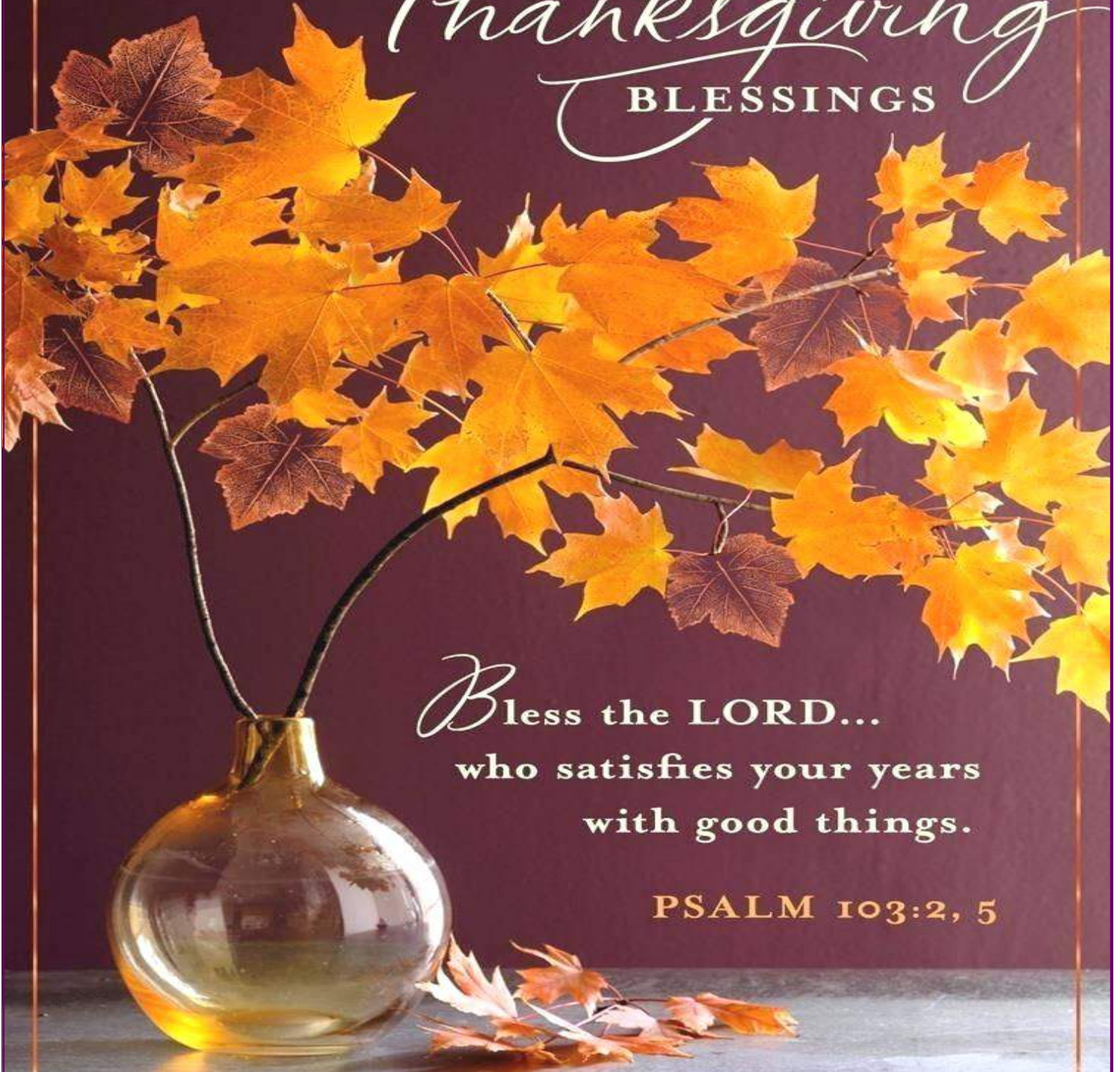


# ACTS

Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Ft Walton Beach, Florida

## Thanksgiving BLESSINGS



*B*less the LORD...  
who satisfies your years  
with good things.

PSALM 103:2, 5

# EVERYTHING OLD HAS BECOME NEW!

**II Corinthians 5:17** *So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

Holiday traditions are sacred in many families. We do the same things year after year which provide comfort and stability. Maybe there are new ways to do the same things that might bring **JOY** and new meaning to those precious holiday traditions.

- ◆ Decorate a tree with Chrismons (Christian symbols) OR give Chrismons as gifts. Include the explanation for the symbol.
- ◆ Share stories about holidays to remember. Write or type a special memory on decorative stationary or illustrate with your own creativity.
- ◆ Buy a new calendar for 2020 and marvel at how many days there are to serve the Lord in new ways! Then fill that calendar up!
- ◆ Try a new recipe for a favorite dish – add new ingredients to the stuffing or make a different cranberry salad.
- ◆ Decorate a pumpkin or gourd with sharpie markers as an outdoor welcome or a table centerpiece.
- ◆ Send Thanksgiving cards instead of Christmas cards, telling people why you are thankful for them.
- ◆ Purchase gifts from the PC(USA) Giving Catalog. You will be giving 2 gifts in one!
- ◆ Select a gift for yourself from the SERRV Market – one that you have been admiring for several years or one being offered for the first time this year.
- ◆ Pledge to attend Sunday School for at least one month in 2020.
- ◆ Mark your calendar to attend at least one weekday Bible study series in the coming year.
- ◆ Volunteer to teach at least one children's class in 2020.
- ◆ Bake cookies with the gals in the kitchen on Wednesday mornings.
- ◆ Make Harvest Home Dinner (November 24)

and Christmas Eve Service a must on your schedule.

- ◆ Turn off the TV and listen to holiday music or favorite old tunes for a day.
- ◆ Make a special gift to the church to say “thank you” for being my church family.
- ◆ Join a church or presbytery committee.
- ◆ Become active in a PW circle.
- ◆ Men, get out of bed early on Thursday mornings to eat breakfast with the guys at Neighborhood Café.
- ◆ Wear something festive every day, even a small pin or ribbon for the spirit of the season.
- ◆ Volunteer to take communion to someone who is homebound; or ask an elder to bring communion to you.
- ◆ Ask someone to drive you around town to see the Christmas lights and decorations. Don't forget to stop for a yummy snack on the way home!
- ◆ Leave a restaurant server an extra tip right before the holidays.
- ◆ Deliver a bag of goodies to the postal worker, librarian, hairdresser.
- ◆ Play “Secret Santa” to someone in need
- ◆ Re-read the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke.

Add your own ideas to the list. Tap into the **joy, joy, joy, joy** that's down in your heart this holiday season!

Blessings and Peace, *Sharon*



**VISION STATEMENT**  
*To be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in the world.*



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
*Guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow as disciples of Jesus and share the love of God with all.*



**First Presbyterian Church now  
accepts electronic donations**

**Checking/Savings  
Credit/Debit Card**

**It's your choice and you  
control it completely!**

We are excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

**Simply follow these easy steps:**

- 1. Visit the church website at  
[www.firstpresfb.org](http://www.firstpresfb.org)**
- 2. Click on the [Give Now] button.**
- 3. Click the Create Profile button on right.**

Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions. You can give one time or set up a recurring payment.

**This is your account that you control completely. Simply log in to stop/start/make changes anytime.**

**Scan QR code with  
your phone to  
do it all on your  
mobile device.**



# Family Movie

**"A Dog's Journey"**

**Saturday, November 2nd**

**1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

A comedy-drama celebrating the special bond between dogs and their humans.

Lots of fun for the whole family!

## Stewardship Dedication November 3

**"Treasure  
The Gift"**



*On Sunday, November 3rd, we have the opportunity to express our gratitude and generosity as we commit our time, talent and treasure to the glory of God. Prayerfully consider your commitment and present your estimate of financial support on November 3rd. After worship we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a celebration reception, giving thanks to our gracious God.*

*Together we will continue our tradition of growing our faith, serving one another, and providing for those in need of a helping hand.*

## Nooma Bible Study

**Wednesdays, 2:00 pm**

**November 6, 13, 20**

Nooma is a series of short films featuring best selling author Rob Bell.

Nooma invites you to search, question, and join the discussion.

## Time Is Running Out!



**10**down

**2** months to go

Two Cents-a-Meal contributions are used to fight hunger both locally and beyond. Each year the 2 Cents-a-Meal collection from our church is donated to local hunger initiatives.

Let's make a concerted effort to reach the 2019 goal of \$1,000. Given to date: **\$ 591.00.**



# "Trunk or Treat" 2019



Fun for all at the neighborhood "Trunk or Treat," over 400 children were "treated." Many thanks to all who decorated and hosted, see from the photos that our parking lot was full of "strange characters." Special thanks to the FWB Fire Department, FWB Police Department, and Bridgeway, Center for participating. You can view more fun photos on the First Presbyterian Church [facebook](#) page.



## Harvest Home Thanksgiving Dinner

Members and guests are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall after worship on November 24th for the annual Harvest Home Dinner.

Turkey, dressing, gravy, bread, and beverages are provided.

♦ BRING your favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.

## ***SERRV MARKET WILL BE OPEN BEFORE CHRISTMAS***

The Joy Circle will open a SERRV mini-market after church **Dec. 1, 8, 15.** The market will be open 11am—1pm in room 10 of the CE building. We will have many new products as well as some old favorites . . . unique items from all over the world that will make great Christmas gifts.



# Christmas Music Sunday

## December 8th - Special Worship & Music Appreciation Reception

It's hard to believe 2019 is almost gone! November and December are special months in the life of our church: Commitment Sunday, Harvest Home Luncheon, Advent, Christmas Music Sunday, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, as well as our regular Sunday worship service/activities will keep us busy these last two months of the year.

Our musicians are preparing for Christmas Music Sunday on December 8<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 am service. We pray that the handbells, choir, soloists, narrators and instruments will honor the Lord as we share the Christmas story once again. The narration, entitled *Seekers of the Light*, written by Pamela Stewart, tells of the people in Biblical times who waited for Jesus' birth, and also reminds us that we all have to seek a Savior (Jeremiah 29:13). Anthems will include *Promise of Peace, Sing We Now of Christmas, My Soul Doth Magnify, This Child of Light, Come to My Heart, and Seekers of the Light*. We are excited that Judy Houlgate will be our guest cellist, accompanying the choir on several anthems, as well as playing a solo during the Offertory. Please plan to attend and invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

2019 is almost gone. My prayer for each of us is that we make each day "count" in service to our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to earth in order to die for our sins, giving all that He had for us! *Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

## Congratulations on 20 Years

**Jackie Hails** began work as organist at First Presbyterian January 2000 and added the position of Director of Music in July 2003. Her creative talent and contributions have made the FPC music program excel and be a blessing to many.

*Thank you, Jackie.* Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. You have been such a significant part of FPC for the last 20 years, and we thank God for YOU!



## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



WEDNESDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
DECEMBER 4, 11, 18

Advent speaks of our dual identity as people of this world and as God's people. *Come Emmanuel* explores how we can hold this in creative tension and learn to relate our prayerfulness to everyday life. It opens up the depths of some very ancient prayers and reveals how much they can teach us for living as God's people.





# Angel Tree

The "Angel Tree" gifts will be donated to families at **FRESH Start**. Tags will have specific suggested gifts on their wish/need list. Choose a tag and make Christmas special for families in need.

FRESH Start is a non-profit organization serving local homeless families. They provide transitional programs and housing to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

## Cold Night Shelter



The **Cold Night shelters** will be open at "One Hopeful Place" this winter when temperatures drop below 40° F. Located on North Beal Extension, the facility offers a safe place for up to 100 of our community's less fortunate.

First Presbyterian will be responsible to host on Wednesday nights, providing food and volunteers. Contact Yvonne Franklin, 862-5341, for more information and to volunteer.



**Place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones this Christmas season. Orders will be taken mid-November. Cost is \$12. for each plant.**

### 1ST SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR SHARING & CARING

**Sharing & Caring** is a food source for the needy who qualify within the guidelines. Clients include families, children, seniors, the unemployed, and the homeless. **All monetary donations and non-perishable food** will be greatly appreciated.

We need your help collecting **personal care items**: shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, soap, and deodorant — both family size and travel size are welcome.

# Presbyterian Women

It is time for the annual **Thank Offering** which provides clean water, alleviates homelessness, promotes health, provides educational opportunities, and improves the lives of women and children throughout the world in many other ways.

You will have an opportunity to make a donation at your November or December circle meeting. You may also place your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women & indicate on your check that it is for the 2019 Thank Offering.

### PW Dates to Remember

**Birthday Luncheon**  
**Tuesday, November 19**  
**11:30 am at Chapala Mexican Grill**

**Birthday Luncheon**  
**Tuesday, December 17**  
**11:30 am at Julie's Southern Joy**  
**Bring a \$10 gift to exchange.**

## LOOK IT'S COMING!

Watch your mailboxes for the most important catalog of the holiday season! The 2019 catalog for alternative gifts will be arriving in your mail soon.

For the **23rd year** we will have the opportunity to honor and show our love for those we want to remember at the holiday season by showing our love for God's world. Read this important catalog for causes that will touch your heart and an explanation of how it works.

This year's catalog will include many causes from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog plus 6 local causes. Through the last 22 years our congregation and friends have given over \$100,000 through gifts that make the world a better place!

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- Carol Karlson ..... 01
- Margaret Shealy ..... 01
- Autumn King ..... 05
- Joyce Boyd ..... 09
- Yvonne Franklin ..... 11
- Barbara Fallin ..... 12
- Anne Hall ..... 12
- Elizabeth Epstein ..... 17
- Jackson Pryor ..... 18
- Penny Carter ..... 21
- Wil Hugli ..... 22
- Jane Strickland ..... 22
- Barbara Rhinehardt.... 27
- Louise Meyers ..... 28

God Bless You on your birthday!



## Communion Schedule

- November 3rd**  
 Serve/Set up: Mark & Sherryl Haller  
 Serve/Clean: Jim & Phyllis March
- December 1st**  
 Serve/Set up: Pat Hansen, Ann Sipos  
 Serve/Clean: Barbara Blackurn,  
 Jim Weatherbee
- Christmas Eve**  
 Serve/Set up: Fred & Mayrelizbeth Pryor  
 Serve/Clean: MG & Kim Moran



*Anniversary Blessings*

▪ NOVEMBER ▪

Bob and Marlene Naylor  
November 29

▪ DECEMBER ▪

Jim and Phyllis March  
December 27



# December Birthdays



- Diana Drain ..... 07
- David Noffsinger ..... 15
- Nancy Nicks ..... 17
- Sam Brooks ..... 20
- Mark Haller ..... 29
- Tom Sipos ..... 29
- Rosemary Brown ..... 30



## Christmas JOY Offering

*The Christmas Joy Offering has been a tradition in the Presbyterian Church for almost seventy years. The offering supports the education of students at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges and helps families of active and retired church workers in need through the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions.*

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
INCOME:	<u>Sept. '19</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Offerings .....	\$ 19,016.32	153,968.07
Other/Misc. Income .....	340.00	1,387.03
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$19,356.32</b>	<b>155,355.10</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Clergy Compensation .....	\$7,216.21	56,556.53
Worship Committee .....	545.49	3,604.51
Christian Education .....	492.27	1,470.18
Witness & Outreach .....	1,766.37	10,099.65
Admin. & Finance .....	13,924.25	99,926.96
Property Committee .....	3,102.12	23,347.57
Fellowship .....	130.97	1,176.52
Loan Interest Expense .....	326.72	3,081.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$27,504.40</b>	<b>199,263.36</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES...</b>	<b>8,148.08</b>	<b>-43,908.26</b>
Transfer fm Investment Acct....	10,000.00	30,000.00



# NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #4**  
**Ft. Walton Bch, FL 32548**  
**Return service requested.**

## **First Presbyterian Church**



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**Fort Walton Beach, FL**

**PHONE: 850-243-3732**

**FAX: 850-243-3402**

**[www.firstpresfwb.org](http://www.firstpresfwb.org)**

**Rev. Sharon Schuler**  
**[pastor@firstpresfwb.org](mailto:pastor@firstpresfwb.org)**

**Jackie Hails, Music Director**  
**[music@firstpresfwb.org](mailto:music@firstpresfwb.org)**

**Pam Haynes, Office Administrator**  
**[office@firstpresfwb.org](mailto:office@firstpresfwb.org)**

Witness and Outreach Chair, **Susan Cook** presents a generous donation from First Presbyterian Church to Ken Winzeler, President of Sharing & Caring, at the monthly volunteer luncheon on October 21, 2019.

Witness & Outreach committee oversees a variety of Session-approved opportunities for mission and service in the local community and throughout the world.



## **Over 21,000 Cookies!**



The Wednesday morning “**Bakers**” have a trunk full of cookies to deliver. They have reached a significant milestone of baking over **21,000** cookies. The cookies are bagged and donated to *One Hopeful Place, Children in Crisis, and Opportunity Place*, where they are distributed to those in need. Many thanks to our bakers: **Phyllis March, Chris Rollins, and Susan Cook.**

Would you like to join the baking team? Come on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am.