

DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

ISSUE 19-12 & 20-1

The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

AT A GLANCE

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Leadership

HIS INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT

From Pastor Chad

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!
-2 Corinthians 9:15

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The sanctuary will soon be decorated with greenery, Chrismon trees, and the Advent wreath. Everything at a certain coffee shop is red and they've moved on from PSLs (Pumpkin Spice Lattes) to Peppermint Mochas. Black Friday has come and gone. There are Christmas movies in the feeds on all your streaming services. Plus, people are starting to ask their family members, "What do you want for Christmas?" This got me thinking about gifts I've received in the past and ways I can express the nature and quality of those gifts.

Almost every Christmas growing up I could count on receiving a pack of underwear and a pack of socks. These were never anticipated with delight, but they were as much a part of my family's traditions as the tree, or the stockings, or the Christmas Eve service. I call these the "Traditional Gifts" or the "You Need This Stuff Anyway So I'm Going to Wrap It and Call It a Present" gifts. Maybe you got those too. Yours might not have been boxer shorts and socks but you know the type.

Then there were the gifts that I have categorized as "Unwanted Clothes." These were often given by an aunt or a grandmom and were easily recognized under the tree in those rectangular boxes provided by the department store. They included itchy sweaters, corduroy pants that never seemed to break in, and collared shirts for church wear. My mom made a big fuss over these, talked about how nice they were, and wanted to take a picture of my brother and me holding up our matching outfits. Needless to say, the photos were smile-less, and they were never used for the next year's Christmas card.

There were also the "Not Quite What I Wanted" gifts. For instance, one year I asked for Transformers (Hasbro toy). I ran into the living room on Christmas morning to find GoBots (Tonka toy) instead. If you, like my parents then, do not know the difference then this one is lost on you, but trust me it's all the difference in the world. I

think the "Not Quite What I Wanted" gifts is one of the factors that has given rise to the proliferation of gift cards as stand-ins for gifts. Nobody wants to see that look of disappointment on a loved one's face when you thought you had the perfect gift but then realize a little too late that you missed the mark. Instead we opt for the "Use This to Get Exactly What You Want" card.

Then there are the "This is Exactly What I Wanted" gifts. You wished for it and someone came through and gave it to you. This kind of gift is fun to receive and give. Some of these measure up to your expectations and they really do bring a high level of joy and pleasure to your life. Such gifts often have a meaning beyond the financial or entertainment value. Still, the glory of even the perfect gift fades. Toys, clothes, or electronics are not made to last forever. The faddish items are initially great but their usefulness and fun fade quickly.

These are some of the gift categories that sprung to mind as I thought about them. There are certainly others. This was not intended to be an exhaustive list. There is one more gift I must mention. It is in a category all its own. It is the "Inexpressible Gift" from God. This gift is His Son, Christ Jesus, together with all his benefits. In sending His Son to take on flesh, to be born of a virgin and laid in a manger, to live a humble existence as a carpenter's son, to live a sin free life, to walk the road to the cross, to give Himself as the perfect sacrifice, and to rise victorious over death God has blessed us with a present beyond expression. It is a gift that only He could give. We cannot measure its value by human means. We struggle for words to define its beauty. We are ill-equipped to describe its virtue.

He is The Gift we needed but we could not give ourselves. He is the gift that, in our sin, we did not initially want. Our desires were too weak. We did not fully understand how much we needed Him and how desirable He is. Being regenerated by the Holy Spirit we have been given a love for him. As we grow in faith, He further transforms our hearts and souls so that our desire is increasingly for Him and our joy is ever met in Him! Consequently, believers do not grow tired of Him as we do of trendy presents. Neither does His glory ever fade, as the "perfect gifts" of the here and now do. No, His love and glory endure forever. Thanks be to God for Jesus, His inexpressible gift to His people. ■

From the Fall of Adam and Eve, the people of God were anticipating the advent of Messiah. In the coming Messiah they were looking for a Savior who would fulfill God's various promises to them - He would be the better seed than Seth or Isaac, the better prophet than Moses, the better priest than Aaron,

and the better king than David. This year, during our observance of the Advent season, we will consider some key passages from both the Old and New Testaments to help us see how Jesus so beautifully and fully is that Messiah they anticipated was coming, how He is the Savior come in whom we believe, and how He is the Lord who will come again. The Scripture texts for this Advent sermon series may not be the most traditional Christmas readings but I hope they will give us an even fuller appreciation for Jesus, the Word become flesh. ■

ADVENT 2020 SCRIPTURES AND SERMON TITLES			
Dec. 1	Advent	Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 6:13; Galatians 3:16, 29; 4:4-7	Jesus, the Promised Seed
Dec. 8	Advent	Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:17-26	Jesus, the Promised Prophet Like Moses
Dec. 15	Advent	Hebrews 7:11-28	Jesus, the Great High Priest of the New Covenant
Dec. 22	Advent	Psalms 89 (selected verses); Jeremiah 23:1-8	Jesus, the Long Awaited Eternal King
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	John 1:1-14	Jesus, the Word Become Flesh

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 2019 Session Highlights

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The following notes are a few highlights from their meeting on November 19th.

- The Session considered Proverbs 30:7-9 for its opening Scripture reading and devotional.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of October, tithes and offerings toward the church's general budget are at 69.9% of the annual budget. This is slightly behind the average of 71.65% (2014-2018) our church has historically received by the end of October, though it is trending in a positive direction as we head toward the end of the year. Praise was given to God for His financial blessing and prayer was offered that the giving of our congregation would match our ministry needs.
- After the first two weeks of pledging for the 2020 proposed general operating budget, we have received pledges totaling \$588,540; this amount exceeds the total pledges of the previous two years. It represents 63.7% of the needed member contributions for the 2020 proposed budget of \$923,675. Thanks was given to God for his grace to us and for his generosity through His people to His church.
- The Session approved the request for transfer of membership for Pete and Susie Bellamy to the Tryon Presbyterian Church in North Carolina.
- Tom and Karla Campbell, Joel Knepper, Bryah Hagen, Micah Sebring, and Mia McCollum were received as new members of the First Presbyterian Church. They will be presented before the congregation during worship in the near future.

PRAYER FOCUS

DEC. 8 - Relationships During the Christmas Season; Congregational Meeting on December 15th

DEC. 15 - Missionaries During the Christmas Season

DEC. 17 - Christ's Glory During the Christmas Season

DEC. 29 - The New Year

• Scott Crews, Tom Freeland, and Doug Pace were approved as nominees to serve as elders in the class of 2023. Bea Meeker, Aaron Nelson, and Mary Youmans were approved as nominees to serve as deacons in the class of 2022. These nominees will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on December 15th.

• The chairmen of the committees of the Session gave reports of the work and ministries they oversee. Prayer was offered after each report, asking for the Lord's guidance and blessing.

• A season of prayer was had for various needs within our congregation, community, and world. ■

Discipleship

CLOSE TO GOD

From Pastor Mackay

Our 2019-2020 Discipleship theme is "Centered on Christ."

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
-1 Timothy 2:5

Mediation is never more precious than this time of year. If you're a lawyer or the son of a lawyer, let the technical sense of that word fall away for a moment and consider its essence. Mediating is, in part, the unifying of separated parties. Don't we long for that at Christmas? Whether geography or relational tension separate us from loved ones, we desire closeness!

What of mediation with God? The Bible says that without his grace, God is inconceivably far away. First, his nature is so far beyond our own that we cannot comprehend him. Just as a clay pot cannot comprehend its maker, so we, as creatures, do not have the capacity to understand our Almighty God (Rom. 11:33-35). Secondly, our sin separates us from God. His holy nature cannot abide rebellion. Our God, the author of Hebrews states, is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29)! But God, in his overflowing goodness and mercy, did not stay far off! He has drawn near to his people (James 4:8) in Jesus. He has given a mediator to bring his people close: Jesus Christ.

This mighty Gospel truth must affect the way we celebrate this season. This season (and, indeed, in every season), many Christians express a desire to feel "close to God." It is good that we want to better understand God's fatherly care for us. It is good for us to desire to feel his nearness. Yet, like the author of Hebrews says, this should encourage us all the more to seek and savor Jesus. We must, "pay much closer attention to what we have heard..." (Heb. 2:1), not go a different way.

This is a warning against the attempts we

make to "self-mediate." That is, to bring ourselves near to God. Particularly now (it's November 18 as I write this, so "now" depends on your family's tolerance for Christmas music) we look to things that make us "really feel it." We put on our meditative Christmas tunes. We practice times of "mindfulness" and temporarily cease our overly burdened schedules. We go to church. We read the Christmas story with our families. Admirable, yes! But, in themselves, they are helpless.

For all of this activity, all our attempts to come closer to God, are only good insofar as they focus our attention on Jesus! Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. He has passed through the heavenly places and entered the very presence of God (Heb. 9). Jesus' ascension was not just a clean conclusion to His earthly ministry. His human form now sits in heaven; Jesus *mediating* for all of God's people. As we are represented by Jesus and joined in union with Jesus, we have a place that could not be closest to God.

So, do you want to feel "close to God?" Then turn, over and over, to contemplate Jesus. It is in Him alone, not in any earthly ritual or self-mediation, that we will find what believers so desire: a secure place before God, enjoying His affection for all of eternity.

Rachel and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! ■



SMALL GROUPS

Winter Adult Small Group Breather Series: Jan 5-26
Sundays in the chapel following Morning Worship!
Christ the Mediator

Who is Jesus and what has He done? Chapter VII of our Confession explores the Bible's teaching on Jesus and His work.

Our semi-annual "Breather Series" are opportunities for all adults to gather together for a time of fellowship and teaching in the church parlor and chapel.

DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND

DISCOVERING THE EXODUS

With Dr. J. Nicholas Reid

February 7-9, 2020

Associate Professor of Old Testament and
Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

As we anticipate returning to Exodus in weekly Sunday worship after the new year, plan for a fascinating dive deeper into God's Word during our inaugural Discipleship Weekend. On Friday night and Saturday morning, Dr. J. Nicholas Reid, an Oxford-trained Assyriologist and ancient Near East scholar, will deliver three lectures exploring the Exodus from archaeological, historical, and biblical perspectives.

Schedule

Friday, February 7th

6:00 p.m. - Supper (Fellowship Hall)

7:20 p.m. - Keynote 1 "The Exodus: A
Paradigm of Salvation" (Chapel)

8:10 p.m. - Q & A w/ Dr. Reid

8:30 p.m. - Dismissal

Saturday, February 8th

9:00 a.m. - Gathering, Coffee, and Welcome
(Church Parlor)

9:20 a.m. - Keynote 2 "An Introduction to
Biblical Archaeology" (Chapel)

10:15 a.m. - Break w/ Refreshments

10:45 a.m. - Keynote 3 "The Exodus and
Archaeology"

11:40 a.m. - Q&A w/ Dr. Reid

12:00 p.m. - Dismissal

Kids Discipleship Program for children:

K-5th grades!

Nursery will be available for babies and toddlers through 4 years old.

Please make a reservation for your family by January 19 in one of three ways!

1. On our web page, fpclw.org, click "Discovering the Exodus" on the front page!
2. Call the church office!
3. Mark "Discipleship Weekend" on the Friendship Pad in the sanctuary.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 per adult for the weekend, which may be paid as a designated donation in the offering plate OR at the door on Feb. 7.



EKKLESIA

Our fall Ekklesia season concludes on Dec. 11. Praise God for all of our delicious meals and for conversations with one another. Praise God for the times we have been generous to our neighbors and challenged in our faith. Ekklesia resumes on January 8!

Ekklesia Dates Off:

Christmas Break - No Ekklesia: Dec. 18, 25, and Jan 1.

Discipleship Weekend - Ekklesia will NOT meet on Feb 5 in anticipation of Discipleship Weekend, Feb 7-9.

Upcoming Adult Study Series:

That's a Good Question! - Beginning on Wed., January 8.

Using a helpful Q & A video from Ligonier Ministries, leading pastors/scholars will delve into difficult questions about faith and life. We will use video clips to spur our own discussions on the topics.

A Study of Hebrews - Beginning Feb. 12.

To center on Christ is no boring exercise, but sets us before God's beautiful, life-giving Son. The author of Hebrews systematically attests to Jesus' greatness, arguing that there is salvation in no other name. We will set ourselves before God's Word together to seek and savor Jesus.

GREAT POETS AND HYMN WRITERS

From Vince Treadway

Great poets and great hymn writers are not necessarily one and the same. A great hymn writer's work will include faith and experience with God, knowledge of Scripture, and an understanding of hymn use in the church, in addition to being a poet. However, the combination of the two has come through the centuries and the church reaps the benefits of such great hymnody, however rare it may be. It is interesting to note that few hymnals contain the works of those writers who many consider "great" poets, probably because the targeted audience of most hymnal publishers is the broad market and not poetry aficionados. Therefore, I think it is valuable to consider the combination of great poetry and hymn writing, so below are a few excerpted examples to ponder.

God Be in My Head from *Book of Hours*,
Salisbury, 1514

*God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and [at] my departing.*

George Herbert (1593-1632) had the distinct privilege of being born into a wealthy family that fostered his talents through education and the arts. He graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a Fellow and an appointed Reader in Rhetoric. In 1624 he became a member of Parliament, and later became a priest in the Church of England. This poem is from His work, *The Temple*, 1633:

*Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praises there may fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The church with Psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;*

*But above all,
the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!*

John Milton (1608-1674) was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, and was a poet best known for his works, *Paradise Regain'd*, *History of Britain*, and *Of True Religion and Poems upon Several Occasions*.

*The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before Him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.
Truth, from the earth,
like to a flow'r, shall bud and blossom then,
And justice, from her heavenly bow'r,
look down on mortal men.
Rise, God, and judge the earth in might,
this wicked world redress;
For You are He Who shall by right the nations all
possess.
For great You are, and wonders great by Your
strong hand are done;
You in Your everlasting seat remain the Lord
alone.*

Samuel Crossman (ca. 1624-1684) was educated at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. He became an Anglican priest and was for a time a sympathizer with the Puritans. He attempted to alter the *Book of Common Prayer* to make it useable by Anglicans and Puritans, but the attempt failed and consequently Crossman was expelled from the Church of England. He later renounced any Puritan affiliation and was taken back into the Church of England in 1665, and became the Dean of Bristol Cathedral in 1683.

*My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take
frail flesh and die?*

*He came from His blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
But men cared not,
and none the longed-for Christ would know.*

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*Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.*

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92) was one of the most important poets of the Victorian age. He was son of a clergyman and began writing poetry when he was very young. He studied at Trinity College, Cambridge.

*Strong, Son of God, immortal love,
Whom we, that have not seen Thy face;
By faith and faith alone, embrace,
believing where we cannot prove;
Thou wilt no leave us in the dust;
Thou madest man, he knows not why;
He thinks he was not made to die,
and Thou has made him; Thou art just.
Thou seemest human and divine,
the highest, holiest manhood, Thou;
Our wills are ours, we know not how;
our wills are ours, to make them Thine.
But vaster. We are fools and slight;
we mock Thee when we do not fear;*

*But help Thy foolish ones to bear—
help Thy vain worlds to bear Thy
light.*

Richard Wilbur (1921-2017) graduated from Amherst College, then served in World War II. After his service, he taught at Harvard, and then moved to Wesleyan University as Professor of English.

*A stable lamp is lighted,
whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry
And straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven,
a stall become a shrine.*

*This Child, through David's city shall
ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches,
and every stone shall cry,
Though heavy, cold and dumb,
and lie within the roadway
To pave His kingdom come.*

*Yet He shall be forsaken,
and yielded up to die,
The sky shall groan and darken,
and every stone shall cry
For stony hearts of men;
God's blood upon the spearhead,
God's blood refused again.*

With such a treasury of great poetry and hymnody, I hope this tiny sample will spark new interest to investigate further into what treasures lie out there for discovery! ■

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Come and worship at a traditional Lessons and Carols service as the choirs and brass of First Presbyterian Church unite to present a delightful service of music, Scripture readings, and singing of favorite Christmas carols as part of the morning service.



High School & Middle School

I KNOW, I TRUST, I GROW

From Shane Miller

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.”
-1 Corinthians 3:5-9

For the past several months, we have been taking the young people of First Pres through the book of 1 Corinthians. In his letter, Paul was addressing some concerns with this new Church, one concern being that though these believers had heard the gospel, trusted in Jesus, and had been forgiven and changed, they were still acting like babies. This was a concern for Paul because he knew that the gospel is powerful and produces an effect in those who put their trust in it.

In verses 5-9 of the third chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul likens the good news of Jesus to a seed being planted in the ground. Jesus also had a similar analogy: “He put another parable before them, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’” (Matthew 13:31-32) Jesus and Paul give us simple concepts here, but the implications are profound. When we believe the good news of Jesus, this good news does something in us. Sinners who only thought to live for themselves receive the grace of God in Christ to gradually love Him and others more. These changes are often small and subtle, but nonetheless noticeable, especially over long stretches of time. (See another seed/plant parable Jesus tells in Mark 4:26-29, a story that might be

especially encouraging to parents of teenagers.)

Over the past several weeks, one of our aims has been to encourage the students to become more aware of ways in which the good news is having an effect upon them. One way in which we have done this is to make the ‘steps’ of trust in the gospel clear: 1) I know, 2) I trust, 3) I grow. First, we understand the good news of the gospel and we know that it is true. Secondly, we trust in the Jesus of the gospel, understanding that he didn’t just historically live, die and rise from the dead- we trust Him, believing He lived for me, died for me, and rose from the dead for me. Thirdly, as we trust in the grace and love of God for us in Christ, we grow to love Him more and to love others like we have been loved by Him.

After many views, the students know these steps well. Parents, it is always our aim to reaffirm gospel truths that you are already speaking into the lives of your kids and to encourage the continuance of those opportunities. Perhaps these steps could be a tangible way to encourage them, letting them know the ways in which you see the subtle changes that the Holy Spirit is making in them through the good news of Jesus.

I KNOW.
I TRUST.
I GROW.

Children's Ministry

TRADITIONS OF FAITH LEAD US HOME

From Kelly Harrington

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
-Proverbs 22:6

I like traditions. In some ways, they are the rituals that provide a sense of home and security for many of us. My mom has always loved the holidays and busily decorated, shopped, and baked her way through many years of "making seasons bright" for my two brothers and me when we were young. She was a single mother and worked tirelessly to provide everything she possibly could for us, so much so that she says now that he has a hard time remembering a lot of details from those years, but I remember. Our home was not the happiest place to live, but what I remember most about some of our happy times are those things which she anchored in tradition.

For example, at Christmas, our family opened all of our gifts around the tree on Christmas Eve. I was still pretty young when I learned that other families did not open anything on Christmas Eve, but rather saved everything for Christmas morning. For us, we only opened the surprises left by Santa Clause on Christmas morning. When I was significantly older, I learned that my mother's reason for setting up this tradition was entirely grounded in practicality. My mom was a telephone operator for AT&T and always took the early morning shift on Christmas morning so that she would earn a very nice sum of double-pay for working the holiday. Although Christmas Eve is very much a holiday to me, it is not in the business world. By the time my brothers and I were awake on Christmas morning, she was soon back home and somehow ready, with prepared food in hand, to take us to my grandparents' house for Christmas dinner. (I do not know if she ever slept before I turned 18!)

Most importantly, as busy and tired as she was, my mom made attending church a priority for our family. Like holidays, Sundays were more profitable for her to work and so she worked on many of them when I was young. However, she took time each week to make arrangements with

our church family to pick us up, care for us, and return us home from church when she was working. There were not many Sunday mornings that I missed church growing up thanks to a vital church bus ministry and gracious church members who took time to care for a few more rambunctious kids. My mom was usually off of work for Sunday evening and mid-week services to attend with us. When the holidays rolled around, our routine of going to church carried right over into our holiday traditions. Going to church was not something my mom added to a busy Christmas to-do list, but rather the list seemed to be built around our regular practice of attending church.

For this reason, worship at Christmastime and other holiday church traditions such as caroling and serving others are what I have come to recognize as that sense of "home" in me for the holidays; these are the most significant memories and traditions that transcend the disorder of my childhood. While there are several family traditions I brought into my own home, I recognize that my feelings about "home" for Christmas are anchored in the celebrations of worshipping the birth of Jesus Christ and that is the most valuable Christmas tradition that my mother afforded me. Through God's grace, He used broken means to call me to Himself, to bring me home for ever, and not just for the holidays! Hasn't that been His way since the beginning of time? Praise Him!

Now, my oldest daughter, Ilyssa, is what her father and I call a new-adult. She lives a few hours away and is, for the most part, living on her own; I think we can say she has launched. She texted me the other day to ask about holiday plans, and most specifically, the date of this year's pageant. Evidently, for her, like it is for me, her sense of "home" for the holidays is inherently integrated into the traditions of her faith in Jesus Christ and her Christian discipline of worshipping the birth of her Lord and Savior! Wherever you find yourself this holiday season, you are welcome home for the holidays. Yes, you are busy, but do not miss the opportunity to share the traditions of your faith in Jesus Christ with your family and friends this holiday season and in the coming new year. Join us for Sunday Worship, for Lessons & Carols, for Ekklesia, and service projects with small groups throughout the Advent season and come home for the holidays! ■

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

Church Family

BIRTHDAYS

December 2, Dorine Bullock
December 5, Lydia Blackburn
December 5, Kelly Harrington
December 6, Steven Wilson
December 6, Tommy Ricketts
December 6, Ann Mann
December 7, Julie Smith
December 8, Frank Hunt III
December 9, Stewart Hurst
December 10, Joyce McCollum
December 10, Scottie Smith, III
December 14, Kathe Galloway
December 15, Kay Weaver
December 17, Birdie Cockrell
December 18, Michelle Hurst
December 19, Carson Pike
December 21, Bill Schaffer
December 21, Rachel Smith
December 21, Andy Hunt
December 23, Evelyn Smith
December 24, Gail Tew
December 24, Gary Estes
December 26, Cindy Turner
December 27, Shane Miller
December 28, Wyatt Caldwell
December 30, Wayne Tew
December 30, Nancy Hunt

January 4, Julie Seay
January 9, Jimmy Kahler
January 10, Darlene Krpata
January 12, Jim Armstrong
January 13, Nancy Turnquist
January 13, Pete Bellamy
January 15, Amanda Quam
January 15, Kelly Wheeler
January 16, John DuBois
January 18, Chris Waters
January 18, Sara Wynn
January 19, Mary Roberts
January 19, Barbara Sebring
January 20, Maria Herman
January 21, Emily Bass
January 21, Mary Benner
January 22, Susan Marks
January 22, Cole Hixenbaugh
January 24, Irene Nelson
January 25, Wendy Moore
January 27, Audrey Hunt
January 30, Billy Kahler
January 31, Laura Hunt

FPC BRUNCH & ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 15TH

Join us for brunch and our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 15th**, in the fellowship hall following the morning worship service. This will take place during our usual small group meeting time and children will be dismissed for a children's activity following the brunch; nursery will also be available during the meeting.

For brunch, please bring a breakfast casserole, a fruit plate, or a pastry dish. Please sign up with your small group leader, contact Lynne Hulen, or call the church office (863-676-0711) for more information.

The meeting will include a vote on the proposed 2020 budget, a vote on the incoming slate of elders and deacons, and an address from Pastor Chad Reynolds about the Lord Jesus and his work in and through his people at First Presbyterian Church. Summaries of the proposed 2020 budget were sent to the congregation in early November. Copies of the full proposed budget are available in the narthex and the church office for anyone who would like to see more detail than is provided in the summary.

The nominees to be added as elders to the Session are Scott Crews, Tom Freeland, and Doug Pace. The nominees for deacons to be added to the board are Bea Meeker, Aaron Nelson, and Mary Youmans.

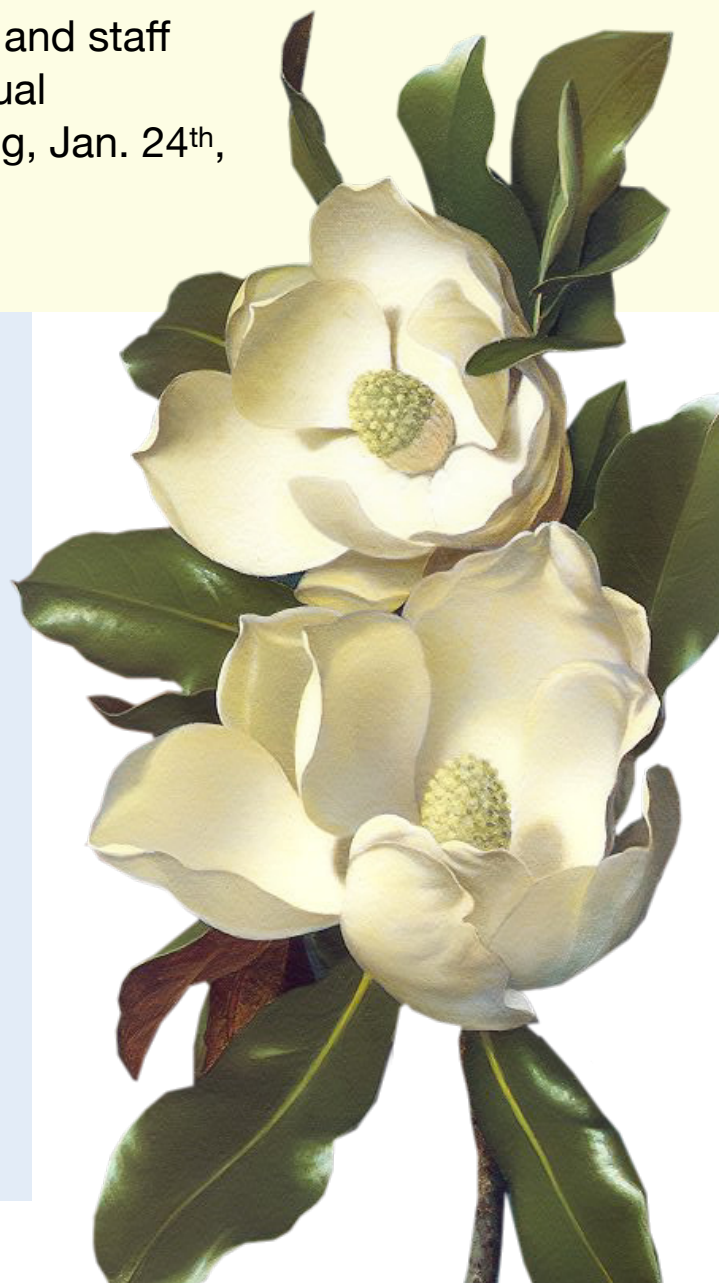
SAVE THE DATE! FPC 2020 LEADERSHIP RETREAT ON JANUARY 24TH & 25TH

All actively serving elders, deacons, and staff members will meet for the FPC Annual Leadership Retreat on Friday evening, Jan. 24th, and Saturday, Jan. 25th.

ANNIVERSARIES

December 2, Tony & Lori Woods
December 3, Gerald & Katie Lippert
December 3, Ansel & Beth Buhrman
December 12, Jim & Nancy Ayers
December 18, Jeff & Whitney Brewer
December 19, Pete & Susie Bellamy
December 22, Chip & Donna Carter
December 24, Mickey & Jo Garrett
December 25, Bill & Norma Schaffer
December 30, Kevin & Dionne Kohl

January 1, Morgan & Patti Roe
January 4, Scott & Carrie Blackburn





First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales
 16 N 3rd St, Lake Wales, FL 33853
 Phone: 863.676.0711
[www. fpclw.org](http://www.fpclw.org)

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2019

Andy Hunt
 Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Jimmy Seay

2020

John Dubois
 Stewart Hurst
 Ed Lamb
 Fox Rawlings

2021

Mike Berkau
 Paul Benner

2022

Frank Hunt III
 John Matteson
 Vince Treadway

DEACONS

2019

Jake Cockrell
 Troy Hershberger
 Kevin Kohl
 Michael Matteson
 Wendy Moore

2020

David Bass
 Lynne Hulen
 Rob McCollum
 David Kennedy Nelson

2021

David Caldwell
 Michael Kahler
 Carl McCollum
 Tony Thomas

Moderator: Rev. Chad Reynolds
Vice Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: David Nelson
Chairman of Deacons: Jake Cockrell
Deacon Secretary: David Kennedy Nelson
Chm. of the Congregation: Monty Harrington
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst (2018-2019)
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt (2018-2019)