

THE NAVIGATOR

DELTONA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."
(Matthew 3:1-3)

DECEMBER 2025

- *Church Calendar & Events p. 2-3*
- *Pastor's Corner p. 4-5*
- *Pathways to Prayer p. 6*
- *Mission News p. 7-8*
- *DPC Monthly Mission p. 9-10*
- *Fun Zone p. 11*
- *Prayer List p.12*

2300 HOWLAND BLVD. DELTONA, FL. 32738

386-789-3200

EMAIL: DELTONAPC@GMAIL.COM

SETTING THE COURSE

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*



SUNDAYS

9:00 a.m. - - Choir practice

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

MONDAYS

9:00 a.m. – Baggers – Prep for Food Pantry – Meets in the Library, 9AM

TUESDAYS

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Food Pantry – Fellowship Hall –Tuesday December 9th & 23rd

WEDNESDAYS

3:00p.m. – Choir Practice

THURSDAYS

10:00 a.m. – Women’s bible study – December 4th, 11th, 18th

7:00 p.m.- AA –Room 1, FLC December 4th, 11th, 18th

FRIDAYS

OFFICE CLOSED

Treasurer’s Report – October

INCOME	\$18,606.22
EXPENSES	\$18,368.43
MONTHLY Net income	\$ 237.79

Don't Miss Up Coming Events

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	Boy Scout Meetings, FLC
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri	Girl Scout Meetings, FLC
December 1	ROMEOS, Dennys, 9AM
December 8	Finance Team Meeting, 10AM
	Buildings & Grounds/Security Team Meeting, 11AM
	Care/Missions Team Meeting, 12N
December 9	Food Pantry, 9AM-11AM
December 14	Planning Team Meeting, 11:45AM
December 17	Session Meeting, 4PM
December 23	Food Pantry, 9AM-11AM
December 25	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS</i>

DECEMBER Mission

See page 9

Thank you to our Veterans



PASTOR'S CORNER

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)



RECOVERING THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

By Rev. Dr. Carmelo Mercado, ChFC

For more than three decades, I have approached the **Christmas season differently**: with no debt-accumulation, no guilt-inducing gifts, and no sacrilegious commercialization of the Advent season (which encompasses the four Sundays preceding Christmas Day). By the way, “Merry Christmas” actually begins on December 25 and continues through January 6 (Epiphany or Three Kings Day). Please do not let the supermarkets know about this (!)—even though, in much of Latin America, January 6 is in fact the most celebrated day of the season.

Since Christmas is a birthday celebration (even though its exact date is uncertain), Christians are invited to honor it joyfully through acts of kindness that genuinely reflect the life and teachings of its Founder. Historically, one of the earliest symbols for Christ was formed from the first two capital letters—**Chi (X)** and **Rho (P)**—of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (*Christos*). It is also important to remember that, in the ancient world, writing materials such as papyrus or parchment were expensive and scarce. Because space was limited, scribes frequently abbreviated sacred words. The abbreviation “**Chr.**” For “Christ” appears in numerous manuscripts for this very reason.

This context helps us understand the long-standing use of “X” (*Chi*) as a reverent shorthand for Christ. Far from being a modern attempt to remove “Christ” from “Christmas,” the term “**Xmas**” has been used in Christian contexts for many centuries—at least as early as the 1500s. Therefore, it is a fallacy to assume that “Xmas” is a secular attack on the faith. Rather, it reflects an ancient Christian tradition rooted in Greek language and manuscript practices.

In our pluralistic society, it is also appropriate and respectful to say, “**Happy Holidays**,” especially since approximately 29 “holy days” are observed by 7 major world religions between November 1 and January 15. Their observances matter as well, and acknowledging them reflects **generosity of spirit** rather than a diminishment of Christian identity. As imitators of Christ (XP), Christians are called to demonstrate an open, inclusive, forgiving, accepting, and loving predisposition toward all people—regardless of their creed, color, culture, condition, or circumstance.™ That is the real meaning of Christmas—and the true spirit of “Xmas.”

Christmas is not about feeling pressured to buy gifts, overspend, or fall into debt. Rather, it is a solemn and holy Christian celebration grounded in generosity, kindness, compassion, and tolerance. These virtues are not seasonal obligations but **year-round expressions** of the Gospel—and our world needs them now more than ever.



PATHWAYS TO PRAYER

“Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5)

To Us A Child is Born Isaiah 9:1-7

Never less, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan. (2) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned. (3) You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. (4) For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. (5) Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. (6) For a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (7) Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Questions to Ponder

1. When were you most in need of or grateful for a flashlight?
2. When have you gotten up early to greet the sunrise?
3. What “dawn of a new day” are you anticipating on this year's calendar?
4. What is the purpose of his reign in your life? In the world?
5. What does it mean that there will be no end to the “increase and peace” of his reign?
6. How has he shattered some of the “yokes that burden” you?
7. What is one yoke that you desire to have him shatter now?

THE MISSION FIELD

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37)

Dear Partners in Christ,

November 2025

This month we ask for prayers . . . lots of prayers . . .

Please pray for the chaplains as they do follow-up on the male inmates that made a decision for Christ.

Please pray for the funding of the new maintenance building for The Homes.

Please pray that we can get permission from the city to continue to be able to put RVs behind the Edgemon building.

Please pray that we can get permission to remodel the old school into apartments.

Please pray for the Jackson, Michigan property.

Please pray for the renovations that need to be done at the Ethos360 Bible institute and the finances needed for that.

And lastly . . . pray for our country, our officials, and our government during these momentous times.

Amen

Judi Nordaas, 212 Brazil Ct, Sanford, FL 32771, judi_nordaas@ntm.org

Update from Joyce & Jerry McDaniels, Ethos 360



Dear Friends of Deltona Presbyterian Church,

We are so very thankful for the gift you sent for our ministry. It means so much that you are partnering with us!

We have exciting updates and prayer requests from two of the locations where we recently worked. In June and July, we were in Colombia and wrote literacy curriculum in the Nukâk language. This work has been very difficult because of many factors (very difficult tonal language, very remote location, nomadic people group, sickness, terrorist activity). But after 50 years of faithfulness through many setbacks, God has made a way! The language is written down; the alphabet is proven which paves the way for Bible translation to begin soon. The missionaries just started the first ever literacy class with a small group of men.

These men have a real desire to learn to read and write in their own language. Pray for them as they work so hard. Pray they (and the missionaries who are teaching them) will not get discouraged. The hope is that out of this group, some of them will be future teachers for others.

And then in August and September, we were in Brazil and wrote literacy curriculum in three different languages. One of these is the Deni language. The missionary team is also using the new literacy materials for the first time. One elderly man named Leo is really having a hard time putting the sounds and letters together. He is very motivated, but not making much progress. Would you pray that he could make some headway? Pray that Nathaniel, the missionary who is teaching him, would have creative ideas on how to encourage and teach. It is wonderful that through the internet we can have contact with these teams that are days and days travel by river up the Amazon.

In His hands,
Jerry & Joyce

Please continue praying for our Global Missionaries: Stocks/Interserve; Stoschers/Alongside; Hersman/Wycliff and McDaniels/Ethos 360

DPC MONTHLY MISSION

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

December Mission

Pantry Donations – canned corn, peas, green beans, & carrots

Cereal, canned fruits and soup, spaghetti



Food Pantry Statistics October

Families Signed In: 226

Total Household Members: 1063

Total Number of Bags Distributed: 1128

New Families Registered: 40

DPC November Mission

Thank you to all who donated to our Operation Christmas Child and the Thanksgiving Baskets.

A total of 47 boxes and 18 baskets were donated.

*Again . . . an awesome job by our members!!
Thank you!*



THE FUN ZONE

"God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." (Genesis 21:6)



Christmas

WORD SEARCH



SANTA	E	D	F	R	D	E	M	T	U	R	P	L	Y	T	R
GINGERBREAD	Q	P	A	Z	E	V	T	I	H	N	K	T	J	E	A
ELF	A	A	E	E	K	E	X	U	R	O	S	J	T	O	G
FROSTY	Q	S	B	D	R	F	D	U	R	O	Z	N	D	I	Y
HOLIDAY	I	E	C	C	N	B	W	N	R	K	I	L	F	G	X
BELL	P	L	T	R	H	I	R	F	I	W	E	T	A	R	O
CAROLS	E	D	Q	C	O	R	T	E	G	E	S	Y	R	D	O
WINTER	X	N	M	H	I	O	I	R	G	N	R	C	X	S	N
TREE	Q	A	K	T	O	F	G	S	E	N	G	O	Q	C	U
FAMILY	B	C	X	S	V	L	A	E	T	E	I	F	S	A	F
REINDEER	T	X	C	A	T	G	I	M	A	M	H	G	L	R	L
JOY	R	L	U	H	R	O	A	D	I	O	A	Y	E	O	E
SCROOGE	K	X	H	I	T	L	C	F	A	L	Z	S	I	L	G
CHRISTMAS	H	D	N	Z	G	A	L	K	L	Y	Y	D	G	S	N
ANGEL	B	C	E	W	Q	J	E	E	I	P	O	F	H	A	A
CANDLES	H	L	F	F	J	F	T	R	B	N	A	E	G	N	V
STOCKINGS	V	Z	L	Y	R	I	A	P	W	D	G	V	Z	T	E
WREATH	E	E	Z	R	G	G	N	Q	G	Z	B	S	U	A	Y
GRINCH															
SLEIGH															
TURKEY															
GIFTS															

FELLOWSHIP PRAYER LIST

<u>MEMBER CONCERNS:</u>	<u>MEMBER FAMILY & FRIENDS:</u>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Joan David</p> <p>Bernie Pitt</p> <p>Paddy Martin</p> <p>Will Euverard</p> <p>Kathy Hall</p> <p>Bud Schwarz</p> <p>Sarojini Persaud</p> <p>Dottie Grenier</p> <p>Jeannie Logan</p> <p>Pat Chartrand</p> <p>JR Scafidi</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Dorothy Thielman</p> <p>Teresa Narsh</p> <p>Elaine Brown</p> <p>Virginia Topping</p> <p>Bob Stevenson</p> <p>Audry Ostwald</p> <p>Ray & Tracilyn Panek</p> <p>Fran David</p> <p>Don Loveless</p> <p>David Lathrop</p> </div> </div>	<p>Meg & Caitlyn McCormick (Family of Cheryl Bladt)</p> <p>Barbara Miller (Karen Tegge's mother)</p> <p>June & Gene Perry (Larry Perry's wife and son)</p> <p>Sadie Fisher (friend of the Clucks)</p> <p>Rick's brother (friend of Angel)</p> <p>Robbie Ross –</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL:</u></p> <p>Army:</p> <p>Cory McClure (son of Connie McClure)</p> <p>Clayton Herriford (Grandson of Emil R. Newby)</p> <p>Air Force:</p> <p>Tyler Conner (nephew of Connie McClure)</p>
<p><u>PERMISSION IS REQUIRED TO PUBLISH A NAME ON THE PRAYER LIST. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE OR PASTOR WITH PRAYER REQUESTS</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GRIEVING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Family of Dorothy Thielman</p>

December Birthdays

If your birthday is not listed here, please contact the church office to provide the date!

Connie McClure

Dec. 4

Wanda Lingenfield

Dec 13

Karen Tegge

Dec 15

