

THE NAVIGATOR
DELTONA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



1. The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. 4. So, Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out from Harran., (Genesis 12:1-4, NIV)

March 2026

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be
the
set

2300 HOWLAND BLVD. DELTONA, FL. 32738

386-789-3200

EMAIL: DELTONAPC@GMAIL.COM

*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 March 3rd, 17th, 31st

WEDNESDAYS

3:00p.m. – Choir Practice

THURSDAYS

10:00 a.m. – Women’s bible study – March 5th, 12th,19th, 26th.

7:00 p.m.- AA –Room 1, FLC -- March 5th, 12th,19th, 26th -

6:30PM – Bible Study, Library

FRIDAYS

OFFICE CLOSED

INCOME	\$36,576.46
EXPENSES	\$21,972.00
MONTHLY Net income	\$ 8,664.46

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Don't Miss Up Coming Events

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	Boy Scout Meetings, FLC
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri	Girl Scout Meetings, FLC
March 2	ROMEOS, Dennys, 9AM
March 3	Food Pantry, 9AM-11AM
March 8	Planning Team Meeting, 11:45AM
March 9	Finance Team Meeting, 10AM
	Buildings & Grounds/Security Team Meeting, 11AM
	Care/Missions Team Meeting, 12N
March 9-12	Rummage Sale donation drop off, 9AM-1PM
March 13 & 14	Rummage Sale, 9AM – 3PM
March 17	Food Pantry, 9AM-11AM
March 25	Session Meeting, 4PM
March 31	Food Pantry, 9AM-11AM

March Mission

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Pastor's corner

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

Scripture is

ROOM TO GROW

Rev. Dr. Carmelo Mercado, ChFC

Have you ever experienced grace? Most of us have, even if we do not always call it that. If you use a credit card, you have a set number of days to pay the balance in full—and it is wise to do so! Life insurance policies offer a similar concept: policyholders are typically given a 30-day extension to make a premium payment before coverage lapses. That leeway is often called a “**grace period**”—a pause that allows for recovery, renewal, and a second chance.

In **Luke 13:6–9**, we encounter a parable about a fruitless, unproductive, or barren fig tree that speaks to this same idea of grace. A landowner notices a fig tree planted in his vineyard at a privileged and fortunate spot in his backyard, and not in some dusty, deserted road. But it has not produced fruit for three years. Frustrated, he decides it should be cut down because it is taking up valuable space.

To the shock of the landowner, the **gardener speaks up**—not to defend failure, but to advocate for possibility. He takes the side of the worthless tree against his boss: “Let me give this tree another chance. Let it live for one more year. Maybe the tree will change.” After one year, the axe will come out of the shed and no further negotiation will be possible. He will cultivate the soil, tend to its needs, and give it every opportunity to flourish. The story ends in a cliffhanger—without telling us whether the owner accepts the gardener’s offer. The story, like life, remains open.

The parable invites us to reflect on grace. Was the tree unproductive? Yes. Was it occupying space? Yes. Did the owner have the right to remove it? Yes. Yet the gardener sees something more than the present moment. He believes that **what has been** does not have to determine **what will be**. His actions are guided not only by efficiency, but by his heart. The gardener planted, watered, fertilized, and watched the tree grow. He did not want to lose it or leave the tree’s recovery to chance. He wants to save it, not condemn it. His purpose is restoration, not dismissal.

This story challenges **how we see one another**. It asks us to consider: Who do we quietly decide is not worth the effort? Who do we label as beyond change, beyond hope, or beyond belonging? Our tendency is to say, “No figs, no fruit, useless, wasting soil—cut it down!” Grace calls us to resist those conclusions. Like the gardener, it invites us to say, instead, “Do not cut it dead just yet. Let there be time. Let there be another chance.”

For communities everywhere—and for anyone seeking to live with compassion—this message is deeply relevant. Every person carries unseen struggles, untapped potential, and the capacity for growth. **We do not all flourish on the same timeline**. Some seasons require deeper tending.

Time is not limitless, but the authority to declare someone’s story finished does not belong to us. The parable reminds us that transformation is possible, that patience can be an act of love, and that **no life should be reduced to a single season of barrenness**. Grace is the space where growth becomes possible. And the story of the fig tree assures us: the work of renewal is not finished yet—with any of us!

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PATHWAYS TO PRAYER

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

God’s Covenant with Abram Genesis 15:1-21

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward. 2 But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “you have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” 4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars, if needed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as a righteousness. 7 He also said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” 8 But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” 9 So the Lord said to him, “bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram,

each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” 10 Abram brought all of these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the lord said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in four hundred years. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

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17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates 19 the land of Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites”

Questions to Ponder

1. How do you reassure someone your word is good:
 - a. Cross your heart and hope to die?
 - b. Give scout's honor
 - c. Involve your lawyer
 - d. Invoke God's seal
2. Examples of the last time you went stargazing. How did you feel?
3. What does Abram fear most?
4. In adopting a servant heir, is Abram faithful or faithless?

5. How is "faith" related to righteousness?
6. What did the cutting of animals signify? The blazing torch? The fire passing between the cuts?
7. Why does God initiate such legal contracts with his people?
8. Where in your life do you need God to say "Do not be afraid, I am your shield, your very great reward?"

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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,

February 2026

Thanks for all your prayers and gifts and notes,

The photo below is a brick retaining wall that many of the over 30 snowbirds/volunteers have been making in the last month. We at ETHNOS360 are so thankful for all the time these retired people have come to help and with their help they are helping the translators get the Scriptures to the Tribal people in over 30 counties we are working,

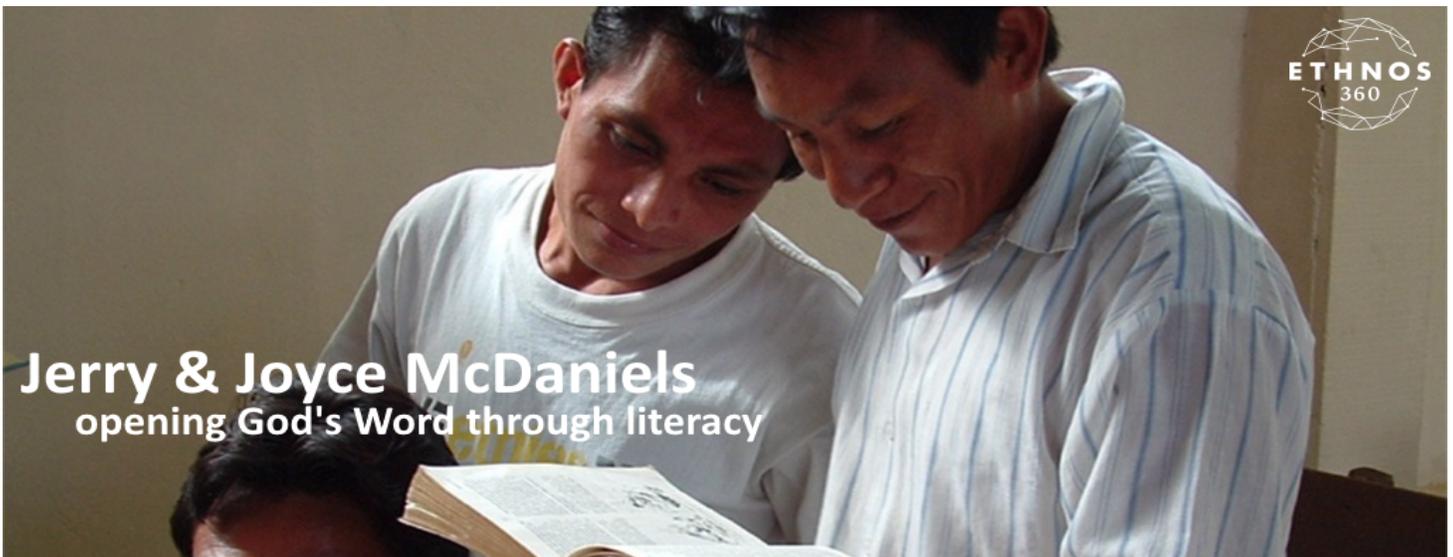
Continue to pray for the inmates in this facility of February 14th of 1500 men and 60% are lifers and there were 150 men in solitary confinement, there were 18 of us and 5 monocytes that prayed for many of them and at the end day 12 came into the circle and were prayed for either to receive Christ or renew their faith. This place was Hardee which is in the town of Bowling Green about 3 hours south of Sanford, FL, we all were helping ROOT (Running Out Of Time) prison ministry to have tables full of English or Spanish Scripture and Daily Bread and other materials that can help in their Christian Walk with the Lord.



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

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Update from Joyce & Jerry McDaniels, Ethos 360



Where we're headed...

This literacy workshop will take place in a small, high elevation community in the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico. The terrain is forested and remote, with winding dirt roads. We're told the days are mild and the nights can be quite cold, with big temperature swings between sun and shade. Packing will definitely be an adventure—we'll be relying on lots of layers. After our flights into Mexico, we'll join part of the team and travel together about five hours by road to reach the community.

How you can pray:

- **Last steps before departure:** Wisdom as we work through the final language questions and packing.
- **Journeys:** Smooth connections and safety on the flights and the road trip into the Sierra Madre.
- **Workshop days ahead:** Creativity as the team writes stories; good health and restful sleep; unity; and strong connections with the community, missionary team, and the consultants. That we'll keep time in the Word a priority, even with busy days and long evenings.
- **Hearts ready for God's Word:** Open hearts as people take these steps toward reading the Bible—soon to be translated into their own language.

Jerry & Joyce McDaniels



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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)

March Mission – Annual Rummage Sale

March 13 & 14, 9AM – 2PM

Donations can be delivered

March 9 – 12, 9AM – 1PM



Food Pantry Statistics February

Families Signed In: 253

Total Household Members: 999

Total Number of Bags Distributed: 1057

New Families Registered: 32

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February Mission – Walk at Gemini Springs for Cancer

Thank you to those who came out and walked with us. The weather was beautiful! We had a great time, and fellowship after at Perkins. So far \$900 has been donated . . . awesome job DPC Family!!!



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THE FUN ZONE

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

Name: _____ Date: _____



WORD SCRAMBLE
DIRECTIONS:
Unscramble each set of letters to discover a vocabulary word relating to the fun-filled month of March.

CNSTIE _____

TEYBUFLRT _____

TPCAIRK _____

REENG _____

RDGENA _____

REWOFL _____

IKET _____

RAMHC _____

IGNSPR _____

PAARDE _____

YDNWI _____

PCHRAUNELE _____

OLERV _____

LOOMB _____

KULC _____

SRTAEE _____

ROWNABI _____

CICPNI _____

MHCROSKA _____

ESSOAN _____

FDOFDIAL _____

QXUNOEI _____

SBAAKETBLL _____

ODROTOS _____

MEMBER CONCERNS:

<i>Joan David</i>	<i>Bernie Pitt</i>
<i>Teresa Narsh</i>	<i>Paddy Martin</i>
<i>Elaine Brown</i>	<i>Will Euverard</i>
<i>Virginia Topping</i>	<i>Kathy Hall</i>
<i>Bud Schwarz</i>	<i>Audry Ostwald</i>
<i>Sarajini Persaud</i>	<i>Ray & Tracilyn Panek</i>
<i>Dottie Grenier</i>	<i>Fran David</i>
<i>Jeannie Logan</i>	<i>Pat Chartrand</i>
<i>David Lathrop</i>	<i>JR Scafidi</i>
<i>Bill Morgan</i>	

MEMBER FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Meg & Caitlyn McCormick (Family of Cheryl Bladt)
Barbara Miller (Karen Tegge's mother)
June & Gene Perry (Larry Perry's wife and son)
Rick's brother (friend of Angel)
Robbie Ross

ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL:

Army:

Cory McClure (son of Connie McClure)
Clayton Herriford (Grandson of Emil R. Newby)

Air Force:

Tyler Conner (nephew of Connie McClure)

**PERMISSION IS REQUIRED TO PUBLISH A NAME
ON THE PRAYER LIST. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE
OR PASTOR WITH PRAYER REQUESTS**

GRIEVING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES

Hall family – loss of sister
Stevenson Family

March Birthdays

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

Joann Burns	March 1
Andrea Tover	March 7