



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Open your heart, Grow in God's Love, Reach Out to the World*

## PRESBY PRESS - OCTOBER 2017

### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*Matt. 20:1-16 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching*

*heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

I sat there waiting for the Doctor to come in. He was a young man, about my age, and arrived with my blood results. My blood pressure was finally controlled with meds, as was my cholesterol. He was not his jovial self, in fact he was quite serious...almost sad. "Ken, did you fast for your blood work?" I responded, "Yes, of course." Now looking even more glum, "That is what I was afraid of...You have diabetes. You have to go on Meds." I asked him if there was anything I could do to reverse this...lose weight, eat right and exercise...the standard response...the standard answers...

It is something that could have been prevented...If I only knew...it would have been simple...just keep up the life style I had when I was younger and Zambowango...no diabetes. Well, problem solved! If only you had told me this sooner! Consider it done. Would that it

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS CONTINUED

were so simple.

If only that homeless people standing idle with cardboard signs on the corner had known. Maybe if working 40 hours a week meant you had health insurance, a living wage and access to affordable housing. If that person's kids only had wonderful childcare. If only that "Just right job" was readily available and accessible and that there would be public transportation to get to and fro. This problem of idleness, the homelessness, the hunger, the poor health would have been preventable, is preventable, reversible...Zambowango...just go to work. Well, if only they knew this truth sooner. Consider it done!

Too many times we tend to focus on being idle in Jesus' teaching. Sometime we lose sight of the true meaning of the teaching. You and I really want fairness, a level playing field, the worthy get the prize and the unworthy...well they deserve less. "I worked hard for 40 years, missed family events, gave my all and you mean that 22 year old just coming on board is going to make as much as me! Seriously? While they were partying I was working diligently. While they were having a grand ole time I was missing the baseball games of my kids. While they were at the football games tailgating I was balancing books, working on special projects, making the company money, sacrificing...yes sacrificing! Seriously?"

But here is the thing: Jesus' teaching, his parable, isn't about idleness at all. It really

is not about the laborers, the ones who go to work early or the ones who go at the end of the day. It is about the windfall ... the abundant gift of grace from GOD. It's about God taking care of us, all of us and the question begs to be asked, "Aren't we the ones that get more than we deserve?"

I sign my letters and notes this way as it reminds me every time correspond that I don't deserve any of the goodness that has come my way; a loving spouse, wonderful family, incredible volunteers, committee members, Elders and a most loving congregation:

**Justice is when you get what you deserve...**

**Mercy is when you don't get what you deserve...**

**Grace is when you get what you don't deserve...**

Every time we are tempted to size up who is idle and who should be on the receiving end of generosity (God's or ours or others), we need to consider this parable and remember, we've gotten not what we deserve, but what God has generously given: mercy, grace, forgiveness, salvation. It's about God's abundant and everlasting love and in the end, it's about our reaction, response and what we do with that love and gift of grace in serving and answering the call God makes of us.

Peace,

**Pastor Ken**  
ken@fpclc.org

## MUSIC NOTES

**Tim Redding**

The music ministry is back to our regular schedule of rehearsals and events, including Wednesday rehearsals, weekly anthems by the choir and band, and monthly handbell offerings.

We have a couple of special services in October, including World Communion Sunday and Reformation Sunday/All Saints' Day. World Communion Sunday, a day to celebrate Christian unity, takes place on October 1st. Reformation Sunday, October 29th, will also serve as our All Saints' Day service: we'll have the Scottish tartans set up around the sanctuary to commemorate the heritage of the Presbyterian denomination; we'll read the necrology for the year and ring a bell for each departed saint; and we will have special musical offerings from returning bagpiper Mr. Tim Akins, of Brunswick, GA.

Advent is fast approaching, and the choir has

already started working on the Christmas cantata, which will be presented in worship on December 17th. This year's cantata is called "Night of the Father's Love: The Awe and Mystery of God with Us" and is written and arranged by Pepper Choplin. The excitement of the Savior's birth is captured in a Christmas mosaic that combines fragments of familiar carols with unique words and music, ranging from an energetic Celtic style, to a simple folk melody, to the lush imagery of a ballad. If you are interested in singing with the choir for the cantata, it will be the first thing we rehearse on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in participating in music ministry in any capacity at First Presbyterian Church of Lake City, please feel free to call the church office at 386-752-0670 x13, or email Tim Redding at [tim@fpclc.org](mailto:tim@fpclc.org).



### **UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES**

World Communion Sunday - October 1  
Reformation Sunday - October 29

**Invite family and friends to join you  
as we enjoy these special worship services.**

# COMMITTEE NOTES

## CHRISTIAN ED - Marty Fraser, Chair

We have openings for volunteers in the following areas:

**Hall Monitors** for the Education Building during the Sunday School hour (9:00am to 10:20am).

**Sunday School Teachers** for both children and youth. We would like to have enough teachers to allow them to rotate Sundays. Currently, we have 4 teachers for ages 4 years old thru 12th grade. Ideally, we would like to have 10 Sunday School Teachers.

**The Christian Education Committee** needs someone who will report on Life Groups. The committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm in Room 104.

**PKW Volunteers** to do story time, crafts and snacks. Storytellers are scheduled monthly. Snack and craft people are scheduled weekly. Storyteller requires some prep time; snack and craft people have setup right before worship. Curriculum and supplies are provided.

If you feel called to any of the above, please call Marty Fraser at 386-752-4963. Leave a message and I will call you back. Thank you.

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## COMMUNICATIONS - Rod Sutton, Chair

I know that you might be thinking .... "Why is this coming from the Communications Committee?"  
PERSONALLY, I FEEL WE HAVE HAD THE ULTIMATE COMMUNICATION FROM GOD!  
GOD has communicated GOOD, BETTER and BEST news.

The **good news** is: GOD gave us the information to know "IRMA" was coming and it was going to be very damaging. GOD gave us time to plan for it.

The **better news** is: GOD did not tell us to build an Ark and gather all the animals two by two.

The **best news** is: GOD showed us that GOD has an ongoing plan for our future. GOD blesses us no matter what we have recently endured.

But... here is the **ULTIMATE NEWS**...GOD STILL CALLS US TO PASS ON THIS BLESSING TO OTHERS.

In preparing for "IRMA" we purchased extra things, from various stores, that will now be put on shelves, in cabinets, behind closed doors, and not used in the near future...they will just sit in the dark collecting dust. GOD shines the light for us to see that there are people who need these things now! We can take these things out of the darkness and bring them into the light and put these items in the "Blessing Box" outside of the Administration Building and help people immediately. GOD has blessed us all.

**Remember, the light at the end of the tunnel is not a train. It is GOD showing you the way out.**

# COMMITTEE NOTES, Continued

## YOUTH - Rod Glass, Chair

The youth (and any other members who want to participate) will be installing the landscaping at the newest Habitat for Humanity house in Fort White on Saturday morning, October 14th.

Jordan and Bonnie Greene will be leaving the parking lot of the church by 8:30am to take anyone who wants to travel down with them. Landscaping of Habitat houses is a project that Mr. Mont usually coordinated, and in the past, our church has had a good showing.

The address of the home is: 231 SW Gastonia Court, Ft. White.

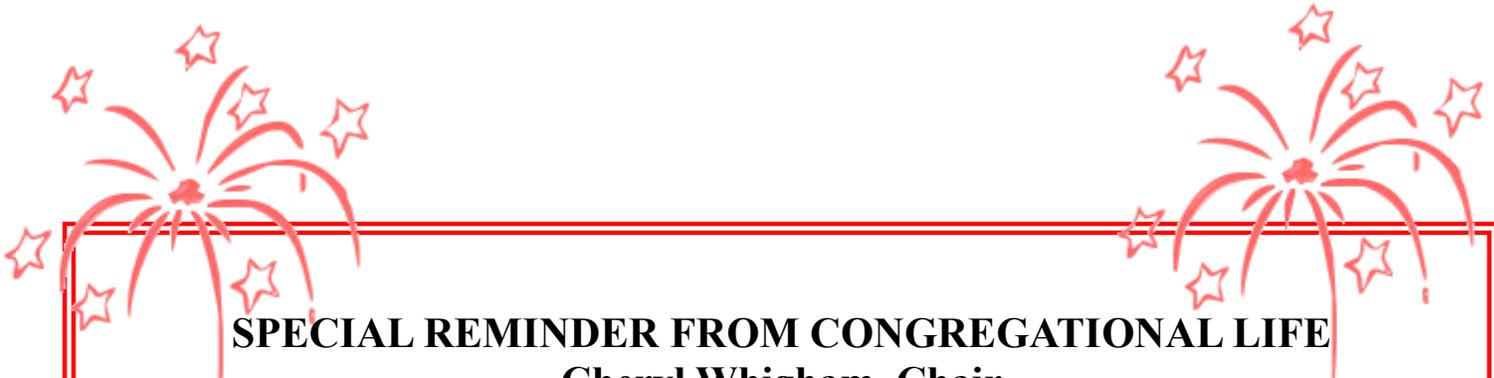
### Directions From Lake City

Take 47S. Turn left on SW Elim Church Road and go about 1 mile.

Turn right on W. Old Wire Road (just before Elim Baptist Church) and go about ½ mile.

Turn left onto SW Poormans Place about .2 mile.

Turn right on Gastonia Court.



## **SPECIAL REMINDER FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE** **Cheryl Whigham, Chair**

Our committee has been working hard to plan the ultimate  
**"JAMES MONTGOMERY APPRECIATION DAY"**

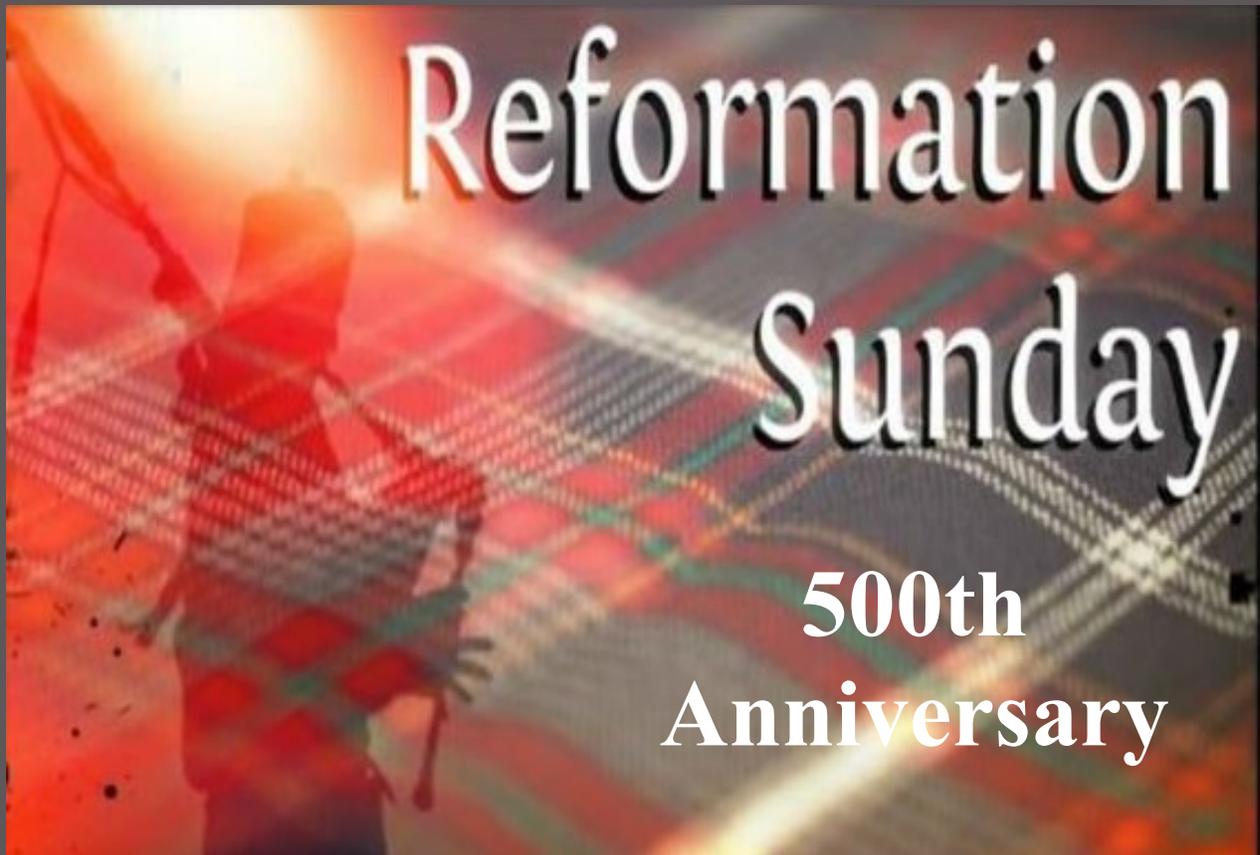
If you haven't heard, the day will begin at the worship service on Sunday, September 24th at 10:30am and continue with Fellowship after the service. THEN, the community-wide festivities will begin at 3:00pm at the Columbia County Fairgrounds with presentations starting at 3:30pm.

Please join us, and the whole community, to thank this man for his service to FPC, and for the impact he's made to this county. If you need a ride to the fairgrounds, please call Cheryl Whigham before noon on Saturday. Phone numbers are 386-752-1161 or 386-395-3246.

# **World Communion Sunday**



**October 1, 2017  
10:30am**



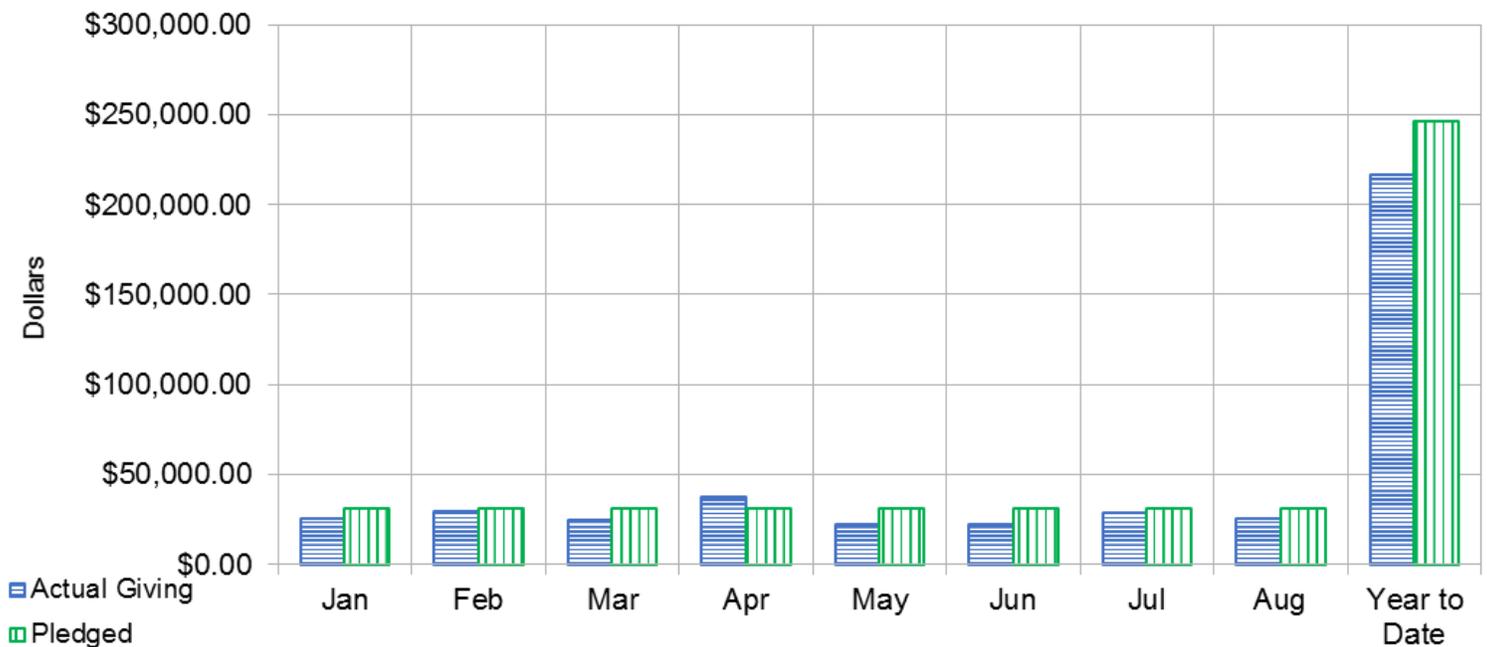
**October 29, 2017**  
**10:30am**

*Why bagpipes on Reformation Sunday? After Martin Luther set the Protestant Reformation in motion, John Calvin of Geneva began the branch of Protestantism known as the Reformed Tradition. His student, the Scottish reformer John Knox, used Calvin's teachings to start the first churches that were truly "presbyterian" – that is, governed by non-clergy elders – in Scotland. The Presbyterian Church in the United States is the direct descendant of the Church of Scotland.*

**MONTHLY REPORTS - AUGUST 2017**

<b><u>Finances</u></b>	<b><u>August</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
Contributions	\$28,421.88	\$257,832.52
Expenses	-\$29,077.75	-\$261,865.06
Excess/Deficit	-\$655.87	-\$4,032.54

Actual Giving Compared to Pledged



# THIS AND THAT

## FROM THE MAILBAG

First of all, I want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers. I can give you this update on my current situation. I take the dialysis at the kidney care clinic on US 90 West three days a week; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. After each treatment I am completely zapped and feel really bad for a day or 2...and then it's time for another treatment! I look forward to the Sunday I can join you in worship. I am only using my cell phone now. My number is 386-965-0640. God bless all of you,  
*Rufus Ward*

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It is with much appreciation and gratitude that I thank all of you for your continued prayers and support during my treatment for leukemia. You, my church family, have been there for me during this five month journey and have also offered your love and encouragement. For this I am indeed thankful. I am truly blessed! Praise God! Praise my church family! With heartfelt appreciation, *Linda Yocum*

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To my wonderful church family...it has been an honor to serve as your Bookkeeper/Accounts Specialist for the past 10 1/2 years. I will miss you all but will still see you in church. The reception after church was a big surprise and what a great day it was! A special thank you to those who prepared and served the delicious food. The get-together with all the volunteers who keep the office running was so much fun and I loved it when we put the tables together so we could all be together. The hanging decoration with a butterfly for each volunteer meant so much. Thank you to the staff for making it such a pleasant work environment in the office and my gratitude to the church for the beautiful Bible.

Love to all, *Grace Moore*

### **August Attendance**

August 6 - 150      August 20 - 158  
August 13 - 143      August 27 - 145

## **Greetings from Troop 85**

Troop 85 appreciates all the support the First Presbyterian Church has provided us. Without your help, we would not be able to partake in any of our Scouting adventures. Thank you.

As you are reading this, the Boy Scouts of Crew 85 will be hiking the Philmont trail in New Mexico. They will be hiking approximately 77 miles over the course of eleven days. A trip to Philmont is a once in a lifetime adventure, where Scouts from around the world travel to experience the sights and rugged terrain.

Our very active Troop 85 also has roughly 12 boys scheduled to attend summer camp later in July. Summer camps are valuable learning experiences for the Scouts, teaching them everything from Archery to Robotics. Not only that, but there is plenty of fun to be had by the Scouts attending. They can look forward to a week of learning Scout ways and summer fun.

Last but not least, we have two Scouts attending the Boy Scout Jamboree which will be held at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia in July. This National Jamboree is held every four years at this location. They will be joining approximately 45,000 other Scouts, leaders and staff. There will be an abundance of exciting activities for these two Scouts, which include whitewater rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, skateboarding, BMX, shooting sports, and zip-lining. This will be a great learning experience as well.

As you can see, we are taking full advantage of our summer by engaging in team building activities and having fun with many other Scouts from all over the country and even the world. Thank you once again for supporting Troop 85. We will continue to update you on Troop 85's newest adventures.

Yours in Service, *Joshua Cohen* Troop 85

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## **PW Deborah Circle**

Deborah Circle will be meeting at Helen Taylor's home, 131 SW Captains Glen at 10:00am on Tuesday, October 3rd. The lesson will be led by Joan Goodrich.



Julianne Blalock	10/04			Gene & Nan McNeill	10/04
Bobby George	10/06	Mary Rowe	10/16	Jim & Tere Free	10/06
William Roberts	10/06	Don Baggett	10/17	Greg & Patricia Stuart	10/17
Tandy Carter	10/07	Stephen Benson	10/18	Tom & Ann Brown	10/20
Lucy Hall	10/07	Abby Mann	10/20	Michael Smith & Mary Russell	10/20
Gene McNeill	10/07	Luke Stanziani	10/22	Robby & Rebecca Murray	10/23
Abby Hale	10/08	Marty Fraser	10/23	Milner & Jan Osborne	10/23
Faye Womeldorf	10/10	Harrison Ambrose	10/25	Michael & Mackenzie Smith	10/27
Jean Dannecker	10/11	Michael Sexton	10/25		
Betsy Pottle	10/12	Becky Hall	10/27		
Carol Newton	10/13	Pat Kime	10/27		
Jennifer Blevins	10/14	Judy Brown	10/28		
Ann Brown	10/14	Noah Lindsay	10/28		
Carole Brown	10/16	Diane Ellis	10/30		

**Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary.  
May all your days be filled with love, joy and happiness!**

## **SERVING THIS MONTH**

### **Ushers - Vern Lloyd, Captain**

10/01 Joe & Sharon Persons  
Carole Brown  
10/08 Olivia Adams, Nan McNeill  
Don Christensen  
10/15 Herb & Diane Ellis  
Judy Benvenuti  
10/22 Charles Kime, Nick Whitehurst  
Frank Hadley  
10/29 Larry Elshoff, Tommy Whigham  
Carol Newton

### **Ed Building Greeters**

10/01 Mike Kennon  
10/08 Betsy Pottle  
10/15 Milner Osborne  
10/22 Larry Elshoff  
10/29 Nick Whitehurst

**Video - Chris Pottle**

### **Sanctuary Greeters**

10/01 Judy Benvenuti  
10/08 Nancy Howe  
10/15 TBA  
10/22 TBA  
10/29 Nancy Howe

### **Liturgists**

10/01 Herb Ellis  
10/08 Pam Graves  
10/15 Lucy Hall  
10/22 TBA  
10/29 Noah Lindsay

### **PowerPoint**

10/01 Pam Graves  
10/08 Evie McCrady  
10/15 Evie McCrady  
10/22 TBA  
10/29 Carol Verducci



**COMING SOON**

**Stewardship Sunday**

**Join us as we kick off our 2017**

**Stewardship Campaign**

**with a**

**Tailgate Luncheon**

**Watch for more details!**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**WEBSITE**

[www.fpclc.org](http://www.fpclc.org)



**FACEBOOK**

<https://m.facebook.com/FPCLC>



**YOUTUBE**

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCXUaLBvmX7NdDtOL9UXT36g>



**LIVE STREAM**

<http://livestream.com/accounts/17282172>

