



First Presbyterian Church

*4437 Clinton Street
Marianna, FL 32446*

850-526-2430

fpcmarianna@gmail.com

December, 2021



Just these lines.....in this wonderful and wonder-filled liturgical season of Advent....to ask....what are you giving Jesus for His birthday this year? What do you think He'd like? What would honor Him and bring a



smile to His face on Christmas morning, as He sits at the right hand of God, who sent His Son to earth two thousand plus years ago, to show us how He wants His children to live; die for our sins and salvation; be resurrected for our eternal life and will some day send Him back to the earth one last time? I think of Matthew 25:31-46 and Matthew 28:18-20.....

To whom might Jesus want us to reach out this month? Each Advent, I love sending out Christmas cards via the U.S.P.S. — writing personal notes in them and hand addressing them to people whom I feel may need a little joy — know they're much loved and appreciated — in nursing homes, in prison, homebound — and to former neighbors, classmates.....kin that we hardly ever see.....Helen Steiner Rice is one of my favorite poets; and here is one of my favorite poems.

My Special List

*"I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book
and every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.
That is when I realize that these names are a part
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.*

*For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they've become the reason and the rhyme.
Although it sounds fantastic of me to make this claim,
I really feel that I am composed of each remembered name.*

*Although you're not aware of any special link,
just meeting you has shaped my life much more than you could think.*

So please don't think my greeting as just a mere routine.

Your name was NOT forgotten in between.

*For when I send a greeting that is addressed to you,
it's because you're on that list of folks I am indebted to.*

*Whether I have known you for many days or few,
in some ways you have had a part in shaping things I do.*

*I am but a total of the many folks I've met,
and you are one of those folks that I would prefer never to forget.*

Thank you for being my friend."

Helen Steiner Rice

We're making our lists and checking them twice. Lord, amidst it all, please keep reminding us whose birthday party this is!

*Pastor Raymond
(850-765-3659)*

P.S. If you'd like to get together for prayer, or suggest someone who may like a call, let me know.

Historic FPC Organ Restoration to Begin Early Next Month!

LET'S ALL PITCH IN!

We can make a one time contribution or we can stretch it out over several months. We can make our gift in honor or memory of someone special, with acknowledgements mailed from the church promptly. Be sure to designate: organ repair, for whom your gift is in memory/honor, and whom you'd like to receive notice, with their address if they're not part of our church. Contributions are coming in weekly; and we are going to get our organ making music to glorify God and enhance our worship again in early 2022!

2022 Time & Talent Commitments and Estimates of Giving

If you haven't dedicated your 2022 T & T and estimate card yet, please place them in an offering plate on Sunday or mail to the church: 4437 Clinton Street, Marianna, FL 32446.

Extras are available in the hall between the fellowship hall and sanctuary. Our faithfulness in giving allows our church to grow in our faithfulness in sharing the Gospel, here near and far! Amen!

NOVEMBER SESSION NOTES

1. Opened (Amanda Hinson) and closed (Bill Stevens) the meeting with prayer.
2. Enjoyed pizza, salad and cake as we watched a dvd about the work of four important committees of The Presbytery of Florida, including Dogwood Acres; and zoomed with the Reverend Joan Wooten, Parish Associate of First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, regarding our presbytery's mission goals for 2022 and how we can help meet these goals.
3. Heard a report from our Treasurer (October was better than September. We need increased year-end giving to meet our 2021 budget.) and the Organ Restoration Committee (Restoration is scheduled to begin the third week of January. We have made a deposit. Contributions continue to arrive. Any extra funds will create an organ repair/enhancement fund.)
4. The Mission and Service Committee presented its 2022 proposed budget.
5. Discussed the need for a quorum for Congregational Meetings be set by the congregation in early 2022.
6. Discussed the Book of Order's requirement that a financial review take place yearly with a report given to the Session. The Administration Committee will address.
7. Agreed to have our next meeting on Sunday, December 19, at noon.

2021 “Over and Above” Christmas Joy Offering

RETIRED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WORKERS

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life’s challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God’s charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

- \$1.1 million of gifts from 2020 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 299 households, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 244 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.

PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue — sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- \$1.1 million of gifts from 2020 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

Special envelopes are available
in the narthex or we can simply earmark
“Christmas Joy Offering.”

Thank You Operation Christmas Child Boxfillers!

When Pastor Raymond brought 25 boxes to our church, someone asked him “25?” He asked: “Too few?” Response: “No, way too many; we’ll never fill those up!” All boxes were returned to First Baptist, filled with gifts!

Happy Advent Merry Christmas and New Year’s Blessings...

...from a grateful church staff!!!

We are blessed to be in ministry and mission with our FPC, Marianna, church family; and we thank you for your kindness and cooperation with us throughout the year.

*LeAnn (custodian), Melissa, Christine,
Kenneth, Connie and Raymond*

Singers Needed for Christmas Musical

We’re looking for some people who love to sing!

Previous experience is not required!

Singing in the car or in the shower are evidence you
may be who we’re looking for!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Different rehearsal time? Different rehearsal day?

Child care?

Let us know what you need so you will be able to
sing with us.

Share your talent, gift, your love of music
with your church family.

Contact Kenneth (850-557-1198)

NEWS AROUND OUR CONGREGATION

CONGRATULATIONS...

MARIANNA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL
1ST NINE WEEKS

All A's

John Lawson (9), Ryan Law (10), Presli Busby (11),
Claire Medley (11), Cole Payne (12), Ian Spence (12)

All A's & B's

Carolena Payne (9), Anna Barber (12)

SYMPATHY

The sympathy of our church family is sincerely extended to Larry and Jackie Spivey and their family in the recent death of their nephew, Ronnie Heath, in Green Cove Springs. Psalm 23.

COLE PAYNE...

...KEPT EXCELLING ON THE LINKS. In the recent district meet in Jacksonville, Bulldog senior golfer, Cole Payne, qualified for individual honors at regionals at Ponte Verde Beach!

THANK YOU Session Class of 2021

We are very grateful for the service to our Lord and our church these past three (somewhat turbulent) years of Jan Howell (Clerk, Congregational Care), Barry Stafford (Property & Operations), Larry Spivey (Admin.) and Travis Lawson (Mission & Service).

SEWING/CRAFT GROUP



SEWING WITH LOVE continues meeting on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the church office, and there is room for more; so please come and join us for fellowship and mission. We're making Christmas stockings for Camp Anderson to fill and give to foster children.

Call Donna Guterman (351-817-8700) for information.

Ryder Hinton Keeps Placing...

Ryder recently placed second in showing his steer in Dothan!

FALL WORK MORNING A GRAND SUCCESS!

Thanks to these members and friends of our church whom made it happen — Mary Lu Andreu, Scott Yant, Xylpha Schwehm, Donna Moore, Yvonne Melzer, Alma Milton, Macie & Will Andreu, Aggie Schack, Bill Stevens, Barry & Jennifer Stafford, Ellie Lawson, Stephen Stafford, Betty Pettis, Andy & Gina Tinsley, Ellen Galloway, Eva Marie Stafford, Joe Busby, Jacob Stafford, Olivia Rehberg, Robert Rehberg, Edward Syfrett and Fosty Willis.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The PNC has read about forty PIF's. We sought to dialogue with a candidate whom graciously declined. We had two zoom conversations with a candidate, after which, he and we agreed that we weren't a fit. Pre-COVID, there were over 1200 PCUSA pastors in our church leadership connection open to a new Call. Now, there are 478. We have ads in the current issues of "Presbyterians Today" and "The Presbyterian Outlook." We have made contact with the placement directors of our PCUSA Seminaries; and our opening is on their opportunity lists. We are hopeful that more PCUSA pastors will be open to a summer move (when children are out of school) than a mid-school year move. We will be reading and discussing Finding A Pastor the Presbyterian Way by Pastor Dean Foose. Keep praying. God will provide in His time. Always has. Always will. Amen.

SESSION CLASS OF 2024

At the Congregational Meeting on 11/21/21, Betty Pettis, Lou Roberts, Beth Westmoreland and Scott Yant were elected to serve for the next three years. Thank them for their willingness to serve!

GROWING IN MISSION

2021 Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Marianna Winn Dixie — Tuesday, December 7
There is a sign-up sheet with time slots in the hall-between our fellowship hall and sanctuary. Call Mary Ann Gibbs (850-482-2188) if you have questions.

Christmas Card Shower

A friend of the Gutermans is in prison in Brooksville, FL; and we're invited to "visit" her this Advent/Christmas with a card.

We can sign the card "Friends from FPC, Mariana" and simply place it in an offering plate or on the communion table; and we'll address it and mail it to Brenda — in hopes that she'll get a card each day of December.

(Call/see Pastor R if you have questions.)

NEW FOR 2022....

Some exciting new features in our monthly newsletter

A new sermon series

A new Wednesday Bible study

Fifth-eighth grade confirmation classes

And more....

FPC WILDFLOWERS
CHRISTMAS PARTY



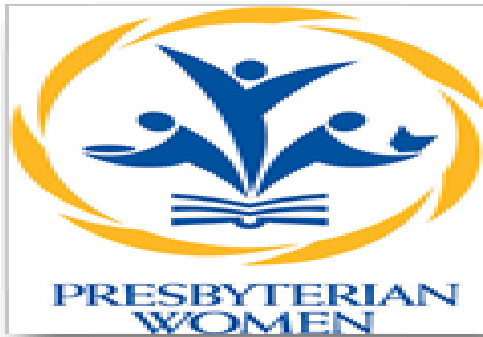
And the next
generation of FPC
had a great time!



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK
AT LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!



OUR SENIOR HIGH
GROUP
DECORATED
THE CHRISMON TREE
AT FPC!



**WOMEN'S GROUPS
AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
MARIANNA, FL**

Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton
Meets 1st Monday at 10:30 a.m.
fellowship hall

Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter
Meets 1st Monday at 12:30 p.m.
fellowship hall

Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch
Chair is Peggy Peacock
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 3rd Monday at 11:30 in fellowship hall

Circle 4: The Wildflowers
Chair is LuAnne Law
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 in homes
Saturday, December 11th at 10 a.m.
Wildflowers Annual Mission Brunch

WOW!
A Christmas Play For Children
Wednesday, December 15, at 6 p.m.

The Christmas season is steadily approaching; and the kids, myself and Mr. Kenneth are getting excited about the Children's Christmas pageant. WOW! is a short Christmas play that faithfully tells the story of Jesus' birth in a contemporary fashion. There are 5 hymns throughout that we all know and love!

Practice will be at Wild Wonderful Wednesdays at 3:30. Dress rehearsal will be Sunday, December 12 immediately following church and the production will occur on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

For each practice attendance the children will earn a special Christmas ornament that will be presented following the production. This is an opportunity to earn 8 beautiful ornaments! Please let me know if you have any questions.

*Amanda Barber Hinson
(850-718-3198)*

"Let There Be Christmas"
ADULT CHRISTMAS CANTATA
with FUMC Choir
in FPC Sanctuary
Sunday, December 12
11:00 a.m.
Be here! Bring a friend!

PRESBYTERIAN QUESTIONS, PRESBYTERIAN ANSWERS

JESUS CHRIST

What is the incarnation?

The incarnation is a theological term to affirm that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, became a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This is a central element of Christian belief and is captured in John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). This is "eternity" entering "time," but more importantly it is the ultimate expression of God's love for the humanity created by God and reconciled back to God by the sending of God's Son into the world to bring salvation (John 3:16-17).

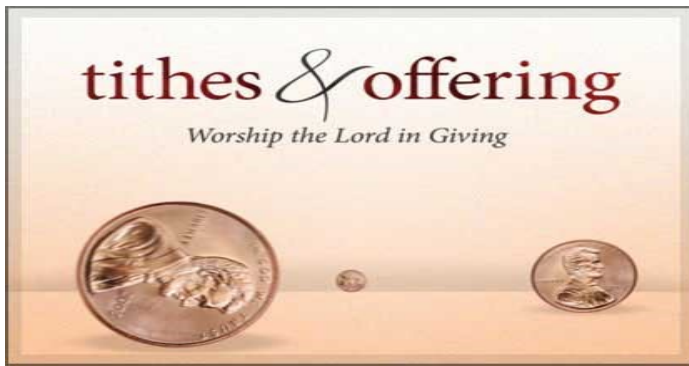
Presbyterians affirm that the incarnation took place in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a Palestinian Jew who was a truly human person as well as being truly and fully divine. This is sometimes called the "paradox" of the incarnation — that Jesus is both fully divine and fully human. Yet this has been the crucial affirmation of the church about Christology, or the study of Christ: Jesus is the "divine-human." Both aspects are critical in our saying who Jesus is.

How Jesus could be truly human and truly divine at the same time is a mystery. It defies rational explanation or confirmation. We affirm it by faith, believing that Jesus took upon himself the sin of humanity, representing us and dying for us. His death has the power to bring salvation because Jesus Christ is fully God. Only one who is fully God and fully human could provide salvation by dying for our sin and being raised in his resurrection.

The church has long affirmed that the two natures of Christ — divine and human — are united in the one person of Jesus Christ. Some groups have emphasized one dimension over the other — the divine over the human, or vice versa. All these attempts have been rejected by the church as being less than a full incarnation — a full affirmation that in Jesus Christ, God has become a human and has assumed human "flesh." Through the experience of redemption and salvation we come to recognize who Jesus is and to realize the importance of what Jesus has done.

In Jesus Christ, God's "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9), and salvation is given to those who believe (1 Pet. 1:9). In him, the power of God's love is able to transform the world and to transform human lives. This is our joy in believing in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Donald K. McKim



Monthly need for 2021 budget	21,334
Received through November 30	<u>12,098</u>
	(9,236)
Year-to-date 2021 budget need	234,674
Year-to-date received (11/30/21)	<u>180,477</u>
	(54,197)
(These figures do not include special fund giving.)	

FROM OUR

1835

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Our Endowment Committee would like to remind us that donations made to the 1835 Endowment Fund in honor of or in memory of someone special are very much appreciated. Please make your check out to the church and designate for 1835 Fund and designate who it is you are remembering. In November a donation was made in memory of Daun Crews and a donation was received from the Fred and Sue McGehee Family Charitable Fund.

ORGAN REPAIRS

In November, donations were made in memory of Hazel Nelson, Joanne Wynn, Ed McDaniel and Dr. Gene Pelt.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

TAX TIPS

If we are 72 or older and have a regular IRA, we must begin taking RMD's (Required Minimum Distributions). Did you know that our contributions from our IRA to our favorite charity (like FPC, Marianna!) can count as an RMD? Contributions must be made directly from our IRA custodian to the church. Consult your tax preparer for information.

Once again, for 2021, a portion of our contributions to our church can reduce our adjusted gross income, even if we don't itemize. Itemizers can usually deduct most all of giving. Consult your tax preparer for information.

Looking for a year-end "over & above" gift? Call Pastor R! We've got lots of ideas!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of our family of faith is to worship God; to successfully nurture the spiritual growth of each person in our church family so that we experience loving fellowship, joy, and peace; and to share our love and talents with others in our community and beyond!



Edward Syfrett
Sandra Daffin
Frankie Stewart
The family of Ed McDaniel
Roy Turner
Shelby Vlieg (requested by Ellie Lawson)
Bob Ward (Mary and Bud Wierman's son)
David Hand (Betty Joyce's son)
Jay Hoyt Rackley (requested by Ginger Green)
Alisa Gunter Goldberg (Jake Gunter's daughter)
Buddy Bannerman (requested by Sharon)
Theresa Forehand (requested by Kenneth & Leslie Kelley)
Jane Powell
Sherry Barber (Amanda Hinson's mother)
Hedy Williams (Hanni Daffin's sister)
Ruth Hammett (Scott Yant's mother)
Fran and Ernie McNeill
Charlton Keen Jr. and niece, Kathryn Keen
Doug Woolery (requested by Cindy Morgan)
Joy Gilbert
Sumi Hanstine (requested by Ashley Rackley)
Mary Bevis Schmidt (requested by Mel McLure Lundgren)
Steven Quigley
Our Elders, Pastor Nominating Committee
Our church and all churches
Our missionaries — Jim and Jodi McGill and children in Niger
Our men and women in the armed services and their families
Stewardship growth in our church



FPC MISSIONS

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

Matthew 25:35

December 2nd

LuAnne Law

December 3rd

Bob Pittman

December 4th

Mary Wierman

December 5th

Ronnie Myers

December 8th

Beverly Hinson

December 15th

Kara Payne

December 16th

Don Morris

December 18th

Mel McLure Lundgren

December 21st

Jane Powell



Pray each day for our church's mission agencies and projects as we seek to be faithful to our Lord's great commission!

The Presbytery of Florida
Dogwood Acres Presbyterian Camp
FPC Food Pantry (part time staff & food)
Marianna High Fellowship of Christian
Athletes

Thornwell Presbyterian Home for
Children in Clinton, S.C.

Innovative Charities of Jackson County
Habitat for Humanity of Jackson County
FPC Sewing With Love (supplies)
Jim & Jodi McGill and children PCUSA
Missionaries in Niger and South
Sudan

This is a list of the birthdays of which we have been made aware. If your December birthday is not listed, please let the church office know so that we might update our list.