

# *E-Blast News*

**February 1, 2026– February 8, 2026**

**Dear Saint First Presbyterian Church Arcadia,**

This Sunday brings us to the sermon on the mountain according to the gospel of Matthew. Matthew begins the sermon on the mountain with his version of the tunes about eight sayings in which he lays out blessings that God has for people who abide and follow the kingdom of heaven. This is a wonderfully positive beginning or a gospel spoken word. A message that shows how much God loves and cares for the desires of the freely chosen response of the people. It is a sermon in which Matthew carefully lays out different options for the people, but in every case is concerned about the blessing they might receive from what it is they do by following Jesus. Matthew has previously given us the call of the four First disciples Andrew, Peter, James and John. These were happy calls and positive instant responses by these disciples. We know that in the same fifth chapter that the gospel has the attitudes in, we're also going to see the call of Matthew, the tax collector. Again, a positive response to what God is doing through Jesus. This Sunday as we look at all of this I hope that you will come with an awareness and eagerness to hear the word just as the disciples did, and with an awareness that God's attention for us is one of blessing and warmth of love and of care. May God add his blessing to these words as we study them this Sunday.

**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 Sea Hawks**) 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.

Next Sunday is the Super Bowl, so next Sunday is the absolute deadline for either contribution.

All donations go to help the Center for the Needy.

***Save the Date!***

The annual **Congregational /Corporation** meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2026. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The meeting will highlight the previous year's activities, answer questions, and look to the future for First Arcadia.

## 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 **\$7** 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.**  
**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 Sea**

Look what's coming...

**Wednesday Feb. 3** 12:30 Bible study  
3:00 Handbells practice  
4:00 Choir practice

**Friday Feb. 6 12:30 Men's luncheon at Reef & Beef's**

**Sunday Feb. 8** 9:30 S(o)uper Bowl  
9:45 Adult Sunday school  
10:30 Choir practice  
11:15 Worship Service

## **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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 30

Offering: 01-25-26 \$5,769.00

Year to Date: **\$15,926.00**

### 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](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.