

The Home Visitor

“By Another Way” Rev. Dr. Jeff Beebe

January is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, endings, and doorways. The month’s name comes from the Latin word Ianuarius, meaning “month of Janus,” as he was depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions – one at the past and one at the future.

That is where we once again find ourselves, individually, and as a community of faith as we watch the New Year’s Eve Ball drop, as we celebrate the ending of one year and welcome the year ahead. As the clock strikes midnight and the world ushers in 2026, people around the world will sing Scottish poet’s Robert Burns 18th-century Scottish ballad *“Auld Lang Syne”* about *“old acquaintance be forgot”* allowing one to reflect fondly on the past as well as the beginning of something new.

Baptism equally looks back at the past as it points to what is ahead as the old life, our old way is no longer and a new life, a new way is begun. I firmly believe that the Biblical account of the Three Kings encounter with the Christ-child changed their lives, in the same way our lives are unmistakably changed, made new, offered a hopeful, peaceful, joyful, and loving newness in Christ. For they, the Wise Men, *“having been being warned in a dream not to return to Herod departed to their own country by another way”* (Matthew 2:12).

This new way for you and for me is one that begins with what the Advent reminded us of in the Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love that was brought forth by the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who journeyed with us in our past and promises to guide us into the future, yes, this day and every day.



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SPECIAL NOTES

- 1/1 Office closed for New Years
- 1/4 Sunday-Ordination of Elders/Deacons
- 1/19 Monday MLK Day—Office closed
- 1/15 Thurs. Home Visitor Feb. article deadline
- 1/25 Sunday OBPC Annual Congregational Meeting

It is not over

*It is not over,
this birthing.*

*There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars.*

*When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we cannot imagine and won't believe.*

*Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel voices ...*

*“Do not be afraid;
I bring you good news of great joy for all the people!”*

—From Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem* (Westminster/John Knox, 1993)

I Stand by the Door by Sam Shoemaker

Sam Shoemaker (1893-1963) served as a pastor in New York City and Pittsburgh. He was instrumental in establishing the spiritual foundation for Alcoholics Anonymous, particularly the need to turn to God as a way of coming out of alcoholism. Rev. Shoemaker, toward the end of his life, wrote “I Stand by the Door” as an apology for his ministry. Perhaps this poem will help us understand to that which and to whom we are being called individually and as community of faith.

I stand by the door.

I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,

The door is the most important door in the world—

It is the door through which people walk when they find God.

There's no use my going way inside, and staying there,

When so many are still outside, and they, as much as I,

Crave to know where the door is.

And all that so many ever find

Is only the wall where a door ought to be.

They creep along the wall like those who are blind.

With outstretched, groping hands,

Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,

Yet they never find it . . .

So I stand by the door.

Submitted by Pastor Jeff

Following our Worship Service on November 23, we gathered for a potluck Gratitude Luncheon.
We had delicious food, warm fellowship, and created a Gratitude Tree. We colored leaves and acorns and wrote down things we were grateful for. The prompts were I'm grateful for...1) something having to do with your church/church family, 2) something small that you easily overlook or take for granted, 3) something big and unexpected that God provided that you didn't know you needed until it arrived, and 4) an unanswered prayer that turned out to be a blessing not to receive what you had asked God for.

A wonderful way to get our hearts and minds in the Thanksgiving mindset .





Our beautiful harvest table for Worship on Christ the King Sunday November 23!

A big thank you to Sharon Carter and Amanda Wilson-Stovall for their wonderful vision and work.

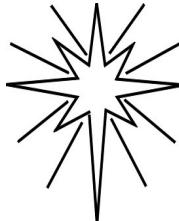
Thank you to all our helpers for bringing in the holiday season by decorating the Sanctuary, Narthex and Fellowship Hall!



Music Notes—January 2026

We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace.

*- The Center for Congregational Song is the resource and outreach arm of
The Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada.*



Thank you to all who participated in making the Advent and Christmas season one of beauty and joy. Singers, ringers, readers, and behind the scenes workers decorating and keeping everything running are all appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing generous gifts to the Choral Scholars Fund. After a much-deserved winter break, our Scholars will be back to sing with the Chancel Choir for the rest of the academic year. Three of our Scholars are Seniors and will be graduating in May.

You, the congregation, are our most important choir. We sing together each Sunday the poetry given to us through our hymns and carols. Thank you!

Now we come to the season of Epiphany. The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

January 4, 2026	The Epiphany of our Lord	Color: White
January 11, 2026	The Baptism of the Lord	Color: White
January 18, 2025	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Color: Green
January 25, 2024	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Color: Green



Consider travelling to Montreat, NC to attend the 2026 Worship & Music Conference. Everyone (Middle School to Adult) is invited! There are already 7 youth and 6 adults planning to attend. We have room for more! All are welcome!! Information is on the PAM web site (www.presbymusic.org) or from Barbara Larson

June 21—26, 2026





THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE CHURCH?

We have an **Inquiry Class** in room 12 following worship Sunday, January 11 where we will answer all your questions about the Presbyterian Church and what membership involves. For those desiring to join OBPC join us the following Sunday for worship, January 18 for the **New Member Class after worship** in room 12.



Epiphany Devotional & Dinner Wednesday, January 7, 2026 @ 5:30pm

All are invited to an interactive Epiphany Devotional in the Fellowship Hall.

We will share a meal together and then participate in a unique time of worship. Sign-up at the Sign-up Station in the Narthex or call the church office to let us know you will be attending 386-441-0300.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25 is an important day in the life of our congregation as we hold our Annual Congregational Meeting to review 2025 and look forward to plans and dreams for 2026.

The annual report, available in print and digitally by January 18th, will include reports of committees, statistics, and financials including the approved budget for 2026.

As a congregation we will vote on changes in the terms of call for our Pastor. The meeting will take place immediately following the 10:30am worship service in the Fellowship Hall, and all members are encouraged to attend. A Luncheon will be provided by our Deacons.



LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCH!

Our last lunch at Halifax Plantation in June was so successful, we have planned another on January 23, 2026 at 11:30am. Location is Halifax Plantation in Main Clubhouse, 3400 Clubhouse Drive, Ormond Beach.

Menu choices include: Roasted Beet & Feta salad \$15; Chicken cheese Steak \$17; Original burger \$17; Grilled Mahi \$17; (22 percent gratuity added) Individual checks for everyone!

Meet our latest members: Kamallie & Michael Gibby.

Here is their faith journey in Kami's own words:

We've lived pretty ordinary lives. Michael is from Los Angeles (the 2nd of 4 boys), and I'm from the Virgin Islands (the eldest of three, sis and baby bro). Somehow, both families ended up in Washington State, settling in Bellingham, where our paths eventually crossed.

Michael and I met on a whim during a random outing at an Indian reservation. It was a chance outing, but we walked away with the biggest prize of our lives. We've been together ever since building a life and a family side by side. Over the years, we have lived in California, Washington, and eventually followed God's leading us to Florida in 2018.

Our family is the greatest joy we know, especially since we were once told we couldn't have children.

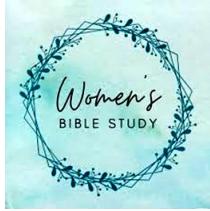
When we stop and think about it, it's hard to believe nearly eighteen years have passed—years filled with learning, growing, and getting to know the incredible children God entrusted to us. They remind us daily of His goodness and grace. The children are the icing on an everlasting cake. What once felt scary became our bravest step of faith. Trusting the Lord with our family size wasn't easy, but we knew deep down that offering ourselves to Him was the only thing we had to give, And he has been faithful

Michael and I have grown together through every season—becoming husband and wife, mom and dad, learning, changing and holding onto each other along the way. The only titles we carry are husband, wife, mom and dad and they are the only ones worth mentioning because they are what God created us to be. This has been our humble path. We remain grateful for God's faithfulness, trusting Him to continue writing our story one season at a time.



We are so excited to welcome Kami Gibby on as our new Nursery Attendant. She will continue to be supported and joined by Susan Barry and Bobbi Parisi as the Nursery Assistants. As you can see, they have their hands full with all of our precious littles.

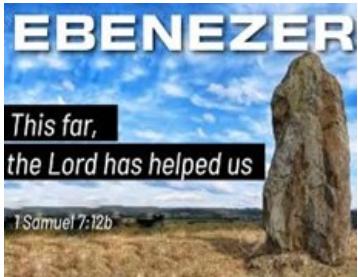




A delightful time at our Women's Monthly Gathering in December.
Delicious food, lots of raffle prizes, and a fun and inspiring video conference by Luci Swindoll from Women of Faith!



December Teen Night was lit. Literally, it was on fire. It was a chill night of sharing, games and s'mores. We shared the best Christmas presents we've ever received and ever given. Of course, we all know that the best gift giver is God and the best gift is His Son, Jesus. Amen!



WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT RETREAT-THEME:

What's Your Ebenezer? Marking the Moments of God's Grace

Who? All women are welcome. Invite friends, neighbors, family.

When? January 30-31. Arrive 5:00 pm Friday. Depart 6:00 pm Saturday

Where? The Retreat at Silver Springs.

Cost? \$95.00 Come be refreshed and renewed in your relationship with the Lord. Enjoy wonderful times of fellowship; delicious meals; campfire; prizes; talks; and the beauty of God's creation.

Registration and Brochures will be available in January.

Luncheon Celebrates Henry Logan-Keeping the kindness of Henry Logan alive was

celebrated on December 12, 2025, when the annual Henry Logan Lunch was held in the Haddad Fellowship Center. Thank you to those who helped with the celebration. Amanda Wilson-Stovall delivered the welcome prayer to nearly 70 attendees, 2c Hirumi served as master of ceremonies, and pianist Karen Hirumi entertained guests as they arrived.

Once again, servers donned red bowties to serve the meal, a delicious pork roast prepared by Sam and Patt Thomas. The luncheon concluded with a musical Christmas Pageant presented by Barbara Larson, Director of Music, who was assisted by Mary Johnson, Deacon. The Deacons coordinated the event that was captured with photographs by Amanda Wilson-Stovall.



The Advent Season isn't complete without the annual Lessons & Carols Worship Service!

It is always such a special service filled with music that helps to truly touch on the spirit of the season and pull on your heart strings. A huge thank you to our Chancel and Youth Choirs, Glory Bell Choir, and our Bethune-Cookman University Choral Scholars. Everyone worked so hard to bring this outstanding service to life. An extra special thank you to Barbara Larson, Director of Music for OBPC for the numerous hours she spent creating such a meaningful time.





We love our PB&J Brigade.

Every Sunday they come together to make bags full of sandwiches to deliver to Halifax Urban Ministries. This provides a second meal for unhoused people in our community each day. It is an important ministry!



Fun, meaningful, casual, inspirational, yummy, cool.... These are some of the words people used to describe their experience at our Advent Dinner and Devotional on December 10th. It truly was an inspiring time of fellowship with all generations coming together for a delicious meal, a simple craft, and a very special devotional service. Those in attendance could feel the Holy Spirit and the meaning of Advent and Christmas all around them. If you missed this opportunity, **mark your calendar to join us for our Epiphany Dinner and Devotional on Wednesday, January 7 at 5:30pm.**



We continue to lift in prayer OBPC Members.

Barbara Bowden	Phyllis Heller	Alma More	Marilyn Smarkusky
Charlotte Burge	Carol Helmendach	Jill Moscoso	Elizabeth Strong
Bruce Burge	Shirley Hinkle	Susan Parisi	Cindy Watkins
Ella Mae Chadbourne	Sherri Jarvis	Cynthia Pfleiderer	Gwen & Earl Williams
Aleta Dick	Burce Miller	Ray Piller	
Bruce Geelhood	Sue Mitchell	John Smarkusky	



We lift in prayer OBPC Families and Friends

*Carol McAndrew-Sister by Marilyn Smarkusky
Kimberly Pyne-Daughter and George Keefer-Friend by Sharon Carter
Mel Smith, Audrey Pentz, John Harkrader-Friends by Kirsten and
Curtis Finley*

Steve Struble-Friend by Bill and Bonnie Thompson

Hiro Hirumi-Father by 2c Hirumi

Betty Colburn-Mother by Sandy Johnson

Becky Krenn-Friend by Sue Kim

Jerry Bracken, Vince O'Conner, and Darlene Rathmell-Cousins by Mike Troutman

Jim Thiede-Nephew by Rosie & David Perry

Sylvia Engelbrecht-Friend by Kassie Manza

Kathy Miller-Sister by Debbie Strickland

Matthew Eaton-Son, Bonnie Warden-Mother, Lynn Baker-Sister, and Ali Owens and Carson-Friends by Heather Eaton

Lisa Pierson-Daughter, Elizabeth Gainsborough-Sister, Sharon Kitts-Friend by Arlene Clark

Matt Sweet and Brian Canard-Grandsons by Betty Canard

Brady Barry-Son, Trevin Barry, Henry Threatt-Grandsons by Susan Barry

Carolyn Kuehn and Alva Debiak by Candy Christman



Prayers for Our Community and World

We pray for healing and hope for our nation.

We have a Church Prayer Chain

Please call or text Candy Christman (386-956-5924) if you have a prayer request to lift up by our Prayer Chain.

DECEMBER
BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS



January Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

Following worship service on Sunday, January 4, please join us in the Haddad Fellowship Center to recognize all who celebrate a birthday or an anniversary during the month of January.

Desserts will be served.



January Birthdays

5	Derick Lecas	26	Heather Eaton
7	Andrew Lecas	26	Mary Kay Wagner
8	Evelyn Deahl	27	Linda Adkins
9	Beverly Bennett	27	Randy Pechin
12	Dave Wagner	28	Bonnie Thompson
15	Carolyn Williams	29	Susan Coleman
20	Marjorie Giuffre	31	Rhoda Little
23	Marilyn Smarkusky	31	Becky Navidomskis

 **Anniversaries**

5	Barbara & David McCurdy	61 yrs
10	Dave & Mary Kay Wagner	11 yrs
22	Michael & Norma Devine	59 yrs
23	Michael & Amanda Wilson-Stovall	11 yrs

O.B. Presbyterian Church JANUARY 2026

Every Sunday 8:45 Youth Choir, room 10; 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Library; 9:00 Adult Bible School, room 12; 9:30 Youth Sunday School, rooms 8,14; 10:30 WORSHIP 1st Sunday with Communion; 11:30 PB & J Sandwich Making, HFC; 11:30 Fellowship Coffee Time, HFC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				 1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	3 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMEN'S MONTHLY GATHERING, 12
 4 10:30 WORSHIP ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS 11:30 JAN. BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATION, HFC	5 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	6 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 6:30 DB CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL, 10	7 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, 12 5:30 EPIPHANY DINNER, HFC	8 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 9:30 PLANNING & STAFF MEETING, 12 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS 7:15 CHANTEL CHOIR, 10	9 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	10  9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 5:00 TEEN NIGHT, HFC
11 11:45 NEW MEMBERS INQUIRY, 12	12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 9:00 FINANCE MEETING, LIB 6:30 SESSION, 12	13 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 6:30 WORSHIP MEETING, LIB 6:30 DB CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL, 10	14 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, 12	15 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 9:00 DEACONS MTG, HFC 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS 7:15 CHANTEL CHOIR, 10 HOME VISITOR CUT OFF	16 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	17 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7
18 11:45 NEW MEMBERS CLASS, 12	19  OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 H.U.M Volunteers 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 6:30 C.E. MEETING, LIB	20 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 PROPERTY MEETING, LIB 11:00 FELLOWSHIP/ EVANGELISM LIB 6:30 DB CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL, 10	21 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, 12	22 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 3:30 WORSHIP PLANNING, LIB 6:00 GLORY BELLS 7:15 CHANTEL CHOIR, 10	23 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 11:30 LET'S GET TOGETHER LUNCHEON AT HALIFAX PLANTATION	24 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7
 25 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	26 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	27 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 6:30 OUTREACH MEETING, LIB 6:30 DB CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL, 10	28 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, 12	29 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS 7:15 CHANTEL CHOIR, 10	30 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT RETREAT AT SILVER SPRINGS	31 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7

Please note: Since printing of this calendar changes may have been made. We would like you to visit OBPC web site at ormondbeachpc.org for the most current calendar and for other current announcements.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff Beebe

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Ormond Beach Presbyterian Church

Dedicated to making disciples

Who are Growing to Know God and Living to Show God

FEBRUARY 2026 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Thursday, January 15

Articles can be left in the Church Office Home Visitor Mail Slot Box.

Whenever possible please use digital format—