November 2026

Palm City Presbyterian Church
NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH

11/10
Fraud Prevention Program
Learn how to recognize and avoid digital fraud, identity theft, and other common scams in our area.

11/21
Prayer Breakfast
Join us for an encouraging morning in Langill Hall. Don't miss our guest speakers, Tyler and Heather Ortagus!

11/26
15th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run
This year's proceeds will benefit The Refuge Ranch!

Welcome, Katie Pryor!
by David C. Mauldin

Last month, I shared with you about job openings at the church. The departure of our Next Generation director left us seeking a youth director and a children's director. We are still looking for a youth director. In the meantime, our Youth Ministry Leadership Team continues our ministry with middle and high school youth. We now have an interim children's director, Katie Pryor. This month, I want to introduce her. Katie and her family have been participating at PCPC for a couple of years. She joined earlier this year. Her husband, Devin, and their two children were baptized on October 25! So, now the whole family is officially part of our church.

David: Katie, first off, your children were part of our children's program long before you came on staff. What have you found valuable in our children's ministry?
Katie: *Several years ago, my son, Jaxon, and I began looking for a church home together after moving to Palm City. We visited several churches, but Palm City Presbyterian is the one that stood out and captured our hearts. The children's ministry in this church has LIFE! There have been so many opportunities to get involved, and with each passing year I have witnessed this ministry grow in some way. I have personally witnessed this children's ministry bring children closer to Jesus, and that's where it all begins.*

David: When we lost our NextGen director, you came to my office to talk about children's ministry, maybe not sure what you wanted to do. A few days later, you were our interim children's director. What made you say yes to this opportunity?
Katie: *I was absolutely heartbroken learning we were losing our NextGen director. Over the past several years, the children's ministry has become such a big part of our lives, and it was devastating to know we were going to go through a transition*

Continued on page 2

of uncertainty from what we have known and loved here. I have been able to witness my children's "aha!" moments in their faith within this ministry. My son was five years old when he looked me in the eyes and said, "Mom! God is real! And Jesus is REAL!" after Vacation Bible School. My daughter's favorite song in the world is "Jesus Loves Me," and her curiosity about Jesus has only continued to grow. I'm not an impulsive person. God stirred something in my soul at this pivotal moment within our ministry, and it was impossible to ignore. In my heart, I know that this is where I'm meant to be right now, and I can't wait to be part of all the wonderful things God will help us to accomplish.

David: You come with a lot of gifts and enthusiasm, but this kind of job is new to you. Most of your work background is in medical research. Tell us a little about that.

Katie: *I have held several prominent positions in the medical research and exercise science fields over the years. I began as an assistant strength training coach at Penn State University immediately after graduating, which involved teaching classes and managing/supervising three large fitness centers across campus. Fast forward a few years, and my interest in brain research led me to become the research & services coordinator for the Penn State Center for Sport Concussion. I was able to work with Division I athletes, medical staff, children's sports leagues, and some of the top brain researchers in the world. My most recent position was the clinic director at a chronic pain clinic in Palm Beach Gardens. It may sound crazy, but there is more carryover to this position than one might think. I have extensive experience in handling event planning, budgeting, organizing and managing a team, recruiting, making connections in the community, confidentiality, rebranding, working with all types of populations and ages … the list goes on and on. The most wonderful thing about this is that, because I am already strong in these areas, I can focus on the most important thing: becoming the best director I can be to help our little ones become part of God's story and truly know Jesus!*

David: People will be happy to learn that we are supporting you with coaching by a Christian educator with many decades of experience, Mickie O'Donnell. She teaches children's ministry at our denomination's seminary. You'll be connecting with her for an hour each week. That just started. You two seemed to hit it off perfectly. What are you hoping to learn from her?

Devin and Katie Pryor with their children, Jaxon and Jadyn

Katie: *Is "everything" too big of an answer? When I finished my first call with Mickie, I was full of excitement and absolutely thrilled that we found someone so quickly that not only shares the same ideas of what a ministry for kids can and should be, but that she is someone who can mentor me from her 30+ years of experience to make it a REALITY! I believe so strongly in teaching children in ways they learn best, and in meeting children where they're at. Kids learn from storytelling, games, songs, and becoming part of the lesson—not just from hearing a story once and filling out a worksheet. PCPC Kids Ministry has so much potential for creating a Sunday school program that isn't just where they go once a week, but to become an experience and a place where they want to go and say, "I wonder what we're going to do today!"*

David: You are also supported by our Children's Ministry Leadership Team. Tell us about that.

Katie: *Let me first start by saying, I love them! One of the first things the church leadership team did when faced with this transition was to create a Children's Ministry Leadership Team. This team consists of members of our congregation, some with kids, some with grandkids, some with past ministry experience. The one thing they all have in common is a calling to make sure our kids' ministry succeeds. We are blessed with this group because everyone on this team brings a different gift/strength to the table, and as a unit, I know we can accomplish even our biggest goals.*

David: We've discussed PCPC's philosophy and goals of children's ministry. We obviously want an environment

where children are safe and feel loved. We also want them to know Jesus. We want them to move into middle school knowing the important Bible stories, as well as how those stories fit together to tell One Story, with Jesus at the center. And we want our children's ministry to be happy and fun, so kids want to come back and bring friends. What am I forgetting?

Katie: *You named the big ones! But we also can't forget the impact that supporting our parents and helping them reinforce our stories and lessons at home can have. It can be hard to know where to start at home, but a little teamwork goes a long way! Getting to know our families and connecting them together will also help to build a strong ministry. It's hard to get the children to events and Sunday school without parents on board. I've been in the Presbyterian church my whole life. Beginning when I was a newborn, my mom would take me to choir practice with her every week. I was baptized, confirmed, and married in the Presbyterian church, and my faith has stayed with me, and even grown, the whole way through. I think creating a ministry that can grow with our children is key—a ministry that guides them through their entire childhood as they figure out their faith and their personal relationship with God. What a powerful thing that would be!*

David: Our children's ministry has a lot of moving parts: Sunday school, children's church, events, MomCo, pickleball.

Katie: *The great thing about that is: a busy ministry with a lot of moving parts means it is ACTIVE! I have met so many kids, parents, and volunteers over the past couple of weeks. It's no wonder our program has stayed strong!*

David: You've planned a couple of special events, Friendsgiving in November and the Gingerbread Bash in December. What are those, and whom are they for?

Katie: *Yes! Friendsgiving is scheduled for November 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It's going to be a traditional potluck but with games, prizes, and more! All of our PCPC Kids Ministry, family, and friends are invited to join us! You can learn more and RSVP on our website! The Gingerbread Bash has become an annual party, and this year it will be on December 18 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. It is an exciting, interactive, and festive experience for the whole family. We have some new surprises this year, so be sure to save the date and sign up on our website.*

David: What is the most exciting thing in our children's ministry right now?

Katie: *The sky is the limit! While unexpected change and transition can be scary, it can also be an opportunity for new, exciting, and wonderful things! I have so much support behind me that I know we're only just at the beginning of the incredible things this children's ministry can do and everything it will become.*

David: What has been your biggest surprise so far?

Katie: *Maybe it shouldn't be a surprise, but it's been the amount of support and encouragement I have received from people in the church. Some I know very well, some that are familiar, and some I have never had the pleasure of meeting until now. To have this much support, and so much faith put in me to lead this ministry through a transition, WOW, GOD! I am so thankful and humbled by each and every encouraging word and offer of help and support. I can't tell you how excited I am to get to know our church members even more.*

David: What do you want people who have children to know about our children's ministry?

Katie: *You belong here! Never been a member of a children's ministry before? That's okay, you belong here, and we'll show you the way! Dabbled in the children's ministry but never became fully involved? We can't wait to embrace you and show you how you belong and can be a part of something so wonderful! Always been involved in children's ministry? You have always belonged here, and the future is so bright, and there are new and exciting things coming!*

David: What do you want people who do not have small children to know about our children's ministry?

Katie: *You belong here, too! The children's ministry is always looking for volunteers of all ages to get involved with our kids! Even if you don't have small children, you are still a member of this ministry by being a part of this church family.*

David: What are your dreams for our children's ministry?

Katie: *The obvious answer to this question would be that I want it to grow. But my biggest dream at this exact moment is that I want our congregation to truly know our kids, and our kids to know our congregation. There is so much life experience, knowledge, and love the congregation has to share that our kids have only just barely been lucky enough to experience. And there is so much energy, joy, and a thirst for knowledge that our kids can bring to the congregation. The anticipation of bridging this gap has me singing in the car on the way to the church every morning. Let's get to work and see what we can do!*

Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember God's Blessings

by PCPC's Stewardship Team

The Thanksgiving tradition started in the fall of 1621, when the Plymouth Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people shared a three-day harvest celebration. Having endured a difficult first year in America, during which many of their fellow settlers died, the Pilgrims still had much to be thankful for. With the assistance of their Wampanoag neighbors, they learned to cultivate the land and provide food for their settlement. Despite their hardships, they recognized God's gracious provision.

Of course, the tradition of giving thanks to God goes back much further. Throughout Scripture, we find countless examples of gratitude for God's goodness and provision.

- After crossing the Red Sea, Moses and the Israelites sang praises to God for their deliverance from Pharaoh's army (Exodus 15).
- The Psalms are filled with expressions of thanksgiving, including Psalm 100:4: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"
- In Ephesians 5:20, Paul urges us in "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul emphasizes that thanksgiving should be a continual part of our Christian lives, recognizing God's presence and provision in all circumstances.
- Colossians 3:17 tells us, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." This verse reminds us that gratitude should be reflected in everything we do, not just in our prayers or special celebrations.

Like the Pilgrims, we all experience difficulties, disappointments, and losses. Yet even during challenging times, we have much for which to be

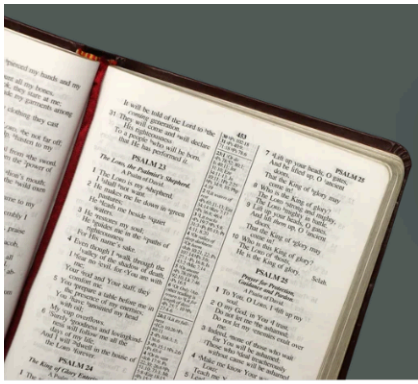
grateful. As Christians, Thanksgiving provides a special opportunity to reflect on God's goodness—not just the material blessings we enjoy, but also the immeasurable gifts of His grace, forgiveness, and love.

And our gratitude inspires generosity. When we recognize that all we have comes from God, we are encouraged to share our time, talents, and resources with others. Thanksgiving and giving back are natural expressions of faithful Christian stewardship.

> **"Thanksgiving and giving back are natural expressions of faithful Christian stewardship."**

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, may we remember that the holiday is about much more than a wonderful meal and cherished traditions. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the source of every blessing and to thank God for His abundant goodness.

As James 1:17 reminds us, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." May we live with grateful hearts—not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of the year.



BIBLE STUDY

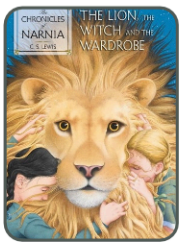
Groups & Classes

SUN
9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School

On November 15, this class will begin a 10-class video series discussing the Essential Tenets of ECO taught by Pastor David Mauldin and other guest speakers. The videos and tenets can be found on our website's Resources page. Join us in the library every Sunday. Feel free to contact facilitator Mike Jones with any questions: mjonesas@comcast.net.

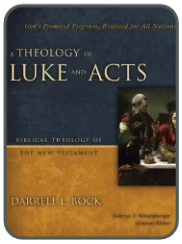
WED
10:00 AM
(beginning 11/25)



Advent in Narnia Study

This Advent, explore the themes of light and darkness, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope in C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.* Free study guides are available in the church office, as well as books for purchase. This co-ed class, led by Cathy Coco, will be held on Wednesdays in the library from November 25 through December 16. For more information, please contact Cathy at cococat17@aol.com.

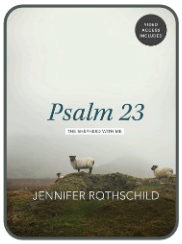
THURS
7:00 AM



Men's Bible Study

Join us for an hour of fellowship, study, and discussion. A light breakfast and coffee is served. Our current study is focused on the books of Luke and Acts. We're looking at who Jesus was, what he did, why he came, and our role in his plan. The video series, featuring New Testament scholar Darrell Bock, PhD., helps bring the meaning of Luke's gospel into our current daily lives. New members are always welcome!

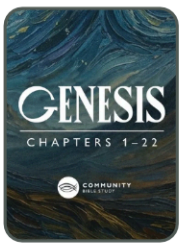
THURS
9:30 AM



Women's Bible Study

This study offers fresh insight and encouragement from Psalm 23. Explore the depths of God's compassionate care while debunking the self-reliance myth. Learn how your vulnerability is not a liability because you can trust the Shepherd's goodness throughout each season of life. New members are always welcome! Books are available for purchase in the church office.

THURS
6:30 PM



Community Bible Study (CBS)

CBS is an international organization that has offered in-depth Bible lessons to men, women, and children for over 50 years. This year, join us for the study of Genesis, which explores the foundations of our faith, including God's creation, His promises, and His plan for redemption. Through the lives of the patriarchs, we discover timeless lessons about faith, obedience, forgiveness, and God's faithfulness throughout every generation. CBS meets at PCPC on Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m. following the school year calendar. To learn more and enroll, visit palmcityeve.cbsclass.org.

PALM CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSIONS

In October, members from PCPC participated in Care Net's Walk for Life, with Pastor Bryan carrying the banner at the front of the one-mile walk. Walkers and supporters of all ages showed up for this large event, united in their commitment to choose life.

United Servants Abroad: Sharing the Gospel in Peru

For more than 70 years, the Hough family, missionaries serving with United Servants Abroad in Peru, has focused on sharing the gospel with those who have had little opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. Today, that work continues through the CCB Bible Training Center and the AIESHC Shipibo Church Association, equipping local men and women throughout the Upper Amazon Basin to share their faith and encourage others in their walk with Christ. Pictured below are gradutes of the center's Timothy Discipleship Ministry.

Teams of couples, including CCB teachers and leaders, travel to remote villages to teach Scripture, disciple believers, and build relationships. Recent trips have included visits to Kakataibo villages and a month-long stay among the Urarina people, where local believers led Bible seminars, music activities, and sewing classes. It is encouraging to see Peruvian believers taking increasing responsibility for sharing the gospel and strengthening the Church in their own communities and beyond.

The Hough's ministry also extends practical care to these remote communities. In June, the Mission Church Memphis medical team (pictured below) provided medical and dental care, conducting 841 consultations and distributing reading glasses! This fall, a new ear, nose, and throat (ENT) medical team will travel to the region to provide hearing aids and ENT-related surgeries for local residents. Through both gospel ministry and compassionate service, the work continues to reach people throughout this region.

Their September update also shared a remarkable development: a Shipibo missionary recently made contact with a previously uncontacted tribal group. What a powerful reminder that there are still communities throughout the region that have yet to hear the gospel!

Men and women gathered for discipleship classes in Peru

The Refuge Ranch

by Cindy Lohan

Palm City Presbyterian Church is blessed to partner with many wonderful ministries, one of the most familiar to our congregation being The Refuge Ranch. Often referred to simply as "The Ranch," this 100+-acre working ranch is located east of Okeechobee. Their year-long addiction recovery program immerses residents in God's Word, helping each woman discover God's love and His plans for her life. Here in this beautiful setting, residents have time to be transformed from a life of addiction into the life God wants for them. To focus on healing and personal growth, The Ranch follows a structured routine designed to support the residents' recovery and well-being. For example, television and social media are not part of daily life (although residents still enjoy a movie together every other week) and caffeine and sugar are generally abstained from. Intentional guidelines help create an environment centered on healing, healthy habits, and renewed purpose.

Another part of the recovery process is caring for the white-tailed deer they raise at The Ranch. It gives the women an opportunity to be responsible for something beyond themselves.

Residents live in cottages on the property and take turns creating a budget and planning meals for the week. Budgeting is made easier due to the huge garden that produces some of their food, which they learn to can or freeze. All of the staff members live on the property and have gone through the program as well. Living alongside others who share similar struggles strengthens each woman and supports her journey toward lasting recovery.

Following their year at The Ranch, some graduates return to their families, while others choose to stay and enter a transition program, living on the property and working off campus while still receiving needed support. In the next six months, two women are scheduled to graduate and have elected to enter the transition phase. They will need transportation to get to their jobs—if anyone has a car to donate, please consider The Refuge Ranch!

The Refuge Ranch greatly appreciates PCPC's support. Residents attend our 9:30 service about once a month and enjoy the sermons, music, and warmth our congregation extends to them.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED & SHOW SUPPORT

2026 Prayer Breakfast at PCPC:

November 21 @ 9:00 a.m.

Refuge Ranch Staff members Heather and Tyler Ortagus are PCPC members. Before they married, Heather went through the program at The Refuge Ranch, and Tyler graduated from Dunklin Memorial Church, an addiction recovery center for men located a few miles from The Ranch. They will share their amazing story at our Prayer Breakfast on November 21 in Langill Hall! Registration is open on our website's Events page.

PCPC's Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run:

November 26 @ 7:30 a.m.

This year's Turkey Trot proceeds will benefit The Refuge Ranch's new community center by helping equip its kitchen. The center will host graduations, family visitation days, holiday celebrations, community events like marriage classes, and The Ranch's 20th anniversary celebration next year.

Lunch at The Refuge Ranch:

December 8 @ 12:00 p.m.

Directors Mitchell and Mike Dobrow have faithfully led The Refuge Ranch since 2007. Each quarter, they invite PCPC members to join residents and staff for a potluck meal. Join us on Tuesday, December 8! Call the church office to RSVP. This special Christmas gathering will include their annual gingerbread house decorating contest, where we'll get to be the judges! Shown here is last year's winner holding her trophy, along with Mitchell holding the winning entry.

Our 15th Annual Thanksgiving Day Race

Don't miss the annual Palm City Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run on Thursday, November 26! Each year, the race sells out to over 600 participants! The event is a family-friendly fundraiser for one of our local mission partners. This year's proceeds will benefit **The Refuge Ranch**, a nonprofit, Christ-centered organization that provides residential drug and alcohol addiction treatment for women.

The 5K course is a flat, fast loop beginning and ending at PCPC. This chip-timed race is limited to 600 participants. Finishers receive a commemorative medal, coffee, and breakfast. Awards are given for Male & Female Overall, Male & Female Masters, and 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place in each division.

Register at RunSignUp.com!

Scan the code or visit www.runsignup.com for information and to register! Sign up early to guarantee your t-shirt size. To **volunteer** at the race, please see our website's Events page.

THANK YOU TO THESE TOP SPONSORS!

McCARTHY SUMMERS WOOD NORMAN MELBY SCHULTZ WOOD & VanVALKENBURGH P.A. ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BIG SLICE PIZZA & WINGS

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WIGLESWORTH-RINDOM INSURANCE AGENCY

KIBBEY WAGNER INJURY & CAR ACCIDENT LAWYERS

Brzezienski Charitable Foundation

Join other PCPC members for fellowship and a leisurely nature walk!

Saturday, November 14
9:30 a.m.

We'll meet at Peck Lake Park (8108 SE Gomez Ave, Hobe Sound) at the pavilion by the restrooms. Feel free to invite friends and to bring your friendly dog. There is no need to RSVP—just show up! Questions? Please contact Mike Jones at mjonesas@comcast.net.

REGISTER TO RING

Each year, PCPC members support our local Salvation Army by volunteering to ring bells in Palm City during their Red Kettle Campaign. This year, the dates of December 4 (at the Old Palm City Publix on Martin Hwy.) and December 5 (at the Town Center Publix on Martin Down Blvd.) have been reserved for us. Visit the Missions page on our website, call the church office, or scan the code to learn more and sign up.

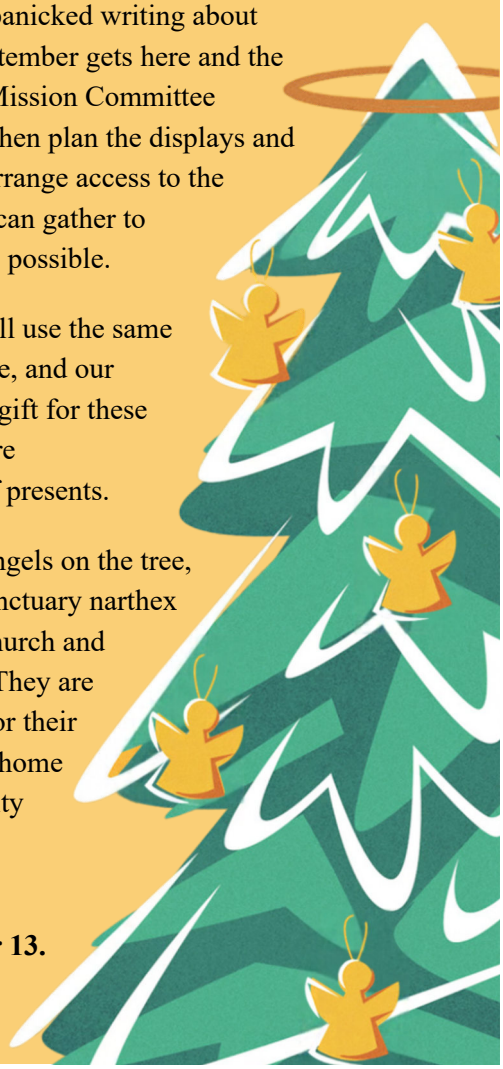
Toy Drive and Angel Christmas Trees

by Susan Hastings, Mission Committee Chair

When I prepared the agenda for our August committee meeting, I got a little panicked writing about Christmas … it's right around the corner! As we all know, time flies once September gets here and the holidays come one after another. In preparation for our holiday projects, the Mission Committee contacts our mission partners to confirm toy and gift card delivery dates. We then plan the displays and angels for the tree, coordinate with church staff to have the trees set up, and arrange access to the sanctuary and HFLC. Finally, we find a date when most committee members can gather to complete the work—all the behind-the-scenes details that make these projects possible.

This year, we will be collecting toys for 4KIDS and The Salvation Army. We'll use the same display as last year, as it worked very well for the congregation, the committee, and our partners. Because of your generosity, we were able to gather every suggested gift for these children! They were delivered in early December, so our grateful partners were able to organize and have their Christmas parties and distribution areas full of presents.

Our Angel Trees will be the same as last year, too. We loved the look of the angels on the tree, and the labels were specific and easy to read. We will have two trees in the sanctuary narthex and one tree in the Huizenga Family Life Center lobby. Dunklin Memorial Church and LAHIA will receive the gift cards from Walmart, McDonald's, and Wendy's. They are so grateful for these cards. The men at Dunklin can go to Walmart and shop for their families before Christmas. Many of the men and women at LAHIA can drive home to family for Christmas; the fast-food cards help along the way. Your generosity allowed us to fulfill the gift card requests for both missions.



Our TOY DRIVE will take place November 1 through 30.
The ANGEL TREES will be on display from November 17 to December 13.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

PCPC Kids Ministry

by Katie Pryor, Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Hello, PCPC! Many of you already know me as Katie, Jaxon and Jadyn's mom. I am now blessed and humbled to also be able to introduce myself as the Interim Director of Children's Ministry at Palm City Presbyterian Church. I love our church, I love our children, and I have always strongly believed in our ministry for kids. Little did I know that God had big plans for me with this ministry in these recent weeks. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11, ESV). After learning about the unexpected transition this ministry would be going through, I found myself deep in prayer and, shortly after, sitting in Pastor David's office.

Some have told me it's a calling. Some have said it's answered prayers. I would say God was banging on my door to make me realize I am here, I am willing, and I am able to lead this ministry forward. What bigger blessing could there be than to be part of children coming to Jesus, learning the Word of God, and helping guide them on their journey of faith? "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14, NIV).

Our church is full of life, and so full of love for our littles. PCPC Kids Ministry now also has a strong committee behind it, dedicated to supporting its needs, helping it grow, and giving of themselves to make sure we succeed. I'll be the first to tell you it's truly special to walk out of a meeting with a committee feeling supported and loved, not like your to-do list just got miles longer. With our amazing parents, a staff that is supportive in every way, a loving congregation, and pastors who give their all to this church every single day, we are ready to grow and thrive as a ministry. I am full of JOY and hope, trusting in the Lord to guide us as we show our church children the path to Jesus. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, NIV).

Church family, please keep praying FOR us, but we want you to also praise WITH us as we begin this new journey. Wonderful things are coming, for Jesus loves these little children. God is GOOD!

PCPC Kids: What We're Learning

Preschool: Our mischievous Bible study friend Topher the Gopher is at it again! He has been hiding pictures from our learning series around the room, and we have to help put the stories back together! As we search, kids learn that God is always with them, He always hears them when they talk to Him, and God works miracles every day!

Elementary: Our elementary group is in the thick of the *Fab Five* series, a comic book adventure that highlights five prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Jeremiah, and Daniel. We are mixing creativity with the discovery of what it means to be true and faithful to our one and only God.

Preteen Ministry: We are currently exploring *The Art of Forgiveness*, a series which helps students understand biblical forgiveness. From Joseph forgiving his brothers to Jesus forgiving on the cross, students see that love must include forgiveness.

Youth Pickleball

Pickleball season got off to an exciting start! We've had new and returning kids join our league this fall, and they're all kind of a big *dill*! Drills, games, new friends, and a fan favorite—Dragons and Unicorns—have made this season a smashing hit! We have a few weeks left to play and *relish* the moments with this special group!

Upcoming Events

Friendsgiving: Friday, November 13 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Potluck, play, and praise! All PCPC Kids and their families are invited to join us and invite a friend! Bring the whole family, a side dish, and gather with us in Langill Hall for a fun celebration filled with delicious food, laughter, games, and the people who make every moment special. **Please RSVP on our website!**

Gingerbread Bash:
Friday, December 18 @ 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Oh, snap! Put on your gingerbread gear and run as fast as you can to our annual Gingerbread Bash! The Gingerbread Bash is an exciting, interactive, and festive experience for the whole family. This year, our event has some new surprises under the tree, so be sure to save the date and get in on the fun! **Registration is open on our website!**

Thanksgiving: A Heart of Gratitude

by Katie Bradshaw, Deacon

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, many of us look forward to gathering around tables filled with family, friends, and traditional meals. We pause to reflect on the blessings we have received throughout the year and give thanks for God's abundant provision.

As a deacon in our church family, I am continually reminded that gratitude is more than a holiday tradition. It is a way of life rooted in our faith. Scripture repeatedly calls us to give thanks in all circumstances. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Giving thanks is easy during seasons of abundance and joy. Yet our faith challenges us to cultivate gratitude even during difficult times. Many among us have faced health concerns, financial hardships, the loss of loved ones, or personal struggles this year. In the midst of these challenges, God remains faithful. His presence comforts us, His promises sustain us, and His love never fails.

One of the greatest blessings we share is in our church community. As deacons, we have the privilege of witnessing God's grace at work through acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion. Whether through meals delivered to a neighbor, prayers offered for those in need, assistance in locating missing items, or volunteers serving quietly behind the scenes, we see Christ's love reflected in the lives of His people.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to take time to count our blessings. Let us thank God for our families, our friendships, our health, our church, and the countless ways He provides for us each day. Let us also remember that there are those who are not healthy or whose spouses have moved on to be with the Lord, those who may be struggling with financial issues and/or loneliness and may be loath to ask for a helping hand. Thus, it is up to us, as brothers and sisters in the family of the Lord, to share with them the love and hope that we have received through Christ. A phone call, a lunch invitation, and, if you feel close enough, even an invitation to share your Thanksgiving dinner with someone from the church or your community that you believe might otherwise be spending the day alone.

As we gather around our tables this season, may our hearts be filled not only with gratitude for what God has given us, but also with a renewed commitment to serve others as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the deacons, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving. May God's peace, grace, and abundant blessings be with you now and throughout the coming year.

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1–2, ESV)

Sermons in November

by Pastor David Mauldin

- **November 1**: 1 Kings 16:29–17:7, “Elijah and the Drought”
- **November 8**: 1 Kings 17:8–16, “Elijah and the Widow’s Oil”
- **November 15**: 1 Kings 18:20–40, “Elijah and the Prophets of Baal”
- **November 22**: 1 Kings 19:1-18, “Elijah’s Despair”
- **November 29**: 2 Kings 6:8-23, “Chariots of Fire”

I like to serve up a balanced preaching diet. In November, we go back to the Old Testament to spend time with one of the great prophets, Elijah. He has a lot to teach us about God and how to serve God faithfully in a hostile context. He also reminds us how quickly victory can turn to despair and where to look for God in those dark moments.

Prayer BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 @ 9:00 AM

Join us as we gather in Langill Hall for a morning of prayer, fellowship, and encouragement. Enjoy a delicious breakfast, hear from our inspiring guest speakers, and spend time connecting others in our church family.

See our website for details and to RSVP!

Out of Darkness: Women's Fellowship Advent Gathering

by Kelly Raiford

PCPC's Women's Fellowship invites you to an Advent Gathering on Saturday, December 5, in the Huizenga Family Life Center from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. for viewing the beautifully decorated tables inspired by this year's theme, *Out of Darkness*. Don't miss this special time of fellowship and seasonal celebration! Reverend Sophia Robins will share an inspiring devotional, and we will also enjoy a choral performance directed by Kerry Rocks.

General admission registration will be open from November 1 through November 16 or until all seats are filled! To sign up, visit our website or stop into the church office. The cost is $12.00 per person, due at the time of registration.

When you sign up, you'll see a list of tables with available seats, along with each table hostess's name, so you can choose where you'd like to sit. This year, guests will select their own tables rather than being assigned seating. If you're registering yourself and one or more friends, please be sure there are enough seats at your table for everyone before completing your reservation so you can sit together.

Table hostess registration ended October 31. If you haven't signed up to host a table and would like to, please reach out to our church receptionist, Shannon Harrell, as table hostess signups will no longer be on the website. We will take table hostess reservations for the remaining tables, with payment due by November 9. You can purchase these as whole tables for $85.00, or pay $12.00 with open seating for the other seats at the table. If you purchase a whole table, please provide the names of those sitting at your table at the time of purchase. Any table seat without an assigned name will be opened for general seating reservations.

The Women's Fellowship is excited to sponsor this beautiful event! It's a wonderful way to start the Advent season, so bring a friend or two! The event is open to the community, but space is limited, so sign up early! We look forward to seeing you there!

Fraud Awareness & Scam Prevention

Tuesday, November 10 @ 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an informative presentation by Trisha Green, Community Outreach Manager for Martin County Sheriff's Office. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated every day, and anyone can become a target. Learn how to recognize and avoid digital fraud, identity theft, and other common scams. You'll hear about crime trends in our area and receive practical tips to protect your personal information and finances. The program will take place from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at PCPC in Langill Hall. All are welcome! This free event is open to the community.

MomCo: Good Company

by Kelly Raiford, Mentor Mom Coordinator

MomCo met for its second meeting on October 20. Several moms gathered in Langill Hall for dinner, fellowship, and to embrace the evening's topic: creativity. We were excited to be back together and greet new moms to our group! Stuart Pediatric Dentistry provided our dinner, and it was delicious. This practice sponsored a dinner last year and has asked to support us again this year.

Kelli Jordan's devotion led us to recognize that one of the first things we learn in scripture is that God created us in His image. Because we are made in the image of the Creator, we have creativity in our bones. God even invited people into the creative process by asking Adam to name the animals (Genesis 2:19). Kelli's devotion helped us see that encouraging creativity in our children is easy; however, moms often feel guilty when we pursue something that takes time away from our families. Yet God gives us gifts we can use to create beautiful or meaningful things that refresh us and help us better care for the people we love. Kelli pointed out barriers to why we may feel a lack of creativity, but we should make time, move ahead, and embrace the creative spirit God gave us!

So, we embraced that creativity and, as a group, painted fall pictures of pumpkins. Laughter, fellowship, and sharing among the moms filled the room as everyone painted, and the moms relaxed as they took time out from the ordinary to do something extraordinary. I'm sure these paintings are in their homes and will remind them that God's gift of

creativity is truly a blessing and something to be encouraged!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 17, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Langill Hall. Dinner and childcare are provided. If you are not a current member but want to check us out, please contact the church office or visit the website to register. Signing up helps us plan dinner and provide childcare coverage.

MomCo at PCPC is blessed to have Jennifer Osborne, our children's ministry specialist, leading our kids during meetups. We are looking for others to help her as our group is growing! If you know a teenager who would like to help, or if you would like to volunteer one night, please reach out to Jennifer or Katie Pryor, our interim director of children's ministry.

Hope to see you on Tuesday, November 17, for a Thanksgiving-themed get together!

Women's Fellowship Bunco Night Recap

by Kelly Raiford

The Huizenga Family Life Center buzzed with laughter and fellowship on Friday, October 16. A great group of ladies of all ages joined us for our first Bunco night. Those who had never played Bunco learned quickly, and those who had played before enjoyed learning the "PCPC" house Bunco rules! Between rounds, we gave out door prizes and enjoyed refreshments. Dianne Samueloff was our big winner, with the most tallies. Thank you to Wanda Rosello's team (Judy Scott, Kristine Gunn, Margie King, Marlene Cross, Jane Shubert, and Sharon Pierce). Their dedication made this event extra special! A big thank you to James McLeod and staff for handling the setup and breakdown. And as always, we are so grateful to Shannon Harrell and Kelly Tullidge for their administrative assistance. Their behind-the-scenes support helps our events run smoothly. If you missed out, rumor has it there might be another Bunco night in 2027, so keep an eye on the Women's Fellowship event calendar so you don't miss it again!

NEW MEMBERS

Open House

Our 2026 new members and their families are invited to drop into Langill Hall from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship. Enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to meet others who have recently joined PCPC.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 @ 10:40 AM

PCPC Members, please join us for a brief congregational meeting at 10:40 a.m. in the sanctuary for the election of new elders and/or deacons, as well as the congregation's representatives on the 2027 nominating team.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

by Rev. Bryan Wenger

Thanksgiving was celebrated in November before the original 13 colonies became a nation known as the United States of America. It became a national holiday when George Washington was asked in 1789 by both houses of Congress to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Not to be missed in Washington's proclamation is this: "also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions." In addition to giving thanks to Almighty God, Washington is recommending humility and confession of sin!

My prayer for each of you is a restful Thanksgiving season with your family and friends as you reflect on how Jesus has "blessed you to be a blessing!" And with humility, continue to thank God for the way He continues to mold and shape you into the child of God He has called you to be.

From Deuteronomy 26:1–3, 9–11 (NIV):
When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

JESUS IN GALILEE, BETHLEHEM, & JERUSALEM 2027

Have you ever wanted to visit the Holy Land, walk where Jesus walked, and see where many biblical events took place? Would you like to go with a group that desires to grow in understanding the Bible and encounter the Living Lord in His Land? Pastor Bryan is beginning the initial planning towards a Holy Land pilgrimage in November 2027. Interested in learning more? Join us for an informational meeting!

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
6:00 p.m. in Langill Hall

HOLY LAND TRIP

PCPC Men's Event at the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center Recap

Last month, men of PCPC gathered at the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center, with catering by the Martin County Boys & Girls Club. Guests explored the center's coastal exhibits that highlight Florida's ecosystems. Our keynote speaker, Executive Director Mark Perry, shared how God intricately designed Florida's interconnected waterways, from Lake Okeechobee and the aquifer to the Indian River Lagoon, emphasizing the vital role seagrass beds play in sustaining marine life. Thank you to all who attended. Thank you to John Nelson for capturing the event with the photos below.

Shepherds Breakfast Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Shepherds Breakfast last month! It was a wonderful opportunity to connect, celebrate this longstanding PCPC ministry, and learn more about how our approximately 60 active shepherds care for their flocks through prayer, welcoming members at worship, and sending greeting cards. Established in 1984, the Shepherd Program continues to ensure that every church member has someone looking out for them. We're grateful for all who serve in this meaningful ministry and welcome anyone with a caring heart to get involved.

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Sunday School 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 10:45 a - HS Youth	**2** 4:30 p - Youth Pickleball 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics	**3** 10:00 a - Caregiver Support 4:00 p - Deacons Meeting	**4** 10:00 a - Bible Study 4:30 p - Middle School Youth 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics	**5** 7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir	**6**	**7**
8 8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Sunday School 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 10:40 a - Congregational Meeting 4:00 p - New Member Open House 5:00 p - Confirmation Class	**9** 4:30 p - Youth Pickleball 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics	**10** 4:00 p - Fraud Awareness Program	**11** 10:00 a - Bible Study 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics	**12** 7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir	**13** 6:00 p - Children's Ministry Friendsgiving	**14** 9:30 a - Nature Walk
15 8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Sunday School 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 10:45 a - HS Youth	**16** 4:30 p - Youth Pickleball 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics	**17** 10:00 a - Caregiver Support 6:00 p - MomCo	**18** 10:00 a - Bible Study 4:30 p - Middle School Youth 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics 6:00 p - Holy Land Info. Meeting	**19** 7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 10:30 a - Grandmothers & Others 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir	**20** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	**21** 9:00 a - Prayer Breakfast
22 8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Sunday School 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School	**23** 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics	**24**	**25**	**26** 7:30 a - 15th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run/ Walk & Kids Fun Run	**27**	**28** 9:00 a - Advent Decorating at PCPC
29 8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Sunday School 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 5:00 p - Confirmation Class	**30** 5:00 p - Walk Aerobics					

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Traditional services at 8:20 & 11:00 a.m.

Contemporary service at 9:30 a.m.

MBS - Men's Bible Study | WBS - Women's Bible Study

CBS - Community Bible Study

Stay UP TO DATE!

www.palmcitypres.org

If you have an article for the next newsletter, please email it to our editors at newsletter@palmcitypres.org by the deadline listed on the calendar page. Please write "Newsletter Submission" in the subject line and attach any photos you'd like to include.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship • 7:00 p.m. Traditional Worship

Sharing life together

as Christ transforms us by His Truth

PALM CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sharing life together as Christ transforms us by His Truth

2700 SW Martin Highway, Palm City, Florida 34990
772-286-9958 | www.palmcitypres.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Traditional Services
8:20 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

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

Our worship services are livestreamed on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on YouTube and our website.