

STAFF


Rev. George T. Head - Pastor  
Rev. Bill Chegwin - Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Bev Richardson - Parish Associate  
Gale Luttrell - Office Administrator  
Carol Poole - Office Assistant  
Babs King - Choir Director  
Tim Murphy - Pianist  
Steve Looney - Sound Engineer  
Bruce Wilson - Custodian  
Audrey Geer - Nursery Attendant  
Susan Stuckey - Librarian  
John Bros & Floris Rogers - Slide Techs  
Marshall Wright - Media  
Susan Church - Faith Community Nurse

Our Staff

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES


**February Birthdays**  
2/3 Bev Hasty  
2/5 Carolyn Topham  
2/10 Elaine Ehrenberg  
2/12 Jack Ascherl  
2/13 Mary Cain  
2/20 Barbara Prietz  
2/21 Chuck Johnson  
Jodie Loveday  
2/23 Donna Jarus  
2/24 Tom Ulewicz  
2/27 Karen Hall

**February Anniversaries**  
2/1 Janet and Larry Horton  
2/10 Bev and Rod Richardson  
2/21 Diane and John Heckendorn



CHANCEL FLOWERS


**February Chancel Flowers**  
  
2/2 Flowers given by Barbara Newman to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Gordon.  
2/9 Available  
2/16 Available  
2/23 Available



ELDERS/DEACONS

**Elders 2025:**  
Ed Carter  
Margaret Catanzariti  
Ron Church  
Diane Grether  
Laurie Grizzard  
Jim Kennedy  
Anne Perdue  
Floris Rogers  
Ralph Stonebraker  
Susan Stuckey  
Dennis Toth  
Marshall Wright

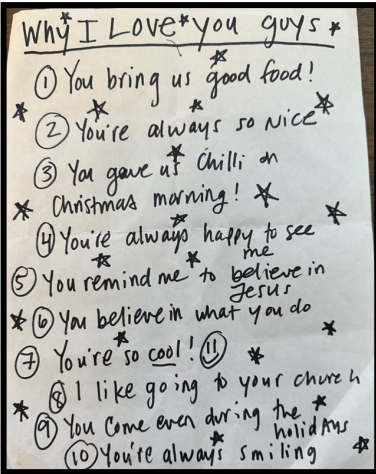
**Deacons 2025:**  
Susan Church  
Debbie Devine  
Anne Jensen  
Barbara Johnson  
Trish Kennedy  
Carol Kurfis  
Jodie Loveday  
Jackie Toth  
Wanda Ulewicz  
Beth Vercolen  
Chris Williams  
Sandi Wirth



**Deacon of the Month:**  
Wanda Ulewicz

PB&J

On January 2, the PB&J crew members were surprised and delighted to receive this note from Maria, a young woman whom we have known and served for more than a year. While Maria is clearly happy about the food items that we provide, it is also clear that the personal and respectful interactions we provide on behalf of the congregation are even more meaningful to her. We hear gratitude from the people we serve on a frequent basis, but Maria’s expression is one that we wanted to share with you. It is not about the peanut butter and jelly sandwich – it is about meeting people where they are on their life journey and interacting with them as fellow humans in a respectful and caring manner.

**NOTE FROM MARIA**





FEBRUARY 2025

PASTOR’S ARTICLE

My Dear Friends,

This is the month of love, a month to express your love for others and to God, as God has expressed it already to you. I’ll be preaching on the topic of “love” through the whole month. But where do we start?

Author Philip Yancey writes: “Where I live in the Rocky Mountains, you can see several thousand stars with the naked eye on a clear night. All of them belong to the Milky Way galaxy, which contains more than 100 billion stars, including an average-sized one that our planet Earth orbits around—the Sun.

Our galaxy has plenty of room: 26 trillion miles separate the Sun from the star nearest to it. And traveling at the speed of light, it would take you 25,000 years to reach the center of the Milky Way from our home planet, which lies out in the galaxy’s margins.

Until a century ago, astronomers believed the universe consisted of our galaxy alone. Then, in the 1920’s, Edwin Hubble proved that one apparent cloud of dust and gas in the night sky, named Andromeda, was actually a separate galaxy. Now there were two. When NASA launched a large telescope into space for a clearer view, they appropriately named it after Hubble.

In 1995, a scientist proposed pointing the Hubble Space Telescope at one dark spot, the size of a grain of sand, to see what lay beyond the darkness. For ten days, the telescope orbited Earth and took long-exposure images of that spot. The result, which has been called “the most important image ever taken,” would astonish everyone. It turns out that tiny spot alone contained almost 3,000 galaxies!

Scientists now believe that if you had unlimited vision, you could hold a sewing needle at arm’s length toward the night sky and see 10,000 galaxies in the eye of the needle. Move it an inch to the left and you’d find 10,000 more. Same to the right, or no matter where else you moved it. There are approximately a trillion galaxies out there, each encompassing an average of 100 to 200 billion stars.”

How should we adapt to this humbling new reality? Is this the place where we are to start in understanding love?? Back when people assumed the universe comprised a few thousand stars, a psalmist marveled in prayer, “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” (Ps. 8:3–4). What is mankind that God loves us so much? God loves the world so deeply (John 3:16) that he sent his Son in the form of a servant (Phil. 2:6-7) to die for humanity. In an act of humility beyond comprehension, the God of a trillion galaxies chose to “con-descend”—to descend to be with— humans on this one rebellious planet, out of billions in the universe.

This is the demonstration of sacrificial love we can emulate, and it kind of make a box of chocolate seem kind of small, doesn’t it?

We will look at this in the coming weeks. It’s good to be back. Remember how much I love you!

Rev. George T. Head

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

- The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force met on January 6 and here are some of the highlights:
1. A special and meaningful dedication **Worship Service** was held on January 5 where we dedicated our banners, upcoming yearly activities, worship, and donations to God, giving thanks for God’s faithfulness to this congregation and community for 150 years.
  2. **Invitations** will be mailed in the middle of January for the March 2 worship service and luncheon, where an RSVP is required.
  3. Mission will begin our **150 Random Acts of Kindness** with a Minute for Mission and Newsletter article in the middle of January. The supplies needed to fill the tree with leaves of kindness are in Eubank Hall.
  4. The January \$150 Donation from Presbyterian Women was given to Edgar’s Farm, equine therapy for those with disabilities.
  5. Plans are well under way for **Worship and Music on March 2**, so be sure to be there!
  6. Two other dates to remember: **Thursday, February 13** – Sanctuary Clean-up and a light lunch and **Sunday, April 27** – Ice Cream Social following worship and fellowship.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- The Session met on January 21 and here are some of the highlights:
1. Received two (2) new members, **Jennifer Cross** by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, SC and **Mark Potter** by Transfer of Letter from Wekiva Presbyterian Church in Longwood, FL.
  2. Welcomed new Ruling Elders Ron Church, Diane Grether, and Laurie Grizzard, as well as returning Ruling elder Ralph Stonebraker
  3. Announced the 2025 Session Committee assignments.
  4. Elected Ed Carter as Treasurer for 2025 and elected Anne Perdue as Clerk for 2025.
  5. Received the committee reports and Property Management stated that the work on a new roof for all of our facility, except the sanctuary, will begin the week after our March 2 celebration.
  6. Elected Margaret Catanzariti as our Commissioner to the Central Florida Presbytery Meeting in Orlando on March 8, 2025.



FINANCIALS

After the 2024 annual financial statement was inserted in the 2024 Annual Report, which the congregation received on Sunday, it was discovered that the financial information had not been properly updated. If you would like the corrected version, contact Ed Carter at 317-753-9708 or [ecarter426@aol.com](mailto:ecarter426@aol.com).

MISSIONS/SISTER CHURCHES



RALLY SUNDAY

Sister Churches of the Month

Other churches in our presbytery, please lift up prayers.

- 2/2 First Presbyterian, Eustis
- 2/9 New Life, Fruitland Park
- 2/16 Glenwood, Deland
- 2/23 Community, Howey-In-The-Hills



SESSION NEWS

1/01/2024-12/31/2024 (12 months)

Income/Expenses	
\$ 45,394.82	\$ 414,236.24
43,802.38	405,086.85
\$ 1,591.44	\$ 9,149.39



1/01/2023-12/31/2023 (12 months)

Income/Expenses	
\$ 53,491.41	\$ 412,450.89
38,716.15	343,579.96
\$ +14,775.26	\$ 68,870.93

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER:

2024: 789 (5 Sundays) 2023: 632 (4 Sundays)

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

PROMOTING BIBLE STUDIES FOR 2025 for First Presbyterian Church of New Smyrna Beach

**The Holy Spirit Bible Study** led by Becky Bros resumes in 2025. The group will meet every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Eubanks Hall Bible Study began Jan. 8, 2025. The program will follow the fourth season of the television program “The Chosen” about the life of Christ. New participants are welcome.

**Stuckey Bible Study** led by Susan and Ron Stuckey will host a weekly Bible study and fellowship at their home beginning in February 2025. The upcoming program will use a book called “Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life.” More information to come in future bulletins, and new participants are welcome.

**Men’s Bible Study** led by John Robinson resumes in 2025. The men’s group meets every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Room 6. The weekly meetings start Jan. 8, 2025, and will continue until Memorial Day. The facilitated group discussion is using a book called “The Message of Mathew” from The Bible Speaks Today. The group welcome new men.

**Anne Perdue’s Bible Study** resumes in 2025. People can choose from two participation options: 1) at Anne’s home or on Zoom on Mondays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. from Jan. 20, 2025, to June 9, 2025, or 2) at church on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. from Jan. 21, 2025, to June 10, 2025. The lessons and handouts are the same for both sessions. The upcoming series will study the book of Revelation. The study will include an understanding of it as a book of worship and hope, as well as some of the ways in which the book can be interpreted. New participants are welcome



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN EVENTS



### *Building God's Kingdom in our Community*

January was a beautiful beginning as over 30 women came together to study the Word of God, share in fellowship, and prayerfully plan for a season of rewarding activities ahead! We were also blessed to hear from Hope Rosenthal of Edgar's Farm Equine Therapy, learning about the meaningful work they are doing in partnership with Easter Seals. In celebration of FPC's 150th Anniversary, Hearts of Hope joyfully donated \$150 to support their mission, giving glory to God for the opportunity to contribute.

On Monday, January 20, we gathered at the Edgewater Chick-fil-A for a "dine to donate" event. The turnout was heartwarming, and while the amount raised was modest (\$153), the evening was rich with laughter, fellowship, and God-honoring connections. How fitting that the amount reflects our ongoing theme of "150 in 2025," reminding us of God's abundant provision.

On February 1, eight faithful women from Hearts of Hope will gather for praise and fellowship at the PW Central Florida Presbytery Annual Gathering, held at El Redentor Presbyterian Church in Oviedo, Florida. Norma Carter, our current Hearts of Hope Moderator, will be installed as an officer as District 1 Coordinator for the Presbyterian Women of Central Florida. This honor reflects God's blessings upon the ministry of First Presbyterian Church and our devoted Hearts of Hope Presbyterian Women, who continue to serve as instruments of His love and grace.

The monthly meeting of Hearts of Hope Presbyterian Women is **Monday, February 10**, for a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship. Bible Study will begin in the Chapel at 9:30 AM, followed by Fellowship in Room 6 at 10:00 AM, and our PW Gathering in the Chapel at 10:30 AM. We eagerly anticipate these moments to grow closer to God and to one another.

Also in February, we are prayerfully preparing for our **Friday, March 21** Annual Musical Evening in Eubank Hall from 7:00–9:00 PM. This will be a night of joy, featuring live music, delicious refreshments, door prizes, and a silent auction. Tickets will go on sale **February 16** for \$25 per person, and additional donations will be welcomed for mocktails and photographs. Mark your calendars and invite your friends!



Additionally, we're offering free, open-to-all line dancing instruction and practice on **Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30 PM at FPC, beginning February 5**. It's a wonderful way to come together in joy and praise through movement and music.

All women are welcome. Let us continue to seek His guidance and blessings as we walk together in faith, service, and love!

## RALLY SUNDAY EVENT



Mission Team - 150 Random Acts of Kindness


In January, Barbara Stolz, Chair of the Mission Team, shared a new initiative in celebration of the 150th founding of First Presbyterian Church. Our congregation is known for being generous with both their time and resources all year, every year. This new initiative aims to bring us together in a more intentional way to express our thankfulness and worship during this sacred year.

In Eubank Hall, you'll find spiritual tools to guide you. There's a bulletin board, brochure racks with instructions and ideas, and also a tree where we can share some of the acts of kindness by our congregation. This tree symbolizes our growth in faith and love. There is also a system for congregants who need assistance to request it, creating opportunities to serve and uplift each other within our church family. Please stop by, engage with this holy space, note your act of kindness, or take a request you feel called to fulfill. **Don't forget to pick up a commemorative bookmark once you've added a leaf to our tree of blessings.**

On Sunday, February 16, we will hold our annual "Mission Rally" in Eubanks. Our different ministries will have tables set up, not just with information about their purpose, but as places where you can discern how God is calling you to use your gifts for His Kingdom. These tables will present a beautiful array of service opportunities, inviting you to participate in God's work during this special year.

Also during the "Mission Rally," you are invited to put your faith into action by filling weekend food bags for children at Chisholm Elementary School. These bags will be delivered to the Gifts of Love Food Pantry for distribution, embodying the love and compassion of Christ. Monday, February 17, is National Random Acts of Kindness Day, providing an opportunity for everyone to partake in this ministry. The Mission team will shop for the specific items requested, but we need your hands in bagging them for delivery to Gifts of Love. We'll be assembling them on the stage in Eubanks - join us in this act of service and love, reflecting the heart of Jesus.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 8:30 am - AA Mtg
<b>2 Communion Sunday/Gifts of Love</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary</b> <b>11:15 am - No Fellowship Hour</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 9:00 am - AARP Taxes in EH 10:00 am - Mission Mtg 10:30 am - AI-Anon 4:00 pm - 150th Mtg/Rm2 6:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>4</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - PB&J 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Book of Revelation/Rm 2 6:30 pm - Harmony/in Chapel 7:30 pm - Narcotics Anon	<b>5</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - 9:30 am - Men’s Bible Study/Rm 6 9:00 am - Sewing Group 10:00 am - Holy Spirit Bible Study in EH 1:30 pm - 4:00pm - Bike Ministry 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - PW Line Dancing /EH 6:30 pm - Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:00 am - Newman’s Crew 8:30 am - PB&J 6:00 pm - Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>7</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>8</b> 8:30 am - AA Mtg .
<b>9 Mission Minutes/Rally Sunday</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary</b> <b>11:15 am - Fellowship Hour</b>	<b>10</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 9:00 am - AARP Taxes in EH 9:00 am - Men’s Breakfast 9:30 am - PW Mtg/Rm 6 10:30 am - AI-Anon 6:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>11</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - PB&J 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Book of Revelation/Rm 2 6:30 pm - Harmony Sound 7:30 pm - Narcotics Anon	<b>12</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - 9:30 am - Men’s Bible Study/Rm 6 9:00 am - Sewing Group 10:00 am - Holy Spirit Bible Study in EH 1:30 pm - 4:00pm - Bike Ministry 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - PW Line Dancing /EH 6:30 pm - Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:00 am - Newman’s Crew 8:30 am - PB&J <b>9:00 am - Sanctuary Clean-Up Day/Lite Lunch/ Volunteers Needed</b> 2:00 pm - Deacons Mtg/Rm 2 6:00 pm - Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>14</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg   <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30 am - AA Mtg
<b>16</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary</b> <b>11:15 am - No Fellowship Hour</b> <b>11:15 am - Missions Rally Sunday</b>	<b>17 Office Closed</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 9:00 am - AARP Taxes in EH 10:30 am - AI-Anon 4:30 am - Session Mtg 6:00 pm - AA Mtg  <b>PRESIDENT’S DAY</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Book of Revelation/Rm 2 4:00 pm - Session Mtg 6:30 pm - Harmony Sound 7:30 pm - Narcotics Anon	<b>19</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - 9:30 am - Men’s Bible Study/Rm 6 9:00 am - Sewing Group 10:00 am - Holy Spirit Bible Study in EH 1:30 pm - 4:00pm - Bike Ministry 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - PW Line Dancing /EH 6:30 pm - Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:00 am - Newman’s Crew 8:30 am - PB&J 6:00 pm - Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>21</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>22</b> 8:30 am - AA Mtg 9:00 am - Harmony Sound Waves in the Chapel for practice
<b>23</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship Celebration in the Sanctuary</b> <b>11:15 am - Fellowship Hour</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 9:00 am - AARP Taxes in EH 9:00 am - Men’s Breakfast 10:30 am - AI-Anon 6:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>25</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - PB&J 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Book of Revelation/Rm 2 6:30 pm - Harmony Sound 7:30 pm - Narcotics Anon	<b>26</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:30 am - 9:30 am - Men’s Bible Study/Rm 6 9:00 am - Sewing Group 10:00 am - Holy Spirit Bible Study in EH 1:30 pm - 4:00pm - Bike Ministry 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - PW Line Dancing /EH 6:30 pm - Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg 8:00 am - Newman’s Crew 8:30 am - PB&J 6:00 pm - Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm - AA Mtg	<b>28</b> 7:30 am - AA Mtg  <b>Office Closed</b>	