

E-Blast News

February 8, 2026– February 15, 2026

Dear Saints,

This week we take a second look at the Gospel According to Matthew's opening of the Sermon on the Mount. The gospel originally addresses Jesus' words to his disciples - at this point only the first 4 have been called - Andrew, Peter, James and John. Either one of them or a person in the crowd that followed after Jesus had an amazing memory. Each word is important - each word counts and there are three chapters of words that cover an array of topics.

I am struck by how careful Matthew is to convey both the seriousness of what was happening around Jesus and the disciples as well as his positive words and expectations of Jesus as he formed the growing group of disciples. They would, in a few short years become the Church - the body of Christ in the world. We are - by God's grace - them! Jesus' words to them are also to us. Look at Matthew 5:13-20 in preparation for our Sunday worship together.

I look forward to seeing all of you then.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Will

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

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.



S(o)uper Bowl fun!



Help predict who will win the Super Bowl this year and help the Center for the Needy at the same time.

Bring cans of soup and place them in the team tub of your choice (the **New England Patriots** or the **Seattle Seahawks**) located in the narthex. Remember each can counts as **one** vote.

If you prefer.... donate money. **\$1.00** per vote. Please put your donation in one of the envelopes placed on the table in the narthex. Don't forget to **circle the team** you want your votes to count toward.

This Sunday is the Super Bowl, so this Sunday is the absolute deadline for either contribution.

All donations go to help the Center for the Needy.

Card Making Class

The next card class will take place at 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 17th in the office duplex. If you plan to attend, please let me know no later than Friday, February 13th, so that I can make sure that I have supplies for everyone. You may either call or text me at (863) 558-2155 or see me at church.

After our card class, those who wish, may plan to have lunch at My Shelly's.

I am looking forward to our fellowship time together.

Have a blessed week!

Edie Wildt

Shrove Tuesday in February

FPC's celebration of Shrove Tuesday sees us partnering again with St. Edmund's Episcopal Church in Pfrangle Hall. Last year nearly 100 people came to eat and enjoy fellowship. This year's date is **Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5-7 p.m.**

Please plan to be a part of this all-you-can- eat dinner. It's pancakes, sausage, toast, orange juice, coffee, and water.

Tickets are **\$8** and can be purchased in the front office or from Jill. Tickets can also be bought at the door.

Mardi Gras, synonymous with Carnival celebrations in New Orleans, Venice and Rio, is marked in similarly festive fashion around the world.

However, what began as a holiday rooted in religious tradition has become a cultural phenomenon, leading to parties for the sake of partying, and not necessarily in anticipation of 40 days of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Along the way, **Shrove Tuesday** emerged as the last day of Shrovetide, the week preceding the start of Lent. The word **Shrovetide** is the English equivalent of Carnival, which comes from the Latin words *carnem levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh."

To prepare for Lent, Christians prepared pancakes to deplete their stock of eggs, milk, butter and fat, giving rise to Pancake Day in England. As the tradition spread through Europe, it became Mardi Gras in France, where waffles and crepes are prepared as part of a lavish feast.

Church Prayer List

FPC MEMBERS:

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

FPC – FAMILY / FRIENDS

Bobby & Charlaine Adams, Diane Brantley, Marsha Browning, Mary Dow, Emerson, Michele Ehret, Sue Fender, Earl & Kay Frierson, Kathy Gamiotea, Gina Green, Verna Haynes, Jane Hayward, Ernie Hewitt, 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.	E6 Curtis Johnson U.S. Navy Medical
Sean Davis U.S. Army Medical Corps.	Corps.
Senior Airman Roland Phelps	CM1 Ryan Maassen U.S. Navy Sea

Look what's coming...

Sunday (S(o)uper Bowl)	Feb. 8	9:45 Adult Sunday school 10:30 Choir practice 11:15 Worship Service
Monday	Feb. 9	10:30-12:00 Paper Angel distribution
Wednesday	Feb. 11	12:30 Bible study 3:00 Handbell practice 4:00 Choir practice
Friday	Feb.13	12:30 Men’s luncheon at Reef & Beef’s
Sunday	Feb. 15	9:45 Adult Sunday school 10:30 Choir practice 11:15 Worship Service 11:15 Annual Congregational/Corporation meeting 11:15 Collection 4 Needy

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 23306
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Missions at work

Bill's Paper Angels

Collection for Bill's Paper Angels is the 1st Sunday of the month.

March 1 (next collection date) February 9 (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 3rd Sunday of each month.

Next collection date: February 15

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



February birthdays

Feb. 6- Leslie Hale	Feb. 13- Mary Pete Martin	Feb. 15- Brennen Fender
Feb. 15- Jan LoPorto	Feb. 18- Susan Head	Feb. 22- LeAnne Maassen
Feb. 23- Kathy Tanner	Feb. 24- T.C. Thomas	Feb. 27- Adalyn Knoche
Feb. 28- Nicole M. Jiskoot		

Church Information

Attendance/Offering

Attendance Last Sunday: 27

Via Facebook: 18

Offering: 02-1-26 \$4,645.00

Year to Date: **\$20,571.00**

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

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

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

2028: Dave Bremer, Becky Delahunty, Sue Maassen, Mitzie McGavic

Catch us on Facebook

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

Also, visit our website 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
2. You will see the sermon on the main page now, so just click on it.