

Palm City Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER



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EVENTS**Pastor David Meets Santa**

by David C. Mauldin

I was shopping for Christmas presents, wearing a T-shirt that says, “Be nice. I know Santa.” I was in a bookstore (so you know the person I was buying a gift for was me). Suddenly an older gentleman, short, dark complexion, thick accent greeted me. “I don’t believe I know you,” he began. I introduced myself, then asked, “But why would you know me?” “Well,” he answered, “you think you know me.”

“I’m sorry?” I said, beginning to suspect his deck was short an ace or two. “Your shirt,” he pointed. My shirt? Ah! I had a joker on my hands—some guy who wants to pretend he is Santa. “Aren’t you a little early?” I kidded back. “Not at all,” he exclaimed good-naturedly. “Not at all.”

“But you are Santa, right? That’s what you meant about the shirt.”

“Of course I did, and I am. At least, I am Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia—part of what you call Turkey.”

“Then you’re not Santa. I mean, no red suit, no reindeer, no ho-ho-ho.”

“Well, I am, and I am not. I am the historical person whose legend grew and transformed into the jolly guy who gives toys. But I am not really like that.”

“I don’t follow,” I confessed.

“Of course not,” he sympathized, “you see, it’s like this: I was a bishop in the late third century, back when Christians were still persecuted. Persecuted by the Romans, anyway; we are still persecuted today in many parts of the world, but that is another matter. I was, in fact, imprisoned for a while because of my

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service to Christ. Thanks be to God, I was released and continued my work.

"I am best remembered for a minor incident, a trifling business. A pious man in my parish was a widower with three daughters. The family was poor, and although the daughters were beautiful, their father had no money for dowries, without which they would not be able to marry and have families of their own. It broke my heart. One night, I filled three pouches with gold. I borrowed a horse, rode quickly past their house, and threw in the pouches. I intended no one to know where the money came from. It was enough that they should thank God. Word quickly spread, however, and I was discovered. My good deed became legendary, and eventually, that simple act of charity became the basis for Santa Claus giving gifts at Christmas."

I reflected on this. My mind filled with questions. "So, how did the legend morph from you into that guy at the mall?"

"A strange story," he answered, "one of those stories so strange it could only happen in real life. After my death, the church declared me a saint. My feast day is December 6. I became the patron saint of sailors, and often, churches named for me are built close to the coast so they are visible to sailors. I am also the patron saint of Russia ... and children. That's the thing. Somehow, parents began this tradition that I bring presents to children on December 6."



"But everybody knows you do that on Christmas Eve. I mean, you would if you did."

"Yes, I suspect Protestants had something to do with that. They don't celebrate saints' days. Well, some Anglicans might, but most don't. It was an easy move from the 6th to the 24th."

"But what about the name 'Santa Claus'?"

"That's a corruption of Saint Nicholas. The Dutch called me Sinter Klaus. The English took that and turned it into Santa Claus. You realize, don't you, that all this business about Santa Claus only became popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, especially in America. Advertising is to blame. Merchants in New York found me a helpful marketing tool. Most of the things people associate with Santa—reindeer, the red suit, coming down chimneys, and so on—come from two sources. One is that poem, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.' That is where, for example, reindeer come in. I never saw a reindeer in my life. The other, particularly the red suit and white beard, came into popular imagination through ads for Coca-Cola. Coke ads contributed in no small part to the myth of Santa."

"I see," I reflected, beginning to put the pieces together. "But what are you doing here?"

"You're having a kind of vision," he explained. "Have you noticed how every year you meet some saint from the distant past? Did you think it was coincidence?"

"Wow! But, why? What's it all about?"

"It is to keep your newsletter articles from becoming too boring. You constantly face that danger. I daresay less than a quarter of your congregation reads them all the way through. The one you wrote about Great Genealogical Chapters in the Bible was a real snoozer, and your so-called Football Preview Issue was full of wrong predictions."

"Look, I appreciate the help. What are you going to do? Explain the true meaning of Christmas?"

"No. You'd have to be a moron not to know the true meaning of Christmas. I'm here to tell you about Santa Claus."

"OK, well, tell me this: How do you feel about what

your legacy has become in this culture? Should Christian parents pretend Santa exists or tell the truth right away? Basically, is Santa a good or a bad thing?"

"I'll tell you what I think," Nicholas spoke slowly, thoughtfully, his brow wrinkled in concentration, "Santa is not necessarily a bad thing, although there is one great danger. Avoid it, and you should be OK. Santa is a kind of game, some harmless fun. Sure, a few parents will feel it is always wrong to deceive their children. They will worry children won't know the difference between make-believe and reality if they are fooled. You, however, were told to believe in Santa, but you outgrew it, and the little game did not hinder your faith in God.

"Other parents will play Santa up. Really get their kids into it. Others will plot a middle course. They will point to Santa as a symbol of Christmas. They will tell their children there are many Santas. Santa is anyone who delights children and gives gifts."

"That was my approach," I said. "I told my children that Santa is a mascot, like Big Al at Alabama or Chief Osceola at Florida State. There was a real Osceola, though he wasn't a chief, just as there was—er, is—a real Saint Nicholas."

He continued, "Honestly, I do not worry much about such childish games. Let parents and children have a little fun. There is one grave danger, however, which one must avoid at all costs: Children must not be taught that God is like Santa. It does not matter whether they believe in Santa or not. My concern is, do they imagine God as a jolly old man who keeps lists and gives them what they want? God, you see, is very different from Santa."

"How so?"

"God is not like Santa. First, Santa keeps a list of who's naughty and who's nice. God doesn't do petty accounting. We are all sinners. We all need grace. Either you are in Christ and a new creation, or you are not. If you are in Christ, you are on your way to becoming the person God created you to be—your most true self. If you are not, you are on your way to ruin. Santa counts beans. God does not. Santa wants

you to do good and not bad. God wants your heart, mind, soul, and strength. Once you give yourself to God, good deeds will come, but until you do, no amount of good deeds will help you.

"Second, Santa wants to make you happy by giving you what you want. God wants to give you peace and joy by transforming you into the person you ought to be. That's a different sort of thing. Sometimes, what you want is not the best thing for you. In fact, it may not be good at all. God gives you what you need. Life for someone who truly follows Jesus Christ is full of suffering and sacrifice. It is the way of the cross but also the way to resurrection. God knows what he is doing, and we must trust him.

"Finally, the difference between God and Santa comes down to this: God loves you more than Santa does. Santa is content to ignore real evil. He has a list of naughty children who don't get presents, but he fails to notice anything worse than 'naughty.' Yet the world is full of evil. Santa can do nothing about it except give presents. God takes evil seriously and does something about it. Santa loves you enough to give you toys. God loves you enough to send his only Son to die for you on a cross. Plus, God gives better gifts—the Holy Spirit, the church, the sacraments, talents, and the call to ministry.

"So long as children understand the truth about God and the true meaning of Christmas, perhaps a little game can be fun. So let old Nicholas become Santa Claus, with his workshop at the North Pole and his sleigh full of toys. Who knows, maybe he will bring you a nice thick book on theology."



Sermons in December

by Rev. Dr. David Mauldin

When we sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem," we sing, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Truly, Jesus is the answer to our fears. But how does that work exactly? I asked people in our congregation, "What are you afraid of?" This series responds to their answers. In it, I explain how the gospel speaks to our fears.

December 3: *I Fear for My Children/Grandchildren*
Mark 5:21-26

December 10: *I Fear Not Having Enough Money*
Matthew 6:19-34

December 17: *I Fear Being Dependent or a Burden to Others*
Luke 2:1-7

ALPHA Course

by Pastor Jason Pridmore

For the past seven weeks, PCPC has been running the ALPHA Course off-campus in a private home in one of our local neighborhoods. We have been hosting 16 people, comprised of church members, non-church members, believers, and atheists, and walking through some of life's tougher questions. We will be breaking for the holidays and reconvening in the New Year.



The ALPHA Course is created to outline the core principles of the Christian faith that all denominations agree on the ..."non-negotiables." ALPHA is an

effective form of evangelism that focuses on the fundamentals of Christianity and opens the door for everyone to have the opportunity to engage in discussions and be transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. ALPHA is a great way to reach those family members and friends you want to come to know Jesus.

We want to host three new ALPHA courses in 2024 and hope you can help. We need host families to open their homes for weekly gatherings where we meet for dinner and a video presentation followed up by discussion. We also need facilitators; if you've been through the ALPHA Course before, we can train you to lead the discussions. We are also looking for participants. We need you to invite your friends, your neighbors, and your work colleagues so that we can introduce them to Jesus.

As we reach out into our community to introduce Jesus to those who don't yet know him and make disciples of those around us, will you help? If so, please contact me or the church office.

Walk and Talk Fellowship Ministry

by Bob Snyder



The goal of this new fellowship ministry is to meet in an area park on the 1st Saturday of each month. We will enjoy nature and each other in this relaxed fellowship.

The next gathering open to all will be **Saturday, December 2, at 9:30 at Maggy's Hammock Park**, 3854 SE Kubin Ave., Port Salerno.

The pristine park called Maggy's Hammock Park/Rocky Point is an oasis of tropical hammocks in a sea of suburbia. The park offers a mix of scrub and tropical habitats, with a mile-long loop circling the 22-acre preserve. A wheelchair-accessible, linear trail connects the two trailheads, slicing the loop in two to access a picnic area and playground in the middle of this Martin County park.

This is an easy 1-mile loop walked at your own pace. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 2, at Maggy's with or without a friendly dog. It is fun and a chance to enjoy God's beautiful nature. No need to RSVP - just show up! All are invited!

Please contact Bob with any questions at bobsnyder4844@gmail.com.

Gratitude Brunch

by Beth Welmaker

The greeters and Linger Longer coffee team from the 9:30 a.m. service were treated to a "gratitude" brunch in their honor following the service on November 12th. Barbara Allen graciously hosted these wonderful volunteers to help express appreciation for the time these folks give serving PCPC. More volunteers are always welcome to get involved. These are fun and easy ways to serve the church. Since we have several volunteers who greet and make coffee, the rotation cycle is not very demanding. If you would like to help set up coffee or greet once in a while, email Beth Welmaker (bwelmaker@gmail.com) for the Linger Longer coffee team and Barbara Allen (ballenspicer@comcast.net) to volunteer as a greeter.



Have something for our next newsletter?



Email it to our editors Amy Kitchell and Andrea Wood at newsletter@palmcitypres.org by the deadline listed on the calendar. Please write "Newsletter Article" in your subject line and attach any photos you would like to include.

PCPC MISSIONS

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN AND CHANGING LIVES

LOCAL MISSION UPDATES

The Refuge Ranch

by Wanda Rosello, PCPC Liaison



The Refuge Ranch is a residential Christian drug and alcohol regeneration ministry for adult women. It provides a home environment, biblical instruction, and work opportunities. Through the application of the gospel to all areas of their lives, women at The Refuge Ranch experience emotional, physical, and spiritual healing.

The members of the Turkey Trot Committee would like to send a great big **THANK YOU** to those from The Refuge Ranch who showed up on Thanksgiving morning to help with the race. They were at the church at the crack of dawn to man the stations they were assigned. Their Thanksgiving celebration was the following Saturday, which allowed for family members to join them.



The Refuge Ranch residents raise white-tailed deer and maintain gardens; the vegetables they grow help provide nutritious meals and the opportunity to promote a sense of accomplishment. Golf carts are used to get around the property and haul feed for the deer. **If you or anyone you know has a golf cart you no longer use, please consider donating it to The**

Ranch. The residents and the directors, Mike and Mitchell, would greatly appreciate it.

Our next luncheon at The Ranch will be on December 5th. PCPC members and guests can meet at the church at 10:15 to carpool. An extra fun part of the day will be judging the gingerbread houses that the residents decorate. (Those of you who went last year know how creative they can be!) Please bring a salad to share. To RSVP or for questions, contact Wanda Rosello at rosellow1@gmail.com.

The Salvation Army of Martin County



PCPC has reserved dates to assist The Salvation Army in their annual Red Kettle Campaign in Palm City. If you would like to be a bell ringer, please visit www.registertoring.com. Choose "I'm ringing with a group" and enter group code "34990" to sign up. The dates are **December 8** at the Martin Downs Publix and **December 9** at the Old Palm City Publix. Additionally, **PCPC's Bells of Worship** bell choir will be performing by the kettle on December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

GLOBAL MISSION UPDATE

United Servants Abroad, by Tom Hough



UNITED SERVANTS ABROAD
Sending God's servants with love and concern around the world.

Over the years, Rita and I have been blessed with incredible friendships in all areas of our lives. We are thankful to God for every relationship He has put in our path. Recently, several short-term teams served through those relationships. Peet and Sue Strydom of Liquid Legacy partnered with ministries in Peru. A dental team served with them at the AIESHC Centro Nativo, the Swiss Mission Institute, and a Shipibo church. Long-term partner Mission Church Memphis sent a youth team to help with VBS programs at CCB and joined activities with the youth of the Pucallpa United Churches.

The Shea ENT medical team restarted after a

"COVID layoff" serving at the Pucallpa Regional Hospital. The team has been a yearly constant since the mid-1980s. Dr. Coyle Shea's dream of serving God by helping the less fortunate continues. The team saw over 400 patients and performed 23 surgeries, reestablishing a great relationship with the hospital medical staff and personnel.



Shea ENT medical team

The Hough family remains joyful and busy. We thank you for your continued prayer, love, and support. Words can not explain the gratefulness in our hearts we have for you.

AT PCPC

Mission Christmas Trees

by Rebecca Stephens

Four local missions will be supported this Christmas by the generosity of our congregation through the "Mission Tree" event. Each of these missions meets a special need in our community. We are so blessed to be in a community that lifts each other up with compassion and kindness. Through this generosity, others know and see the love of God. "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35)

Anyone can select an ornament from one of the Mission Trees in the sanctuary narthex or Huizenga Family Life Center. The toys and gift cards purchased will be delivered to these missions before Christmas so they can be enjoyed on Christmas Day. **Please make sure to return any gift and ornament to the church office by December 12th.**

Salvation Army – Love Beyond Christmas

Recognizing that every child deserves to feel the joy of Christmas, The Salvation Army provides new clothing and toys to children in need each year. Families

in our community will receive gifts from you to open on Christmas morning.

The Refuge Ranch

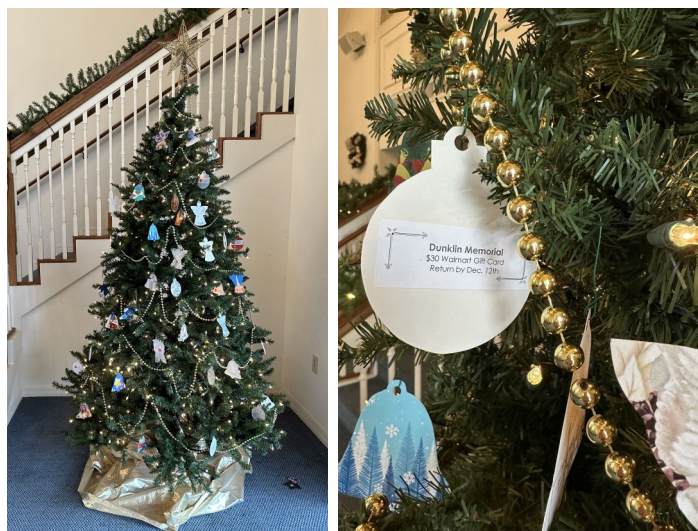
Every woman at The Ranch has a family they are separated from and each resident faces challenges during the holidays. Addiction breaks families and destroys relationships, but being able to purchase a Christmas gift for a loved one can help bring families closer. Your gift cards make that possible.

4KIDS – Gift of Hope

The holiday season presents a special opportunity to remind kids in crisis that they are not forgotten. Join 4KIDS as they collect unwrapped toys, items, and gift cards to ensure each child and teen in their care has a present to open on Christmas Day! 4KIDS remains committed to redefining foster care across our region one child at a time, with the support of the faith-based community and more.

Dunklin Memorial Church

They are a "City of Refuge" in Okeechobee, committed to ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ to men trapped in chemical addiction (and their families) through an 11-month-long residential program. One thing that makes Dunklin unique in the recovery world is their relentless commitment to not only helping the man in chemical addiction, but also the loved ones he has affected. The men and their families celebrate Christmas together at Dunklin Memorial Church.



GriefShare Program

GriefShare, facilitated by Florine Blackshear, offers biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by discussion. Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often, people tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is a key part of this program.

Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not, you will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a loved one. This is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. Please visit the GriefShare website (griefshare.org) or call the church office at 772-286-9958 to join in at any time.

13-week GriefShare Program
Wednesdays beginning January 10 at 10:00 a.m.



12th Annual Turkey Trot



PCPC's 12th annual Palm City Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run was a big success! This year's beneficiary is Love and Hope in Action (LAHIA), a local organization that provides food and

resources to the homeless in our area. To learn more, please visit www.lahia.org. Once the proceeds are calculated, the amount going to support this important ministry will be reported.

Thank you to these generous local sponsors: The Walter James Charitable Foundation; McCarthy, Summers, Wood, Norman, Melby, & Schultz, PA; Kibbey Wagner Attorneys at Law; The Growth Circle; Oceana Coffee; Wawa; High Tide Volleyball; Fleet Feet; Tight Lines Apparel; Kirk McLean at Premier Realty Group; Kate Mikkelson and David Bradford, Jr. at Edward Jones; Atlantic Tire Pros; Plastridge Insurance; Copley's RV; Treasure Coast Hospice; Palm City Nursing & Rehab Center; Turke Advanced Dental Arts; Sanders Screening & Repair; and Matt Livings at Livings Insurance.

This Year's Winners

- 1st place Men's overall - Ryan Ziskinder, age 20, of Palm City with a time of 15:05
- 1st place Women's overall - Emerson Brinn, age 15, of Palm City with a time of 19:54
- 1st place Men's Masters (age 40 and up) - Kevin Johnson with a time of 18:57
- 1st place Women's Masters (age 40 and up) - Lori Steger with a time of 21:06



2023 Palm City Turkey Trot winners of the Masters division

Sanctuary Service (aka Pew Duty)

by Marlene Boobar

What is "pew duty," one might ask? And what is it to provide service in the sanctuary? Well, just as you straighten up your house before you have guests, we want to straighten up the pews in the sanctuary before the weekly services.

Each pew has an attendance pad and pencils for taking notes, prayer cards, offering envelopes, and a few brochures. During the week before the upcoming Sunday, we ensure each pew (row) will be found clean and organized with replenished materials and a dated attendance pad in place. Oh, and we check that those pencils are sharp and ready for use!

This is a task that is primarily performed by the deacons. That does not mean that only deacons can perform this duty. We invite any member to help out and share this task. We want everyone attending Sunday services to enjoy a clean, inviting space with all the materials in place. Like your home, we want it to be well cared for and items in order.

The assignment—should you choose to accept it (like the "Mission Impossible" line)

—is to be responsible for taking care of the pews on one side and/or the balcony every so often. The chore can be completed in about one hour. Since the sanctuary is empty, you may bring your phone and have your favorite music or hymns playing. Or it can be a time for quiet reflection in church while doing an easy but important "job." We (deacons) welcome everyone—especially newcomers—to start to get to know us and jump into some easy service.

If you would like to serve in this capacity, you can complete the form on our website's [Volunteer](#) page, call the office, or email Charity Maehl (charity@palmcitypres.org) and let us know. We thank you for your willingness to serve!



Widows Club High Tea

Wednesday, December 13
11:00 a.m.

All widows are welcome for a special outing to enjoy High Tea at the Diamond Tea Room in Stuart. The cost is \$30 per person. Please scan the code or visit our website to RSVP by December 6! Questions? Please contact Lindy Cardinale at lindycardinale@comcast.net.



Grandmothers & Others

2023 - 2024 SCHEDULE

October 26
November 16
December 14
January 18
February 15

March 21
April 18
May 16



This sewing ministry meets at PCPC from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on the Thursdays listed above. For more details, please contact Larry Jones at ljones1992@gmail.com.

Turkey Trot 2023

See our Facebook photo album for more photos.
Thank you to our amazing volunteers who made this event a success!





Children's Ministry & Family Outreach

by Sherrey Pridmore, Director of Children's Ministry & Family Outreach



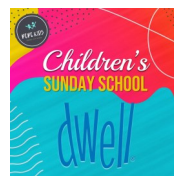
RECAP OF NOVEMBER

Throughout the Bible, scripture tells us to be thankful. Psalm 100:4 says we are to "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15. We live in an amazing country and are part of an amazing church. We have much to be thankful for.

November was full of wonderful events. We are grateful to God for the memories we are making. You can see God at work connecting His people and nurturing new relationships. We are growing not only in numbers but also in our relationship with Him.

BINGO! If you were unable to attend our Chili Cookoff and BINGO night, you really missed out! It was such a FUN night! Marilyn Copley won 1st place! Her chili was so delicious, but don't ask her for a recipe! She just mixes ingredients together until she likes the taste. She is a talented chef. Marilyn had some tough competition! All eight chili submissions were so yummy! As if the chili cookoff wasn't enough fun, the night continued with our BINGO games. Thank you, Tom Mooney and April

Pridmore, for emceeding. This event has grown so much in numbers we had to move it to the Huizenga Family Life Center. It was a packed house! It was nice to see such a great mix of intergenerational PCPC families. Thank you to all who helped with the event, as well as all who attended.



Our **PCPC Sunday school** kids continued their journey in Genesis. This month, they learned the story of Jacob and Esau, as well as the different lifestyles of Joseph. He was a dreamer, a slave, and a ruler. His story shows his steadfast commitment to God. He never gave up! In the end, Joseph was thankful for God's redemption. Joseph was able to forgive his brothers, and his relationship with his family was restored.



Kidz Klub ended this month and will resume on February 15, 2024. They finished this season understanding how God works behind the scenes in our lives. Even if we don't understand God's big plan for our lives, we know He is working behind the scenes on His big story. They also learned how important it is to be obedient to God.

This free program for ages VPK-5th grade meets on **Tuesdays from 2:00-4:30 p.m. in Langill Hall**. To learn more and register for our next session, visit our website or scan the code on page 13 for details.



PCPC MOPS & MOMSnext

Our **PCPC MOPS** group is filled with amazing moms and the cutest kiddos! We had some incredible speakers this month who are speaking biblical truth about our roles as mamas. The meetings are spirit-filling and soul-enriching. In addition to meeting twice a month, MOPS ladies are busy making a difference in our local community. They donate their time serving and giving back to numerous non-profit organizations within the Treasure Coast area. Oh, how I love our PCPC MOPS! I am thankful for them!

Thank you to all our PCPC families who showed up for our Turkey Trot! Some of our Kidz Klub, MOPS, and PCPC Kids families were in attendance. The Kids Fun Run was the best part of the race, in my opinion. Watching them run across the finish line and receive medals was the highlight of the morning!



THIS MONTH IN DECEMBER

It's time to celebrate the birth of our Savior! One day—sooner than we think—our kiddos will grow up and will start to ask hard questions about God. We want them to have the answers. We want them to know who God is and to know He loves us because He gave us Jesus. We will spend the month learning the story of our Savior and celebrating the birth of Jesus. The best gift God ever gave was Jesus. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the

Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known!

Speaking of gifts, if you have kids, we have a special Advent gift bag for you! We are excited to celebrate with you the greatest gift we have ever been given! Gift bags will be handed out to families at the beginning of December. Each day, you will learn more about Jesus and the blessings He brings to each of us. This holiday season, I pray you and your family will celebrate by opening up your eyes, ears, heart, and mouths! It's time to celebrate the best Christmas surprise of all, the baby Jesus!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **December 24 morning service:** PCPC will have a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve morning. We WILL be offering our regular nursery care and children's Sunday school during this service.

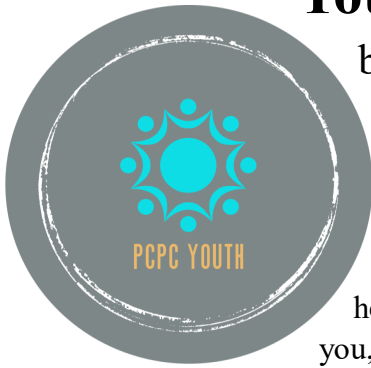
PCPC Kids will perform "Little Drummer Boy" during this service. Please join us!

- ◆ **December 24 evening services:** Childcare will be offered for ages newborn - 24 months in our nurseries at the 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. services.
- ◆ **December 31:** PCPC will have a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary on New Year's Eve morning. There will NOT be Sunday school during this service; childcare will be offered for ages newborn - 24 months.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 15:** Kidz Klub begins for our spring session! Scan the code below for more information about this fun, afterschool program.



Youth News

by Richie Kim,
Youth Leader



The Bible says in Ephesians 3:17-20 "So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and ground-

ed in love, may have the strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Family, seeing this generation go deeper into their faith and act in truth is amazing! For the past month, PCPC Youth has implemented small groups, and it has been amazing to see the conversation and questions these young minds bring up about their faith and God. Please pray that we continue this growth and answer some of the hard questions about their faith.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

As the holiday season comes upon us, we tend to wind down a bit and enjoy time to rest, BUT NOT YOUTH MINISTRY! As we continue to live out the call that God has for our lives to pour into the students' lives, we continuously see growth as they become men and women of God.



We had an amazing time at our Friendsgiving!

With our students bringing their master chef skills, we had a feast fit for a king and enjoyed each other's company before they spent time with their families for Thanksgiving. But church family, we ask you to join us in prayer for those who feel lonely during this

season as the body of Christ opens your hearts for those who are going through a rough time.



WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

High School

In our sermon series called "The Names of God," we are doing an in-depth study of the biblical names of God. We learn God is Adonai ("Lord") and Jehovah Jireh ("The LORD Will Provide"), etc., as we unpack the full meanings of these names and see the works of God and how they are related to our lives as new-day Christians.

Middle School

In our sermon series "Hall of Mirrors," we talk about how a hall of mirrors shows distorted versions of reality. Western culture is doing a great job convincing teenagers of illogical and unstable ideas that have led many to walk away from God's authority and absolute truth because it has been deemed unpopular. This three-week worldview series exposes three commonly held beliefs as unfulfilling narratives for life and counters them with the truth of the gospel. Truth is unpopular these days, but it is the only thing that will set students free.

VOLUNTEERS

If you have a heart for the young generation, this is the ministry you have been looking for! PCPC Youth

is looking for mentors to pour into our students. How can you be a part of this? We need small group leaders, people to serve in the kitchen, and others to just hang out with these amazing students. If you are interested, please contact richie@palmcitypres.org.

UPCOMING



Rock the Universe: On January 26 and 27, 2024, our youth will spend the weekend in Orlando at Universal Studios. This trip is for both high school and middle school students. **Visit our website to learn more. The deadline to sign up is December 1!**



All Youth Christmas Party: December 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Don't miss our annual party in the Huizenga Family Life Center for 6th - 12th graders. We encourage everyone who comes to invite their friends to grow our youth group. Please bring a white elephant gift to exchange. Hope to see y'all there!

COLLEGE STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Friendsgiving

This group meets on Mondays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center AND on the third Thursday of the month at the Pridmore's house for dinner at 6:00 p.m. Come join in! New faces are always welcome.

Our Young Adult group took a break from our study of the book of Revelation to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, where they all brought dishes to share, played games, and relished in the blessings of togetherness that God has provided. We continue to meet on Monday nights for dinner and biblical discussion. We will not be meeting on December 25 or January 1. We will also travel to Atlanta, GA, for the **Passion Conference from January 2-6, 2024**. Our young adults are growing in numbers and growing in God! If you have any questions or you would like to connect with our group, call or text Pastor Jason at 714-809-5065.

High School Youth Group: Sundays, 6-8:00 p.m. | Middle School Youth Group: Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m.

Young Adults & College Students: Mondays 6-8:00 p.m.



Thank You, Troop 822!

Thank you to BSA Troop 822 who helped us decorate for Advent. We appreciate your time and dedication!



Get Connected at Church

PCPC offers a variety of ways to be supported, support others, grow in your faith, and get involved!



Our **BIBLE STUDY GROUPS** meet on Thursdays in Langill Hall. The Men's group starts at 7:30 a.m. and includes breakfast. Women's Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and features small groups for all ages. See our Website's Adult Ministries page for more information on each group.

PCPC offers a **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** for those caring for loved ones. The group meets at 10:00 a.m. in the library on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Questions? Please contact Rev. Dr. Lyn Snow, the group's host and facilitator, at chaplainsnow@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEERING opportunities abound at PCPC! There are ways for everyone of all ages to get involved, find your people, and serve at church. High school students can earn service hours. For a list of our current ways to help out, please visit the [Volunteer page](#) of our website.

Join Florine Blackshear for an **HOUR OF PRAYER** and encouraging fellowship. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. on [Zoom](#) (meeting ID #78511565994). All are welcome!



Exercise can be easy and fun! Join our **WALK AEROBICS** group at 5:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in upper Langill Hall. Follow the easy movements demonstrated or do your favorites. It's a great way to get to know some of our PCPC family and friends! Contact Amy Kitchell at akkitchell@aol.com with questions.

Did you know our church's entire Bible study library, featuring over 25,000 videos and discipleship materials for all ages, is available to you for free? For details and access, select **RIGHTNOW MEDIA** from the Resources tab on our website.



PCPC welcomes additional members in our **CHANCEL CHOIR**, directed by Reva Rogers, and our **BELLS OF WORSHIP** handbell choir, directed by Joanne Raulin. Previous experience is not required! To learn more about these groups, visit the [Music Ministry](#) page on our website.

Advent Decorating

Every year we decorate our church to celebrate the Christmas season. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and energy into making our church a beautiful place to worship this Advent.



Chrismons

by Diana Rew

Our church has a box of Christmas decorations that were made with love and are steeped in tradition. They were created many years ago by Leona Huffman, who was a charter member of PCPC. The massive tree in the sanctuary narthex is adorned with her Chrismon decorations. If you are not familiar with Chrismons, they are handmade tree decorations using Christian symbols utilizing designs created by followers of Christ since as early as the first century. Frances Kipps Spencer made the first Chrismon ornament in 1957 in Virginia and coined the name Chrismon (it's even trademarked) by combining the word Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). Traditionally, the white and gold ornaments are a simple design, so the symbol's meaning shines through and directs Christians to ponder the meaning of Christmas.

This December, be sure to notice the ornaments while you admire the tree and reflect on the significance of each one. Remember the loving hands that decorated our sanctuary as you relish each tradition and treasure the ones you create this Christmas season.

Chrismon ornaments are white and gold; white is the liturgical color for Christmas and symbolizes Jesus's

purity and perfection. Gold represents His majesty and glory. Each shape has a spiritual significance:

- The **DOVE** symbolizes the Holy Spirit and spiritual truths.
- The **CROWN** reminds us Jesus is the King of Kings and of His victory over sin and death.
- The **FISH** is one of the oldest Christian symbols and reminds us the disciples were fishermen.
- The **CROSS** reminds Christians Jesus Christ died for everyone on a cross.



December 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 3 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 6:00 p.m. HS Youth Group | 4 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Young Adults 7:30 p.m. Hour of Prayer | 5 10:00 a.m. Caregiver Support 10:15 a.m. Refuge Ranch Lunch 4:00 p.m. Deacons 5:30 p.m. MOPS | 6 9:00 p.m. Advent Study 4:30 p.m. MS Youth 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Advent Study 7:00 p.m. Session | 7 7:00 a.m. MBS 9:30 a.m. WBS 6:30 p.m. CBS 7:00 p.m. Choir | 8 7:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata | 9 2:00 p.m. Bell Choir at Old Palm City Publix 4:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata |
| 10 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:40 a.m. Congregational Meeting 6:00 p.m. HS Youth Group | 11 9:30 a.m. MOPS 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Young Adults | 12 5:30 p.m. MOPS | 13 9:00 p.m. Advent Study 4:30 p.m. MS Youth 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Advent Study | 14 7:00 a.m. MBS 9:30 a.m. Grandmothers & Others 6:30 p.m. CBS 7:00 p.m. Choir | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 6:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party | 18 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Young Adults 7:30 p.m. Hour of Prayer | 19 10:00 a.m. Caregiver Support 5:30 p.m. MOPS | 20 9:00 p.m. Advent Study 4:30 p.m. MS Youth 4:30 p.m. Bell Choir 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics 6:00 p.m. Advent Study | 21 7:00 a.m. MBS 7:00 p.m. Choir | 22 Newsletter Deadline | 23 |
| 24 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service | 25 Christmas Day (Office Closed) | 26 | 27 5:15 p.m. Walk Aerobics | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 10:00 a.m. Worship | <div>Sunday Worship</div> <div>8:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the sanctuary</div> <div>9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Huizenga Family Life Center</div> <div>11:00 a.m. Traditional Service in the sanctuary</div> <div>MBS: Men's Bible Study WBS: Women's Bible Study</div> <div>CBS: Community Bible Study</div> | | | <div>Congregational Meeting</div> <div>TO ELECT NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS</div> <div>Sunday, December 10</div> <div>Members, please join us in the sanctuary at 10:40 a.m.</div> | | |



Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1 Sherry Sloat
12/2 Matt Boswell
12/4 Lonnie Ehmann, Bob McCarthy
12/6 Daniel Baggett
12/8 Todd Austhof, Molly Overton
12/10 Wes George, Barbara Klein, Tim Thorsen
12/11 Patty Swain
12/12 Bonnie Meyo
12/16 Maria Robberts
12/17 Bobbie Spilman
12/18 Ted Weitzel
12/19 Kevin Bednarz, Jade Pridmore, Joann Shaw,
LynnAnn White
12/20 Linda George, Lois Giuffreda, Lauren Gragg,
Jack Meyering
12/22 Glenda Byrne, Becky DaSilva, Connie Heidt-
Bennett, Nathan Holden
12/24 Joyce Morrow
12/25 Mike Jones
12/26 Kathy Thompson
12/27 Joshua Robberts
12/28 Andrew Bates, John Doody, William McClure,
Carl Meece
12/29 Tom Domagala, Jan Eagleson
12/31 Deb Allison, Chuck East, Penny Gamble,
Kelly George-Riccardo, Nancy Korpady,
Loretta Lijestrland,, Natalie Tignor,
Lucas Winterhalter



12/1 John & Linda Sanders
12/4 John & Nidia Bernstiel
12/6 Richard & Cheryl Burns
12/16 Randy & Linda Hughes,
Anthony & Kristen Puzzo,
Wayne & Ginger Mendoza
12/20 Bill & Elizabeth Betes
12/27 Ted & Pat Cedarstrand,
Bill & Trudi Tillett
12/28 Charlie & Christine Higgs,
Jim & Dorothy Hill
12/29 Tom & Diana Rew
12/31 Greg & Claudia Vurnakes



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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Traditional Services

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Contemporary Service

9:30 a.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center

Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 24 @ 10:00 a.m.

Combined worship service
in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 24 @ 7:00 p.m.

Traditional candlelight Communion
service in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 24 @ 5:00 p.m.

Contemporary candlelight
Communion service in the
Huizenga Family Life Center

Sunday, December 31 @ 10:00 a.m.

Combined worship service
in the sanctuary

