

How the First Presbyterian Ukulele Church Band Got Started

as told by Steve E.

“Back in 2017 the Fender Guitar Company introduced some brand new ukulele models. The first couple of batches received by Jacksonville Guitar Center were defective. I called the manufacturer to complain and they said ‘No problem, we’ll send you replacements and you can just keep the defective ones.’

There was no need to throw the ukes away because I knew they could be repaired. I instantly thought we can use these to start a ukulele church band. I talked to Glenn F. about fixing the six ukes and starting a band.

Glenn had already built himself a couple of guitars and helping with the repairs was right up his alley. Glenn agreed to do the labor if I could supply the parts. The repairs involved changing out the tuning keys and doing some fret filing.

It all worked out as planned. The ukes were ready and it seemed pretty easy to get a few interested folks together to see who wanted to give it a try. Our first practice was on January 28th, 2018.”



The Ukulele Band's first practice on January 28, 2018

The first performance: "Jesus Loves Me" on March 18, 2018



During the COVID pandemic, the FPC Ukulele Band played for worship in the parking lot while maintaining safe distance between each family. Continuing to meet and practice as the rest of the world was shutting down, the band brought joy to many during a time of sadness and heartbreak. The music was broadcast via radio and each car in the parking lot could tune in to hear it on their radio as they watched the band play from a safe distance. Recorded performances were published online for those who could not attend. Music sheets were attached to the videos so people at home could play along, read the words, and practice the chords. [Watch this parking lot performance at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUa_7yVjZl4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUa_7yVjZl4)



This picture was taken after COVID-related space restrictions had eased

During the height of the shelter-in-place year of COVID from March of 2020 until May of 2021, Ukulele band members shared the ways they used their ukuleles at home to keep in practice and occupy the time.



The FPC Ukulele Band continues to bring happiness to people and lead us in worship to this day. Thank you to Steve and all of the members of the band for your offerings of time, energy, joyful expression, and openness to the ministry of God in Jacksonville.



**August
2023**

Communion: What Is It and Why Do We Do It?

St. Thomas Aquinas defined the sacraments as “a visible form on an inward grace.” Ordinary things like bread and wine (or grape juice) are made extraordinary by God’s love.

The Lord’s Supper is a sign and seal of our connection with Jesus Christ. In the Lord’s Supper, God’s grace is offered to all people. We are drawn into the presence of God and are united with the Church from all times and places. We remember the life of Jesus and we celebrate the feast that he offers at his table. The gifts of God are made visible as we use all of our senses to experience the bread and wine. God’s actions and ours are intertwined as we remember and give thanks for what God has done for us. As we have been fed and nourished, we commit ourselves to love and serve God and share the abundant love and grace of God with others.

As we take communion each month we remember our connection within the body of Christ. This Latin American song, taken from Ephesians 4:4-6, emphasizes our unity of revelation and discipleship through the Holy Spirit. MF



P.avel Danilyuk, Belarus, <https://www.pexels.com/@pavel-danilyuk/>

*We Are One in Christ Jesus
(Somos uno en Cristo)*

*We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body,
all one spirit, all together. (repeat)
We share on God, one mighty Lord,
one abiding faith, one binding love,
one single baptism, one Holy Comforter,
the Holy Spirit, uniting all.*

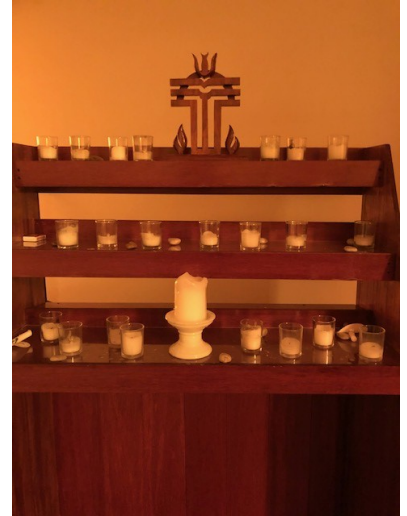
Text and Music: Anonymous

There will be a congregational meeting to elect a nominating committee after worship on November 12th.

All Saints' Day

November 1st each year is All Saints' Day. This year in worship we will celebrate All Saints' Day on November 5th. This is a day we celebrate believers of every time.

It's often a time for us to honor the faithful who have died during the past year in our own church communities. It's a day of gratefulness for those that have passed away who shared their faith with us, and a time to reflect on how we can continue to share our faith with others. If you would like to have a loved one named in worship, please contact the office or Mary Jane.



We have snack bags to distribute to those experiencing food insecurity. If you know anyone who needs them, please pick some up from the back of the sanctuary.

The **Confirmation Class** is doing a mission project on November 4th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. if you would like to participate please contact Mary Jane.

There will be a congregational meeting to elect a nominating committee after worship on November 12th.

The Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov 21st. All are welcome!

The Session will meet at 1 pm on November 18th.

Potluck November 5th!

Our next monthly Community Lunch/churchwide potluck will be on Nov 5th from 11:30-12:30. We will be serving a hot meal and friendship in a welcoming environment.

Want to Be Involved?

Bring a potluck dish to share. Plan to stay and break bread together with our neighbors so that they can feel the love of community as we have been blessed to know it. You can also sign up to help with set up, clean up or serving by using the sign-up sheet near the offering plate at church.



Help Us Spread the Word

Help us spread the word by sharing this information in places the local public might gather: other churches, community centers, the library, gas stations, and grocery stores. If you need flyers to hand out, please let us know!

Keeping God's House Clean

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month. We can do it if we all pitch in!

Our Worship Committee has again partnered with A Sanctified Art to provide us with devotional and worship tools for the Advent season. Here is a small sample of the beautiful materials!



Covering Our Church Ministries With Prayer

Please pray for:

- cooperation among churches and the government in Jacksonville to address the burgeoning needs of our people;
- families in need in our community and for the donors who have supplied food, water, toiletries, clothing, and bedding for those families;
- our Community Lunch Program, its volunteers, and the people it serves;
- the leaders of our city, church, and communities;
- teachers, bus drivers, students, and school employees, especially those in our city;
- our church family;
- youth of our city and state
- Jacelynn and Denisse M. as they complete their confirmation classes
- Our Ukulele Band and all our musicians, worship leaders, and speakers

Attendance for October

Oct 1: **35**

Oct8 : **27**

Oct 15: **27**

Oct 22: **25**

Oct 29: **TBA**

Preachers and Scriptures for Worship services for November:

November 5	Mary Jane	Psalm 43	Matthew 23:1-12
November 12	Rev. Maggie Alsup	Psalm 70	Matthew 25:1-13
November 19	Rev. Michael Vinson	Psalm 90:1-8, 12	Matthew 25:14-30
November 26	Jeannie	Psalm 95:1-7a	Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer Requests From **October**

Family of Barbara Monroe

Esp. Duke and Marc Monroe

Scottie Rand family

The Howze and Beach families

Harper P

Stu E

Buck and Beth B

Ron Q

Joe P

Matt F

William F

Puck the dog

Billie Ann M

Danielle and Ivan S

Pat (OTHG member)

Catherine C and family

All first responders

Katie W

John and Jeannie P

The family of Chuck L

The family of Chuck B

Elizabeth P

Ken B

Barbara P

Bob F

Baby Sadie Anne P

Paula P

Natalyia (in Ukraine) and family

All people of Ukraine

All people of Morocco

All people of Libya

People of Sudan

Those affected by both drought
and flooding

All victims of war and violence and
their families

Peace in the world



Nothing Can Separate
Us From the Love of God
Romans 8:31-39

Contact Us
1208 West Main St.
(501) 982-2876

firstpcjax@gmail.com

firstpresjax.com

*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out
your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your
heart to love.
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ on you.*

First Presbyterian Church
1208 West Main Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!