

Senior Pastor - First Presbyterian Church of Bartow



The timing has a touch of the divine . . .

Our pastor is retiring after 25 years. It's been a fruitful ministry. One that will remain significant in this church's substantial history.

We've been shut down for COVID. Socially distanced worship in person. Many still worship at home in bedroom slippers watching the live-stream. Fellowship limited. Church program mostly "on hold" but ready to awaken.

We've become acquainted with the impact that technology can have in today's church environment. It's been a lifeline in a time that could have been total isolation. It will remain with us as we proceed.

We sense Bartow's faith community all are at similar positions. We've been sidelined. The events of the moment dominate. Life has become isolated, siloed. Community and fellowship a memory. We need "revival". In our church. In our community.

We sense most people in our community have a loose grip on their faith journey if they have touch at all. The years ahead will be different from the years before.

So, the divine moment is here. We search for a pastor to fulfill our deep desire to come lead our church in continuing to make a difference in the years to come.



In Bartow, you will find an "open" community. We're a small town located in the center of the state between Orlando and Tampa. One high school. Love Halloween parades and "Friday night lights".

You will find a “hungry” community. We’ve missed our community fellowship. Park visits. Downtown festivals. Vacation Bible school, the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast and the Easter Crosswalk.

You will find a “growing” community. Developments are happening all around us. Bartow is reaching to touch the neighboring areas around us.

Our congregation is strong at its core. We are devoted members whose lives have changed because of experiencing a relationship with Jesus.

Through the ministry here we know Jesus, we grow with Jesus and we are willing to go further with Him and for Him.

Our deep desire is to have our church continue to make a difference in this community’s people in the same fashion it makes a difference in our lives.

We believe we have the ability to increase our impact. Our church is blessed. We have experienced great leadership from our pastor. We are a united congregation.

Our facilities have good bones. We have weathered the storm well financially, are debt-free and have the largest ever reserve in our history.

Our congregation has a record of service which extends through weekly feeding of the homeless and home bound, leading support of our church service center, involvement in the county-wide Walk to Emmaus Community and regular missionary efforts. Our ample reserves will enable new and expanded efforts in a post COVID world.

What we seek is a leader who has demonstrated success as a preacher. Who has demonstrated growth as pilgrim who knows Jesus and flourished by serving Him. Who has served faithfully as a pastor to those in the flock. Who has the energy and vision to lead us to new heights in this time of great need.

Our community is ripe for the harvest. The time is at hand. Come lead us.

THE CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church is located on the edge of the business community in the heart of Bartow's historic district. FPC is active in Community outreach and supports the Church Service Center, Women’s Care Center, interdenominational pastor prayer meetings, and in many other local ministries.

Our Mission

helping people to:

Experience . . .

a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,

Flourish . . .

grow in faith

Live . . .

their lives in loving relationship with Christ,

Minister . . .

to those outside the Christian faith.



OUR CHURCH BY THE NUMBERS

- 173 Members
 - Attendance: 50-60 each week in COVID times- socially distanced. 40-50 live-stream on Facebook.
 - 90% of members live within 15 miles of the church
 - Budget for 2021 is \$470,000. We regularly tithe our budget to outreach ministries in our community, the nation, and the world
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Our church was founded in 1882. In 2016, 98% of our congregation voted to seek dismissal from PCUSA to join ECO. We were dismissed gracefully, retaining full ownership of our property. We are debt free with significant reserves. We joined ECO on May 31, 2016.

Like most churches, COVID 19 has had an impact at FPC. Many of our church programs have been suspended or modified. We are “feeling” our way back to more activity and involvement.

We see that our church and the community needs are in flux. This “newness” presents a great opportunity to see God work in creating a vital church serving the needs in our community.



THE POSITION

Personal Characteristics:

- ◆ Leader
- ◆ Preacher
- ◆ Praying
- ◆ Pastor
- ◆ Heart for the Harvest

Requirements:

- ◆ Ordained in ECO or can be
- ◆ Master of Divinity
- ◆ Experienced relational leader prepared and eager to lead our community through a season of growth

Job Responsibilities:

- ◆ Head of staff: lead, oversee and support paid and volunteer staff
- ◆ Worship Leadership
- ◆ Disciple and moderate Session
- ◆ Pastoral Care

THE CITY

Bartow, a town of 20,000+ people, is the county seat of Polk County located in the very center of the State of Florida. Bartow's primary employers are light industry, county government, and retail sales.



There is a thriving, revitalized downtown business community consisting of independent restaurants, home goods and antique stores, gift shops (including Bartow Christian Books and Gifts), coffee shop, meat market, thrift shop, comic book shop, and local brewery. We are in a season of residential development and Bartow's population is projected to increase to over 25,000 by 2025 and over 45,000 by 2030.

Bartow is a family-oriented community with many public recreation facilities. These include outside bandshell, civic center facilities, public tennis courts, racquetball courts, pickleball courts, (all of which are lighted and free of charge to use), several softball and baseball fields (with highly-rated city-run recreational leagues for children), city parks, including Mary Holland Park which has over 100 acres with lakes, playgrounds, and picnic areas. Bartow also enjoys an 18-hole full length public golf course. Bartow also has two retirement communities for adults 55 and older adults.



Education facilities are good. There are three public and one private elementary school, one middle school, two magnet schools one of which covers K - 5th grade and the other 6th - 8th grade, and one high school. Bartow Senior High boasts an International Baccalaureate program and Summerlin Academy, a military academy, all students compete together in a first-rate athletic program. Several institutions of higher education are located nearby including Polk State College, Florida Southern College, University of South Florida Branch campus, Southeastern University, and Webber College.



Bartow has a 72-bed hospital, Bartow Regional, with extensive outpatient & emergency facilities. Larger communities-including Tampa and Orlando-surround us and assure more extensive medical care will be easily accessible if needed.

Cultural facilities and events are plentiful and available throughout the area. Bartow is home to the Polk History Center which is housed in the historic Old Polk County Courthouse. The museum consists of exhibits presenting local and regional history and a children's interactive history exhibit. The Center also includes the Polk County Genealogical Library. We also have a first-rate public library Bartow is ideally located to have access to everything big cities have to offer without the "big city problems."



Bartow is located in the humid subtropical zone. The normal climate pattern includes hot, humid summers with frequent afternoon thunderstorms and relatively drier and mild winters.

More information on Bartow:

- City of Bartow, (863) 534-0100, cityofbartow.net
- Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, (863) 533-7125, bartowchamber.com
- Main Street Bartow, (863) 519-0508, mainstreetbartowfl.com

HOW TO APPLY

Please send the following to PNC@fpcbartowfl.org

- ◆ Resume
- ◆ Statement of Faith
- ◆ Audio or Video Links to 3 Sermons

If you have questions that will help with your submission call
Howe Wallace, PNC Chairman, 863-581-1190