

E-Blast News

November 23, 2025 – November 30, 2025

Dear Saints of FPC,

This week we will celebrate THANKSGIVING! I am old enough to have many many memories of Thanksgiving for which I give thanks!

When I was growing up as a child of missionaries, Thanksgiving was a time of western food and thanksgiving hymns and long prayers. School would be about to break for our long winter holiday, so students were pumped to be going home to their parents in mission stations all over India and south and southeast Asia. A semester was done. Exams had mostly been taken.

For thanksgiving the food was as traditional as we could get it. I'm not sure what we put in place of turkeys because I don't remember them at all – probably a great supply of chickens. We had veggies of all sorts and cranberry sauce! For me the best thing was the pumpkin pie served with lots of real cream on top (i.e. not out of a spray can).

It was also a time to remember stories from America of our memories of American Thanksgivings – made much better by visiting grandparents and cousins and other extended family.

I remember my father's prayers that included gratitude for the survival of WWII and other conflicts and an awareness of events in the world from which we were spared by our gracious God.

I remember Thanksgiving hymns – “For the beauty of the earth;” and “God of our fathers”.

I also remember that one of the joys of attending an international school was that we got invited into thanksgiving-type meals with the Canadians, the English, the Swiss, Indians and some 20 or so others countries.

Common to all was the giving of thanks to God for the abundant and over-flowing grace in which we lived.

May your thanksgiving this year be filled with an awareness of God's bountiful gifts and joy in sharing them with others.

Gratefully Yours,

Will

Our newest members- The Thomas family



This past Sunday was a special time for our congregation. If you missed it, you missed something extraordinary for not only the Thomas family, but for all of those present.

Hailey and infant lyla were baptized and father Travis and mother Hailey joined our church. The family became a sixth generational family for FPC. As an infant, Travis had been baptized in our church.

On October 30 lyla became the apple of everyone's eye in her first Halloween outfit.



On November 13, she marked the halfway journey to her first birthday.



Travis is the grandson of Cherie Neal Thomas. That makes lyla Cherie's great granddaughter!

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 critical financial need. We like students in schools and



their families who now find themselves in 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.

Card-making class

This past Tuesday morning Karen Cassels, Marilyn Gallant, Susan Head, Jan LoPorto, Jill Maassen, Sandra McLaughlin, and Cherie Thomas took their first lesson in cardmaking under the watchful eye of teacher Edie Wildt.

Amid laughter and fellowship patient teacher Edie assured each that everyone could do it. See below for proof!!!

When finished, each had made a Thanksgiving card and a Christmas card. To celebrate the day, the group went to lunch at MyShelly's restaurant. More fellowship!!

The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 10 am in the church office. Please plan to attend. Contact Edie Wildt in advance so she can prepare.

In the beginning....



In the end!!!!



Poinsettias order form



POINSETTIA



INFORMATION & 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 12th - Poinsettias placed in sanctuary

December 19th - Deadline for ordering poinsettias to appear in bulletin

December 24th - 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**

Operation Christmas Child

Under the direction of Franklin Graham, Operation Christmas Child is just one of the missions Samaritan's Purse International Relief sponsors.

Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Samaritan's Purse also mobilizes staff and equipment and enlists thousands of volunteers to provide emergency aid to victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters in the United States. They often stay behind after the initial response to rebuild or restore houses for needy families

The Session in their Monday meeting decided to donate to Operation Christmas Child this year. We have in the past filled shoe boxes, but with National Collection Week this week from November 17-24, the session decided to ask the congregation for monetary donations to this worthy mission.

Donation envelopes have been placed in the pews. If you donate by check, please put Operation Christmas Child in the message section. If you donate by cash, please be sure to put your name on the outside of the envelope.

Your donations will make a difference during this season.

Invitation to a shower

All ladies are invited to attend Rebecca Harris-Browning's baby shower in Pfrangle Hall on Saturday, December 13th, 2025 at 10am.

Rebecca is registered on Amazon. The link is

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/rebecca-browning-february-2026-arcadia/16Y5R05SXI4HX>

Send a card to Vivien Liszak

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.

EBlast requests

Please turn in requests for inclusion in the EBlast by Wednesday of the week you want it to appear. We want to include your requests.

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, Donna Jones, Jimmy Lanier, Greg, Heidi, and Hannah Lepianka, Lisa Letson, Jill Logan, Keith Markey, Cary Mercer, Kenny O'Neal, Judy Onofri, Gabriel Quave, Jim Reinhart, Stephanie Purvis Rohling, Bob & Pam Simmons, Tina Turzio, Margaret White, 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

Look what's coming...

Sunday	Nov. 23	9:45 Adult Sunday school 10:30 Choir practice 11:15 Worship Service 12:00 Deck the Sanctuary Halls for Christmas
Monday	Nov. 24	9:00 Thanksgiving baskets distribution
Wednesday	Nov. 26	No Bible Study/Duplex
Thursday	Nov. 27	Thanksgiving

Office closed

Friday	Nov. 28	Office closed
Sunday	Nov. 30	First Sunday in Advent Sunday of Hope
Monday	Dec.1	Paper Angels distribution

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
------------------	---

Missions at work

Bill's Paper Angels

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

December 7 (next collection date) December 1 (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
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



November birthdays

Nov. 12 Ted Land

Nov. 19 Logan Adams

Nov. 23 David Maassen

Nov. 26 Edward Maassen

Nov. 27 Don Knoche

Nov. 28 Jill Maassen

Brian Fender

Nov. 29 Cherie Thomas

Church Information

Attendance/Offering

Attendance Last Sunday: 40

Via Facebook: 15

Offering Last Sunday: \$8,705.00

Year to Date: \$170,257.92

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. Each day we post a scripture verse and we put up live services and events. We post pictures as well.

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 give me a call at 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.