

# Good News

For the People of  
First Presbyterian Church  
Mount Dora, Florida

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Dora  
222 West Sixth Avenue  
Mount Dora, FL 32757

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## Inside this Issue:

November Index	Front Pg
Pastoral Transition	2
Congregational Meeting	
Music Notes	3
Stewardship & Finance	
MOF	4
Discipleship, Education & Nurture	
Missions Committee	5
Preschool	
Library Book Review	6
Calendar	7

## November Highlights

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> - Reformation Sunday, Congregational Mtg, 2¢/Meal offering. Daylight Savings Ends

Sun 22 - Commitment Sunday

Thu 26 - Happy Thanksgiving!

Sun 29 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent and The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Looking Ahead

Tue Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - Service of Hope & Healing

Sun Dec 6 - Alternative Christmas Market



**A Winter Service of  
Hope & Healing  
at First Presbyterian**

**Tuesday, December 1  
7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Concert  
at First Presbyterian**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00 P.M.



## Pastoral Transition Overview

This article is to help us understand the process as we move toward Pastor Tom's retirement on February 14, 2021. One of the key terms you will be hearing about is an Interim Pastor. Often people ask, "Why use an Interim Pastor?" The following quote from our Presbytery Executive, Dan Williams, helps explain why:

"An Interim Pastor is a person **trained in transitional ministry**, helping a congregation move into a new chapter of its life. After a long pastoral tenure, as in FPC of Mount Dora's case, in excess of 30 years, an interim can help a congregation prepare for new directions while avoiding the pitfalls that can lead to the next pastor being an 'unintentional interim.'" The Rev. Dr. Williams goes on to say: "There are **5 essential tasks of transitional ministry** [*to be developed in future newsletters*):

1. Coming to Terms with History
2. Discovering a New Identity
3. Shifts of Power/Leadership Changes
4. Rethinking Denominational Linkages
5. Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future

"An Interim Pastor brings a fresh set of eyes into a situation and can help the Session and congregation address the above tasks in ways in which they likely would not be able to do on their own. An interim also provides for the consistent continuation of important ministry tasks. The interim can also help the congregation make necessary changes, sometimes 'taking the heat' for these changes so the eventual new pastor will not have to address these issues. These changes may involve programs, mission outreach, or staffing decisions."

"In short, an Interim Pastor provides both continuity in ministry tasks as well as expertise and insight into systemic changes that may need to be made in order to prepare the congregation (in ways it might not be able to recognize otherwise) for the next chapter in its journey," The Rev. Dr. Williams says.

*Interim Pastors are "specially trained" for this important task!*

Like all pastors, the Interim Pastor will offer to the congregation:

- Worship leadership and preaching
- Pastoral care
- Work with the Session to provide for the life and ministry of the congregation
- Administrative work including supervision of other staff persons
- Staff support for programs and committees of the congregation

A good Interim Pastor will "hit the ground running," beginning his/her time with the congregation with intensity and energy, and will leave with intentionality, engaging in a "good goodbye" with the congregation and its staff. A good interim pastor is fully present with the congregation from the beginning, and really leaves when she/he leaves.

Once the Interim Pastor is in place, the congregation will do a **mission study** (a review of current and future plans for discerning what God is calling us to) and will elect a **Pastor Nominating Committee** to identify our next pastor.

During this transitional time, please be in prayer for Pastor Tom, our Session, our congregation, and our future Pastor Search Committee, and if called to serve on it, prayerfully consider answering the call.

\*\*\*Stay tuned for more updates.\*\*\*

**Nov 2020**

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## Contact Us

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[www.fpcmtdora.org](http://www.fpcmtdora.org)

[Facebook](#)



Office Hours

M-F 9:00 am – noon

### Office Staff & Schedule

Pastor Thomas J. Biery

*Pastor Tom's schedule varies, he is  
out of the office on Mondays*

Randy Frieling, Director of Music &  
Worship Arts

*Randy's schedule varies, he is out of  
the office on Mondays*

# Congregational Annual Meeting

On Sunday, November 1, at the close of worship, there will be a Congregational Meeting. The items of Business are:

- The election of Church Officers for elder, deacon, trustee and for the nominating committee.
- To “dissolve the pastoral relationship” between Pastor Tom and the Church due to his retirement. If approved, this action will be reported to the Central Florida Presbytery.



## Music Notes from Randy

Our **SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING** will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. You can join us in the sanctuary or Facebook Live for a beautiful service written by Joseph Martin. Janelle Woodyard and Kasey Titkemeyer will be our soloists with readings by Dr. Thomas Biery and Gale McElheney

Our **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will feature a special guest, Tiffany Coburn. Whether you hear her singing with Disney’s “Voices of Liberty”, “Voctave” or performing at churches and concert halls across the country, your heart will be moved by her sweet spirit and powerful voice. Of course, we will have Janelle and Kasey and a few organ and piano solos. This concert is Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** will feature the Jubilate Handbell Choir, Christmas Carols and traditional candlelight. We have been working hard for this special night of the birth of Jesus.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** “work party” to decorate the church for Christmas. This will take place immediately after worship on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Keep a Song in Your Heart! Randy



## Stewardship & Finance

I want to begin by simply saying thank you. Your continuing generosity contributes to the long-standing success of our community of faith. Because of your commitment to the ministry of this congregation, we

Barbara Grace, Administrative  
Assistant  
*Mon-Fri 9 am - noon*

Sandy Lacher Assistant Secretary  
*Wed & Fri 9-Noon*

Denise Jonnet, Accountant  
*Tue afternoon*

Reception Volunteers  
Linda Wise  
Margret Newlan  
Ginger Adams



(352) 735-2227

Ages 3-5

Renet McCall

Preschool Director

*Available M-F*

*8:00 am – 3:00 pm*



are ever increasing the effective witness to Jesus Christ. This congregation is grateful for you, and for the example you set for each of us on what it means to be a faithful steward.

#### Financial results for September 2020

	September	Year to Date
Total Income	\$24,836	\$323,695
Total Expense	30,691	<u>295,287</u>
Difference	(\$5,855)	\$28,408

November is here and most are thinking the annual pledge season is here again (that year went fast). The reality has "set in" that we must maintain a healthy operating budget to keep our wonderful Church going and performing at its best during these difficult times.

Moving into 2021, the Church and its Session will be facing a new vision with a leadership change while still facing the Covid-19 challenges. More than 75% of our annual operating revenue comes from those who pledge and give regularly. Every contribution we receive serves to sustain the breadth, health, and the future of our ministry. We need "all hands-on deck" to step up and increase their pledge again for 2021, so we can meet our new opportunities and the coming changes.

It's time for **everyone** to take some responsibility and give their best to the Glory of God and support your church family with its new challenges in 2021. Commitment Dedication Sunday is November 22, when we will have an opportunity to dedicate your stewardship commitment for 2021 as an act of worship. If you cannot be with us that day, please return your pledge card (which you will be receiving soon) back to the church.

Thank you!

Submitted by Fred Lipp, Finance Committee Co-Chair



## Membership, Outreach & Fellowship

Many people are starting to enjoy some activities outside or in small groups. Our committee will meet **November 10th Tuesday at 10:00** in the Fellowship Hall, to talk about and share ideas of what we can do safely. We all miss all the fun times we shared, places we visited, meals we shared, and speakers we heard. Come join us wearing a mask and social distancing so we can again share fellowship with our Church Family. We miss you. We miss our shared prayers and activities. We would love to meet and see your faces and get some ideas of how we can move forward. Keep phoning and chatting with others. God bless you as you continue your faith journey. Hope to see you soon,

Nancy Staffieri & Ann Prince, Co-chairs



## Prayer Concerns

Gayle Barnes (friend of the Bierys)  
 Bryan Biery  
 John Birmingham (Diane Madson's brother)  
 Lois & Warner Brown (Bridgewater Assisted Living)  
 Nancy Brundage (Linda Ash's mother)  
 Richard Dennis  
 Gloria & David Gray  
 Betty Greeley  
 Bob Hezlep  
 Barbara Higley (Linda Wise's mother)  
 Phyllis Lay (Osprey Lodge)  
 Jane Lewandowski (Indiana, Carol Hanna's sister)  
 Valerie Pankey (Ginger Adams' sister)  
 Lucille Piper  
 Sally Reed  
 Jack Rhoads (BeeJee's husband)  
 Dan Swanson (friend of the Wise's)  
 Matt Tuhey (Illinois)  
 Susan Turner  
 Joanne & Paul White (friends of Sara Ware)  
 Phyllis Whitehead  
 Joy Wilund  
 Joyce Whitbeck  
 Diane & Jerry Wood  
 Melissa Yelvington



Betty Greeley would like to Thank everyone for their prayers



## Discipleship, Education & Nurture

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** "Who is Jesus? Part 1, Looking forward..." Continues through November 8<sup>th</sup>. "Who is Jesus? Part 2, Looking back..." concerns OT prophecies referred to in the New Testament. 8:45 am. for both "In-person" (Multi-purpose room) and Zoom. Discussion questions as well as a short Video are on the [fpcmtdora.org](http://fpcmtdora.org) website.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** (II Corinthians): "In-person" 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, the first and third Tuesday. Berry Long coordinates (407-257-7807). Zoom session at 10:00 a.m. on the same day.

**THE PRAYER GROUP:** Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Mondays & Thursdays.

Contact Alberto Montes ([sunandfun57@gmail.com](mailto:sunandfun57@gmail.com)) if you wish to join us on Zoom.

We will hold two parking fundraisers for the church, Saturday, **November 14<sup>th</sup> for the Plant and Garden Fair. Light up Mount Dora** was cancelled by the city; however, many visitors will come to our city on November 28<sup>th</sup> anyway, so please sign up to help with parking at the Concierge Desk.

Emily Lewis/ Alberto Montes

## Missions...Around the Corner... Around the World...



**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET** Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:30 – Mark your calendars! We will have music and snacks for your enjoyment that Sunday, along with ministry displays and the opportunity to "purchase" gifts. New Christmas cards to enclose the gift cards are in the works. Ministry displays will be in the Fellowship Hall from Tuesday, December 1 until Sunday, December 13 so you can peruse them safely during office hours. We will mail out booklets and order forms in November. Mail the forms back with your check or drop them by the office and we will mail you the gift cards. ***This is a wonderful way to honor your family and friends while also supporting your favorite ministries!***

**THE OPEN DOOR** – needs a new, used refrigerator, washer and dryer. We will be glad to pick up any of these appliances and deliver them to The Open Door and return your gift receipt to you! Soooo, know anybody who's moving?



## Military & Foreign Service

1LT Adam Albright, Chemical Corp,  
South Korea (Lois & Denton  
Albright's grandson)

1LT Dylan Davis (& Jen),  
Fort Hood, TX  
(Betty Colby's granddaughter)

MAJ Brad Jones and  
MAJ Margaret Jones, Marine Corps  
Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC  
(Ginger & Joe Adams niece &  
nephew)

PO2 Erik Kopak, Naval Reserve  
Rescue, Norfolk VA (Jean Meyer's  
grandson)

LT. C. Sean E. Marshall, US Air  
Force  
Hickam Field, HI and  
SR. A. Keven C. Marshall, US Air  
Force  
Robbins AFB, GA (son & grandson  
of  
Karen & Gary Marshall)

SSGT Kellen Riley, US Army  
Recruiter, St. Cloud, MN (Wally  
Green's grandson)

MP SGT Ian Yates, WA Army  
National Guard and  
MAJ Kyle Yates, US Air Force –  
currently deployed (Abby, Ainsley  
and Kaelin), Moody AFB, GA (Ellen  
& Howard Yates' sons & family)

**LAKE CARES NEEDS DETERGENT!!!** Please drop off laundry detergent and liquid dish soap for our Detergent Drive. Only \$1 at the Dollar Tree.

Submitted by Elizabeth Long

*Pastor Beiry & Noah's ark*

## Preschool

Preschool is in full swing. Everything seems to be going smoothly and our safety precautions have been well received. We are so glad to be here, serving students!



This November we will be learning about Harvest & Native Americans; Thanksgiving; The Birth of John; Thankfulness; the letters J and Q; the numbers 11 and 12; the colors purple and brown; the shapes diamonds and cones; compound words; singular and plural words; and positional/directional words.

Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – First Friday Spirit Day

Wednesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans' Day, No School

Monday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – Preschool Board Mtg (Church Library at 1:30)

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Classroom Parties

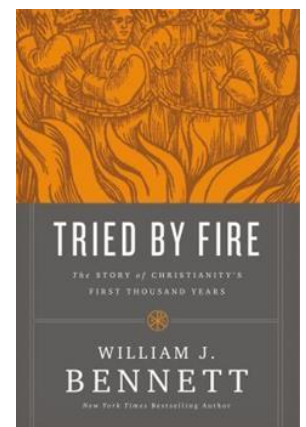
Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break

Our classes are about 75% capacity, so if you know a young family looking for a high-quality preschool, please have them call us.

Thankful, Ms. Renet McCall

## Library Corner Book review

Hello, this is your Librarian Alberto with a review of a book titled, *Tried By Fire, The Story of Christianity's First Thousand Years*, by William Bennett. This is a great book if you like biographies and/or history. In the first few centuries the church grew because of the hard times. During this period, it was rare for Christians who were persecuted to deny their faith. PTL! However, an issue arose about what to do with the few who denied Jesus? The answer was framed around the idea of purity OR forgiveness. The story of Peter's denial and re-instatement answers most of their issues. Our mission, however, is framed by the issue of holiness. We are to be holy like our heavenly Father is holy! Not "a" OR "b", but truth AND love, do justice AND love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.



# November 2020

**LEGEND**

FH—Fellowship Hall

S—Sanctuary

L – Library

C - Chapel

MP—Multipurpose Room downstairs

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Daylight Savings ends</b> <b>Reformation Sunday</b> <b>2¢ Per Meal Offering</b> 8:45 am Sunday School-MP & Zoom 10:00 am Worship Service -S Congregational Meeting-Election of Officers	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Zoom Prayer Group	<b>3</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study Group-FH 10:00 am Zoom mtg	<b>4</b> 9:50 am Preschool Chapel 11:00 am Staff Mtg-L 3:30 Deacons-FH 4:30-5:30 Handbell practice-S 7:00-8:00 pm Choir practice-S	<b>5</b> 9:30am Zoom Prayer Group 11:00 am Worship Cmte	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45 am Sunday School-MP & Zoom 10:00 am Worship Service -S	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Zoom Prayer Group	<b>10</b> 10:00 am MOF cmte-FH 2:00 pm A & P cmte-MP 3:00 Stewardship & Finance cmte-MP	<b>11</b> <b>Veteran's Day</b> Preschool Closed 11:00 am Staff Mtg-L 4:30-5:30 pm Handbell practice-S 7:00-8:00 pm Choir practice-S	<b>12</b> 9:30am Zoom Prayer Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast-CCMD Club  Plant & Garden Fair parking
<b>15</b> 8:45 am Sunday School-MP & Zoom 10:00 am Worship Service -S	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Zoom Prayer Group 1:30 School Board mtg-L	<b>17</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study Group-FH 9:30 am Martha Circle-FH 10:00 am Zoom mtg 4:00 pm Stated Session mtg-FH	<b>18</b> 9:50 am Preschool Chapel 11:00 am Staff Mtg-L 4:30-5:30 pm Handbell practice-S 7:00-8:00 pm Choir practice-S	<b>19</b> 9:30am Zoom Prayer Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Christ the King/Reign of Christ</b> Commitment Sunday 8:45 am Sunday School-MP & Zoom 10:00 am Worship Service -S Advent decorating after service	<b>23</b> Preschool vacation week  9:30 am Zoom Prayer Group	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Rebecca Circle-FH	<b>25</b> <b>Office open till noon</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office closed</b> → <b>Thanks giving Day &amp; Fri.</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Parking fundraiser
<b>29 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Communion	<b>30</b>	<b>Dec 1</b> 7:00 pm A Service of Hope & Healing-S	2	3	4	5