



First Presbyterian Church

310 Plantation Road, Perry Florida



Advent Newsletter 2020-21

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Collin Yates came prepared for worship-on-the-grounds this Fall with a quilt and myriad toys. The son of Elise and Reid Yates, Collin was probably the youngest present. Worship has resumed in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10 a.m. with a nursery provided, but feel free to bring your quilt.



FPC Website:

www.firstpresperry.org

Office Phone:

1(850) 584-3826

Email:

office@firstpresperry.org

F.P.C Worship



Worship Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Committee Members: Dianna Sandonato, Jeanne Hilgendorf, Margaret Poppell, Myrna Archer, Marilyn Culpepper, Sandra Allen, Cindy Brown

“Hanging of the Greens” service: **December 6th**, during Worship.

A **CONCERT** with instrumentalists: **DECEMBER 12**, 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. See invitation for details.

A **Christmas Eve service: December 24, 7:00 p.m.**



Church Family and Community Invited to ‘Most Holy of Nights’

Our congregation will be hosting a special musical event and inviting the community. This special musical event, “Most Holy of Nights,” will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Perry, 310 Plantation Road at **6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

This free concert is offered to celebrate “the most holy event ever...Christ’s birth,” said Pastor Natasha Sudderth-Davis. “Our need for hope and joy is great after such a difficult and challenging year; the gift of Christmas offers us both in abundance.”

Seating is limited so interested persons are encouraged to contact the church office for reservations, 584-3826. Reservations can also be made on Sunday morning using the reservation sheet in the narthex. All seating will comply with social distancing; attendees should wear a mask or face shield.

Instrumental music will be featured along with solos, ensembles and a performance by the church chime choir.

Stay Connected; Worship from Home

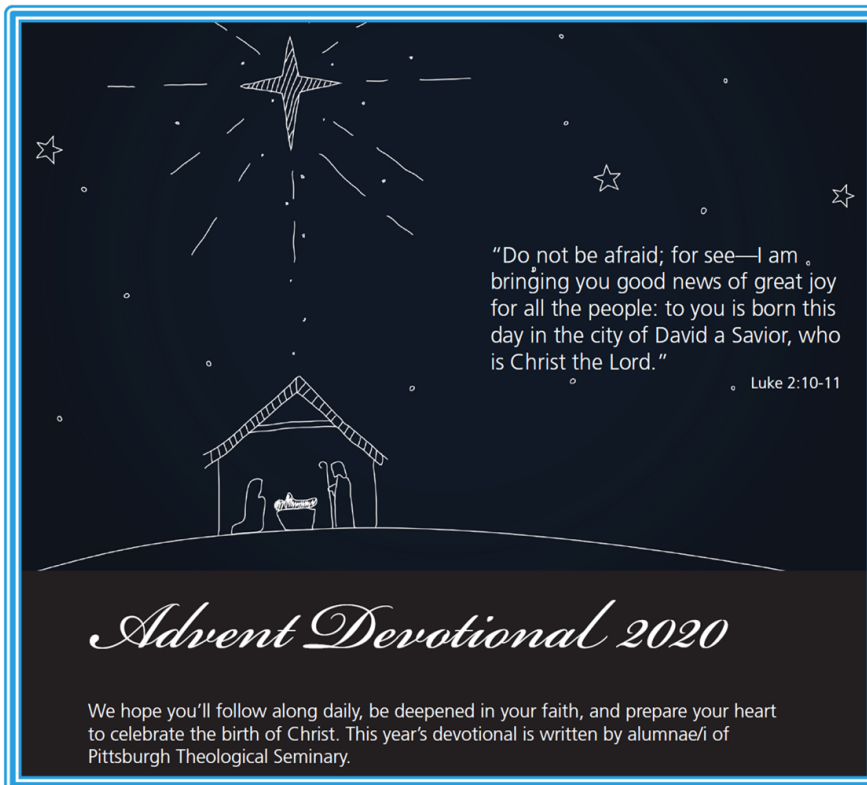
Join Sunday Worship with your Computer via Zoom or by calling on your phone

If you have questions or need assistance please call the church office or your shepherd.

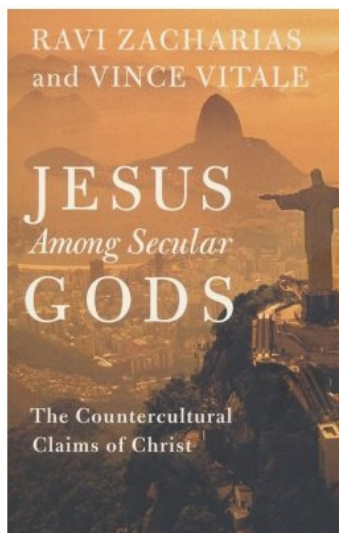
Christian Education News

Committee meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members: Alex & Kristie Lutz, Dianna Sandonato, Lorie Small, Janice Musgrove, Jennifer Caruso, Margaret Poppell, Marilyn Culpepper, Susan Lincoln, Cindy Brown



Advent Devotions will be emailed each morning and available on the church website. Visit the devotional page at www.firstpresperry.org You will have access to daily readings and video recordings. Anyone who would like a printed copy of the devotional may request a copy by calling the church office.
Grace and Peace,
Christian Education Committee



Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

For **December**, every Tuesday except the 22nd

We will begin a new study "Jesus Among Secular Gods" by Ravi Zacharias on **January 5th, 2021**

Contact Dianna Sandonato for more information

Mission & Outreach



Committee members: Bob Bell, Dianna Sandonato, Marilyn Culpepper, Marne Helberg, Chuck Eckel, Sandra Allen, Cindy Brown, Heather Speas, Brenda Wilson

The mission and outreach team invites you to our next meeting, December 2nd; 10 a.m. in the prayer garden.

Recent updates from current projects include:

Breadbasket:

There have been fewer requests for help through the Breadbasket fund since the lockdown. We suspect this is due to government help (stimulus checks, CARES funding, restrictions on evictions and payment plans for utilities). Please continue to contribute as requests we now receive are from community members who've never needed charity previously and tend to be reluctant to ask for help. Dianna, Marilyn and Cindy are the volunteers administering this fund. We prefer helping those referred by members so if you know of a need please contact the church office. If you feel a calling to help administer this fund, please let us know.

Jamaica Mission:

The mission bus will be dedicated in January 2021. The team plans for a trip May/June dependent on the status of the global pandemic. We ask you continue to contribute to this fund, and if you have further questions reach out to Bob Bell directly.

Courage through Cancer Fellowship:

During the last two months we have been able to assist several people with gas cards/food cards and rides to appointments and doctors visits. I want to mention that since three of my mission members have been faced with their own illness; I called on some of our church members for help with driving a very sweet man to his radiation treatments, and of course, they agreed to help. A special shout out and thank you to Bob Bell, Warren Gregory, the Helbergs, David Culpepper, and the Harpers, all of whom even refused gas assistance to do this. It was with their loving hearts that I was able to fill in the dates I could not take him myself due to another that needed similar assistance with rides to chemotherapy. Three others had someone to take them but needed a little help with gas, and one with food assistance as well. I continue to call those I have contact with on a regular basis, and three were continuing to have financial difficulties due to lingering effects of their illness, (and of course Covid concerns) and those I helped with Save a Lot cards. I pray constantly that I am able to assist all who need it, and thanks to the loving support financially I receive from our congregation, I am able to do much.

To God be the Glory

Dianna

Food Baskets:

10 envelopes are available if you want to provide a Christmas Basket. The list inside will indicate the number of people you are shopping for. Please provide a tote for your family. They will be distributed Dec. 19. Contact Jeanne Hilgendorf for further information; (850)578-2895.

Haiti Mission:

The ports of Haiti are still closed; making resources difficult to reach those in need. Please continue to uplift our missionary, Cindy Corell in prayer and consider donating financially to further support her calling. Should you need further information on how you can help, please contact Marne Helberg.

Operation Christmas Child:

This year as a combined effort our congregation was able to complete 100 boxes. A special thank you to the youth group for shopping for gifts and packaging several boxes. Additionally, this production could not have been successfully executed without the attention to detail and dedication from Marne Helberg. Thank you to all members who volunteered time, monetary donations, and efforts towards this years mission.

We are blessed to be able to continue helping bless others near and far!
Praise be to God!



All are invited!

“A COVID Christmas” - Join the Youth in creating and painting unique ornaments with family. We will be in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday December 20th, from 2-4 p.m.. Enjoy cookies, hot cocoa, and hot apple cider!”

Youth Group shopped and packed Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!



100 Boxes Packed!

Youth Leader Contact: Janece Campbell
email firstpresperryouth@gmail.com

Communications and Technology

Hello from the Communication Committee,

We met for the first time last week and had the opportunity to discuss many areas. Providing access to worship opportunities will be our primary focus as we continue to meet. Areas such as online and FM radio provide opportunity for worship when members cannot attend in person. We will be working to refine the accessibility this provides.

In addition, we are looking at an online streaming camera system. You might have seen this type of system if you have watched other churches online.

Volunteers are needed to help with the sound system and help out with the website.

There will be more information on this and other areas as we move forward as a committee.

The radio is set up and the channel is 87.9

Thank you,
Communication Committee



Church Contact Information		Committee Chair
Church Session	session@firstpresperry.org	Natasha Sudderth (Mod.)
Church Pastor	pastor@firstpresperry.org	Rev. Natasha Sudderth
Office Administrator	office@firstpresperry.org	Carrie Albritton
Worship Committee	worship@firstpresperry.org	Marilyn Culpepper
Christian Education	education@firstpresperry.org	Janice Musgrove
FPC Youth	youth@firstpresperry.org	Janece Campbell
Mission & Outreach	mission@firstpresperry.org	Heather Speas
Bread Basket	breadbasket@firstpresperry.org	Cindy Brown
Prayer Request	prayerrequest@firstpresperry.org	Vaughan Early
Communication & Tech.	communication@firstpresperry.org	Karl Morgan
Nominating Committee	nominating@firstpresperry.org	Reid Yates

F.P.C. Prayer Partners

Prayer Group Leader: Vaughan Early

Prayer Group meets Thursday mornings in Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.

Our directory for worship says, “Prayer is a gift from God, who desires dialogue and relationship with us.” It is also how we seek to live out our faith. This faithful practice of prayer is something that is cultivated over time. The prayer group of FPC gathers together weekly as prayer partners who lift up the prayer needs of the church and world. We invite you to join us Thursday mornings and be a partner in prayer. Everyone is welcome. If you cannot join us in person or to request prayer please, email your request to prayerrequest@firstpresperry.org or you may call Vaughan Early or the pastor.

LET US PRAY



Prayer Chain

Prayer Partners would like to encourage you to check the prayer chain page if you are someone who dedicates a time during your day or your week to pray for others.

Prayer requests are regularly updated on the prayer chain page where you may get current information, and leave comments or written prayers.

Simply go to our church website www.firstpresperry.org and look under prayer. (at the top of the home page)

Password Protected: The password is three words, no spaces. If you have forgotten the password or have trouble contact the church office.

Prayer Requests: prayerrequest@firstpresperry.org
You may also contact the pastor or Vaughan Early directly.

Notes and Reminders



Yoga Classes began **Monday November 16th** in the Fellowship Hall
There is a 10:00 am class and 7:00 pm class. All participants, including those joining from Zoom, will need to register. You may learn more or register for a class at <https://www.firstpresperry.org/yoga.html>

If you would like to offer special music one Sunday during worship, please contact Rayma Ball at 850-363-8859 or send her an email at:

2musicmakers@gmail.com

“Solos, duets, family groups are encouraged.”



As an on-going effort to meet the needs and requests of the congregation, a lock box is now available in the narthex to receive tithes and offerings.

The church newsletter is an important way we stay connected and share what is going on in various ministries with others in the congregation. Everyone wants to hear from you. Send important dates, personal reflections, announcements, committee information, articles etc. to Carrie at office@firstpresperry.org

Send your submissions by January 25, 2021.

A message and reminder from Mrs. Rayma Ball



RING IN 2021 WITH THE CHIME CHOIR

Come join us when rehearsals resume in January! Contact Rayma for information and to sign up!

IT'S TIME TO SING!

Did you know.... The health benefits of singing for your spirit, your soul and your body are well documented!

Singing is a physical activity that can:

Relieve stress

Stimulate the immune response

Increase pain threshold

Improve lung function

Increase oxygen in body

Enhance memory

Help with emotional pain

Improve mental health & mood

SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymn 276 in your *Glory To God hymnal*.

The Story and Meaning Behind "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Phillips Brooks, the composer of this famous Christmas carol, was the minister of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia and had visited Bethlehem in December of 1865. Phillips Brooks traveled to the Holy Land. The itinerary included a horseback ride from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. Back then it truly was a small village, far removed from the bustling city it would later become. By nightfall he was in the field where, according to tradition, the shepherds heard the angelic announcement. Then he attended the Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Something about the beauty and simplicity of that visit stayed with Phillips Brooks when he returned to America. Several years later, when he wanted a new song of Christmas for the children to sing at his church, he reached back in memory for inspiration from his Holy Land visit. The poem he wrote painted in words the sights and sounds of that little town of Bethlehem he had visited.

Then he asked the church organist, Lewis Redner, to compose a simple melody for the children to sing on Christmas Eve. Mr. Redner sat down at the piano to find just the right tune to carry the descriptive words.

But nothing he wrote seemed to fit. On the night before the Christmas Eve service he felt defeated, so he went to bed. During his fretful sleep it seemed that he heard music. Immediately, he got up and wrote down the melody just as we sing it today. When he joyfully presented it to Rev. Brooks he said: "I think it was a gift from heaven." The children sounded like a choir of angels as they sang the new carol written just for them. "O Little of Bethlehem" quickly became a favorite after it was published in 1874. We are blessed to continue singing it over one hundred years later. Within the beauty of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" is one of God's promises from the prophet Micah: "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the little towns of Judah, but from you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." (Micah 5:2, GNB).

Excerpt from article by Lucy Neeley Adams www.crosswalk.com



First Presbyterian Church of Perry

December 2020 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 10am Christian Education Meeting 6:30pm	2 Elder Training 6 pm	3	4	5
6 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am "Hanging of the Greens"	7 Worship Meeting 2pm	8 Bible Study 10am	9 Mission Outreach Meeting 10am Elder Training 6 pm	10 Prayer meeting 9:30am	11	12 Concert 6pm and 7:30pm
13 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	14	15 Bible Study 10am	16 Elder Training 6 pm	17 Prayer meeting 9:30am	18	19
20 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	21 Session Meeting 6:00pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm Church Office Closed	25  Church Office Closed	26
27 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	28	29 Bible Study 10am	30	31 Prayer meeting 9:30am		

December Birthdays

Melissa Everett—December 3
 Laura Early—December 9
 Eric Morgan—December 11
 Daryll Gunter—December 15
 Jeanne Raulerson—December 21
 Kim Torres—December 25
 Dan Musgrove—December 27

Stan Whiddon—December 6
 Roland Early—December 9
 Denise Kepler—December 12
 Chuck Eckel—December 16
 Edwin Williams—December 24
 Kristie Harper—December 27
 Marissa Ratliff—December 28

December Anniversaries

Daryll & Dawn Gunter—December 2
 Charles & Tuckie Maultsby—December 2
 Scott & Sally MacNeill—December 14
 Bob & Rayma Ball—December 20
 Stan & Shona Whiddon—December 20



First Presbyterian Church of Perry

January 2021 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Church Office Closed	
3 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	4 Worship Meeting 2pm	5 Bible Study 10am Christian Education Meeting 6:30pm	6	7 Prayer meeting 9:30am	8	9
10 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	11	12 Bible Study 10am	13 Mission Meeting 10am	14 Prayer Meeting 9:30 am	15	16
17 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	18 Session Meeting 6:00 pm Church Office Closed	19 Bible Study 10am	20	21 Prayer meeting 9:30 am	22	23
24 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 Bible Study 10am	27	28 Prayer meeting 9:30 am	29	30
31 Worship 10am Small Groups 11am						

January Birthdays

Heather Speas—January 2 Brian Wilson—January 5
 Jalen Albritton—January 6 Sally MacNeill—January 13
 Sandi Hilgendorf—January 19 Amelia Gunter—January 20
 Mike Perrine—January 20 Isabel Campbell—January 23
 Nancy Bell —January 24 Roland Early—January 28
 Babbs Radcliff—January 28 Raymond Wilson—January 28
 Faye Wolfkill—January 29

January Anniversaries

Steve & Cindy Brown—January 5
 Bobby & Kristie Harper—January 21

NOTE: changes may be made to this calendar before January arrives, so keep up with church e-mails and phone calls to be sure of the proper times and procedures. An updated January calendar will be sent out if needed.