



THE FLAME

First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

What are the liturgical seasons and why do we celebrate them?

In the “Directory for Worship” in the PC(USA) Book of Order it states: “God has provided a rhythm of seasons which orders life and influences the church’s worship. God’s work of redemption in Jesus Christ offers the Church a central pattern for ordering worship in relationship to significant occasions in the life of Jesus and of the people of God. The Church has thus come to observe the following days and seasons:

1. **Advent**, a season to recollect the hope of the coming of Christ, and to look forward to the Lord’s coming again;
2. **Christmas**, a celebration of the birth of Christ;
3. **Epiphany**, a day for commemorating God’s self-manifestation to all people;
4. **Lent**, a season of spiritual discipline and preparation, beginning with **Ash Wednesday**, anticipating the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ;
5. **Holy Week**, a time of remembrance and proclamation of the atoning suffering and death of Jesus Christ (which included **Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday**);
6. **Easter**, the day of the Lord’s resurrection and the season of rejoicing that commemorates his ministry until his Ascension, and continues through
7. the **Day of Pentecost**, the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

The church also observes other liturgical days such as **Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration of the Lord, Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday.**” (W-3.2002)

By embracing the unique and rich rhythm of the church year as expressed through these liturgical seasons, we as worshippers are able to experience the full depth of Christian worship and truly appreciate God’s movement in our lives during the different seasons of the church calendar.

*Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Susan*



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on February 20th.

Page 2



Worship Schedule

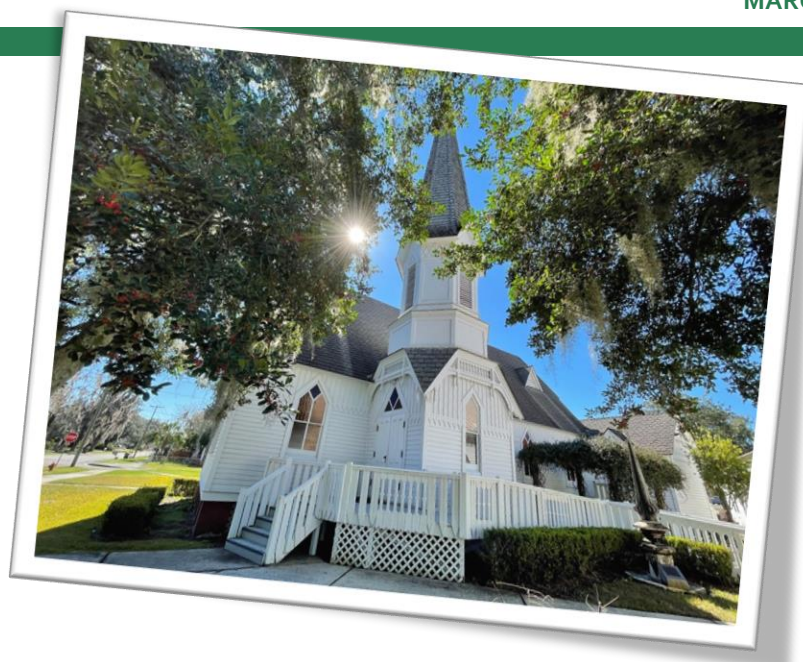
Palm Sunday, Children’s Church Kickoff, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Page 3



SESSION *HIGHLIGHTS* from February by Ed Kelly

This month the Session gathered for its stated meeting on February 20th. The following items were discussed or acted upon:



- The Session received a letter of appreciation from the Presbytery's Generosity Team, thanking our Church for its faithful support of the mission and work of our Presbytery in the past and its pledge of continuing support for 2024.
- The Session approved a number of initiatives proposed by our very active Local Mission Committee, to be conducted at various times during 2024. They include two outreach opportunities during the next few months: (i) support of the Way Free Medical Clinic with donations of diapers, wipes and other baby items in February and March, and (ii) support of the Clay County Safe Animal Shelter with donations of dog and cat supplies in May. Other ministry outreach opportunities approved by the Session, which are planned for later in the year, include a school supply drive for local schools in August, collections for Thanksgiving Baskets for the Green Cove Springs Food Pantry, and continued support of the Salvation Army by collection of Christmas stockings and bellringing at a local grocery store.
- The Session heard a report from Bob Higel, our elder commissioner to the Winter Stated Meeting of Presbytery on the actions taken at the meeting, which included adopting a Presbytery budget for 2024, and adoption of a revised Presbytery Sexual Misconduct Policy.
- The Session also heard reports from our Session committees on their work and plans for the coming year.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN will meet on **Saturday, March 16th at 8:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us for breakfast and fellowship! All men of the church are welcome.

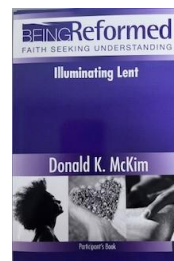
MEN'S BREAKFAST



Join us on **Thursday March 21st at 11:15 am** for a time of food, fellowship, and laughter. We will be eating at Pan Asian in Green Cove Springs. No reservation needed. Lunch Bunch is for anyone and everyone. We will meet for about 1 hour. Contact Lee Anne Higel @ 904-614-8469.

ILLUMINATING LENT: A LENTEN STUDY

Join Pastor Susan for a 6-week Lenten study “Forgiveness” by Marjorie Thompson on **Wednesdays at 10 am from March 1 – April 5**. Books are \$10.



We are announcing the launch of **Children’s Church on Palm Sunday**. It will be led by Elder Jeff Mackenzie and the Christian Ed. Children and Youth Ministry Group. Childrens Church will be a weekly gathering after children’s time in the service. Someone from the Children and Youth Ministry will lead them out of the sanctuary and go next door into the Education Wing. The Children will be brought back into the sanctuary in time for the AMEN and Circle song.

Kick-off Palm Sunday 3/24/2024

March Worship Schedule by Tracy Harris

Sunday, March 3rd - Please join us in the Prayer Garden for our monthly Meet and Greet (cookies and lemonade) following the service.

Palm Sunday, March 24th - Palm Sunday service, at 10:30 am, will begin with a children's palm parade, followed by the Kickoff of our new Children’s Church. After worship service, a potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall is planned with an Easter Egg Hunt afterwards for the children.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th - 7:00 pm Worship and Communion in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday, March 29th - 12:00 noon Service of Scripture and Prayer in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, March 31st - 10:30 am Worship and Communion in the Sanctuary.

First Presbyterian Ladies

Night Out

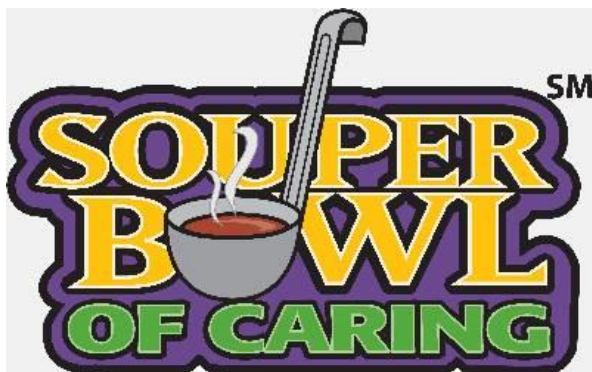
Fourteen FPC ladies enjoyed a night of fellowship, laughter and good food at Santioni's on Thursday, February 8th. Plans are in the works for a Ladies Night Out at Whitey's Fish Camp in early summer. Stay tuned for information!





Donations to the Food Pantry from FPC:

January	380 pounds	May	pounds	September	pounds
February* includes Souper Bowl Caring	558 pounds	June	pounds	October	pounds
March	pounds	July	pounds	November	pounds
April	pounds	August	pounds	December	pounds
2 Cents A Meal	\$	Donations	\$270	Thanksgiving Food Baskets	



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Our Congregational donations to the GCS Food Pantry was 310 pounds plus \$270.00 in monetary donations. This was an example of how our committees can and do work together to further the mission of FPCGCS. We acknowledge and thank those committee members and others for their assistance in setup, preparation and cleanup and for assistance in moving the donations from the Fellowship Hall to the parking lot and loading into the transport vehicle.

Blessings,
Doug Land
Local Missions Chair



Please remember to turn your clocks
March 9th. Daylight Saving
10th at 2 am.

ahead before bed on **Saturday,**
Time Begins on Sunday, March



Lady Lane Chapel, Epworth By the Sea

Women's Ministry – March Event

The women of Green Cove Springs and Orange Park Presbyterian Church will be holding the 2024 Women's Retreat at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island on March 15-17. Pastor Susan will present an inspirational program entitled, "Rooted in Christ; Growing in Grace." This is the second year that the two churches have joined together for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and prayer.

Boy Scouts Certificate of

Appreciation By Green Cove Springs City Council

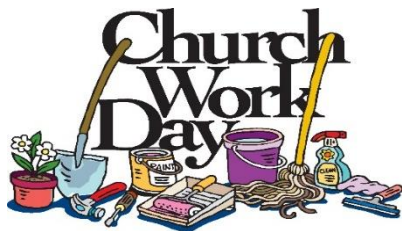
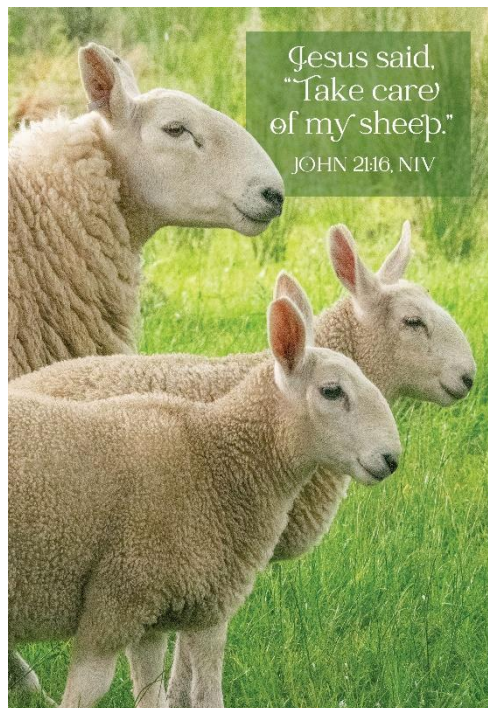
Troop 577 and 309 were recognized by the Green Cove Springs City Council for their community service efforts in painting all the fire hydrants in the city limits. Thanks to Eagle Scouts, Cody Fayette and Nathan Shealey for their Eagle Scout service projects to paint fire hydrants. Mayor Connie Butler read the certificate of appreciation to both troops. Good job Scouts, keep up the good work! Submitted by **Richard Knoff**



Have You Met Your Shepherd?

By Sandy Magyar,
Member Care Committee Chair

Do you know and have you met your Shepherd? The Member Care Committee is planning an opportunity for you to get together with them on April 7th in the Fellowship Hall. This will be held during the monthly 1st Sunday fellowship time, so we would like you to grab a bite to eat and go to the table where your Shepherd is seated. This will be a time for you to get to know her as well as some of the other members in her group. Ours is a very special and friendly church, and we want you to also get to know some of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks.



Saturday, March 2nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Please join your church family as we spruce up the grounds inside and out.



The Annual Bazaar/Yard Sale will be held **Friday and Saturday, April 12th & 13th** from 8 am to 2 pm. Set-up work will begin at 9 am on Wednesday, April 10th. Volunteers to help for a few hours on any of these days will be welcome. Contact Linda Westall at 759-8124 if you would like additional info. Any donations of good, usable items you no longer want or need, is greatly appreciated. You may bring your donations to the church during office hours Tuesday and Thursday 9 am to 2 pm.





Ken Anderson 1 st	Eileen Ott 21 st
John Engelman 9 th	Michelle Knoff 28 th
Crystal Land 10 th	Marty Westall 28 th
Paul Deese 12 th	Jeff Ownby 30 th
Richard Chapman 13 th	Debbie Sleeth 30 th



Leonard & Sandy Hatch	12 th
Cameron & Amanda Juneau	16 th
Ed & Linda Kell	16 th
Darren & Sarah Peterson	18 th
Paul & Diane Deese	23 rd
Chris & Helen Williams	29 th



2024 FLOWER CHART Is now available. Reserve your 2024 Sunday Flowers, the cost is \$35 for one arrangement. The sign-up sheet is in a notebook in the belfry of the sanctuary.

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Susan Takis	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
Administrative Assistant	Patti Cotton	admin@firstpresgcs.org	904-284-9261
Financial Secretary	Patti Cotton	financialsec@firstpresgcs.org	904-284-9261
Director of Music	Sandra Royal	sroyal225@gmail.com	904-284-2931
Pianist	Janelle Ganey	musicdrbr87@gmail.com	904-446-6469

SESSION COMMITTEES 2024

Moderator of Session	Rev. Susan Takis	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
Clerk of Session	Ed Kelly	ekelly@rtlaw.com	904-673-1655
Buildings & Grounds	Richard Knoff	ccfrchief3@gmail.com	904-699-1072
Christian Education	Susan Takis	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
Children/Youth Ed.	Jeff Mackenzie	jmacknz13@aol.com	704-264-4491
Communications	Ken Remsen	kenremsen@walletwise.org	904-673-0937
Congregational Life	Donna Jones	donnaj4453@hotmail.com	904-352-8551
Fellowship	Linda Westall	gtwestall@att.net	904-759-8124
Member Care	Sandy Magyar	magyarsf@bellsouth.net	904-860-9208
Women's Ministry	Pat Chapman	phoward@fsu.edu	904-861-8815
Men's Ministry/	JJ Mebiame-Eya	jjmebiameeya@aol.com	904-318-9647
Outreach	Jane Ledbetter	fieldhockeyfan4e@yahoo.com	904-654-3527
Treasurer	Doug Land	wlland@yahoo.com	908-391-2947
Mission (Global)	JJ Mebiame-Eya	jjmebiameeya@aol.com	904-318-9647
Mission (Local)	Doug Land	wlland@yahoo.com	908-391-2947
Finance & Stewardship	Bob Higel	bobhigel1@gmail.com	904-612-2019
Worship	Tracy Harris	rtharris1@aol.com	904-657-9721