

February 2022

*God is Love*

So we have become to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.  
1 John 4:16

## Valentine's Day Greeting

Valentine's Day is a day of love  
For showing that we care  
And if we read the Bible  
God describes love there.

If we speak like celestial angels  
From heaven up above,  
All our words mean nothing  
If we don't have Christian love.

Love is patient, love is kind  
It doesn't brag or boast  
Love conquers pride and envy  
It is never self-engrossed.

Love is not rude or angry  
Forgiveness counters wrong  
Love stays away from evil  
It sings a truthful song.

Love is full of trust and hope  
It always perseveres  
Love never fails; It's faithful  
To the Bible its Sincere.

And if you give this kind of love  
To your special Valentine  
You'll be loving right in harmony  
With God's own sweet design.  
Author, J. Fuchs



*Jesus is God's Valentine, Sent to You With Love*

**Don't Miss It!**

## **FPC Men's Overnight Retreat**



- When:** Friday, February 11, 5:30 PM – Saturday, February 12, 4:00 PM
- Where:** Knox Retreat Center – Meet at First Presbyterian Church to car pool.
- Retreat Leader:** Pastor Carl Cady
- Retreat Topic:** Back to the Basics
- Cost:** \$55.00 per person.
- RSVP:** [Space is Limited.](#) Reservations and Payment for the retreat are required by February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reservations and payment can be made by contacting Jim Aldrich, cell: 907- 378-2582; email: [jwaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:jwaldrich@gmail.com)

All of the men of First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and their male friends are invited to join us for an overnight retreat at the Knox Retreat Center at Harding Lake. We will meet in the FPC parking lot at 5:30 PM on February 11<sup>th</sup> and car pool to the Knox Retreat Center where Lonny Marney and crew will have a nice dinner waiting for us. Pastor Carl Cady will talk to us on Friday night and Saturday about getting "Back to the Basics" – a discussion of personal spiritual growth. We expect to finish up just after lunch, clean up the retreat center and be back to FPC by about 4:00 on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>. There is limited space and there is a small fee to cover our costs, so advanced reservations and payment are required. The fee for the retreat is \$55.00 per person. Reservations and payment can be made by contacting Jim Aldrich, cell 907-378-2582 or email [jwaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:jwaldrich@gmail.com). Initially the retreat will be open to the men of FPC and their immediate friends, but if it appears that we will have room available we will open the events to several other churches, so make your reservation early. Parking and plug-ins are very limited at the retreat center, so it will be necessary to car pool from FPC. If you would like to attend, but the fee is a problem, contact Jim as a limited number of scholarships are available. Some of you will remember when we have done this in the past, and it has always been a great time. We are looking forward to getting together again!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 6**  
**(immediately after church service)**

## ONLINE GIVING

To set up, go to: <https://fairbanksfirstpres.com/>  
At the right hand top of the screen, select Give. Follow Directions to sign up. NOTE: If you select use of a debit or credit card, before your gift is transferred to the church, a percentage of your donation is deducted for the credit card transaction fee. If you select a checking or savings account, the entire amount is transferred to the church.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

2	Danny Sheets
4	Chole Albert
6	June Champlin
7	Russ VanderLugt
7	Hayden Masterson
7	Esmeralda Sheets
8	Diane Henry
9	Austin Foster
12	Samuel Craft
13	David Jones
15	Autumn VanderLugt
15	Lily Sunderland
17	Christina Repasky
19	Ellucia Boswell
20	Lonny Marney
24	Dale Feist
26	Merle Fortune II

## SERMON SERIES

### The Prodigal God

Luke 15:11-32

January 23	The People around Jesus; <u>Loving the Sinner</u>	Pastor Peter
January 30	The Two Lost Sons; <u>Grace</u> : Pastor Peter	Pastor Peter
February 6	Redefining Sin: <u>Jesus our Savior</u>	David Booher
February 13	Special Speaker	Ester Scarborough
February 20	Redefining Lostness; <u>Religion is Bad, we need Jesus</u>	Pastor Peter
February 27	The True Elder Brother; The Cross	David Booher
March 6	The Feast of the Father; Joy	Pastor Peter





# MISSION OUTREACH



International Friends of Compassion  
Hohidiai Mission

- Medical Treatment for the Poor.
- A Home for the Discarded.
- World Class Education for the Young.
- Saving Souls

Semi Annual Mission Update and Dessert  
Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
RSVP



**International Friends of Compassion  
invites you to our  
Semi Annual Indonesian Mission Update  
WITH DESSERT!!!**

**Friday, February 18 at 6:30 PM  
The Lighthouse (formerly Door of Hope Church)**

Carl Cady and Esther Scarborough will be there to provide an update on the mission and the incredible things that happened during this time of COVID. The event is free, suitable for all ages and open to everyone. Come hear how God is moving in Indonesia. In order to help us get an idea of how much food and beverage we will need, **please RSVP** by contacting Jim Aldrich by email ([jwaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:jwaldrich@gmail.com)) or cell phone (907-378-2582) or signing up in the Narthex on Sunday morning.

**Also, please come hear Esther speak at our February 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday service.**

January 2022



Hello Dear Supporter,

Thank you for joining the choir of people who are standing up to say that life is precious and we are willing to do something about it!

In 2021 your donation meant 186 women got pregnancy tests, moms and dads took 100 parenting classes, moms received 133 ultrasounds, and 364 people received help with diapers, wipes, formula, and baby/maternity/nursery items in 2021 – that equals 783 opportunities where we got to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to share His love in a very tangible way!

God is so good, and we know that by inviting Him to lead our interactions with clients we are sowing and watering, and the Holy Spirit is doing good work in the hearts and minds of those who walk through our doors.

In 2022 we're committed to helping even more individuals with pregnancy and parenting decisions. To do this we need to increase our capacity; watch for upcoming news on:

- FYNDout Free monthly giving club with donor perks;
- Business Web Page for life-friendly businesses with ad opportunities;
- A FYNDout Free representative from every life-oriented church (Ambassadors);
- Added men's services with volunteer opportunities;
- Dad Jokes and Funny Stories Contest Fundraiser; and more family FUNdraisers!

It's going to be a great year and we look forward to serving alongside you.

Thank you again for your generosity and support!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Trish Winners". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Trish Winners  
Interim Executive Director  
FYNDout Free Pregnancy Center  
907-455-8255  
[www.fyndoutfree.com](http://www.fyndoutfree.com)

**FYNDout Free is an affiliate of Care Net Pregnancy, a nation-wide, faith-based, non-profit organization committed to assisting with empowering women and men during their reproductive story, and is one of the local missions supported by FPC.**

## *A Word From the Pastor*

I like to imagine a cow sitting under a shade tree “chewing her cud”, revisiting a scrumptious meal that she had consumed an hour earlier. It was a good meal of field grass and now she is slowly grinding her meal into smaller bits for digestion. This is the image that the Bible gives us when we are feeding on and digesting God's Word for spiritual nourishment. To better understand this process, imagine us eating a “sit-down meal” and slowly enjoining every bite of food. We are drinking in the spices, seasonings and flavors that are associated with our delightful meal, or imagine a good piece of chewing gum like a stick of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit or Big Red, we are enjoying the great taste as we slowly work the gum in our mouth, its sweetness and flavor flooding our taste buds.

God tells us to meditate on God's Word, slowly chewing it and tasting all the “flavors” with which it is filled. Too often though, we become fast-food Christians, rushing through life and gobbling down our spiritual food.

In this culture and generation, resources are bombarding us so readily and quickly that we jam the information into our minds and hearts on a constant basis, moving on, often without regard to its content. The Internet and e-mail are amazing resources, but many times we find ourselves overwhelmed with information. We sort through our e-mail, its notes, advertisements, anecdotes, and urgent messages at such a frantic pace that we are gasping for air when we are done! We can find ourselves approaching God's Word in the same way. We shove our mouths full as we move quickly from lesson to lesson and from Scripture verse to Scripture verse, not taking the time to really be nurtured by God's Word.

In order for God's Word to fuel our spirit and strengthen our faith, we need to slowly meditate and reflect on its content.



Right now, I want you to set aside 15 minutes (get a timer if you need it) and meditate on the following verses. *Romans 2:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's Will is — His good, pleasing and perfect Will.* NIV

### **Read it, chew on it and ask questions like:**

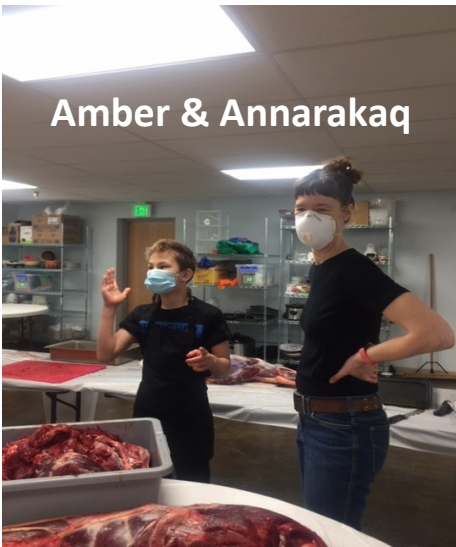
What is God telling me as I read? Are there special words that resonate with me? What can I learn from this and how can I apply its message to my life? I will assure you as you chew and meditate on these verses, that God will show you some wonderful insights to God's kingdom.

Pastor Peter Dembroski





# BRING ON THE MOOSE MEAT!!



1/14/22,  
moose-  
cutting,  
FPC  
Fellowship  
Hall!



# *Children Ministry*

This last month in Children's Ministry, we had some upheaval due to illness: families feeling awful, some cancelled meetings, some rearranged schedules. Frankly, there has also been grumpiness in me, and the weariness that comes from rethinking again and again "now, what do we do?". Despite that messiness, my excellent volunteers and I have done whatever we could each week to serve families where they are at.

I've been thinking a lot about how God makes a way, when there is no way—in ministry and in us. In Roots Club, we have just begun looking at the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians. I have found it to be the perfect response to feeling "not at my best". When God speaks (through Paul) of the fruits of the spirit, he insists that my job is not to buck up and be perfect on my own power, my job is to volunteer to be changed. As we study the fruits of the spirit in Roots Club, we are looking with the eyes of people who want to be changed. I've asked the kids to choose one of the fruits that they'd like to grow in this season, and we'll be praying towards that end for each of them over the next few months. Perhaps you would like to choose a fruit and be changed too.

This month, instead of asking for your prayers, I'd like to volunteer ours. The kids and I will be praying for each other, and perhaps you'd like to put in a prayer request. We'll be glad to pray for you too. OK, one prayer request: you can pray for me as I volunteer for growing in love.

Carina Menaker  
Children Ministry Director



LOVE  
JOY  
PEACE  
PATIENCE  
KINDNESS  
GENTLENESS  
GOODNESS  
FAITHFULNESS  
SELF CONTROL







# NEWS

## Office Closure



## Church Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, there are plenty of spots available throughout the rest of the year. Please see the bulletin board in the atrium to sign up. The flower fee is \$40 per week.



## THE WELL

is in need of plastic disposable grocery bags.

If you have bags to spare, please place them on the table in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your assistance.

## PRAYER TIME

All are invited to prayer time each Tuesday in the sanctuary at 12:15pm. This is a time for us to intercede for our world, nation, community, church family and friends.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## The WELL

Each Wednesday, FIRST PRES offers a warm meal, an opportunity for informal conversation, a brief testimony or devotion about God's work in the lives of His people, and an invitation to prayer

**WEDNESDAYS, 6-7PM**



## Men-In-Action

The group meets for lunch on Monday's at 11:45 in the Narthex at FPC. We meet for fellowship, to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon and to discuss upcoming events. Bring a lunch and come join us. For more information, please contact Jim Aldrich at 907-378-2582 or [jwaldrich@gmail.com](mailto:jwaldrich@gmail.com).





# ELDERS



**What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the January 18, 2021 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record. The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the Conference Room at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, January 18th.**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, TE Peter Dembroski, with prayer.

Pastor Peter provided a devotion based on Acts 2:42-47, "Answered Prayer".

Minutes from the last meeting and vital statistics from the last month were reviewed and approved.

There was no Correspondence received or discussed.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve items on the Consent Calendar including;

Session review of the Deacons Meeting minutes from November 23<sup>rd</sup> and approval of dates for Vacation Bible School, July 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Session received a written report from the Church Treasurer.

Session began a discussion about the benefits of hiring a Church Administrator, prior to beginning the search for a new Senior Pastor. A potential Church Administrator would be a non-ordained, full-time position. This position would not replace the Office Manager position. The job description for the position has not been fully discussed; but would most likely be responsible for coordinating finances, policies, goals and goalsetting, and strategies between staff and ministry teams. Further discussion has been placed on hold until next month, after research on the matter has been conducted.

Election of a new Pastor Search Committee has also been placed on hold for the moment.

Session will be hosting a joint Elder / Deacon Potluck Luncheon on March 27<sup>th</sup>, after morning worship, and will be inviting Dr. Ed Cummings, the Presbytery Stated Clerk, who will be providing leadership training and preaching on that weekend.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve the agenda for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting and Annual Corporation Meeting, which will include the nominations and elections of 2 members of the Nomination Committee Class of 2024.

Session discussed logistics for the upcoming Discovery Workshop, which will provide leadership training for current elders and deacons, and those who wish to explore leadership in the church.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to approve a written policy on the handling of Letters of Concern to Session.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to require that masks be required in all church facilities for the next 6 weeks, from January 18<sup>th</sup> until March 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that those singing and preaching during morning services may remove their masks, as long as they are behind plexiglass.

**(continued on next page)**

(cont'd)

It was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to skip addressing unfinished business until the next meeting.

Written ministry team reports were received.

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, it was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** that the Personnel Policy for study leave for program and professional staff be modified to insert the word “hourly” to the phrase “Part-time hourly staff members.

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, it was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** that the second paragraph of Personnel Policy 313.1 be modified to read as follows, “Relatives of persons currently employed by First Presbyterian Church (FPC) may be hired only if they will not be working directly for or supervising a relative, or will not occupy a position in the same line of authority within the church. This policy applies to any relative of an employee or of a church member who has the authority to review employment decisions including church members who are serving on the Personnel Committee, the Session, the Nominating Committee or a Pastor Search Committee”.

At the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, it was **moved** and **seconded** to revise the Session’s Conflict of Interest Policy and place it under a new section. A **motion** to amend that revision was **made** and **seconded**. It was then **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to postpone the vote to amend the main motion until the next meeting.

It was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to extend the meeting until 9:30 pm.

At the request of the Stewardship and Finance Committee it was **moved**, and **seconded** that **Session instruct our Treasurer to pursue the IRS’s Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC)**. The committee was not making a recommendation for or against. The Session **voted** not to pursue the ERTC.

At the request of the Youth Ministry Team, it was **moved**, **seconded** and **passed** to give approval to host a Dinner & Talent Show Fundraiser at the church on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, Moderator Dembroski prayed for the elders and for First Presbyterian, and then adjourned the meeting in prayer.

**The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on February 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in the Church Conference Room**

**“We love because He first loved us.”  
1 John 4:19**