



The CHIMES Newsletter

July 1, 2023



Pastor's Thoughts



In 1941, President Roosevelt gave the State of the Union address to Congress that had in it his famous “four freedoms” speech. It was given to try to convince the American people of the need to come to the aid of Britain through greater production of war industries, and to get involved in the war itself with troops. The freedoms he talked about – the freedom of speech, the freedom of worship, the freedom from want, and the freedom from fear – become the aims of American involvement in World War II, and later, become foundational principles of the Atlantic Charter of 1941, the United Nations Declaration of 1942, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

As a nation, we are very proud (and rightly so) of the commitment to freedom we have in our Constitution. It's part of our identity as citizens of this country. As Christians, however, we have Biblical guidance on what it means to be understood and be committed to freedom that we also should know, be committed to, and live out with dedication.

For Jesus, and his disciples, freedom was not about speech,

worship, want, or fear – it was about the power of sin in our lives, and the power of God in Jesus, which breaks that power. Jesus talked with his disciples about it in John 8:31-38, telling them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin ... So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” Paul wrote about this in Romans 6 and 8, Galatians 5, 1 Corinthians 6, 2 Corinthians 3, and even Peter commented in 1 Peter 2 – all of these verses talk about freedom in terms of being released from the power of sin, and living differently as a result.

For Paul in particular, he wanted people to know that they did not need to be helpless or hopeless to sin – knowing that it is impossible to be perfect all the time, some may give up in despair of never living up to the law. But by the power of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and with God's Spirit in all of us, there is a different way we can live – with confidence of God's righteousness and favor, and in such a way to demonstrate our new life in Christ.

It isn't easy – there are warnings from Paul and Peter alike that the freedom we have found in Christ isn't license to do whatever we want without fear of consequence – but our understanding that we are free

to live for God should be reflected in our life. We need to be willing to deny ourselves in order to serve God and others. We are called to seek after righteousness rather than the desires of our bodies or this world. We are called to be faithful to the one who set us free.

We are incredibly privileged to live in a country where our freedoms are protected – but we need to remember that the most basic freedom we have in our lives is the freedom to live in a way that brings God honor and resists the powers of evil that would lead us to sin. If we pay attention to that freedom, we can produce a harvest of righteousness that blesses God, our families, and the community and country around us as well. For freedom Christ has set us free!

The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, in recognition of Independence Day. The church will be open Monday and Wednesday through Friday that week at our normal hours.

Special Offering in July

Our July Special Offering is once again a partnership with Operation Hope for their back to school drive! The list below was supplied by Fellsmere Elementary School and includes supplies for all grade levels. There are lots of school supplies on sale right now, so if you see something on the list, pick up some extras to help make sure that kids can go to school with backpacks full of supplies! We will start collecting items in the Sanctuary July 16th and finish on the 30th.

- backpack (no wheels)
- set of headphones
- boxes of tissues
- hand sanitizer
- containers of disinfecting wipes (Clorox/Lysol)
- box of quart size Ziplock bags
- box of gallon size Ziplock bags
- #2 pencils
- large pink erasers
- boxes of Crayola crayons (8-count)
- packs of glue sticks (5-6 count)
- Fiskars scissors
- pack of dry erase markers (EXPO brand)
- composition notebooks
- plastic pocket folders with prongs (red, blue, yellow, green)
- highlighter
- fine point EXPO Markers
- one inch 3- ring binders
- box of colored pencils
- pack of cap erasers
- packs of Post-Its (3"x3")
- packs of pens (red and blue)
- package of scotch tape
- package of loose leaf paper



Mark your calendars now for the Special Offerings coming up in the next couple of months, and keep an eye on the next edition of the Chimes for more information:

- Our Shoe Mission offering will be taken up on August 13th
- On September 3rd we will take up an offering for the Children's Hunger Program

Colombia Kids - from Mike & Celia Keen

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your generous donation to Colombia Kids. It means so much to us that you continue to support this group. This donation can sustain any of our programs for one month and makes a tremendous difference in the lives of these children.
We miss you all and God Bless.
Mike Celia



Prayer for Fourth of July

Lord God Almighty, you have made all peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and peace. On this day when we celebrate the birth of our nation, we are grateful that we are able to live in a land where we have freedom and opportunity that is so often denied in other places. Help us to not take our freedom, spiritual or physical, for granted. Help us remember that a price was paid for that freedom, by your Son and by many sons and daughters of the United States. Grant to the people of our country an appreciation for our blessings, a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord



Hurricane Season is here – how does the church respond?

Hopefully you have your plans and supplies in place in case of a hurricane - but don't forget about letting the church know where you plan to be should a storm come! We have Emergency Plans Forms on our website or in our office. These forms let us know where you might go, if you have any needs, or if you are able to help others if they need help evacuating or recovering after a storm.

"There is a storm headed this way- will we have church on Sunday?" The church uses the NOAA Hurricane Center website to make decisions about how a storm might affect activities at the church, including worship. If a storm is projected to cause Tropical Storm force winds on a day when the office is open or there are church activities scheduled (worship, Bible study, choir or band practice, etc.), those activities will be cancelled in order to promote the safety of our staff and members. If a named storm is scheduled to come through our area, we will use the Shepherds phone list to check in with members to see if anyone is in need of assistance and to check on them after the storm passes. For the part of hurricane season that overlaps with the school year, we follow school closures as guidance for whether the office and church will be open or closed.



Thank You from Operation Hope

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Operation Hope's Father's Day Celebration. We brought several fans to Fellsmere to bless fathers and families throughout the area, and we sent a donation of over \$725 to support the work being done through their various programs. We received the following thank-you note from Jesse Zermeno, Operation Hope's President:

"Dear Friends, BIG THANK YOU to YOU! You are the best! With your help Operation Hope has had a tremendous Spring! Here is some of the Highlights:

- *New Program: Food Boxes for Seniors 60 years and up, wonderful food supply – once a month.*
- *Celebrated Easter with Goodies for all children*
- *Celebrated Mother's Day with gift bags for all Mothers*
- *An Abundance of Food to Give Away every two weeks*
- *Taking Food to Veterans*
- *Jesse was the Guest Speaker at two area Churches."*



We have been in our community center since 2004. Celebrating and Thankful for almost 20 years! The rest of the year will be busy with our Food distribution programs, Father's Day on June 18th, Back-to-School on August 6th, Thanksgiving on November 19th and ending the year with the Christmas Festival on December 18th.

You are loved and appreciated for your continued support and friendship! We could not do anything without you. You are truly making a very important difference.

John and Monia Yust – The Road Runner Adventures Continue!

John and Monia have been hard at work – there have been a lot of people checking in and out, keeping them busy. Monia has shared that several times they have been gifted plants or special treats, like strawberries, that were wonderful and lovely to receive. They have had several painting projects, including handicapped parking spaces, reminders to wear life vests, and bike lane markers.



The weather has been warming up, and they had to turn the A/C on in the camper. John and Monia's adventurous spirits have kept them looking for new opportunities to get out and see the area, including renting e-bikes. They had a great time taking them on a 22-mile round trip to Ohio-pyle. They also visited and hiked in Coopers Rock, West Virginia, and saw some amazing boulders, and visited Laurel Caverns, the largest and deepest cave system in PA. One morning, they slipped out to Amish Country and hit up some baked good concession stands. They have also taken a rafting trip down the middle Youghiogheny River and enjoyed their guide's insights.

Even when staying closer to "home," John and Monia find ways to enjoy nature – they have a bird feeder that is attracting "millions" of sparrows and many other kinds of birds. They even changed up the bird feed and got a whole new army of flying visitors. They also have puzzles they work on for something more relaxing to do!



Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study group is starting again in July! Our first session will be Wednesday the 5th and will include a discussion of the topic we will be exploring next. The study meets at 12:00 each Wednesday, and participants are welcome to bring a bag lunch or snacks to enjoy while we delve into scripture together.

Health First Health Plans will be holding a Senior Safety Day July 13th beginning at 9:45 a.m. at the Hilton Melbourne, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne, Florida. There will be demonstrations and instruction in fall safety, first aid, and demonstrating CPR, as well as information displays on Internet security, home healthcare, customer service, pharmacy, medical equipment, private duty, and trauma. Demonstrations will begin at 10:15 a.m. You can RSVP by calling 321-434-4046.



Sunday School Class

The Study of Galatians will be wrapping up in July – keep an eye out in the bulletin for information about the traditional breakfast celebration of the end of a study and discussion of what the class will take up next! There will be no class on July 2nd, but class will resume on the 9th.



Gary & Vicki Christensen
July 13
Won & BooCha Park
July 13
Mike & Celia Keen
July 22
Jim & Betty Gaidry
July 28
Richard & Heidi Edwards
July 29

The Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for July will be held Thursday the 27th, 11:30 a.m. at Cracker Barrel, 1175 Palm Bay Road NE, Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be July 23rd.



Thank You to those who
blessed us in worship in June

Elders of Month: David Collins,
Judy Irvine

Ushers: Mike Nardelli, Karola
DeLuca, Elvie Marshall, Judy Rutter,
Marsha Carter, Terri Twardzik

Flowers Donated By: Sam & Barb
Musgrave, Donna Aguilera, Marsha
Carter



Betty Gaidry
July 1
Mavis Mattadeen
July 1
Sabrina Dalo
July 2
BooCha Park
July 3
Rose Fausey
July 6
June Johnson
July 7
Lauren Allison
July 9
Jamie Woods
July 10
Michael Doran
July 11
Amy Carter
July 12
Annette Anastasia
July 14
Dalip Singh
July 15
Molly Stone
July 15
Sue D'Imperio
July 18
Oswaldo Blanco Jr.
July 25
Chris King
July 25
Jan Enfield
August 2



Session Summary

The June Session meeting was held in the Library on the 20th. Matters discussed at the meeting include the following:



- Cassie Clark was approved as Clerk Pro Tem for the meeting.
- The sexton and elder of the month will be asked to check all bathrooms before leaving the building to check for running water—we had an abnormally high bill that indicates something was left running. We also called plumbers out to check all bathrooms and the kitchen for leaks.
- The was moved and approved to hire Patrick Roofing to replace the roofs on all our buildings following damage incurred during a hail storm. The insurance company has inspected the roofs and the bid for the work from Patrick was just below the estimate from the insurance company. We will be moving forward with the insurance claim and signing a contract with Patrick Roofing.
- We discussed a request from the Space Coast Flute Orchestra regarding using our building for monthly practices and 3 concerts a year. We have asked to see the insurance policy they hold and will vote on the matter by email.
- Treasurer's Report: Expenses in May were well-below budget (only 78%), which helped us to keep the expenses below contributions for the month by \$240.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$19,718.35
 - Actual Expenses in April: \$16,903.21
 - Contributions in April: \$10,885.11
 - Income for 2023: \$88,618.83
 - Expenses for 2023 \$85,806.73
 - Surplus year-to-date: \$2,812.10

Word from the Herd

On July 2nd, we will be celebrating the baptism of Clyde and Marylynn's great-granddaughter, Rae Marie Hudson. As part of the promises made during baptism, the congregation is asked to commit to guide and nurture the newly baptized by word and deed, with love and prayer. Please keep Rae in your prayers as she and her family celebrate this sacrament, which brings her officially into the family of Christ and his Church.



There will be a Church Potluck in celebration of Independence Day on Sunday, July 2nd at 4:00 p.m. If you have not already signed up, please speak with Terry Twardzik or Karola Deluca to let them know you are coming and what you would like to bring. We will be gathering in the sanctuary in order to fellowship in the air conditioning with no mosquitoes or ants invited!

If you are looking for fireworks, the City of Palm Bay will be holding its Independence Day Celebration from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Palm Bay campus of Eastern Florida State College, just South of Malabar Road. The fireworks will begin at around 9:15 p.m.!





July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY CHURCH PICNIC	3 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	4 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED	5 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	6 6:15 pm NA	7 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	8
9 10:00 am WORSHIP	10 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	11 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	12 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	13 6:15 pm NA	14 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	15
16 10:00 am WORSHIP – OPERATION HOPE – BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES BEGINS	17 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	18 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	19 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	20 6:15 pm NA	21 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	22
23 10:00 am WORSHIP OPERATION HOPE – BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES ENDS	24 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	25 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	26 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	27 SENIOR LUNCHEON 6:15 pm NA	28 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	29
30 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	31 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY					

IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>July 1 Read Jeremiah 20:13 Jeremiah's personal conviction now turns outwards, encouraging others who feel hunted, rejected, and in need of help to turn to the Lord for their rescue.</p>	<p>July 2 Read Romans 6:1b-2 Paul needs to stop a heresy in its tracks – that somehow, the way to increase grace in the world is to sin more. Instead, we should seek to eliminate sin from our lives.</p>	<p>July 3 Read Romans 6:4-5 Baptism imagery is usually of washing clean, but here, it includes mentions of death – to belong to Christ, we embrace all of what it means to follow him faithfully.</p>
<p>July 4 Read Romans 6:6-7 The death we experience in Christ is not something to be afraid of – it is actually freedom from sin and its consequences, and the start of new life!</p>	<p>July 5 Read Romans 6:8-11 We live in the reality and hope of the life we have in Christ, being with God and free from hopelessness that sin seeks to cause in this life.</p>	<p>July 6 Read Romans 6:12-13 Knowing that we have a bright future with Christ, we should not give in to the temptations of sin now; instead, live into that new beginning.</p>
<p>July 7 Read Romans 6:14-18 We now live in grace, but that is no excuse for lawlessness – if we choose to sin, we refuse God's freedom and enslave ourselves to that sin.</p>	<p>July 8 Read Romans 6:19-23 Paul essentially asks the Romans who they would rather follow – sin, which gives nothing but shame, or God, who cleanses us and makes us new in Christ.</p>	<p>July 9 Read Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus is frustrated with the Jewish people for being fickle about what they want, finding any excuse to not have to confront their sin and listen to him.</p>
<p>July 10 Read Matthew 11:25-27 Jesus, after venting and prophesying, gives thanks that God reveals himself to those who are open to his word, and hides from those who blind themselves.</p>	<p>July 11 Read Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus calls all to come to him and receive a new law, one that does not burden them, but is carried largely by Christ, who will guide but not overwhelm.</p>	<p>July 12 Read Romans 7:15 Paul is frustrated at himself, because he sees that his desire and his actions don't line up – he wants to be faithful, but often chooses sin.</p>
<p>July 13 Read Romans 7:16-20 Paul sees the law as being good and needful, because he sees that his will is not strong enough to keep him from sin – he needs an outside guide.</p>	<p>July 14 Read Romans 7:21-23 Paul recognizes that his struggle of will and sin is like a war inside his own body and mind, and part of him wants to sin even as part wants to be righteous.</p>	<p>July 15 Read Romans 7:24-25 Paul wants a rescue from the internal war he wages, and gives thanks that he has Jesus, who guides and fights for him in this battle of good and evil.</p>

Prayer is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>July 16 Read Romans 8:1-2 The reason that there is no condemnation is not because of our merit, but because the Spirit set us free from the hopelessness of not upholding the law.</p>	<p>July 17 Read Romans 8:3-4 God saw it is impossible for humans to keep the law, so sent Jesus to fulfill what was required to be righteous in God's sight, and free us from the burden.</p>	<p>July 18 Read Romans 8:5-6 If you are not sure in what camp you belong, ask yourself what it is you seek out, focus on, and make effort to accomplish – the things of God, or sin?</p>
<p>July 19 Read Romans 8:7-8 Sin and God are opposed to one another – you cannot pursue both at the same time. Choosing one is the same as rejecting the other.</p>	<p>July 20 Read Romans 8:9 We are not victim to the whims and desires of the flesh. By having God's Spirit in us, we are able to make a different choice, and to belong to God.</p>	<p>July 21 Read Romans 8:10 Even as we seek to deny the body the unhealthy and sinful things it wants, we feed and enliven our spirits, which grow through righteousness.</p>
<p>July 22 Read Romans 8:11 Don't count your body as worthless, however – through the renewing of our spirits, God will also renew our bodies through his Spirit.</p>	<p>July 23 Read Matthew 13: 24-25 Jesus is teaching a parable and leads off with a scenario of an enemy sowing bad seed amid good plantings. How does sabotage make you feel?</p>	<p>July 24 Read Matthew 13:26 The pernicious part of this plan is that it is not quickly seen – it is not until it is too late to remove the weeds that their threat is seen!</p>
<p>July 25 Read Matthew 13:27-29 The servants ask for advice, but to pull the weeds means damaging plants. Have you ever felt helpless to stop something bad from happening?</p>	<p>July 26 Read Matthew 13:30 The master knows that there will be a time when the wheat and weeds can and will be separated, all will be made right, and plans for it.</p>	<p>July 27 Read Matthew 13:36-39 The disciples don't understand, so Jesus teaches them who and what he is talking about – the sabotage of the devil of God's people.</p>
<p>July 28 Read Matthew 13:40 There will be a day when God sits in judgment of the world – the Master in the parable makes plans for this day, but have we as God's people done the same?</p>	<p>July 29 Read Matthew 13:41-42 Jesus calls on his followers to listen, learn from this parable, and act. We are not helpless to the Devil's machinations, we must endure and overcome.</p>	<p>July 30 Read Isaiah 44:6-8 Every so often, the Lord asks his people to acknowledge that he is great. He challenges us to seriously consider – is there anyone like him?</p>
<p>July 31 Read Isaiah 44:6-8 Once we have considered, we are called to share our conclusions, to be the witnesses of God's actions. God is confident we will be on his side.</p>	<p>August 1 Read Romans 8: 31 Consider a new question – if God, who is great, and has done so much for us, is on our side, what do we need to be afraid of in this world?</p>	<p>August 2 Read Romans 8:32 We should be confident in this world, because God has proved himself as great, but also loving, in that he gave Jesus for us – will he hold back otherwise? No.</p>