



# Presbyterlines

November 2022  
Monthly Newsletter



Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

## OUR MISSION

To know Jesus Christ personally, to make Him known, and to reflect His love through worship, education, fellowship, and service to all.

352-637-0770

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Website:

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

Facebook:

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Inverness**

## Sign Up For

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## Season of Stewardship

There are many seasons in the church year. In many congregations across denominations the fall has become the season of stewardship. We traditionally lift up passages of scripture reminding us of the importance of giving back to God a portion of what God has given to us. We hear “the Lord loves a cheerful giver.” For a while the catch phrase was, “don’t give ‘til it hurts. Give ‘til it feels good!” Some of us were taught to tithe (to give 10% of our income), others were taught to pledge a certain amount, others just give. Some of us were never taught to give an offering of any kind, or understood why we collect money in church. Some of us would prefer pastors never mention offering amounts, and others would prefer we speak about it more.

At the heart of offerings is thanksgiving. It is an act of worship as we acknowledge God’s providence and care in our lives. We also recognize that our gifts, when joined together with others, enable us to do far more ministry than we could support on our own. We use the monetary gifts to build up the body of Christ just as we use our spiritual gifts to do the same. Our congregation supports a variety of missions and ministries, worship and nurture, discipleship and Christian education, fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities. We keep up our buildings as the center of our faith community and jumping off place for ministry.

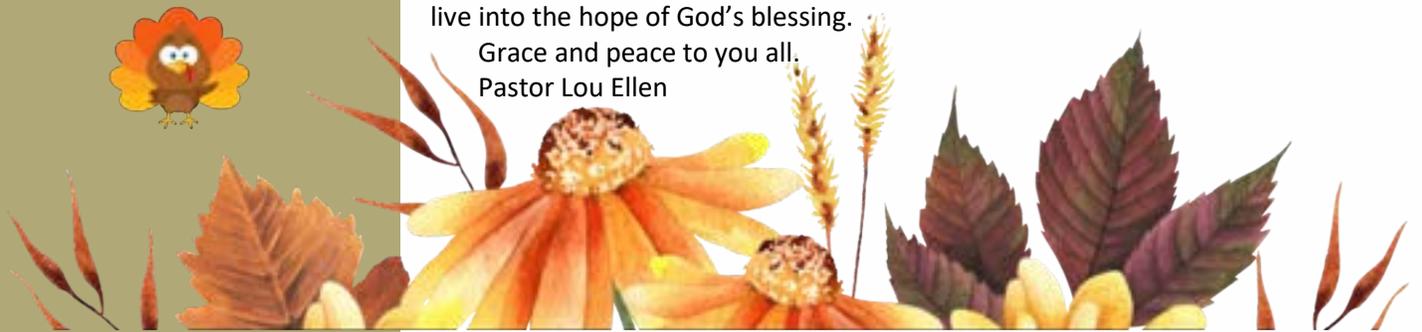
The truth is, we can not carry on as we are without financial faithfulness and giving. Our Session and Finance and Stewardship Committee try to be good stewards – good caretakers – of the gifts we receive, the gifts we all give. We use the gifts we receive to pay our staff salaries, support the committees’ work, support local missions, and to maintain the building. We take good care to make sure we are being faithful to our call as Christ’s church, carrying out the ministries we are called to do.

Over the past few years our congregation membership has declined. We have gone through the process of natural attrition, seen members not return to worship after covid shut downs, gone through time of pastoral change. Now is the time for us to reclaim our hope and joy and invest in the life of the church.

Now is the time for resurrection and new life to come out of the stressful and anxious times. We are indeed coming to life again with new members, new revitalized ministries, new purpose. While we celebrate that, we must also recognize we need to give of our time, our talents, and our money because all of these things build up the church. Now is a time when we must all consider our financial commitment to the ministries of First Presbyterian Church so we may live into the hope of God’s blessing.

Grace and peace to you all.

Pastor Lou Ellen



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF INVERNESS  
206 WASHINGTON AVE  
INVERNESS, FL 34450

## CLASSES: PLEASE JOIN US

*Sundays: 10:10-10:50 am*

- *Scripture Searchers-Library*
- *Nursery: Classroom 2*
- *K-5th Grade Class: Classroom 4*
- *6th-8th Grade Class: Classroom 6*
- *9th-12th Grade Class: classroom 5*
- *Anchored (Youth Group) meetings classroom 5 (6-7:30pm)*

Questions?  
Email Lori Evans at  
[dcelori.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:dcelori.fpc@gmail.com)



*During the Week:*

*Tuesdays:*

- *Men's Bible Discussion from 6:30-8pm-The Gathering Place*

*Thursdays:*

- *Adult Bible Study at 10am*



COMING IN DECEMBER:

PARENT'S DAY OUT-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

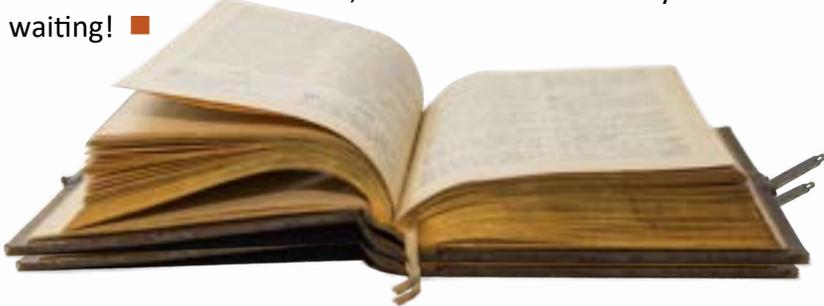
ANCHORED: ICE-SKATING TRIP-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 25TH & JANUARY 1ST



## Thursdays Continue

The Thursday Bible study group will complete their long study of King David, from Goliath to Bathsheba, to the betrayal of his son, Absalom. Such family drama! There have been 35 sessions of 1 & 2 Samuel, and we are still learning surprising and vivid lessons from David's life. The Bible doesn't withhold any of the perplexities of life! In the New Year, we go to the New Testament to find the solace and joy of following Jesus. Come and join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Audrey Mattox facilitates the discussion, and she will have your cookies waiting! ■



## Presbyterian Women Ministry



Presbyterian Women's Ministry continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Library/Conference room. Our next meeting will be on November 2, at 10:00 am. We continue the series, **TWELVE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**. Our next lesson is about Leah. Each of these selected Women have something to teach/offer us applicable to today's living. Come and share Leah's story with us. Our discussions are always insightful. Laura Zurawski 352-250-1593 .

A collage of Thanksgiving food including turkey, soup, corn, and pumpkins, with autumn leaves and pinecones scattered around.

# Thanksgiving

The Fellowship Committee is trying something new this year. There seem to be several members of our congregation who need an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner in your home.

If you are planning on being home, having Thanksgiving Dinner, and having room for one or two people to sit at your table, we would like to know and are most thankful. Please sign up in the Narthex, and we will let those who are alone - know.

If you are alone this Thanksgiving and would like to go to someone's home, please sign-up in the Narthex, and we will try to place you. Thank you all!

*The Fellowship Committee*

**THE SIGN-UP STATION IS LOCATED NEAR THE MILITARY BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX**

## Sunday, November 20th

Sunday, November 20th, is the last date to bring in your filled shoebox for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox mission project. A few red and green boxes with all of the instructions inside, are still available in the Narthex, in front of the sanctuary. On the 20th, we will transport all of our boxes to the local collection spot, the First Baptist Church of Inverness.

From FBC, the boxes will be trucked to Atlanta for processing before their destination somewhere in the world. The Lord has already picked out a child for each particular shoebox. Where will your box go?

If you and your vehicle are available on November 20th to help us load up and take some boxes to First Baptist Church, meet us in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service. With plenty of help, it usually only takes 30-45 minutes. And it's a joy to be part of sending our boxes on their way to minister in Jesus' name! This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Birth of our Savior.

Any questions or comments? Phone Audrey Mattox, the shoebox lady, at 352-341-2484. And Merry Christmas! ■



Photos Courtesy  
of Operation  
Christmas Child©



**HEIFER**  
INTERNATIONAL

## Heifer Project

As part of our mission outreach, one of our Missions Committee members, Roger Ellis, suggested that we consider The Heifer Project. This is a well-known, long-standing organization that provides farm animals for indigenous family farms all over the world. Roger, one of our winter visitors, is a retired veterinarian and has been involved with Heifer International for years. He assured us of the effectiveness of this program. Each family who receives a farm animal is required to donate the first offspring of that animal to another struggling neighboring farmer. So it's an ongoing mission. And we, as a church family, are passing on the blessings. Our church's mission donation of \$500 for a heifer will have far-reaching results for these families. Did you know that we are cow people? Another practical mission project. ■

## Shoebox Dresses



The little girls' dresses were donated by Michelle Nendze, neighbor of Frank and Donna Dublo, and she is very involved in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry. She made these dresses out of leftover fabric and is giving us the privilege of blessing eight little girls, somewhere in the world. Thank you, Michelle and Donna, for "Thinking Shoeboxes." It's a mission! ■



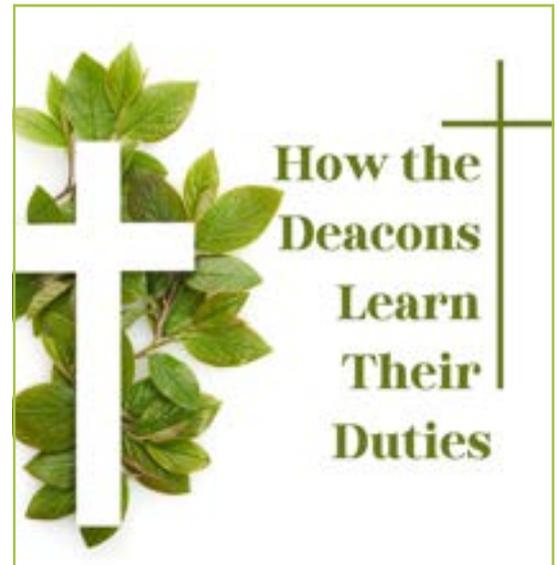
Barbara Inmon, Deacon Moderator 2022, thanks the Bereavement Team for their kindness and hard work on the October 15th funeral reception. Members of the Men's Fellowship: Jim Inmon; Ron Shafer; Cliff Hart; and Roy Daniels; with our faithful volunteers: Ron Foley; Nancy Foley; Ron Hatton; Vera Hatton; and Linda Tompkins, came together to create a caring atmosphere and loving support for the grieving Trevor Campbell family.



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Do we realize what a wonderful resource we have in our local Habitat for Humanity (HFH) affiliate? The Citrus County HFH organization is listed as 35th among 1400 national and international affiliates in new home construction. That's a milestone for our relatively small county. And in each Citrus County HFH home built since 2008 and home #37, our church family and friends have furnished each family with a brand new washer and dryer. Such a practical blessing! The Patrick Gilmer family and Dana Connor family were homes #229 and #230 that were just completed and dedicated on October 8th in Citrus Springs. A very ambitious plan is to build another 180 homes in the area in the next few years. Building hope, building lives – one family at a time. If your group or your family would like to donate toward our church's HFH Washer and Dryer Fund, #8545, the check should be made payable to the church and note in the memo line of your check that it is designated to HFH/W&D account. It's been a big commitment but the Lord has blessed this mission of our church family. A whole lotta washing ahead! ■



As deacons, we can learn our duties in many ways and places. One way we can learn them is through personal scripture study and prayer. To do this, we may have to find a time and a place where we can be alone to study our duties as explained in scripture and pray for help in understanding them.

We also learn our duties at home from our parents or older siblings. These duties can be taught during family time at home in the evening. This instruction is also taught on Sundays in priesthood meetings by the deacons' quorum president. The Lord has commanded the deacon's quorum president to preside over the deacons in his quorum and to teach them their duties. The deacon's quorum president can help us understand our duties and how to act in the office of a deacon. He is taught these duties by a priesthood adviser or a member of the bishopric or branch presidency.

One of the best ways to learn the duties is to perform them. When we perform our duties, we understand them better and please the Lord. And when the Lord is pleased with us, He will reveal many things to use through the Holy Ghost. As deacons, we should always live worthy to have the Holy Ghost with us. ■

**ANCHORED**

**Fishing with Jesus  
at Lake Henderson**

**We will be fishing from the pier on  
Sunday, November 13th from 1 - 4:00pm.  
The congregation is welcome to join in the fun.  
If you would like to join us, please  
let Lori Evans know that you will be coming.  
Lori's email is [dcelori.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:dcelori.fpc@gmail.com).**

# News from Cuba

October 8, 2022

## Mission Service

The missions of our church agreed, and they all had a united service. It was a time of powerful celebration, and many children came. In total, there were almost 30 children. We gave them ice cream, they sang, and learned from the Word of God. We want to resume the service with the children since our church lacks premises, and we have not been able to celebrate anything with the children for years. We want to do this type of celebration again with the missions; this is how we preach the Gospel in remote places.



## Youth Time

Our church has few young people. There are only three, who remain faithful, but they are hardworking, brave people. They organized a youth night and invited many youth from neighboring churches, and there were 90 people Friday night. We went to the central park in town and stood in the middle of the park singing praises to the Lord, proclaiming the gospel at the top of our voices. Everyone listened to us, and it was a most beautiful time. The boys rejoiced, sang, danced and were very happy. We then went back to church, had another prayer time, watched a movie and finished at 5:30 am. Needless to say, I woke up at 12:00 noon, hahaha. Because I was super tired.



We thank God for the time He has allowed us to have in the church during these difficult times our country is going through. A time of strong scarcity, but when everything gets more difficult, we see the Glory of God shine with more intensity. The brothers are now making more effort than before, having times of clamor and prayer for our people, and we see answers to our prayers. We are expecting a great revival in our church and seeing hundreds of people come to the feet of Christ, especially the young. God is with us. You are also a frequent reason in our prayers.



Thank God the hurricane did not cause damage in our area, but in Pinar Del Río, it did. We thank God that you are well too. God is in control of everything and to those who love God, all things work together for good. Without more, I say goodbye. God is good, and His love endures forever. A big hug from a distance,

*Angel Lambert Pierra*