



Volume 25, Issue 4 April, 2025

Our Vision: To be a church fully Engaged in Reaching Up, Reaching In, and Reaching Out.



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Good Friday, April 18th Service 6 pm





Pop-Up! Tuesday, April 15th 7 - 8:30 pm for Jazz in the Alley



Artisan Alley, Downtown DeLand Bring a chair!

### www.fpcdeland.org

**Sunday Worship** 

Traditional Worship

8:00 am, Chapel

**Contemporary Worship** 

9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

**Traditional Worship** 

11:00 am, Sanctuary

Adult Sunday School Classes
10 am

#### **Last Sunday Each Month**

One Service @ 10:30 am, Sanctuary, followed by potluck luncheon

Live Stream Worship Services and Recorded Services available on our website facebook page, and YouTube page

## **April 2025 Calendar**

Adult Discipleship Team Meeting: Wednesday, the 9th, at 1:00 pm in the Middle Conference Room

Children's Discipleship Team: Sunday, the 13th, at 12:00 pm in the Art Room

Coffee Club: Wednesday, the 9th, at 9 am in Fellowship Hall

Finance Team Meeting: Thursday, the 10th, at 6:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

God's Bathhouse: Saturdays, the 12th and the 26th, at 9:00 am in the Courtyard -Mission Room (11B)

Men's Bible Study Group: Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am in Room 11C

Mission Outreach Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 8th, at 4:30 pm in the Mission Room (11B)

Personnel Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 8th, at 5:00 pm in the Small Conference Room

**Property Team Meeting**: Tuesday, the 8th, at 1:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

**PW Coordinating Team Meeting**: Monday, the 7th, at 9:00 am in the Large Conference Room

Session Meeting: Tuesday, the 29th, at 6:30 pm in the Large Conference Room

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless: Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the Mission Room (11B)

Student Discipleship Team Meeting: Wednesday, the 2nd, at 5:00 pm in the Middle Conference Room

Worship Team Meeting: Tuesday, the 1st, at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference Room

Youth Gathering: Sunday evenings at 5:00 in The Loft

Check the ShelbyNext Church Calendar for other events during the month.

### SHELBYNEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY & CALENDAR



\*\*\*Smart Phones, Tablets, or Computers\*\*\*
Call Alice in the church office for instructions.
It is EASY to access, and you will wonder how you
ever lived without it!

### **First Pres Name Tags**

Need a name tag? Contact Alice in the church office.

Everyone should have one!



# Michael's Message

Greetings and Salutations,

Easter arrives a little later this year and so as we step into April, we conclude our forty day journey through Lent and enter into Holy Week on April 13 (Palm Sunday).

Our daily devotional has afforded us the time to look at opening up spaces in our life whereby we can let in the Living God in. It has encouraged us to "pause" in the business and messiness of life and reflect on many aspects of what it means to live in this world. I hope and pray that you have (and will for the first two weeks of April) found it meaningful and insightful. Our accompanying Sermon Series has focused in on the fact that we all have stories to tell of the Living God's interactions with us as we live life today. Taking the scriptures and applying them to our world and letting others know that the Living God is alive and well and active in all of our lives. I encourage you to continue telling your stories to one another and those you encounter on life's journey.

On Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome onto our campus members of the church, school, and community as they come and participate in the Easter "Eggsperience." Led by the school this year, it is an opportunity for us to show welcome to one another and embrace the truth of Easter. Please plan on attending to share the love of Jesus.

The month begins with the Women's Retreat *Bee-attitudes* at the San Pedro Center in Winter Park, led by Pastor Casey. We pray for a wonderful time of learning, sharing, and fellowship for all those in leadership and those attending. For the men of the church, please stay on the lookout for an announcement during April setting a time for you to gather in fellowship with one another.

As Holy Week approaches, remain mindful of the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, both beginning at 6pm on their respective days. Both provide for the opportunity to step out of the hustle and bustle of daily life and sit for a while and reflect upon all that the living God has done for us before we celebrate the empty tomb and proclaim once again "He is Risen!"

Finally, on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, we will have a special music concert, *Music of the Easter Season*, performed by the Church Chancel Choir. Come and simply "be" and enjoy an array of Lenten and Easter offerings.

As always, as we are out in the world, be sure to look around, breathe deeply upon the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and then breathe out that grace on all you encounter – the world will be a better place for it.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Michael

# **Growing the Church**

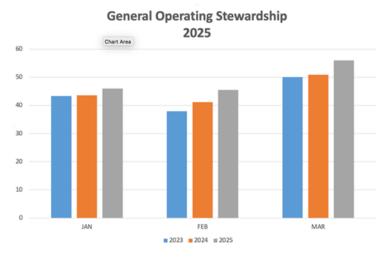


On Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>, we had the privilege of accepting our latest members to the church.

From left to right -

Cheryl Gausepohl, Doris Saffran, Terry and Sharon Pinder, Robert Raab, Peggy Mahoney, Jane and Conrad Collins, Cindy Maurer & Sandy DeLillo.

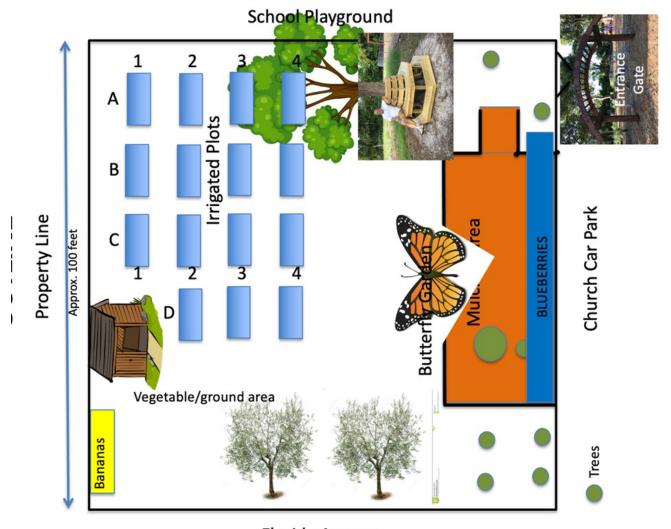
# **Financial Update**



As we entered into 2025, we did so with an approved budget of \$800,000, with an estimated income contribution of \$720,000. With our 10% mission tithe (\$72,000) now being allocated to the Hugh Ash Foundation for funding, this has left us with a \$728,000 Operating Budget. To meet this budget, we require a monthly income of \$60,667.

Above is the month-by-month comparison for the first three months of 2025 compared to the previous two years. Traditionally, we have always had a slow start to the year, when it comes to contributions, but as you can see above, we have started better this year than the previous two years. We are looking forward to a wonderful, fully funded 2025. Thank you all for your faithfulness and generosity.

# **COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRINGS FORWARD....**



Florida Avenue

After a time of mostly lying fallow, the Community Garden is once again moving forward. A word of thanks to those who have tirelessly toiled to keep the garden going and now to good effect. Please take the time to visit and see if the Spirit is calling you to become either a plot holder or just part of the general garden upkeep. The school has recently begun taking over a few of the plots, and others have stepped forward to once again create an oasis on the church campus. It's a great place to simply sit and watch the butterflies and birds (especially the pair of Pileated Woodpeckers that fly to and fro).

I am excited that the garden will once again begin to produce a harvest of food and fellowship. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Pastor Michael



### First Presbyterian Church is Certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation

by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2026. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Begun in 2010, this PC(USA) national program is celebrating fifteen years of certifying churches and celebrating environmental ministry across four major areas of a congregation's life:

worship,

education,

facilities,

### and outreach in the community.

One of the goals of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life.

First Presbyterian has served as an Earth Care Congregation for the past eight years with the Community Garden one of the first projects undertaken. There is so much more for us to be doing.

If you are interested in joining the Earth Care Team, please contact Pastor Michael. In the near future we will gather together those interested to plan out how we can continue to develop initiatives in the four areas of the congregation's life.

First Presbyterian Church feels grateful to be just one of the three hundred sixty one congregations in forty one states that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year.

### Casey's Corner

This year and last year the adult discipleship team has picked devotionals with the theme, *Pauses for Lent*. I have loved going through the daily devotions this year and really taking time to pause and reflect on the season of Lent. Why is it important to pause? We live in a world that is moving far too fast, and we have learned to keep up. I feel as though I am not moving or doing something -just wasting time lazily.



A couple years ago, I worked for a refugee center in Thessaloniki, Greece, working Monday - Thursday from 10am till whenever I felt like leaving. This drove me nuts! With no structure, people would leave after lunch or literally whenever they wanted to. I remember one morning I walked into the building and I saw a couple of people leaving the office space. They explained to me "We forgot the key, so we go home." I thought "Should I wait till you get back?" No! they meant for the whole day. Wow what a way of life!

So, I decided to explore the town with my surprise day off. It was lovely. With no schedule, I took time for myself. This taught me how important it is to have time to pause, to do something not planned, to take time for yourself.

This theme seems peculiar as we approach Easter with the busier church calendar. So I challenge us all to take time to pause. When we take time to pause, to reflect, or to listen, God's voice becomes clearest. As we approach Easter, and plan to celebrate the good news that Jesus has risen, let us become intentional with time to Pause.

### Presbyterian Women (PW) of First Pres DeLand

We held our annual Gathering for *Dedication of the BIrthday Offering* on March 8, 2025. Ladies who attended enjoyed a delicious brunch and had fun sampling six different cakes provided by the circles. Everyone enjoyed our interesting speaker, Dr. Jason Evens, Environmental Professor at Stetson University. Make plans now to attend the next Gathering, on May 3, 2025!

As we welcome Spring and look forward to celebrating the risen Christ, Presbyterian Women also look forward to some exciting events in April and May:

- The Annual Women's Retreat occurs on April 4, 5, & 6 at the San Pedro Center in Winter Park. We will enjoy fellowship, fun activities, and spiritual enrichment together in a beautiful setting.
- **Presbyterian Women Sunday** will happen on April 27, 2025 as Presbyterian Women participate in this blended service. We will present the award for this year's Honorary Life Membership with a fellowship after the service.
- **Dedication of the Least Coin Gathering and Ladies' Tea**, our last Gathering of the year, begins at 10:30 am on May 3, 2025. We will install officers for the coming year. We welcome all ladies to attend; whether or not a member of the church or of a circle. More details on this Gathering will come soon!

We wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter season. Christ is Risen!! Grace and Blessings,
Dianne Heidel, Moderator
386-956-0960



### **Children and Youth**



Come and meet our new Bible Buddy,

### Guac, the Iguana

during children's church at 9am and 11am each Sunday and 10:30am during our combined worship services.

We welcome children 3 years old and up.
We also have a nursery available for children under
3 years old.



Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> we will be holding the much-anticipated *Eggsperience!*Family and children of all ages are welcome to come to this event.
Tickets will be sold for food and games.
Come and enjoy face painting, crafts, and of course egg hunts!
This event will be from 2pm – 4pm rain or shine.

If you would like to volunteer please come to the church campus at 1pm, April 12<sup>th</sup>.



If you have a graduating senior that you would like to celebrate, please send Pastor Casey

the student's name, school, and future plans after graduation.

#### Kids Club has come to an end.

We will be starting something new for students of all ages and their families in May. Stay tuned for more information!



# SAVE THE DATES.... VBS week is July 21st - July 25th

VBS Registration will be open on April 12<sup>th</sup> during *Eggsperience*.

**Youth Group** is for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet Sundays in the art room from 5pm-7pm. We take time to understand the Bible in our own context, have dinner, and play games. Please come and invite a friend!

# SALT SPRINGS STATE PARK

May 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> the youth will be going to Salt Springs for a camping trip. This trip will be \$85 per student. Please reach out to Pastor Casey for details.



Montreat is coming up!
We will be heading to
Montreat, NC
June 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

So if your student grades 6-12 is interested in joining us for this fun youth conference, please contact Pastor Casey at your earliest convenience as space is limited.

# **Worship Team News**

An interesting history of the Celtic Altar Cross located in the First Presbyterian church sanctuary. . .

James and Mary Clements, long time members of First Presbyterian Church DeLand, visited Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Ash at their home in Black Mountain, NC, on March 26, 1997. Dr. Ash, Pastor Emeritus, served at First Presbyterian from 1959 -1982 when he retired. During that visit, Dr. Ash shared the history of the Celtic Altar Cross.

In 1959 the church was moving to its current location and providing furnishings for the new building. Dr. Ash asked the Session if he as the new pastor might make a personal gift in the form of a three-foot, gold-embossed, Celtic Altar Cross. Session authorized that gift.

Constructed in England, the church built an alter with a raised center on which to place the cross. The cross contains four medallions, one on each arm of the cross. Starting from the left, the medallions represent the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The medallion in the center represents the symbol *Chi Rho*, the first four letters of the Greek word for Christ. The cross is supported by a three-tiered base. The smallest tier represents Faith; the middle, Hope; and the largest, Love.

Dr. Ash's heart-felt desire was to continue to display the Celtic Cross on the altar of the Church in perpetuity. Thank you to Linda Parson Davis for sharing this piece of history that her father, Harold K. Parson, recorded on April 2, 1997.

Grace & Blessings, Jean Burns, Worship Team Moderator Email jeanburns15@gmail.com. Cell: 262.844.3644



### **Additional Offering**

For 75 years, One Great Hour of
Sharing has provided Presbyterians a
way to share God's love with our
neighbors in need around the world.
Envelopes will be available
April 6th through April 20th
or you can give online at pcusa.org

# **Property Team News**

### Where Is the Property Team in 2025?

The Property Team consists of eight volunteer members who respond to property needs of First Presbyterian Church in DeLand, Florida. Several times each week you may see Joe Guthrie, Stew Burkhammer, Mark Chapman, Fred Hoffman, Paul Jones, David Langell, John Thomson, or John Turk somewhere on the church campus. Church Sexton Bob McLeod often assists them. The team cannot see everything so please take time to bring any needs you may notice to our attention. We would love to chat with you anytime.

2025 has been a very busy time for our team. The following list tells how time has been utilized in the first few months of 2025 to accomplish and plan improvements:

- 1) All outside lighting fixtures upgraded to LEDs by Florida Electric Solutions.
- 2) Sound system upgrades completed utilizing AV NAESTRO.
- 3) Need to purchase a new LED screen for the Sanctuary under review.
- 4) Church signage upgrades currently being completed.
- 5) Sanctuary lighting for special services under discussion for improvement.
- 6) Van and bus care monitored, as is approval for use of all facilities.
- 7) Additional Day School Playground cleared and fenced.
- 8) Awning built over the entrance to the Pavillion restroom door.
- 9) Dual bathroom repairs (vents and blockages) by Allen's Plumbing.
- 10) Florida Electrical Solutions repaired electrical issues at Counseling Center.
- 11) Duke Energy also made additional repairs to outside wiring and connections.
- 12) Two commercial ovens repaired by Smart Care Equipment Solutions.
- 13) Kitchen electrical issues of blown circuit breakers under upgrades by FES.
- 14) Several volunteers continue to complete a kitchen clean-out.
- 15) ServPro to clean three ovens, vents, hoods, filters, grease pits etc. **NFPA 96** requires this to be done once a year. Health inspection to follow.
- 16) Field mice damaged two Daikin Units under repair with parts on order by English Air.
- 17) Heavy duty vinyl covers for 12+ drywall corners are currently being installed.
- 18) Two handrails under construction leading to playground and garden areas.
- 19) West Volusia Fire completed the Spring Inspection of all fire extinguishers.
- 20) City of DeLand approved the First Pres' Evacuation Plan. Plan To Post in process. Training and info for church body under development.
- 21) Landscaping needs semi-annual attention as we enter seasonal changes.
- 22) Three roof replacement bids under review.
- 23) Fascia and soffit repair and repainting currently under discussion.

Joseph Guthrie, Moderator Stewart Burkhammer, Safety Director



# **Adult Discipleship News**

# Open Door Class Why Do We Need The Bible?

The Bible can be intimidating and confusing. It is a complex book, wouldn't you agree?

Would you like to make more sense of the Bible? Jump in with a group of other adults like you as we unpack the Bible's value and importance for everyday believers like us.



Join us in the Westminster Room at 10am on Sunday Mornings.



On Sunday mornings, come and join us at 10am in the Mission Room as we continue our focus on how we can welcome different "sorts" of people. We have learned so much during our *Welcoming the Others* series and will continue the series until the end of April.

April 6: NO CLASS - Women's Retreat!

April 13: How can we better welcome our youth? A young person told us if we want to know the answer, "Ask the kids!" Our teens will join us to bring their ideas about how First Pres DeLand can become more inviting to them and other youth. As Jesus said. . . "from the mouth of babes. . . " Let's listen up!

...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, Matthew 25:35

April 20: NO CLASS - Happy Easter!

April 27: How can we help the grieving? As care and concern coordinator, Alice Foerster will help us welcome and care for those who have lost loved ones. Expect to receive some practical help on what to say or not to say and how to show the love of Christ during this very sensitive time.

## Something new ... ACTS 246

Seven groups within the church are gathering April and May over a meal to get to know one another and to strengthen our community of Christ Followers. In June, we will invite you to come hear about their experience and find out how you can be a part of this something new at First Pres DeLand. Keep your eyes open for the date!



# **Mission Team News**



God's Bathhouse will meet this month on Saturdays, April 12th and April 26th. We continue to need donations of the following items:

Clean and Gently Used

- T-shirts, short and long-sleeved
- Sweatpants
- Shorts
- Hoodies /Sweatshirts
- Athletic Shoes
- Bras
- NEW Underwear

With the return of warm weather, the ministry is not collecting cold weather items such as coats, gloves, blankets at this time. We are joyful and thankful for ongoing support of this ministry from our church family.

On the first Thursday of each month, First Pres Church members and friends cook and serve meals at



The Bridge, located at 434 S. Woodland Blvd, Deland. We always welcome volunteers as we usually feed between eighty and a hundred people.

On April 3rd we will serve shepherd's pie.

On May 1st we will serve chili. Items needed include chili powder, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, tortilla chips, and red/white canned beans.

Look for THE BRIDGE shopping cart when you come to worship to drop off your donations.

Laura Finner (407-539-4043)





What's "gleaning"? Several stories in the Old Testament point to the practice of purposeful giving from the harvest for needy ones. Farmers were commanded to leave some of the fruit on their trees and vines so that the poor could come in and glean. In 1979, the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) non-profit was founded to do just that. The society provides farmers an avenue to salvage fruit and vegetables after the commercial harvest and provide food to the hungry. Volunteers come in to glean the leftovers in the fields, farmers' markets, and even food shows. The salvaged produce then goes to food pantries and shelters. SoSA offers gleaning events throughout Florida. To learn more about Society of St. Andrew and/or to volunteer to becomer a gleaner go to: florida@endhunger.org













# March 2025 - Session Snippets

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following items are reported by Team and are in need of limited action by the Session. If any single item needs further attention, an Elder may request that the item be moved to the Action Items. It shall be done without discussion. All items acceptable to the group shall be acted **upon** as a single motion.

- 1. Pastor Casey (on behalf of the Children's Discipleship Team) requests that Session approve the dates July 21 through 25 for VBS this summer.
- 2. The Adult Discipleship Team requests that Session approve a Potluck Gathering on June 11th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall to facilitate the continuation of the ACTS 246 study.
- 3. The Personnel Team requests that Session approve upcoming time off for Pastor Michael: Vacation and Study Leave: Approved
- 4. The Property Team requests that Session approve use of a church vehicle by the Cuba Mission Team for transportation to the airport on March 9th through the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 5. The Property Team requests that Session approve use of a church vehicle by Scout Troop 550 to drive to North Carolina on June 2 through 6.
- 6. The Worship requests that Session approve Nancy Wall as a new team member.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

<u>The Mission Outreach Team requests that Session approve PEO's Annual Fundraiser in Fellowship Hall November 1, 2025 from 8:30am to 12 noon. M/S/C</u>

The Property Team requests that Session approve a birthday and wedding anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 7th time (3-8) in Fellowship Hall. All food and drink catered. M/S/C

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Garden Landscaper - insurance exception. **Motion has been tabled** and sent back to Property for further evaluation.

Status report on the church at large – content to be used for Congregational Gatherings at the end of April.

Update on 729 N FL Ave house was given.

## **Worship Flowers**

### **Christian Sympathies**

Apr-6 Janet Williams

Apr-13 Carol Stovka

Apr-20 Jerry & Karen Yaris

Apr-27 Greg & Debbie Howard



Please keep Kay Kenney and all of her family and friends in your hearts and prayers after the loss of her son John.



### **Prayer Requests**

"Do not Forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!" Psalm 38:21-22

Karen DeJong Greg Callahan Marion family Lilyana Aparicio **Bob Fischer Charlie Wareing** Patsy Kanagy Joe Kelly Olivia White Parramore family Brian Throne Trullinger family Lily Guzman Leonora Evans Althea McPherson **Shane Gaster** Stew Burkhammer Tutt family Frank Wilson Charlotte Glennie Kay Kenney

Please continue to pray for our families, friends and church family.

Please contact the Church Office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list

### **April Birthdays**

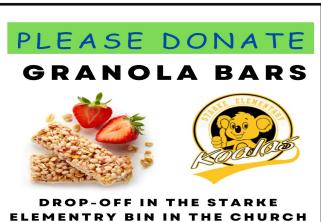
John Edward Clark 2nd Charlotte Cauthen 2nd Sally Rishebarger 3rd Susan Francis Ruck 3rd Rachel Castillo 3rd Paige Kempher 4th Helen Levi 7th Gina Moreland 7th Rosemary Plane 7th Mary Jane Christeson 7th G. B. Barnard 9th Jerielynn Bennett 9th Mark Chapman 9th Lee Swallows 10th Barbara Olsen 11th Brenda Upham 11th

Will Baskett 12th Lincoln Bowman 13th Ambose York Vanderlip 13th Johanna Freeman 15th Addison Hanks 15th Alice Foerster 16th Ryan Rolle 16th Suzanne Backstrom 16th Robert Nelsen 18th Rebekah Anderson 19th Maggie Elizabeth Raynor 20th Sandy Escontrias 21th Bethanne Schrecengost 21th David Branchett 21th Joaquin Romero 21th Cindy Maurer 21th

Frank W. Saxton 22th
Kristen Hanks 22th
Tabriya Burkes 23th
Alexander D MacArthur 25th
Ann Mills 25th
Kahlea Gibson 26th
Michael Bodger 27th
Chantrell Edwards-Kennedy 27th
Leah Dreggors 28th
Kenzie Luckett 29th
Shirley McLeod 29th
Robyn Perkins 29th
Henry Fussell 29th
Sidney Johnston 30th
Lee Lewis, Jr. 30th

Scott Schrecengost 30th







OFFICE

Thirteen-week support group with video, workbook, and discussion time.

Contact Alice Foerster in the Church Office for more information

386-734-6212 ext. 105 or email afoerster@fpcdstaff.org.



If there is any information that you want printed in our First Press Newsletter, please call the church office 386-734-6212
Deadline for articles is the 20th of each month.

# First Pres DeLand Contact Information

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8:30 am—2:00 pm

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#### **Brooke Rohr**

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