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**W**hy do I love ECO so much?  
Many reasons.

Our denomination (ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) is passionate about the gospel. Its leaders understand that we are living in a post-Christian society, with the challenges and opportunities that brings. The vision of ECO is compelling and appealing. If we live out that vision, we will be faithful to the calling God has given us and possibly we will thrive in the new world in which we find ourselves.

I love ECO the way an immigrant loves America. Last year, I heard a talk by a Christian woman from Egypt. She and her husband, a physician in Mobile, had immigrated to this country many years ago. They are citizens now, and she gave us a fiery speech about how America is the greatest country in the world. Many Americans are patriotic, but someone who has lived the alternative can help us better appreciate what we have.

One thing I love about ECO is the Essential Tenets. What are the Essential Tenets? They are our most cherished beliefs. We have a four-page document that presents these tenets (beliefs) of our faith. These truths make us who we are. They are worth living by and dying for.

When I was ordained as a pastor, I had to take vows. One of the questions was:

“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?”

That's a mouthful! The reason for it is obvious, though. A Christian pastor ought to be a Christian and believe the things Christians believe. Otherwise, how could one be a pastor? Likewise, a Presbyterian pastor ought to believe the things Presbyterians believe. Of course, not every little detail can be spelled out. There are issues where Christians of good conscience can disagree. But there is also a core set of beliefs that are essential. Can you imagine a Christian pastor who doesn't believe Jesus is divine?

To my wonderful church family and friends — Thank you for your loving support during my recent emergency and recuperation. Your prayers reminded me that God listens and responds. The prayers, cards, phone calls, plants, flowers, candy, cookies, & pumpkin bread were kind and thoughtful gestures I shall never forget.

I reread the cards over and over to “hear” your message of hope and healing. Praise God.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Marcia Jakeway

# ANGEL OF THE MONTH

by Janet Sallman

We really should call our Angel of the Month, the Angel of the Year. He has been a member of PCPC for almost 20 years. For many of those years, he has been our sexton and has kept PCPC in tip-top shape. He always puts in more hours than required to make sure everything is in good working order, and his many talents have blessed the church infinitely.

If I had to pick one word to describe our angel, I would say “perfectionist.” Whatever he does, be it carpentry, electrical work, plumbing or being the night watchman, he does it to perfection.

That trait is exemplified on Sunday mornings when you see all the chairs in the Huizenga Family Life Center and Langill Hall lined up in absolute symmetry. He accomplishes this feat by using a laser beam to guide his placement of each chair.

Another passion of his is karate. He’s been involved in karate for over 50 years and holds multiple black belts in several disciplines. He not only practices karate, but for years shared his knowledge of this specialized training—teaching it to kids in the Huizenga Family Life Center. Even though his “don’t mess with me” outward persona might be manifest when you see him, he has a heart of gold and is always helping others in need. And while he



takes pride in his work, this is not a man with a prideful spirit. In fact, he sloughs off any gratitude for all he does. I’d like to thank our angel now for always giving his time, energy and talents to anyone who has ever crossed his path and been in need. Thank you so much, Bob Armstrong, our Angel of the Month.

P.S. We are praying for you, Bob!



# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Joanne Raulin,  
Principal Organist

The bell choirs of Palm City Presbyterian Church had a fantastic season this fall. The Kids Ring! choir has improved significantly and has some expert ringers in it. They rang in church in September and November. What a fun group they are!

The Bells of Praise choir has increased to 15 people! That is phenomenal. They rang in October and December. Our December 10th offering, "The Little Drummer Boy," was absolutely spectacular with the bells and Jay Spicer on percussion. What a beautiful offering it was to the baby Jesus!

A new bell choir, an offshoot of The Bells of Praise, was formed called The Twelve Bells of Christmas. This type of choir only uses the bells with tones from middle

C through the next octave and a half (12 notes total). Our group of 8 (7 ringers and a percussionist) rang at the 8:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve. They lent an especially festive note to the service. Bells at Christmastime are always welcome and appropriate.

The Bells of Praise (the adult bell choir) resumes rehearsals Thursday, January 4th at 5:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in joining is welcome.

The Kids Ring! bell choir resumes rehearsals Sunday, January 8th at 4:00 p.m., followed by pizza. We will add two new members this new year.

We will welcome everyone back "with bells on!"

- Joanne Raulin

## Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

April 19-22, 2018 at The Retreat at Silver Springs

Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a spiritual renewal weekend full of surprises. Those who have been testify to its life-changing potential. Pastor David Mauldin says, "I participated in Presbyterian Cursillo, which is very similar to Pilgrimage, both as a pilgrim and later as a spiritual advisor. Both weekends were powerful. I recommend Pilgrimage. In fact, I am going to be on staff as a spiritual advisor at the next Pilgrimage in April. I'd like to see more folks from Palm City there."

For more information: <http://floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org/>

## ECO National Gathering

The ECO National Gathering is happening January 23-25 in Houston, Texas. Our pastor, David Mauldin, will be going, along with two elder commissioners: Diane Graczyk and John Lillich.

How can you help? Pray for the National Gathering. We have a synod meeting this year and will be voting on potential changes to the Book of Confessions.

Follow the National Gathering online: <http://econationalgathering.org/>



## “Soles for Souls” Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mission Committee’s “Soles for Souls” Giving Tree project, benefitting the children at Gertrude Walden Child Care Center. The gifts of socks and shoes you provided were delivered to the center on December 20th. The children were thrilled, and they sang Christmas carols for their visitors from PCPC!



# The Impact of MOPS in Our Community

## A Welcoming Place for Moms to Meet Jesus

- A gathering place for every mom, from every background, with any story
- Offers moms a much-needed break to catch their breath and remind them who they are
- Connects Young Families to Our Church

## Connects young families to our church

- Provides encouragement, community and support specifically for new moms
- Promotes participation in the local church community

## Encouragement and Hope Shared in Our Neighborhood

- Positions the church to invite moms who are looking for the type of connection that MOPS provides
- Allows moms to become the best version of themselves, for their families and the people in their communities

## How can you help?

- Hold a cuddly baby during one of our meetings
- Play with the toddlers or preschoolers during one of our meetings
- Cook a meal for a new mom or for a family in crisis
- Share a skill like cooking, sewing, writing a will, Bible study, gardening, minor house repair, etc.

## Spring 2018 Meetings Calendar

- January 22
- February 12
- February 26
- March 26
- April 9
- April 23
- May 14

Contact Bridgette Hiler at (772) 284-6704 or Kristie Baldwin at (561) 440-0830 to get involved.



# Why do I love ECO so much?

-David Maudlin

cont'd from pg. 1

You're thinking, "That's crazy. It's like a square circle. Impossible!" But I saw it. When I was in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, we were voting on new members transferring into the presbytery. One candidate had caused contention in the committee on ministry. He was transferring in from another denomination, and he did not believe in the divinity of Jesus or the Trinity. A few pastors tried to say, "This is insane. How can we let this guy be a pastor in our presbytery?" But the committee chair pointed out that the guy had already moved and started work at a church. The Presbytery approved him despite a handful of no votes. Now you're wondering, "What about the essential tenets in the vow? Isn't the divinity of Jesus essential?" Of course! But here's the thing: When I was in seminary, I asked, "What are the essential tenets? Where can I get a copy?" They explained that in that denomination (our former one), essential tenets are a concept, not a document. I asked how people know them. They told me that each presbytery and session decides for itself what they are. I wondered how that is different from not having essential tenets. It turns out there is no difference.

By spelling out the Essential Tenets, ECO ensures faithful leadership and promotes unity within our churches. ECO's polity requires that anyone who holds a "significant leadership role" in the church must "agree with the Essential Tenets of ECO" [1.0305]. This means not only pastors, elders, and deacons, but also teachers, mentors, and others must be on board with the Essential Tenets. However, the Essential Tenets are not just for church leaders. Every believer ought to know what he or she believes and why. The Essential Tenets help. They are a powerful summary of the Christian faith.

They even offer something for those outside the church, whether they are seekers or skeptics.

The Essential Tenets explain who we are. They cast a vision of Christianity that is positive, loving, and absolutely committed to the truth of the gospel. In the Essential Tenets, I feel we have been given the best kind of treasure. The best treasure makes us wiser and stronger, and we do not lose

it when we give it  
away.

Want to learn more about the Essential Tenets? Are you curious what wonders this document contains? Excellent! Here are two things you can do:

1

Download and read the Essential Tenets. See the address below.

2

Come to the class I am teaching on the Essential Tenets, which begins in January. See the schedule below.

Find the Essential Tenets using this link:

[http://eco-pres.org/static/media/uploads/resources/Essential%20Tenets/new\\_format\\_-\\_essential.pdf](http://eco-pres.org/static/media/uploads/resources/Essential%20Tenets/new_format_-_essential.pdf)

## Schedule for Pastor David's Class on the Essential Tenets:

Saturdays at 10:00am in Lower Langill Hall

-  **January 6**      **Lesson 1: Introduction and Preamble**  
 What are the Essential Tenets and how do they help us?
-  **January 13**      **Lesson 2: Scripture**  
 How do we know the things we know?
-  **January 20**      **Lesson 3: Trinity**  
 Why do Christians believe God is One God in three persons?
-  **January 27**      **NO CLASS—PASTOR AT ECO NATIONAL GATHERING**
-  **February 3**      **Lesson 4: Incarnation**  
 Why do we believe Jesus is fully human and fully God?
-  **February 10**      **Lesson 5: God's Grace in Christ**  
 How do we get right with God?
-  **February 17**      **Lesson 6: Election for Salvation and Service**  
 What does God want me to do?
-  **February 24**      **Lesson 7: Covenant Life in the Church**  
 How do God's children work and play well together?
-  **March 3**      **NO CLASS—Pastor at Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage**
-  **March 10**      **Lesson 8: Faithful Stewardship in All of Life**  
 How do I honor God with my life?
-  **March 17**      **Lesson 9: Living in Obedience to the Word of God**  
 How does God's Law help me live into the freedom Christ gives me?

# Youth News

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

1 JOHN 3:1 NIV

New Year's is always a great time for celebration and reflection for both where we've been and what we've done. But it's also traditionally a time of reinventing ourselves, self-discovery and “making our selves the best us we can be.” Between the made and broken resolutions, and set goals and new ambitions, many of us set out to refine, redefine or redeclare who we are...or at least who we would like to be. In our new series, “Hello, My Name Is,” our youth will be discussing not only who we think we are, but who others think we are, and more importantly, who we really are—who God says we are—as we discover that our true identity is found in Him.

High school youth group will start back up Sunday January 7, 6pm – 8pm.

Middle School Youth Group will start back up Tuesday January 9, 4:30pm-6pm.

Our youth partnered with the PCPC Missions Committee in December to welcome and host the children from Gertrude Walden Child Care Center. The children sang beautifully at 2 services, and our youth entertained them with an interactive story (“The Grumpy Shepherd”), some crafts and a Christmas treat that was provided by the Missions Committee. Thank you Thelma Washington, Gertrude Walden Child Care Center, and all who participated in hosting them here at PCPC. Looking forward to next year, already!

To close out our 2017 youth programming, all of our youth gathered for our annual Christmas party, complete with “sledding,” “snowman building,” and “snowball fights”...as best we could for South Florida. Even Pastor David joined in on the fun. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people (and their families), and we pray that 2018 is filled with God's continued favor upon youth ministry at PCPC.

In His service and yours,  
Jason Pridmore  
Youth Ministry

## Upcoming Events:

DNow Retreat February 23-24: A weekend to grow in our faith as well as in our relationships with God and other Christians.

Middle School Youth Group meets Tuesdays 4:30p-6p (games, fun, food, and conversation)

High School Youth Group meets Sundays 6-8p (same as Middle School youth with twice the fun)

## Confirmation 2018:

If you are a 7th grade student (or older) or have a child who is a 7th grade student (or older) who has not been confirmed in the church and/or who just wants to explore their faith deeper, we want to invite you to join us at an informational meeting Thursday, January 11 @ 7pm at church. We will discuss the upcoming confirmation class, topics of study, times, dates, and expectations. If you have an interest or have questions, please contact Jason Pridmore (Director of Youth Ministry) @ 714-809-5065.

For more information regarding ongoing and upcoming youth events and activities:

 [fb.me/PCPCYouth](https://fb.me/PCPCYouth)

 [@pcpc\\_youth](https://www.instagram.com/pcpc_youth)



Enter this number  
81010

Text this message  
@pcpcyo





# We are restarting our Stephen Ministry Program

## What Is Stephen Ministry?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations.

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

## How Stephen Ministry Works

### Stephen Ministers

- Stephen Ministers are Lay caregivers trained to provide care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Once a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education.

### Care Receivers

- Care Receivers—People going through tough times who are being cared for by Stephen Ministers. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis.

Some important guidelines for this caring relationship protect both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister:

- The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential.
- Men are matched with men; women with women.

If you would like more information, contact the church office 772-286-9958. [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)



# GRIEF SHARE®

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to hide their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

When: Mondays 6:30pm - 8:30pm beginning 1/15/2018

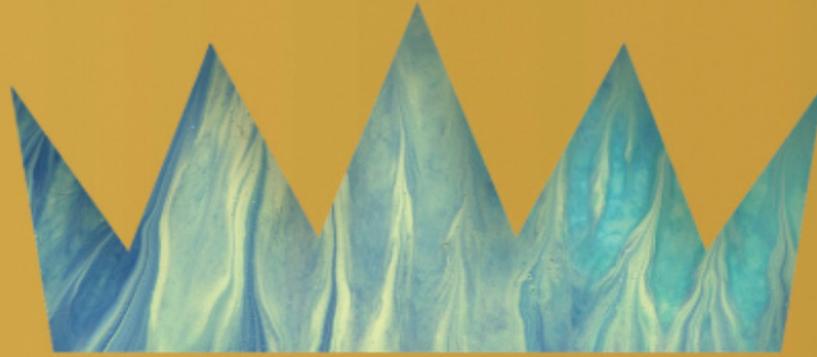
Where: PCPC Library

Cost: \$15.00 for the workbook, which covers the entire series of 13 weeks

Child care: No

Registration is not required, but preferred. To register, call the church office 772-286-9958.





Women's Bible Study  
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in Langill Hall

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# LEARNING TO LOVE THE PSALMS

a video series with Dr. Bob Godfrey

Adult Sunday School  
Sundays, 9:45 a.m. in Langill Hall

Beginnings: The Drama of

# CREATION

by Rev. Dr. Brad Klostreich





# Jesus' Favorite Book

January 7

Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
“Hear, O Israel”

Pastor David will begin the new year with a short series on Jesus' favorite book. In the gospels, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy more than any other book. “Jesus frees us from the Law, but the Law helps us follow Jesus,” Pastor David explains. “The Law guides and guards us as we live into the freedom Christ gives us.”

January 14

Deuteronomy 5:1-15  
The Ten Commandments – Table 1

January 21

Deuteronomy 5:16-22  
The Ten Commandments—Table 2

January 28

Jason Pridmore preaching

# January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3:45p Missions Committee 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	4 6:30a Men's Bible Study 3:30p Ping Pong 6:30p CBS 5:30p Bells of Praise 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	5	6 10:00a Essential Tenets Class
7 7:00p Confirmation Meeting to Jan 11 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 4:00p Kids Ring! 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	8 9:00a The Counters 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 7:00p Lillich Small Group	9 10:00a Staff Meeting 3:30p Membership Committee 4:00p Deacons Meeting 4:30p M.S. Youth Group	10 4:00p M.S. Open Gym 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	11 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Women's Bible Study 3:30p Ping Pong 4:00p P&A Committee 6:30p CBS 5:30p Bells of Praise 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	13 9:00a New Officer Orientation 10:00a Essential Tenets Class 1:00p Session
14 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 4:00p Kids Ring! 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	15 9:00a The Counters 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:30p GriefShare 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 7:00p Lillich Small Group	16 10:00a Staff Meeting 4:30p M.S. Youth Group	17 10:00a Finance Committee 4:00p M.S. Open Gym 5:00p Worship Committee 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	18 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Women's Bible Study 3:30p Ping Pong 6:30p CBS 5:30p Bells of Praise 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	20 9:00a Building & Grounds Work Session 10:00a Essential Tenets Class
21 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 4:00p Kids Ring! 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	22 9:00a The Counters 9:30a MOPS 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:30p GriefShare 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 7:00p Lillich Small Group	23 10:00a Staff Meeting 4:30p M.S. Youth Group	24 4:00p M.S. Open Gym 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	25 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Women's Bible Study 3:30p Ping Pong 6:30p CBS 5:30p Bells of Praise 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	27 Office Closed Essential Tenets (NO CLASS)
28 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 9:45a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Linger Longer 4:00p Kids Ring! 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	29 9:00a The Counters 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:30p GriefShare 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 7:00p Lillich Small Group	30 10:00a Staff Meeting 4:30p M.S. Youth Group	31 4:00p M.S. Open Gym 6:00p Gentle Fitness Exercise 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal			

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2017 Budget: \$1,129,988

Needed each month: \$ 94,166

In 2016

Received in November: \$ 74,351 \$ 100,460

Received as of 10/31/17: \$ 992,218

A year-end financial report for 2017 will be available at the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 28.

## Birthdays

1/1	Lauren Gandy, Willa Jo Mauger-Churchill	1/29	Doratheia Coblentz, JoAnne Kerr
1/2	Tyler Austhof, Mary Jo Boman, Scott Neff, Geraldine Strong	1/30	Lynn Church, Curtis Erickson, Noel Thomas, Macie Wiegerink
1/3	Lucas Johnson	1/31	Pat Doyle
1/4	Edna Aldrich, Kristie Baldwin, Barbara Drew, Glenn Hedden		
1/5	Emily Day, Jeanne Jarden, Lauryn Klostreich		
1/7	Bernie Kerr, Trina Ortiz, Rick Thorpe		
1/8	Jeffrey Johnson		
1/9	Flick Flicker		
1/11	Sarah Bangley, Jackie Smith		
1/12	Dot Coraggio		
1/13	Betsi Sossaman		
1/14	Fred Church, Frank Cramblitt, Carol Carsello		
1/16	Linda Mullen		
1/17	Laurie Bennett, Joseph Franco		
1/18	Rosemary Fitzpatrick, Linda Harlan		
1/19	Mary Gilmour, Pat Stuart		
1/20	Yendall Cioffi, Jill Duncan, Fred Prose, Dorothy Sempier		
1/22	Gary Ducote, Jeanne McCune		
1/23	Ginny Genthe		
1/24	Phyllis Keiser, Joseph Terech		
1/25	Christian Birkett, Emi Fineburg, Sarah Mullen, Jocelyn Olson		
1/26	Bob Armstrong, Laura Chasen		
1/27	Marty Kennedy		
1/28	Nora Hawgood, Michael Izzolo, Phyllis Kordick		

## & Anniversaries

1/2	Jim & Patty Swain
1/3	Ron & Karen Bartnick
1/4	John & Barbara Drew
1/7	Jim & Carolyn Scocca
1/15	Michael & Gretchen Dewey
1/23	Tamas & Elizabeth Zsoka
1/28	Doug & Alma O'Quinn
1/29	Dan & Janice Topping

## Worship Times

Traditional  
8:30 & 11:00 Sanctuary

Contemporary  
9:30 HFCL

2700 SW Martin Highway  
Palm City Florida, 34990

Phone: 772-286-9958

Fax: 772-286-9960

Email: [worship@palmcitypres.org](mailto:worship@palmcitypres.org)



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