



Merry Christmas!

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** Port Charlotte, FL



December/2025 E-GRAM

Hello, **Everyone**

Grace and Peace!

Can you believe it's almost Christmas? As I look back on this past year, I feel a profound sense of gratitude, and I hope you do too. In my years here, we have walked through moments of joy and challenge, and in all of it, God has been faithful. This year, I am especially thankful for the ways this congregation has prayed for one another, cared for one another, and shown kindness in quiet and ordinary ways. I have seen Christ at work in our conversations, gatherings, and meetings; in hands offered to help, and in the simple faithfulness of showing up. These ordinary acts have reminded me again and again of the grace that shapes us, and that will continue alongside us and in us.

As we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I hold onto the promise that shines at the heart of our faith. John 1:5 tells us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." This light is not only the glow of candles or the warmth of familiar carols and hymns. It is the steady

and gentle presence of Christ who comes to be with us in every season of life. As I stand before the story of His birth again this year, I find my own heart renewed with the quiet hope that God is truly with us.

Although our church is small in number, you and I know it is rich in love. The relationships we share are a gift, and I am grateful for every person who calls this place home, and the people here, their church family. You bring your stories, your gifts, your questions, and your faith, and together we form something beautiful. It is a privilege for me to walk with you, to learn with you, and to see how God continues to cultivate compassion and strength among us. I am thankful for you, and I carry that gratitude with me each day.

Lastly, in looking toward the coming year with you, I do so with hope. I do not know everything that awaits us, but I do know the One who goes before us. The light that shone in the darkness on that first Christmas still shines for us today. My prayer is that God will guide our steps, renew our energy, and open doors for us to serve our neighbors with joy. May this new year be filled with grace upon grace as we follow Christ together.

Enjoy our special services. Happy Advent. Merry Christmas.

Pastor Syl





Cary Price performs at First Pres again.



On November 9, 2025, Mr. Cary Price from Fletcher Music Center was invited to come to our church and show us everything our new organ can do. Our organ was donated to us by Mrs. Carole Saul, and it is an amazing instrument.

While showing every function in our organ, Price entertained us and played all sorts of songs. Our music Director, Sue Brembs, welcomed Cary Price above. Thank you to all who supported the concert with a love offering.

Food Pantry November Blessing Tree

During **November**, our **Blessing Tree** collected donations for our **Food Pantry** to distribute to our community. Thank you to all who donated. Next month, we will be collecting donations for Misión Peniel. Please look for more details later in the newsletter.



November Birthdays



Here is our birthday guy from last November. Courtney Mason is pictured here with Ruling Elder Sandy Asaro during our Birthdays and Anniversaries end-of-the-month celebration. We feel blessed for having Courtney and his wife, Hazel, here at First. They are such amazing people.



UPCOMING
EVENTS

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary



We will have Poinsettias for \$15 each for those who want to remember or honor a loved one with a purchase. Forms and info will be in the church bulletin. You may take your poinsettia home on Christmas Eve. Stained-glass items are also available by donation. See details below.



Stained Glass The Perfect Gift Idea.



Stained glass ornaments & more, brought to you by Weldon Degroot.

The stained-glass ornaments will be displayed in the sanctuary along with forms and envelopes.

Find the perfect gift for someone, add your donation by filling out the form and place it in the envelope, and drop it in the little black box.

If you think one of the ornaments would make a nice gift to someone you know, make us an offer and bless that person with a beautiful piece of art.

December Blessing Tree

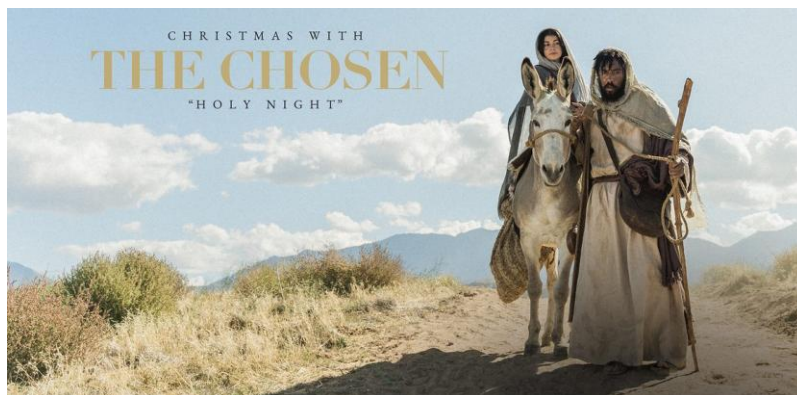
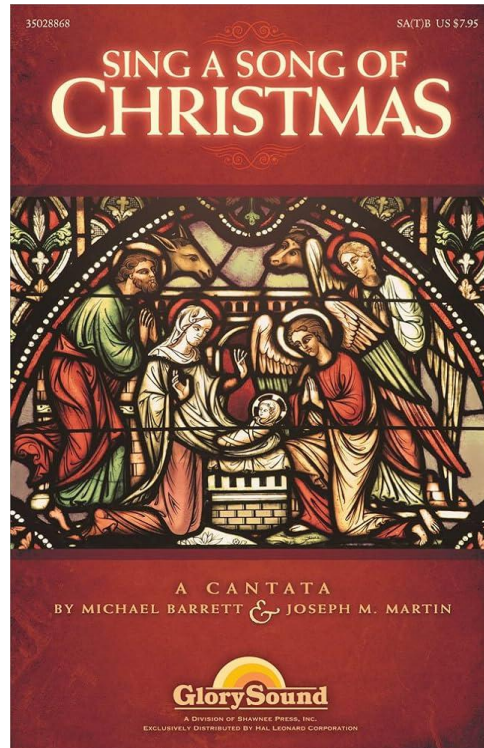


Please help us collect donations for our Misión Peniel in Immokalee. We will be collecting children's shoes (various sizes) for these farmer's kids. This is a different campaign from the "Shoes for Kids" we do in June. Feel free to get some socks with that. We can also accept monetary donations to buy items.

Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Cantata

Our Christmas Cantata, “**Sing A Song of Christmas,**” will be performed by a choir of 19 voices, as Faith Lutheran Church is providing us with nine additional singers. The first performance of this cantata will be at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, **December 7, 2025**, during their Worship Service. The second performance will be at our Worship Service on Sunday, **December 14, 2025**. Please bring a neighbor or friend. Let’s fill our sanctuary with joy on Dec. 14, as we celebrate Jesus’ birth.



Join us for a showing of *Christmas with The Chosen* “Holy Night” on Tuesday, **December 16, 2025**, at **5 PM**.

We will enjoy popcorn and drinks.

If you do not drive at night, please call the office at 941-625-5045 to make arrangements for someone to pick you up.

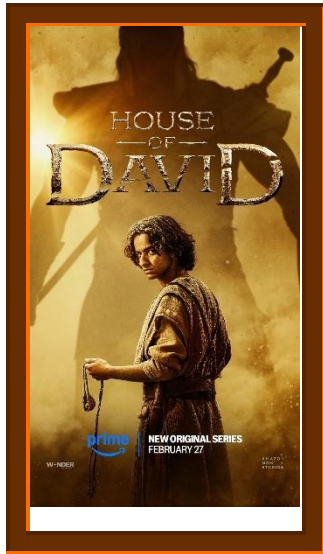
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. on December 24, 2025. Come ready to sing some of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. Some people will NOT come if you invite them to an ordinary service, but they WILL surely come for this one. So, make sure you invite as many people as you are able.



Every **Wednesday** at **12 noon**, our Prayer group meets at First Pres. All are welcome. There is power in prayer, and we know we can make a real difference in people's lives if we just pray.



Coming this January, every Tuesday, we will meet to watch the new series *House of David*, beginning with Season 1. We will enjoy popcorn and drinks.

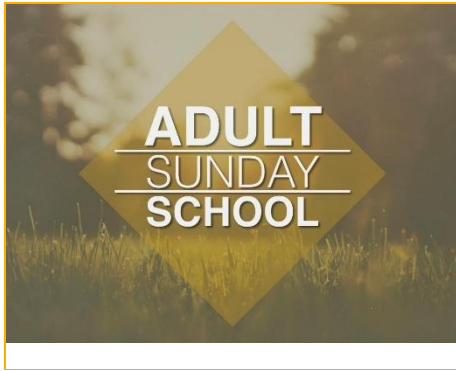
PET OF THE MONTH



Our Pet of the Month belongs to Pam's son, Jacob, and his wife, Lyndsey. Nos, is named after an energy drink because he is full of energy. He loves his family and keeps them busy and entertained.

Do you want to see your pet here? Send Pam a picture of your pet to pastorsecretary@fpcpc.com, and your little friend could be one of our Pets of the Month.

Join us online on Zoom



Sundays at 8:05 AM.

To connect, go to
www.zoom.us
Click "Join" on the right-hand
upper corner
Meeting ID: 9678044713
Passcode: X9b77j



Mondays at 8:00 AM.

To connect, go to
www.zoom.us
Click "Join" on the right-hand
upper corner
Meeting ID: 87832080869
Passcode: 396015



Tuesday, Dec. 2

- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.

Wednesday, Dec. 3



- Prayer Group Meeting - noon.
- Deacons Meeting - 1:30 PM.
- Bell Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.



Sunday, Dec. 7

- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- **Sunday Communion Service at 9 AM.**
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.

Monday, Dec. 8

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Wednesday, Dec. 10



- **Worship Arts Meeting - 11 AM**
- **Prayer Group Meeting - 12-noon.**
- Food Pantry - from 4 to 6:30 PM.
- Bell Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.

Sunday, Dec. 14



- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- **Christmas Cantata 9 AM.**

Monday, Dec. 15

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Tuesday, Dec. 16



- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.
- **Christmas with The Chosen - 5 PM.**

Wednesday, Dec. 17



- **Prayer Group Meeting - 12-noon.**
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.

Thursday, Dec. 18



- **Finance Meeting - 4 PM.**
- **Session Meeting - 5 PM.**



Sunday, Dec. 21

- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM on Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- **Sunday Ordinary Service - 9 AM.**
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.

Monday, Dec. 22

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Wednesday, Dec. 24



- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7 PM.**
- **Office Closed (no prayer group).**

Thursday, Dec. 25



- **Christmas Day (no church service).**
- **Office Closed**

Sunday, Dec. 28



- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM on Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- **Sunday Ordinary Service - 9 AM.**
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- **Celebration of December's Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Monday, Dec. 29

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Wednesday, Dec. 31



- **Prayer Group Meeting - 12 noon.**
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.

MEMBER ON FOCUS

Have you met?



Alzie Lee

Alzie Lee was born and raised in St. Mary, Jamaica. After finishing high school, Alzie was certified by the Kingston School of Nursing-Midwifery in Jamaica.

Alzie met her husband, Senior Lee, when they were in grade school, and they became best friends. They ended up at different high schools but continued their friendship. While Alzie attended nursing school, their friendship grew. Senior ended up moving to the U.S., but he and Alzie would exchange letters to keep in touch. Once Alzie finished nursing school, she migrated in 1969, lived in White Plains, New York, where she worked at St. Agnes Hospital for a year. During this time, Alzie and Senior briefly lost touch with each other.

Alzie contacted Senior's brother to reconnect with him, but he didn't know where Senior was living. He then reached out to their mother, and she informed Alzie that Senior was in Queens, New York. She also gave Senior Alzie's contact information. Soon after, Senior called Alzie, visited her, and they rekindled their relationship, getting married in December 1969.

Alzie moved to Queens with Senior, where she began working at Jamaica Hospital. After living in Queens, they spent 30 years on Long Island, but Alzie continued her job at the hospital until she retired after 39 years. Alzie and her sisters often talked about the dream of reuniting in Florida after they all retired. Alzie and Senior were the first to move there, and they helped each of their sisters find homes so they could move as well. One by one, they all came together again.

Alzie and Senior had 3 children. Vanessa, Danita, and Conrad. They also have 4 grandchildren. Sadly, Danita and Conrad recently passed away and are no longer with us. Danita passed in 2023 and Conrad in 2024. They became Alzie's and Senior's angels, looking over them.

Before coming to First Pres, Alzie was a Deacon and a member of the hospitality committee at Bellmore Presbyterian Church. She was also part of a "Women's Circle." She continues to be involved since transferring her membership to First Pres. At First Pres, she is part of the Worship Arts and Finance committees, and a current Ruling Elder of our Session.

Alzie's favorite food is Curry goat. She acquired this from her Jamaican heritage. Alzie's favorite places to visit are Hawaii, South America, Brazil, and Rome, to name a few.

When Alzie first found First Pres, she and Senior were looking in the yellow pages of the phone book for a Presbyterian Church. She visited many, but when she came to the First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte, she realized not only was it close to their home, but it was the right size, not too big, not too small, and she enjoyed the sermons. She felt welcome here thanks to Bernadine Allesee, Donna Young, and Elaine Woods. She said they were so friendly and welcoming. She loves the fellowship, tradition, and the care this church shows the community and is a proud member of FPCPC.



December 2 - Nancy Sharpless
December 5 - Christine
Dukiewicz

December 5 - Jean Heim

December 8 - Susan Thompson

December 18 - Pam Omar

December 20 - Pastor Syl

December 21 - Cathy Asaro

December 23 - Beatrice Mitchell

December 27 - Jim Casselberry

December 29 - Toni Madej

December 1 - Betania & Pastor
Syl

December 20 - Alzie & Senior
Lee

December 21 - Marjorie Lotz

December 29 - Susan & Mark
Thompson

Do not see your name here? Call the church office and let us know (941) 625-5045.

CHURCH OFFICIALS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **The Board of Deacons** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at **1:30 PM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **December 3, 2025**.
- **The Finance Committee** will have its next scheduled meeting on **Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 4 pm**.
- **The Worship Arts Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at **11 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **December 10, 2025**.
- **The Session** meets on the third Thursday of each month, at **5 PM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **December 18, 2025**.

- **Adult Sunday School** meets every Sunday at **8:00 AM**, both in-person and via Zoom.
 - **Children's Sunday School** meets every Sunday during worship and after the Children's Blessing.
 - **The PEP (People Enjoying People)** will not meet in December due to the Christmas holiday.
 - **The Bell Choir** will meet on **Wednesdays at 6:00 PM**.
 - **The choir** will meet on **Wednesdays at 6:30**.
 - **The Chosen Christmas Special will be shown on December 16, 2025, and then, in January, we will be showing a new series called The House of David. We will begin meeting every Tuesday at 6:00 PM.**
 - **Prayer Group** meets on **Wednesdays at noon**.
 - **The Prayer & Praise Service** may resume in January.
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Tax-deductible donations

Did you know you can add First Pres to your will or living trust, as your beneficiary? For example, one of the most advantageous ways to contribute to the First Presbyterian Church is through a gift of stock. Making a gift of securities is simple and offers some valuable financial benefits. You can give appreciated stocks to the church simply by transferring them into our account. The total value of the stock upon transfer is tax-deductible, and you will not be obligated to pay any capital gains taxes on the appreciation. For gifts of stock or gifts-in-kind, please contact the finance office for details or speak with our church treasurer, Elder Ambrose Woods.



PRAYER

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Bernadine Allesee & Family	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Ray & Eric Bittinger	-	<i>health & strength</i>
Hazel & Jerry Brown	-	<i>health needs</i>
Kathy Bruyere's family	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Carolyn & Charlie Brox	-	<i>health needs</i>
Barbara Edwards	-	<i>health needs</i>
Jean Heim	-	<i>health needs</i>
Marjorie Hill	-	<i>health needs</i>
Carolanne Hoehle	-	<i>health needs</i>
Senior Lee	-	<i>health needs</i>
Sue Littrell	-	<i>health needs</i>
Violet Logan/Green	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Richard Lund	-	<i>health needs</i>
Courtenay Mason	-	<i>health needs</i>
Brad Messick	-	<i>health needs</i>
Louis Miceli	-	<i>health needs</i>
George Mothershed	-	<i>health needs</i>
Nancy Newport	-	<i>health needs</i>
Julie Nunez	-	<i>health needs</i>
Valciana Officer	-	<i>health needs</i>
Ray Omar	-	<i>health needs</i>
Holly Parkin	-	<i>health needs</i>
Deb Phelp's family	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Mavis Powell	-	<i>health & comfort</i>
Sue & Mark Thompson	-	<i>health & comfort</i>
Duke Vermeer's family	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Bernardo Vieira	-	<i>health needs</i>
Debbie Webb	-	<i>health needs</i>
Danny Webb	-	<i>strength needs</i>

FPCPC FAMILY -

If you know of any shut-ins or anyone who may need our prayers, please call the church office at 941-625-5045.



First Presbyterian Church
of Port Charlotte



The **First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte** is part of the **Presbyterian Church USA**, under the care of the **Peace River Presbytery**.