

# *E-Blast News*

December 7, 2025 – December 14, 2025

**Dear Saints who are FPC,**

Years ago, I was the pastor of a church in Erie, Pennsylvania. The first winter I was there we have 94 inches of snow but the city was geared for it and roads were kept clear. It was a place of beauty that was completely different than the lush beauty of Florida.

One year we had a children's Christmas pageant brilliantly written by one of the elders. But, as always, it was a challenge to come up with enough parts for all the children. A boy of about 4 was given the role of the "carrier of straw for the stable." The pageant was about the journey to Bethlehem and the cast of characters moved all around the sanctuary as they acted out the journey taken by the holy family. In this pageant a whole cast of characters were never mentioned in the Bible. At first the straw carrier was having fun. But, as the pageant went on and on with lines he didn't understand, he got tired. At the next stop he made up a line for himself despite the intention that his role was to have no lines, "Are we there yet?" At every stop he asked, "Are we there yet?" and at the next stop, "Are we there yet?" This went on stop after stop way past the limits of his interest. Finally, they got to the stable. Again, his question, "Are we there yet?" Mary told them they were there now. He flung his straw upon the floor and exclaimed loudly, "Finally!!" and turned and walked out of the sanctuary. He had done what he was told. He made it to the stable, but he just couldn't see the point. Besides, the straw was scratchy and cookies were downstairs and his sister kept telling him to be quiet. Enough was enough. Exit the 'Straw Carrier!'

His actions implanted that story of the journey to Bethlehem firmly in my memory and still makes me wonder about who else was on the road and who was in the stable in Bethlehem and what they felt and learned. For me, it made the story human and memorable. It is still my favorite Christmas pageant.

Walk your way to Bethlehem carefully this year. Who knows where a brilliant 4-year-old might be lurking and waiting to make it real for you.

**Yours in the name of the one born in Bethlehem,**

*Will*



*Love, Iyla*

*Wishing  
everyone  
Merry  
Christmas!*

### *A treasurer's request*

All general offerings should be a separate check by itself to the church. Any other offerings such as Per Capita, Christmas Joy, or Samaritan's Purse can be on one check. This is so your donations can be correctly and accurately tracked.

Thank you,

*Edward*

Treasurer

### *Christmas Joy offering*

A Presbyterian goal is to assist church workers and their families in their time of critical, financial need and to assist students to open doors for opportunity.

Through the Christmas Joy offering, we honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and in critical financial need. We like students in schools and



their families who now find themselves honor and celebrate emerging leaders colleges as they pursue their education.

The Christmas Eve service is when this offering is taken, but you can give any time. Look for the envelopes in the pews or take one of the brown envelopes in the pews and label the outside "Christmas Joy offering".

## *Per Capita request*

The Session is requesting each congregational member consider giving their fair share of the Presbytery's per Capita cost this year. What that covers is the Presbytery's expense to govern and provide missions to congregations in their Presbytery.



In years past it was mandatory from each church based on church membership numbers, but in recent years it has been voluntary. The cost this year is **\$13.00** per member.

Envelopes have been placed in the pews marked *Per Capita*. Please feel free to use them or if writing a check write Per Capita in the message portion. Please place the envelope in the offering plate.

## *Send a card to Vivien*

While on her way home from trick or treating on Halloween night, Vivien Liszak was hit by a truck. One of her legs was crushed and the ankle on her other leg was broken. Vivien is at home, but would really enjoy some cards. Please consider sending this young lady a card to cheer her in her recovery.

Her address is 225 Seasons St., Pt. Charlotte, FL 33953

# Poinsettias order form



**POINSETTIA**

**ORDER FORM**

***Order early!!***



The annual tradition of placing poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas is here.  
The cost of the poinsettias this year is \$7.50 each.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>- Poinsettias placed in sanctuary**

**December 19<sup>th</sup>- Deadline for ordering poinsettias to appear in bulletin**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>-Poinsettias may be picked up following Christmas Eve service.**

Order forms and/ or donations may be dropped in the offering plates on Sundays, mailed, or brought to the church office.

## **POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

**Your Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant(s) to be placed in memory or in honor of (please circle one):**

**Number of plants @\$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_ Amount due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*\*Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church**

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## *Church Prayer List*

### **FPC MEMBERS:**

Tom and Arlene Anderman, Jean Borsmann, Shirley Cullom, Peggy Dees, Becky Delahunty, Vivien Liszak, MaryAnn Treadwell, and Terry West.

### **FPC – FAMILY / FRIENDS**

Bobby & Charlaine Adams, Diane Brantley, Kathy Borsmann, Marsha Browning, Mary Dow, Emerson, Michele Ehret, Sue Fender, Earl & Kay Frierson, Kathy Gamiotea, Verna Haynes, Jane Hayward, Donna Jones, Jimmy Lanier, Greg, Heidi, and Hannah Lepianka, Lisa Letson, Jill Logan, Keith Markey, Cary Mercer, Kenny O'Neal, Judy Onofri, Dana Parrish, Gabriel Quave, Jim Reinhart, Stephanie Purvis Rohling, Gene Scott, Bob & Pam Simmons, Tina Turzio, Margaret White, Debbie Webb and Laurie York.

### **MILITARY LIST:**

Julian Davis U.S. Army Medical Corps.  
Sean Davis U.S. Army Medical Corps.  
Senior Airman Roland Phelps

E6 Curtis Johnson U.S. Navy Medical Corps.  
CM1 Ryan Maassen U.S. Navy Seabees

## *Eblast requests*

Please turn in requests for inclusion in the Eblast by Monday of the week you want it to appear. We want to include your request.

## *Look what's coming...*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>	9:45 Adult Sunday school 10:30 Choir practice 11:15 Worship Service 5:00 Christmas music program
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**Monday      Dec. 15**      10:30 Paper Angels  
4:00 Session meeting (**New Time**)

**Wednesday Dec. 17**      12:30 Bible Study/Duplex  
3:00 Handbell Choir  
4:00 Chancel Choir

**Friday          Dec. 19**      **No Men's Luncheon @ Reef & Beef**

**Sunday        Dec. 21**      9:45 Adult Sunday school  
10:30 Choir practice  
11:15 Worship Service  
Center for the Needy collection

### **Contact information**

#### ***Homebound members' addresses***

*For those sending cards...*

Jackie Combs	9408 Rochester Rd., Minerva, OH 44657
Peggy Dees	2692 NE Hwy 70 #747, Arcadia, FL 34266
Norma Fisher	1013 E. Gibson St., Arcadia, FL 34266
MaryAnn Treadwell	11741 Lake Aston Court, Apt 113, Tampa, FL 33626
Frank & Terry West	1224 SW Scott Dr., Arcadia, FL 34266

#### ***Military***

CM1 Ryan Maassen	13972 Shields Bridge Rd., Belle Haven, VA
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### **Missions at work**

## Bill's Paper Angels

Collection for Bill's Paper Angels is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

**January 12 (next collection date)      December 15 (next distribution date)**

**NEEDED:** plastic toothbrush holders any size and sanitary napkins

## Arcadia Center for the Needy

Collection for Arcadia Center for the Needy is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Next collection date**

**December 21**

**NOTE:** You may donate at any time. If donating by envelope, please put Arcadia Center for the Needy in the memo section. We also collect cans with pop up tops. These can be dropped off at the office.

## Celebrations



## *December birthdays*

Dec. 8 Judy Bremer

Dec. 18 Pam Omar

Dec. 9 Hmingi Browne

Dec. 20 Donnie Knoche

Dec. 11 JoAnna Burtscher

Dec. 26 Robb Adams

Dec. 15 Lindsay Knoche

### **Attendance/Offering**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 43**

**Via Facebook: 20**

**Offering:**

**Year to Date: \$174,227.92**

### **Contact information**

First Presbyterian Church  
20 N. Orange Ave.  
Arcadia, FL 34266

Rev. Dr. Will Browne  
941-928-7504  
863-494-4434

Office Hours: 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
Closed 12-1 for lunch

### **Session**

2025: Dave Bremer, Jill Maassen, Mac Martin, Terry Presson

2026: Jeff Adams, Ellie Sutphin, David Maassen, Don Knoche

2027: Jackie Harris, Donnie Knoche, Tyler Maassen, Edith Wildt

### **Catch us on Facebook**

Be sure to sign up for our Facebook page and **like** our page.

Also, visit our website [www.firstpc.church](http://www.firstpc.church) we have information, pictures, services that you can listen to if you can't make it to church. If you have questions, or problems call the office. 863-494-4434.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEBSITE**

1. Type in [www.firstpc.church](http://www.firstpc.church)
2. You will see the sermon on the main page now, so just click on it.