



# First Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER  
2024

## *What Is World Communion Sunday?*

World Communion Sunday is on the first Sunday of October each year. First adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.) in 1936, churches in other denominations were later invited to join. It wasn't until 1940, when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor of the National Council of Churches) extended the celebration to several churches around the world, that the practice became widespread.

The idea originated with Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly in 1930. But this nascent idea came to fruition through the work of the Stewardship Committee at Shadyside. They dreamed of bringing churches together in a service of Christian unity to lift up the global Church and to remember that by virtue of our baptism, we are connected to a worldwide community. One congregation is connected to every other congregation, united in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5).

The vision gradually caught on in the denomination and with our ecumenical partners. Ecumenism only emerged after the First World War as churches struggled to respond to the devastating humanitarian and theological crisis brought on by the war. Dr. Kerr's son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr (who was a pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore), shares that "the concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the Spirit caught hold because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion Sunday symbolized the effort to hold things together in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Today, organized by the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday is celebrated worldwide, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by global market economies based on greed. It is fitting that on this Sunday, we will receive one of the Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages congregations to address the anxiety and discord prevalent in a broken and fearful world. Twenty-five percent of what we receive remains with our congregation for local efforts. Together, we make a difference. Let us gather around the Lord's table and entrust our lives to the one who holds the world together, giving generously to the work and witness of Christ through the life of the Church.

*[This article was written by Ken Kovacs and reprinted from the September 2023 edition of The Messenger.]*

*Soli Deo Gloria,  
Pastor Susan*

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from September by Ed Kelly

The Session met on September 17 for its regular monthly stated meeting, and the items discussed or acted upon included the following:

- The Session heard a report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee that one of the HVAC units in the Sanctuary has failed and a new unit will be required. In addition, the fire control panel in the Education Building must be replaced. The Committee is seeking bids for replacements.
- The Finance Committee is closely monitoring the financial condition of the Church. While we are paying our bills, we have limited reserves for contingencies and upcoming emergency expenses, such as the requirement of a new HVAC unit for the sanctuary and replacement of the fire control panel in the Education Building. Those expenses will present financial challenges going forward. Gifts and pledges from the congregation will be needed more than ever, and the Finance Committee will make a request to the congregation for additional support.
- Elder Jeff Mackenzie will represent the Church as our commissioner to the Fall Meeting of Presbytery at the First Presbyterian Church of Palatka on October 1, 2024. These meetings are important opportunities to connect with commissioners from the other 52 congregations in the Presbytery of St. Augustine, to learn about the mission and work of the Presbytery, and to have our voice heard on matters that are considered and voted upon by the assembly.
- Our Sanctuary has been selected by the Green Cove Springs Preservation Society to be included in a tour of historic homes and churches in Green Cove Springs on December 7, 2024. Thanks to Linda Westall for coordinating this.



The Fall Bazaar/Yard Sale will be coming **October 11th and 12th** from 8 am to 2 pm. Any donations of good, usable items you no longer want or need, will be greatly appreciated. You may bring your donations to the church during office hours Tuesday's & Thursday's 9 am to 3 pm. For more information about how to donate and/or to help the fellowship committee with this event, contact Linda Westall [gtwestall@att.net](mailto:gtwestall@att.net)/904-759-8124.



## Worship Committee

As we begin our fall season, the Worship Committee would like to share some important Worship dates.

- October 6th is World Communion Sunday followed by our monthly Meet and Greet (cookies and lemonade) hosted by the Worship Committee.
- October 20th begins our Stewardship Campaign and ends on November 10th with Pledge Sunday.
- October 27th is Reformation Sunday where the liturgy and music will reflect the occasion.
- November 3rd is All Saints Sunday in honor of those that have passed away.
- November 24th is Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Potluck. Please note that we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas following the Potluck so please plan on attending.
- December begins our Season of Advent with a December 24th Christ Eve candlelight service at 5 pm.

## Advent

**2024 ADVENT BOOKLET** Don't forget to contribute to the 2024 Advent Booklet. It can be a poem, short story, memory, art such as drawing, painting or photo or even a favorite family Christmas recipe. Please email to [SRoyal225@gmail.com](mailto:SRoyal225@gmail.com). We need 24 submissions by **October 10th**. Thank you!

## Needed in November

Canvas Bag  
Box Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Bottled/canned/packet Gravy  
Box Stuffing Mix  
2 cans Green Beans  
Medium can Yams  
Can Cranberry Sauce  
Can Cream of Mushroom Soup  
Can of fruit  
Cake mix and icing  
Bag of marshmallows  
\$25.00 Gift Card from a grocery store for Meat



Please bring items to church and they will be delivered to the Food Pantry to be distributed to needy families.



Join Us on **Thursday, October 17th at 11:15 am** for a time of food, fun, fellowship, and laughter. We will be eating at La Casita. No reservation needed. Lunch Bunch is for anyone and everyone. We meet for about 1 hour. Contact Lee Anne Higel @ 904-614-84697.



## 2025 Women's Retreat March 14-16, 2025, at Epworth by the Sea

Our 2025 Retreat program *Light of the World Academy*, is taking place at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island. Join our sisters at Orange Park Presbyterian Church for renewed spiritual focus, relaxation, fellowship and laughter. We will begin with dinner on the evening of March 14<sup>th</sup> and finish by noon on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Registration for the retreat is \$300 per person (based on double occupancy). This includes lodging for 2 nights, 6 meals and participant supplies. Single rooms are available for \$425. A deposit of \$50 is due by November 1, 2024. Installments are welcomed. Balance is due January 15, 2025. Cancellation rates do apply; and the last day for full refund is February 7, 2025. A registration form will be located on the table outside the church office and will also be available in the sanctuary.

Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs (FPCGCS) and indicate "Women's Retreat" on the check subject line. Place checks in the collection plate or send them to the church office. We want every woman that is interested to attend. Please know that a limited number of scholarships are available. Also, any donations toward the Women's Retreat Scholarships are appreciated with this designation noted on your donation check.

We are looking forward to this worship experience and our fellowship time! Please don't hesitate to contact Pat Howard-Chapman, 904-861-8815, phoward@fsu.edu should you have any questions or would like to assist with the Retreat planning and preparation over the next five months.





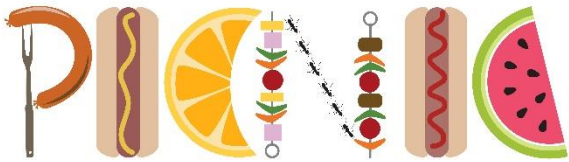
## MEN'S BREAKFAST

PRESBYTERIAN MEN will meet on **Saturday, October 19th at 8:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us for breakfast and fellowship! All men of the church are welcome.



The program is continuing to grow. We have had several new children come and join us. I want to thank all of the people who have volunteered to help. The children are also learning how to play bells and will be joining the choir in singing a processional at the World Communion Service this month. The Children will continue studying Jesus and Cereal through November and then move on to the Circus and the Bible in December and January.

# ANNUAL



### Donations to the Food Pantry from First Presbyterian Church:

January	345 pounds	May	213 pounds	September	122 pounds
February*	558 pounds	June	225 pounds	October	pounds
March	236 pounds	July	440 pounds	November	pounds
April	248 pounds	August	311 pounds	December	pounds
2 Cents A Meal & Donations		\$1,020.13	Thanksgiving Baskets		0

## STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Susan Takis	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
<b>Administrative Asst.</b>	Jacquelyn Mizeur	admin@firstpresgcs.org	904-284-9261
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Jacquelyn Mizeur	financialsec@firstpresgcs.org	904-284-9261
<b>Director of Music</b>	Sandra Royal	sroyal225@gmail.com	904-284-2931
<b>Pianist</b>	Janelle Ganey	musicdrbr87@gmail.com	904-446-6469

## SESSION COMMITTEES 2024

<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Ed Kelly	ekelly@rtlaw.com	904-673-1655
<b>Moderator of Session</b>	Rev. Susan Takis	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	Richard Knoff	ccfrchief3@gmail.com	904-669-1072
<b>Christian Education</b>	Jeff Mackenzie	jmacknz13@aol.com	704-264-4491
<b>Adult Education</b>	Rev. Susan Takis	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
<b>Children/Youth</b>	Jeff Mackenzie	jmacknz13@aol.com	704-264-4491
<b>Communications</b>	Ken Remsen	kenremsen@walletwise.org	904-673-0937
<b>Church Sign</b>	Lee Anne Higel	bhigel@aol.com	904-614-8469
<b>Directory</b>	Ken Remsen	kenremsen@walletwise.org	904-673-0937
<b>Office</b>	Jacquelyn Mizeur	admin@firstpresgcs.org	904-284-9261
<b>Photography</b>	Ken Remsen	kenremsen@walletwise.org	904-673-0937
<b>Social Media</b>	Taylor Harris	pastorfpcgcs@gmail.com	904-434-6752
<b>Website</b>	Taylor Harris/Rev. Susan Takis/Jacquelyn Mizeur		
<b>Congregational Life</b>	Donna Jones	donnaj4453@hotmail.com	904-352-8851
<b>Fellowship</b>	Linda Westall	gtwestall@att.net	904-759-8124
<b>Member Care</b>	Sandy Magyar	magyarsf@bellsouth.net	904-860-9208
<b>Men's Ministry</b>	JJ Mebiame-Eya	jjmebiameeya@aol.com	904-318-9647
<b>Outreach</b>	Jane Ledbetter	fieldhockeyfan4e@yahoo.com	904-654-3527
<b>Women's Ministry</b>	Pat Chapman	phoward@fsu.edu	904-861-8815
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship</b>	Bob Higel	bobhigel1@gmail.com	904-612-2019
<b>Treasurer</b>	Doug Land	wlland@yahoo.com	908-391-2947
<b>Global Mission</b>	JJ Mebiame-Eya	jjmebiameeya@aol.com	904-318-9647
<b>Local Mission</b>	Doug Land	wlland@yahoo.com	908-391-2947
<b>Worship</b>	Tracy Harris	rtharris1@aol.com	904-657-9721

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

as of September 30, 2024

Monthly Income	\$23,197.28	Year to Date Income	\$163,298.28
Monthly Expenses	<u>\$17,811.79</u>	Year to Date Expenses	<u>\$180,727.30</u>
Net Profit (Loss):	\$5,385.49	Net Profit (Loss):	(\$17,429.02)

First Presbyterian Church  
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Green Cove Springs, FL 32043