



*First Presbyterian Church*  
*4437 Clinton Street*  
*Marianna, FL 32446*  
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fpcmarianna@gmail.com  
**August, 2022**



Just these lines.....this new month.....to share with you part of a very affirming article that I recently read, written by ordained Presbyterian Commissioned Ruling Elder, Will Wiles, who lives and serves several small churches in northeastern Oklahoma (with a few edits by me).

**"All My Reasons for Choosing to Be and Remain**

**A Faithful and Enthusiastic Member and Lay Pastor of a PCUSA Congregation**

1. We are a denomination that encourages our members to study the Bible for ourselves and then discuss it with other members of our faith communities, to discern its meanings for our lives in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. We are a denomination that affirms the Reformation tenet of the "priesthood of all believers." This affirmation is most visible in our practice of passing the Communion trays from person to person on each row from our peers, rather than receiving Communion from a priest or minister.
3. We are a denomination that publicly and corporately confesses our individual and corporate sin as a part of our worship service.
4. We are a denomination that welcomes all of God's children to positions of authority and leadership, at all denominational levels, as they are Called and elected (not appointed).
5. We are a denomination in which ordained elders and ordained clergy share equally in providing pastoral services to congregations as well as in church governance from the session of the local church to the presbytery, the synod, through the highest judicatory levels of our denomination (the General Assembly).
6. We are a denomination that cares deeply about our youth & children, going so far as to give youth a place at the table of our national meetings.
7. We are a denomination that seeks to address social injustices, even when it is not always popular to do so.
8. We are a denomination with a missional concern for sharing the Gospel at home and all around the world.
9. We are a denomination that believes the connectedness of our congregations is symbolic of the Body of Christ where everyone is included. This is demonstrated by how our presbyteries structure their leadership. We make sure that there are equal numbers of elders and clergy, that those leaders are diverse (We have a specific committee to maintain balance between gender, race, age, clergy and non-clergy) and that committees involve people from throughout the whole presbytery.

10. We are a denomination with an educated and trained clergy. Our ordained ministers are required to have a minimum Master of Divinity degree (after a Bachelor's degree) and to pass ordination examinations on Bible content, Presbyterian polity, Hebrew and Greek, reformed theology, and our two sacraments.
11. We believe that God alone is the Lord of our conscience and that Christ alone is the head of our church.

While other denominations can claim some of these characteristics, I know of no other denomination, mainline or otherwise, which can lay claim to all of them. I share them as an encouragement to my fellow Presbyterians. I believe we can lay claim to our history, the shared theology on which our churches are built and our collective worship practices and mission growth as a way of celebrating what we are doing right, even though we have our challenges.

We have a strong shared foundation; and the presence of differences under our big tent is a powerful witness to how our denomination welcomes all of God's people into our membership. Our strength lies in our unity in diversity within the Body of Christ. Let's use our connectedness in a manner that fosters the growth of our larger Christian community — all churches.

Can I get an Amen" (end of article)

As you've heard me pray and say in worship, I love all churches which are proclaiming the Good News of the living gospel; and I give lay pastor Wiley an "amen" for what he likes about our PCUSA! Will you give him an "amen" too and pray for all churches all this month?

In Faith, Hope and Love,  
*Raymond*  
(850-765-3659)

## PRESBYTERIAN QUESTIONS, PRESBYTERIAN ANSWERS

### CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION?

Presbyterians believe in the “perseverance of the saints.” This is a theological understanding of salvation to indicate that once we are saved, God continues to hold us in faith so our salvation will not be lost. Sometimes this is called “eternal security,” meaning that our lives of faith in Jesus Christ are held secure by God’s power throughout our lives, into eternity.

We believe this on the basis of God’s faithfulness. God is trustworthy, and the promises God makes, God keeps. The apostle Paul said, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). God, who gives us the gift of salvation as an act of free grace, will continue to hold us in that salvation until the “day of Jesus Christ” — forever, Jesus indicated the same when he said, “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand” (John 10:28; cf. 10:29). If we are held in God’s hands, we will not slip through God’s fingers!

In the Methodist and various Baptist traditions, there is belief in “backsliding.” This is the view that a Christian can lose salvation. Due to sin, the salvation once received may be lost. Our Presbyterian theology, however, affirms that because of God’s unchangeable love and covenant faithfulness in Jesus Christ, God gives the gift of perseverance. We are held in salvation by God’s power, not our own. God’s Spirit seals us for the “day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30). There may be times and experiences in our lives where we sin and sin grievously. There may be long periods where it appears that we have drifted away or “lost” our salvation in Christ. If someone who previously confessed faith in Christ comes to denounce Christ, it is a sign that the profession of faith was not genuine in the first place. But we do not “backslide” to the point of losing our salvation. When our confession of Christ is genuine and we are united to Christ through faith, God’s Holy Spirit abides in us so that we never totally or finally fall away from God’s grace. “Perseverance” does not give us a license to live however we please, without regard for God. Instead, it is a source of praise to the God who has graciously called us into salvation, who will continue to hold us in Christ throughout our whole lives and bring us finally to glorification in heaven.

*Donald K. McKim*



## BEGINNING ART CLASSES

TAUGHT BY ANNA BARBER AND AGGIE SCHACK

The children are having a wonderful time, thoroughly enjoying spending time with “new friends” and being creative. Take a look at the pictures below with their finished product for the first Tuesday of classes. Anna and Aggie are enjoying the children!





## FALL 2022 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FPC CHILDREN/YOUTH AND THEIR FRIENDS!

## BACK TO SCHOOL!!! BACK TO CHURCH?

The children's Wild Wonderful Wednesday will begin the fall semester with their after school program at church on Wednesday, August 17th at 3:15 p.m.

SQUAD will begin the fall semester with their after school program at church on Wednesday, August 17th at 5:30 p.m. with an ice cream social!

Senior High will also begin the fall semester with their after school program at church on Wednesday, August 17th at 5:30 p.m. They will join the SQUAD for ice cream and then split off on their own.

The leaders of our children and youth programs are looking forward to another exciting and meaningful season. We are blessed to have such great, deeply committed members to fulfill these ministries; and we pray for them and our children and youth as a new school term soon begins!

The beginning of a new school year is when some of our friends and family may be open to looking for a new church home or returning to church. Why not pray and then invite someone to come with you to worship, Sunday school, Circle, Wednesday after-school programs, a mens' dinner, etc., etc. this month. Offer to pick them up! And, if you see someone new in church, ask them to sit with you.

ADD AN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
TO YOUR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES THIS FALL!  
A THIRD CLASS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SOON!

BIBLICAL STUDIES WITH ANDREW TINSLEY

Meets in the fellowship hall

*Welcome to the study of the Gospel of John. We begin each Sunday singing a hymn. Xylpha is so kind to play for us. (The Bible tells us that there will be glorious singing in heaven by the seraphim, cherubim, 24 elders, and all of God's children. So, singing on earth is pleasing to God and prepares us for singing in heaven. We learn this from another book written by John the apostle — Revelation.)*

*The gospel of John begins with the deity of Jesus Christ. But we quickly see Jesus' humanity when He is tired and thirsty as He speaks with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Our study is by group discussion. We learn from each other as we delve into the scripture verse by verse.*

*So come and visit our Sunday School class — each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. You may like it. (If you can't make it in person, you may join us by Zoom. The Zoom ID is 870 9356 1430.)*

THE BIBLE AND LAST WEEK'S

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES WITH PASTOR RAYMOND

Meets in the parlor

*Our class began meeting on Rally Day, 2021, and seems to keep growing! We use a curriculum (most weeks) called *The Wired Word*. (Google it for info and a sample description.) We discuss what the Bible and Jesus say, or don't say about very current events, particularly as they pertain to faith, ethics and morals. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God; and we recognize that the Holy Spirit doesn't always direct followers of Jesus in the same directions, when it comes to interpretation and application. We agree to disagree and love one another, respecting one another's theology and political leanings. The SCOTUS has kept us busy lately as we've discussed whether or not a coach has the right to lead prayers after a public school football game, as well as issues of life and choices. We wonder why the Speaker of our House of Representatives can have communion in Rome but not in her church in California and rejoice that everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table in Presbyterian churches as they are repentant and desire to be nurtured to nurture others. What do you think about churches whose members give coins to folks at laundromats as part of their mission? We pray. We find community. We go out to eat lunch together.*

# NEWS

## AROUND OUR CONGREGATION

### CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Bob Cowen who was recently honored by our local Rotary Club and presented with the "Others Above Self" award (as his son and fellow Rotarian, Gary, looked on) at one of Albert Milton's last weekly meetings as Rotary president of the local club, which meets weekly on Wednesdays at Jim's Buffet.

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#### MARIANNA HIGH HONOR ROLL

(for the last grading period)

9th grade all A's — John Lawson

9th grade A's and B's — Carolena Payne

10th grade all A's — Ryan Law

10th grade A's and B's — Cooper Milton

Eva Marie Stafford

11th grade A's and B's — Claire Medley

12th grade all A's — Anna Barber

Cole Payne

Ian Spence

12th grade A's and B's — Parker Dennison

GREAT JOB

FIRST PRESBYTERIANS!

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### CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Natalee Milton and Hunter Hutton who are engaged!

### SEWING/CRAFT GROUP

**SEWING WITH LOVE** continues meeting on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the church office. The group is now making bags for folks to use with walkers or wheelchairs with compartments for cell phones. Gifts of cotton cloth, thread and other sewing notions are always appreciated. If you'd like to get involved in one of our church's new small groups for fun and mission, call Donna at 850-765-3659 for information.

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#### CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS

are available in the church office for  
\$10/each or 2 for \$15.

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#### COOKBOOKS

The cookbook that men and women of First Presbyterian Church, Marianna, provided recipes for and was printed in 2009, has been reprinted and received. After distributing the cookbooks to the people who ordered them, we have 24 additional copies that we would like to sell for \$20/each. It is a very nice book and there is even a small section in the back titled, "Remembrances". It gives a brief statement about the person who contributed the recipe. What fond memories! Call Connie at the office, 850-526-2430 to make arrangements to order one!



## Historic FPC Organ Restoration Scheduled to be Completed Soon!

Watch for an announcement of an Organ Rededication Sunday filled with music, very soon!

Thanks, Xylpha, for serving for six weeks! Welcome home, Christine!



## Our Presbytery Of Florida Needs Commissioned Ruling Elders

A potential commissioned ruling elder is a ruling elder who may be open to discerning a Call to take and pass a number of online classes and then be commissioned by our presbytery to serve as a lay pastor at one or more (if geographically close) of our smaller churches. This process is accomplished through our presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, which is chaired by Pastor Raymond. If you have interest or questions, or would like to suggest someone in our church you feel would be a good candidate for a CRE, please call or speak with Pastor R. We currently have four churches in our presbytery which need a CRE today!

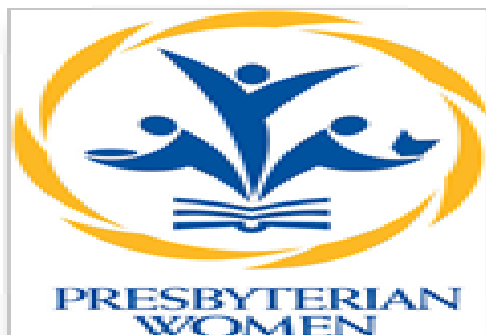
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### "VERBATUM"

Jesus started the greatest movement in the history of the world, not with any seed money, nor with an organization or institution. He left behind a group of friends who had become a community through a common bond with himself, but also through shared common experiences together. "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see." (Luke 10:23) For the church to be renewed today, it will take a community of friends who ask God to open our eyes to see the same things, to bless us with those same truths and aspirations, and to help us renew the church, that He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

*The Rev. Dr. Tim Keller*

*"The Case for Renewal"*



## WOMEN'S ANNUAL GATHERING

Ladies of our church are invited to the Annual Gathering of the Women of the Church. You do not have to be a circle member! Please come and enjoy the fellowship of our ladies of the Church and learn what we do, studying God's Word and our mission projects. We have four circles, so hopefully you can choose one that fits your needs. But, you do not have to join a circle. Just come August 22, 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

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Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton (850-718-7591)

Meets 1st Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. thru May in the fellowship hall

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Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter (850-718-7524)

Meets 1st Monday at 12:30 p.m.

Sept. thru May in the fellowship hall

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Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch

Chair is Peggy Peacock (850-209-0280)

Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets year round on the 3rd Monday

11:30 a.m. in fellowship hall

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Circle 4: The Wildflowers

Chair is LuAnne Law (850-557-7425)

Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets year round on the 1st Wednesday

6:30 p.m. in homes

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**CALL A CIRCLE CHAIR FOR INFO!  
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!**

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

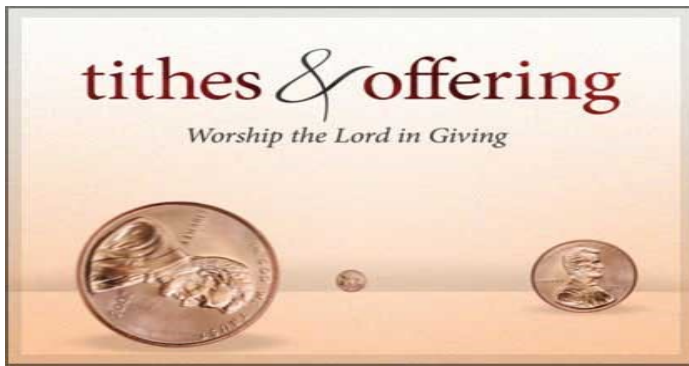
Raymond Guterman	Interim Pastor 352-817-8700
Kenneth Kelley	Choir Director 850-557-1198
Christine Yoshikawa	Organist
Connie Butts	Office Manager
Melissa Forehand	Food Pantry Coordinator
LeAnn Heineman	Custodian

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**BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER FOR  
BOB COWEN WHO IS TURNING  
100 YEARS YOUNG AUGUST 4TH.  
BIRTHDAY LUNCH ON SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 7TH.**

*A very faithful member of our church since 1965, and a leader in our community, Bob will become 100 on August 4; and we'll be having pizza, salad and birthday cake after worship on Sunday, August 7. We'd like to surprise Bob with 100 birthday cards; so please mail a card to our church this week (Mr. Bob Cowen in care of First Presbyterian Church, 4437 Clinton Street, Marianna, FL 32446) and we'll present all of them to him on August 7th!*

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## FROM OUR 1835

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Our Endowment Committee reminds 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.

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### ORGAN FUND DONATIONS

In July a donation was made to the Organ Restoration Fund in memory of Louise Daffin and Tom Wilkinson.

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RALLY DAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

**9:00 am Breakfast**

**9:45 am Rally in the Sanctuary**

**Our children's Sunday School faculty is growing! Watch your emails!**

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Monthly need for 2022 budget      \$23,835

Received month of July              \$20,225

( \$3,610)

Year-to-date 2022 budget need      \$166,845

Year-to-date received (7/30/22)      \$148,806

(\$ 18,039)

(These figures do not include special fund giving.)

#### SPECIAL FUNDS DONATIONS FOR JUNE

\$ 2,692

#### 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!

#### GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Adjusted Thermostats/Locked Doors

A member says: "Each time I've walked into our fellowship hall this summer, the thermostat was set for 71 degrees. We're using God's money to pay for utilities — which could be used for mission and ministry. And, lock all doors when you leave. Thank you!"





Ben Powell (Dogwood Acres Director) treatment for cancer  
Sherri Standland Johnson (requested by Kathy Roberts)  
Christine Boyles (requested by Elaine Keen)  
Amy Busby Rehberg (Joe Busby's daughter)  
Sallie Harris Mathis (requested by Ginger Green)  
Ginny Rose (Carol Maxson's sister)  
Lennon Rose (Carol Maxson's new great niece)  
Deborah Coronaro (Alex and Joy Lewis's daughter)  
Frances Brock (requested by Kathy Roberts)  
Chase Landrum (requested by Dot Carpenter)  
Bud Wierman  
Joy Lewis  
Russell A. Cole, Jr. (requested by Ernie & Fran McNeill)  
Roy Turner  
Shelby Vlieg (requested by Ellie Lawson)  
Jay Hoyt Rackley (requested by Ginger Green)  
Alisa Gunter Goldberg (Jake Gunter's daughter)  
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 Pastor Nominating Committee  
Our missionary — Jim Mc Gill in Niger  
Our men and women in the armed services and their families  
Our Food Pantry mission  
Peace with Russia and Ukraine  
Fall 2022 at FPC and all churches  
A new school and college year (students, educators, parents)  
Our neighbors in Mo. And Ky. (flooding) and the northwest (fires)



## FPC MISSIONS

### EXCITING FPC FOOD PANTRY NEWS JULY 2022 REPORT

386 households were served including 886 people.  
316 of the homeowners were 60 years or older and  
183 were under 18 (children and grandchildren.)

#### Current Volunteer Needs

1. Weekly (Mondays) unloading of Second Harvest Truck
  2. Tuesday bagging (back ups needed)
  3. Wednesday distribution (back ups needed)
- Call Food Pantry Director, Melissa, (850-693-1161) for information/to volunteer today!

Donations requested for the month of August are **peanut butter and jelly**. Small bags of dog or cat food are now being accepted also. There is a basket in the hallway between fellowship hall and the sanctuary where we may place our donations or we may place them at the back office entrance on Sundays. Thanks for everyone's support!

#### August 3rd

Susie Barber

#### August 4th

Bob Cowen

#### August 6th

Marcus Green  
Clay Milton

#### August 7th

Cindy Eade  
Amy Milton

#### August 9th

Donna Moore

#### August 11th

Cole Payne

#### August 17th

Frankie Stewart

#### August 23rd

Hunter Bedini

#### August 26th

Fred Carpenter

#### August 27th

Gayle DiBenedetto  
Kitty Myers

#### August 28th

Kenneth Kelley

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



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