

# E-Blast News

Dec 6 to Dec 13, 2020

Dear Saints Who are First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia,

This Advent season I am looking at the beginning of each Gospel and how the author chose to start telling Jesus' story. Last week we looked at the Prologue of the Gospel According to John. John goes all the way back before time and creation and begins the story in the eternal being of God.

This week we look to the Gospel According to Matthew. Matthew also begins before Jesus is born. In fact he takes us back all the way to God's calling of Abraham and tracks all the generations of descendants until Joseph. He does this with a genealogy, which in the days of King James English was call the 'begats.' That is, "Abraham begat Isaac and Isaac begat Jacob..."

Modern versions say, "Abraham was the father of Isaac and Isaac was the father of Jacob..."

Besides challenging the pronunciation skills of the liturgical read, list of who was father to whom seems strange to us today. Many writers suggest we think about this as an ancient genogram which a tool to study the patterns of the recent generations in our family in order to better understand ourselves. This list goes back 42 generations! And, as with most family histories, we encounter surprises and shocks. All was not as noble and faithful as we thought it was.

The list in the Gospel according to Matthew is one way of telling us who Jesus was – which is not a bad way to prepare for our Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth! ... but watch out for the surprises – there is some shocking stuff here!

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Will

### **Church Prayer List**

#### **FPC MEMBERS**

Tom & Arlene Anderman, and Wayne Gallant.

#### **FPC – FAMILY / FRIENDS**

Alan Adams, Quinton Campbell, Robert Campbell (MaryAnn Treadwell's grandson), Victoria Cross, Pam and Rick Dodd, Carrie Evans (Judie Neeley's daughter), Heidi Evans (Bill Stander's cousin), Roger Evans, Jane Hayward, Deborah Hughes (Wayne Naumberg's daughter), Chester Johnson, Hanna Joy Lepianka (Rich & Jean Borsmann's granddaughter), Keith Markey, Rusty & Robbie Mullins, Bobby O'Neal (Edith's friend), Ruth Ann Smith, Linda Summers, Laurie Sykora, Sherry Turner, JoLynn Wright( Bill Stander's cousin) and Landon Yoder.

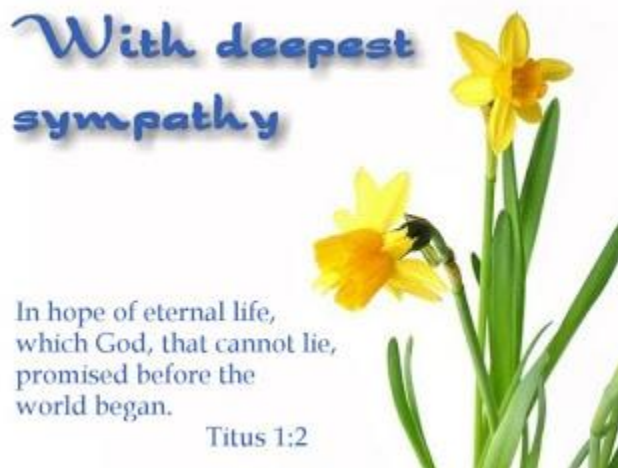
#### **MILITARY LIST**

Julian Davis, Sean Davis, Ryan Maassen, and Cole Overcash.

## Homebound Members

*We have members who are sick or haven't been outside due to the Covid-19 and You know they would love to have some cheer. How about sending out a card or two and let them know they are still loved and missed.*

Jerry Anderman:	1013 E. Gibson St. Arcadia, FL 34266
Jim Campbell:	746 Southlawn Court Olewein, IA 50662
Bob/Shirley Cullom:	807 W. Imogene St. Arcadia, FL 34266
Peggy Dees:	2692 NE Hwy 70 #747 Arcadia, FL 34266
Norma Fisher:	1013 E. Gibson St. Arcadia, FL 34266
Wayne/Marilyn Gallant:	2692 NE Hwy 70 # 626 Arcadia, FL 34266
Robert Treadwell:	2052 NE Floridian Circle Arcadia, FL 3426



*Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rita Banks family.*



Christmas is coming.....

The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on December 18 for the season and may be picked up *after* the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Dec. 24.

If you would like to purchase poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call the church office and we will fill out the order form for you and you may send your donation to the church office **no later than December 18<sup>th</sup>**. The order forms and donations may also be dropped in the offering plates on Sundays, mailed, or brought to the church office. You may still purchase a **poinsettia after December 18<sup>th</sup>, but your memorial/honor may not be listed until the following Sunday. Order early!!**



We will be collecting Christmas Joy bags for Mission Peniel beginning now through Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

The small tree is up in the Narthex with the tags. Please take a tag (or two), write your name on the registration sheet and go shopping!

**DO NOT** wrap or purchase a gift bag. (Gift bags will be provided as the Mission wants them to be all the same.)

Also please buy all the items listed on the tag, gender neutral, and do not add any additional items. This is the requirement per the Mission.

Once you have purchased the items, place in box in Narthex **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY DEC. 13<sup>TH</sup>.**



Notes from Genie:

Christmas is coming!!

And we don't have Charles Dirr to help us celebrate the day with his beautiful organ music or to tell his stories and jokes! He is missed!

Our Christmas Music program will be Sunday morning Dec 20<sup>th</sup> at the 11 o'clock service. The Chancel Choir will not be singing. The Handbell Choir is ready & excited about performing all your Christmas favorite songs plus Ellie, Steve and Mac with guitar special music!

We've been working hard and we need all of you to come!!

Lovina will be christened as well.



Coming in January Paper Angels...

The Congregational Team has developed a new way to get involved with our community. We will be supplementing items that Trinity Methodist food pantry does not provide. We have met and come up with a list of items that are needed and we will also greatly appreciate volunteers. These are the items we are starting off with and we may add more items to the list.

Bar soap, small liquid soap, tooth brush, toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products (tampons, napkins), paper towels, travel size (body lotion, shampoo, body wash, mouthwash) wipes and hand sanitizer.

Mark your Calendar.....



## December 2020

6 <sup>th</sup>	9:45 am	Sunday school
	11:00 am	Worship/with communion
	12:00 pm	Elders meeting following the worship service
7 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 pm	Congregational Care Meeting/duplex
9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Handbell practice
11 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Worship/Music Committee meeting/duplex

Our Christmas Music Program will be Sunday Morning December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.  
The Chancel Choir will not be singing. The Handbell Choir is ready and excited about performing all your Christmas favorite songs plus Ellie, Steve and Mac (guitar) will have special music as well.  
Plus the baptism of Lovinia Grace Jiskoot.

## Attendance/Offering

Attendance Last Sunday: 41

Via Facebook: 64

Offering Last Sunday: \$2,904.00

Year to date: \$ 175,414.76



#### **December – Birthdays**

**8 Judy Bremer, 9 Hmingi Browne & Kay Holloman, 11 JoAnn Burtscher, 15 Lindsay Knoche, 20 Donnie Knoche, 21 Marion Townsend, 24 Stephen Winhoven, 26 Robb Adams.**



#### **December – Anniversaries**

**14 - Jeff and Nancy Adams**

**27 – Don and Shelia Knoche**

**29 – Tom and Arlene Anderman**

Church Mailing Address is:

**First Presbyterian Church**

**20 N. Orange Ave.**

**Arcadia, FL 34266**



## SESSION

2020: Dave Bremer, Johnny Maassen, Mac Martin, Mary Ann Treadwell

2021: Beth Liszak, Mitzie McGavic, Skip West

2022: Judy Kirkpatrick, Don Knoche, Jill Maassen, Bill Stander

## ELDERS EMERITI

Margaret Way

David Holloman

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](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 give me a call at 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.

