning service: temperature taken, masks strongly encouraged and available, hand sanitizer and social distancing.*

*In the hopes of a large congregation, we will make every effort for safety and also for a place for everyone to participate/worship from.*

*A special offering for our missionaries to Niger and Sudan, Jim and Jodi McGill, will be taken up. (Placed in baskets at the doors.) You can also drop off your special offering.*

## NEW ELDERS

Thanks be to God! The following were elected as Elders at a Zoom congregational meeting on Sunday, November 15th:

Mel McClure Clark

Donna Moore

Aggie Schack

Bill Stevens

We are so thankful that they said "YES" to answering God's call to serve in this way. They will meet with the Session (active elders) on Tuesday, December 15th at 5:30 pm and share their faith and answer questions about the church government, what Presbyterians believe and the duties of the Office of Elder.

They will be ordained/Installed on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

Please be sure to extend your thanks to your new elders.





**December 1st**

Sandra Daffin

**December 2nd**

LuAnne Law

**December 3rd**

Bob Pittman

**December 4th**

Mary Wierman

**December 5th**

Ronnie Myers

**December 6th**

Jean Boyenton

**December 8th**

Beverly Hinson

**December 9th**

Jonathan Taylor

**December 14th**

Stephen Stafford

**December 15th**

Kara Payne

**December 16th**

Don Morris

**December 18th**

Mel McClure Clark

**December 21st**

Jane Powell

**December 23rd**

Don Hunter

**December 29th**

Hunter Htton

**December 31st**

Megan Milton



Thank you for your generous donations to the Sulphur, LA church for their hurricane relief. They were very appreciative.

We thank those who helped to decorate the church on Friday and Saturday, November 27 and 28: Scott Yant; Amanda Yant's boyfriend, Barry McNamara; Sam and Will Andreu; Barry Stafford, Eva Marie, Steven and Jacob; Donna Moore and the Wamsleys.

*We need to continue to be thankful for the innovative ways your Pastor thinks outside the box to provide you with services:*

- 1. Facebook Live Sunday Mornings for a "Sunrise Service" that begins between 6:30 and 7:00.*
- 2. Facebook Live 11:00 am for our Sunday Worship Service. (To find the FB page, go to 1st Presbyterian Church of Marianna on FB. You may have to scroll down to find the current Sunday.)*
- 3. Remember we are blessed to be on WJAQ on 100.9 Live every Sunday at 11 am.*
- 4. Weekly Prayer Meetings, Bible Study and Sunday School all on Zoom.*



# FOOD PANTRY

**Melissa, along with her son, Zachary Taylor; Bill Stevens, Amy Norville, Muriel Turner and Linda Wamsley have been keeping our Food Pantry going during the COVID-19 “shutdown” with a drive by system so that people would feel “safe” to come and pick up the food they so desperately need. What a great way to continue ministering to the needs of others. WE ALSO THANK THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTING WITH UNLOADING THE TRUCK FROM SECOND HARVEST.**



***“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....”***

**Matthew 25:35**

**WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LIFE OF JEFF NORVILLE. What a good man! He will be seriously missed!!!!**





**YOUR ELDERS**

Class of 2020

Beth Westmoreland  
Leslie Kelley  
John W. Milton  
Scott Yant

Class of 2021

Janet Howell  
Travis Lawson  
Larry Spivey  
Barry Stafford

Class of 2022

Amanda Hinson  
LuAnne Law  
Bryan Milton  
Matt Milton

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**1835 Endowment Committee**

Chair: Chuck Morgan  
Members: John Milton V, Jack Peacock,  
LuAnne Law, Guy Green

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**YOUR COMMITTEES**

Administration

Chair: John W. Milton  
Members: Chuck Morgan, Beth Westmoreland,  
Larry Spivey

Christian Education

Chair: LuAnne Law  
Members: Jim Gibbs, Mary Ann Gibbs, Ashley  
Rackley

Congregational Care

Chair: Jan Howell  
Members: Alma Milton, Andrew Tinsley, Gina  
Tinsley, Muriel Turner

Evangelism and Fellowship

Chair: Amanda Hinson  
Members: Lauren Lyons, Geriann Milton,  
Peggy Peacock, Jennifer Stafford

Property and Operations

Chair: Scott Yant  
Members: Mary Lu Andreu, Mel McClure Clark,  
John W. Milton, Matt Milton, Chuck  
Morgan, Xylpha Schwehm, Barry  
Stafford

Worship and Music

Chair: Bryan Milton  
Members: Macky Gortemoller, Joy Hinton,  
Kenneth Kelley, Anna Beth Milton,  
Tom Stadskev, Linda Wamsley,  
Beth Westmoreland

Mission and Service

Chair: Kathy Milton  
Members: Sharon Bannerman, Tina Bigale,  
Mary Ann Gibbs, Marsha Rodgers  
Litteral, Marianne Lonsinger, Travis  
Lawson