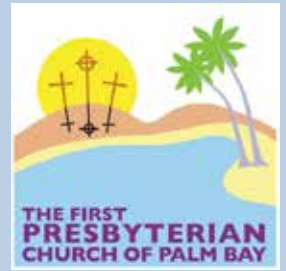




The CHIMES Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023



Pastor's *Thoughts*



Once upon a time, I used to do a lot of creative writing. For me, it fulfilled a few different purposes: while I was still in school, it occasionally satisfied some course requirements, and outside of that, it gave me something fun to think about and work on that was completely unrelated to everything I was studying. Through the years, I have occasionally written poems or jotted down vivid dreams, and sometimes even outlined a story or idea for characters.

These days, my writing seems more confined to the areas of creating sermons and newsletter articles, but I still make up a lot of stories for Evelyn. Every night, she gets a bedtime story, and more often than not, she would rather I make up some story about her stuffed animals doing things than reading together out of a book. Recently, I have been asking her to make up stories as well, for pictures she has colored, or because she was constantly interrupting my bedtime story to change it! We also got a book of writing prompts to help her with her handwriting, which I thought would be a fun way for her to not just get practice with writing, but with storytelling.

If you've never tried writing for fun, I want to encourage you to give it a shot, even if it's for a week or a month. I have enjoyed it myself

because it has given me permission to get outside of my own perspective or my feelings of being unable to change things about the world around me and let myself run with the idea of "what if". It spurs me to pay a little bit more attention to nature or people so that I could create a more vivid scene or believable character. It gives me permission to play over fond memories and think about how I could capture the feelings of those moments in a way for someone else to share.

If you'd like to try at some creative writing to see if it is something you might enjoy, consider using one of the prompts below to write a poem, story, or even essay – whatever works for you. I'd love to see what you come up with!

- When you think of autumn, what images come to mind? Capture a quintessential "fall moment" and describe it and how it makes you feel.
- Write a story about a creature or animated object navigating a fall tradition
- Can you think of a nice memory of a moment you've shared with someone during fall? Write a letter to them reminding them of the memory.
- Why is this season both "fall" and "autumn"? Write a persuasive essay about why you think we should only use one name or why we should keep both!

Hurricane Season Isn't Over Yet

We just had our first hurricane of the season affect Florida, which is a good reminder that we are coming into the part of the season where the possibility of storms increases rather than decreases for our area. Please make sure you are still aware of the supplies you might need on-hand and review your evacuation plans if they are needed. Also, remember to check our website for emergency plan forms so that you can let the church know what you plan on doing and how to reach you should a storm threaten the area. If there are tropical storm-force winds projected to be in our area, we close the office. Any cancellations to programs of the church will be communicated to the best of our ability through the Shepherd's Lists and a notice on our sign and Facebook page.



Session Summary

The August Session Meeting was held on Tuesday the 15th. Matters discussed included the following:



- The church received a gift of \$1000 from Palmdale Presbyterian Church at its closing to commemorate the long-term partnership that Palmdale had with Presbyterian churches in the area. The gift was directed to be used for whatever the church felt was its greatest need. The session voted to put the money in the general fund, as there have been several maintenance / replacement costs for A/V and A/C systems.
- Session voted to confirm two email votes that took place over the last months: a request for Pastor Debra to take vacation in July and to replace two A/C units in the sanctuary that were no longer working.
- Session voted to give permission to the Indian River Via de Cristo group to be a location they can contact to host an “Ultreya” meeting, which is a follow-up to their retreat program.
- The session is looking for an elder (not currently on Session) to attend the December meeting of Presbytery as the elder commissioner. We do have an alternate for the date, but would like to have someone who knows they are available to attend. Please talk to Pastor Debra if you are available.
- Treasurer’s Report: July were lower than budgeted, but that is not unusual for the summer months. Expenses were also down, so we were close to being even for the month.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$19,718.35
 - Actual Expenses in July: \$ 15,141.49
 - Contributions in July: \$ 39,057.70
 - Income year-to-date: \$ 1139,542.46
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$ 123,276.47
 - Surplus year-to-date: \$ 16,265.99

The Nominating Committee Needs Your Help!

We are beginning the Nominating season, looking through the congregation for who would make an excellent Deacon or elder. We especially need help looking for deacons, as several of the current classes have needed to resign due to health reasons and moving away. To help you discern who you might recommend for these positions, here are some questions to ask yourself:

- As you think of the church community here at First Presbyterian, who stands out to you as person of faith, dedication and humility?
- If they are also a person of compassion, prayer and service—this person would be a wonderful deacon.
- If they are a person of thoughtful consideration, responsibility, yet open to trying new ideas, they would be a wonderful elder.

Please pray over who you might nominate, and contact a member of the committee: Sue and Vince D’Imperio, Carolyn Teal, Mike Nardelli, Clyde Yust

Looking for Blank Christmas Cards

Do you have any blank Christmas cards around your house (something that has no pre-printed message on the inside)? Or maybe some festive paper or card stock that is taking up space? Please consider donating it to the church for a special project coming up – sending Christmas messages to active duty members of the Armed Forces. Many of the organizations that send Christmas cards and care packages to troops ask that the cards contain only hand-written messages and that envelopes not be used, so this is a prime opportunity to donate cards that you may not otherwise be able to use. Once we have enough supplies on hand, a Christmas Card station will be set up with cards and instructions on how to bring some Christmas joy to someone who is deployed at the holidays.

To send the cards to service members, we will be working with the United Soldiers and Sailors of America. To learn more about their Christmas Card mission, you can visit <https://www.usaso.org/christmas-cards-for-our-deployed-troops>



September's Special Offering: Children's Hunger Project

On September 3rd we will take up an offering for the Children's Hunger Project, a local initiative that is partnered with United Way to ensure that children have sufficient food to

We know that children without consistent access to nutritious meals are more likely to have a future filled with uncertainty, health issues, and personal challenges. If you think about

can make a world of difference for children in schools. While food insecurity among households with children persists, it is essential to spread awareness about the short- and long-term effects of hunger and the high value of school-based meals.

Cognitive Effects of Child Hunger

Nutritionally, childhood hunger can take a toll on children's cognitive development – equally harmful is the constant stress and anxiety associated with hunger. Together, these factors affect children in many ways.

Longitudinal data suggest that children's learning outcomes suffer when they regularly experience hunger and that nearly every aspect of physical and mental function is hurt as well. Food insecurity affects concentration, memory, mood, and motor skills, all of which a child needs to be able to be successful in school.

The Effects of Child Hunger on Social Behavior

Beyond academic achievement, hunger can hurt a child's ability to build and strengthen their social-emotional skills.

When children are hungry, they typically have less energy and the ability to focus. So you can imagine that feeling tired and distracted impacts a child's social interactions and behavior. A child dealing with hunger may have a harder time forming friendships and interacting with friends, as well as maintaining self-control, or listening to instructions.

Multiple studies have found connections between behavioral challenges and hunger, with some data pointing to hyperactivity and other behavioral problems in kindergarten.



get through the weekends and when school is not in session. By addressing hunger and malnutrition, there are positive results in children's lives, including improved attendance at school, better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, and improved health. This program has grown a great deal since its inception, from serving 27 children in 2010 to over 3900 children at more than 50 schools in the last school year.

To help illustrate why the support offered to students through the Children's Hunger Project is so important, here is some additional information from nokidhungry.org:

Like falling dominoes, childhood hunger can impact everything from a child's physical and mental well-being to their academic experiences. With 75% of educators working with students who regularly come to school hungry, childhood hunger is easily one of the most pressing issues in schools today.

Hunger vs Food Insecurity

Hunger is not something we can measure; it's something we experience. Instead, researchers measure "food insecurity". Households that are food insecure are those that struggle to provide enough food for everyone living there at some point during the year.

the many ways in which academic performance can affect your future as an adult, it makes sense - hunger doesn't just make learning difficult; it can also influence a child's future.

How Hunger Affects School Performance

When you feel hungry, how does it affect your focus? For most of us, hunger distracts us from the tasks at hand. Now, imagine you're a child or teenager that is hungry and how it would affect your ability to learn new skills or focus in the classroom.

In a pre-pandemic survey, nearly 60% of children from low-income communities said they had come to school hungry, and the majority of those kids admit that it makes school difficult. Of those children, 12% are too distracted by their hunger to be able to tackle their evening homework.

And teachers can see the effects of hunger as well:

- 80% observed the negative impact of hunger on concentration
- 76% saw decreased academic performance
- 62% saw behavioral issues increased
- 47% noticed children getting sick more often

Thankfully, school meals programs



Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study has started a study of Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. We will be reading through this letter through the end of October, with some weeks focusing on historical information, some weeks reading through the letter and discussing its contents, and some weeks including a Lectio Divina-style time in which participants will meditate on the scripture to ask what God might be saying to them through it. We hope you will join us for any and all weeks of study!



Sunday School Class

The Sunday School class has begun a study of the Book of Acts using a 12-week resource written by Justin S. Holcomb, an Episcopal priest and professor of theology, philosophy, and Christian thought at Gordon-Conwell and Reformed Theological Seminaries. The study chronicles some of the most important events in Christian history: the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the early church, the scattering of Jesus' disciples, and more. The class will explore the Biblical text, discuss the historical events and how they tie in with the whole story of Scripture, illuminate doctrines taught in the passages, and invite participants to consider practical applications and better understand God's Word. The class meets at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays.



Patty & Edward Darcy
September 20

Vicki & Mark Cather
September 29

The Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for September will be held Thursday the 28th, 11:30 a.m. at Makoto's, 785 South Babcock St., Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be September 24th.



Thank You to those who blessed us in worship in August

Elders of Month: Jamie Woods,
Cassie Clark

Ushers: Inez Rose, Judy Irvine,
Ron & Georgia Shane, Terry
Twardzik, Judy Rutter, Marsha
Carter & Evelyn Cox

Flowers Donated By: Ronnie
& Jack Dayton, Judy Irvine, the
Corton Family, Chris & Debra
Cox



Inez Rose
September 2

Elvie Marshall
September 8

Lyneth Marshall
September 11

Karola DeLuca
September 14

Joyce McMaster
September 16

Clyde Yust
September 16

Kevin Carter
September 19

Carolyn Teal
September 25



Word from the Herd

With full confidence in the hope of the resurrection, we want to let the church family know that we have come across information that both Lewie and Annabelle Schaaf have passed away. Lewie passed on June 22, 2022, and Annabelle on March 13th of this year.

If you need to reach John or Monia Yust while out of town, please get in touch with Pastor Debra – John and Monia do not have cell or internet service at the place they are volunteering, but Debra has their landline number (with answering machine) and will be happy to pass along a message to them.



Position Available at Pineda Presbyterian Church

Pineda Presbyterian Church in Melbourne is seeking an Office Manager. If you know someone who might be interested in applying, come by the church office and we can give you a copy of the job description!

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

SAVE THE DATE

The Tony Rosa Community Center will be hosting a "Fall Art Show" on Saturday, October 21st from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

A Note from the Kitchen

We have been very fortunate to have some amazing bakers in the church bless us with sweet treats on Sunday mornings. Connie Brazee and Jim Corton have been bringing in cakes and other goodies, with additional members bringing in cookies both home-baked and store-bought. Barbara Musgrave coordinates coffee making and snack distribution and has a couple of requests to make:



- **We need more bakers** – it would be very helpful to have additional people bringing in items. We don't discriminate on scratch-made, box-made, or store-bought, all items are appreciated and welcome!
- **Please sign up** – we have had some weeks where two cakes were brought in on the same Sunday and other weeks where nothing came in. There is a sign-up sheet right next to the kitchen and it would be great to know who is bringing something in when so that we can make sure there is something every week.

Finally, we want to thank Connie for her many amazing treats, from carrot cake to cannoli, German chocolate cookies and much more! Her arthritis will prevent her from making more items in the future, so we want to share our appreciation for the way she shared her delicious gifts and passion with us!

John and Monia Yust – The Road Runner Adventures!

John and Monia were home for July and the first part of August, but it is worth giving some information about their adventures in PA – Road Runner traveled 1,996 miles start to finish on that trip, including being parked for over three months while John and Monia took their car, bikes, and feet more places!

Their next adventure was postponed due to repairs and then re-arranged when the park they were supposed to be at lost the information about them coming there, but they started out August 10th with 2 days of travel to get to Elizabeth Furnace, VA. Things were rough to start, with difficulty finding propane, navigating impossible roads, difficulty finding their camp spot, the discovery that they had no cell phone or internet coverage, and a flat tire on the car. But John and Monia are not quitters and they are not ones who dwell on the downside of things. They have a land line now to be able to communicate out and in and have gotten a sky link to get satellite internet. They have been hiking and enjoying beautiful woods, as well as working maintaining the 32 camp sites (no water or electricity for those sites), restroom duty, and hosting Open House at the 1800s cottages that are at the park. They are starting to see some early fall leaves too, so the scenery is only going to get better!



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Psalm 85:12: "The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."</i>						
3 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY SPECIAL OFFERING- CHILDREN'S HUNGER PROGRAM	4 OFFICE CLOSED- LABOR DAY 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	5 10:30 am DAILY BREAD 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	6 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	7 6:15 pm NA	8 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	9 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY
10 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING	11 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	12 11:30 am Choir Practice 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	13 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 6:00 pm ADMIN 7:00 pm BAND	14 6:15 pm NA	15 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	16 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY
17 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS' MEETING	18 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	19 11:30 am Choir Practice 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION	20 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	21 6:15 pm NA	22 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	23 FIRST DAY OF FALL
24 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	25 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	26 11:30 am Choir Practice 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	27 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	28 SENIOR LUNCHEON 6:15 pm NA	29 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	30 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY

IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>September 1 Read Romans 12:6-8 Paul points out that our gifts are in proportion to our faith – why would it be important that they are given with this condition?</p>	<p>September 2 Read Romans 12:6-8 What gifts do you have that God has given you? Did you want something different? Does it affect how you use your gifts?</p>	<p>September 3 Read Matthew 16:21 Jesus knows his disciples believe him to be the messiah, but they don't know what that means – not power or fame, but death.</p>
<p>September 4 Read Matthew 16:22 It is not that Peter doesn't believe Jesus, he just doesn't want it to be true – he doesn't want his friend and teacher to die.</p>	<p>September 5 Read Matthew 16:23 Jesus calls Peter a stumbling block – his love and concern in this case would obstruct Jesus from his calling rather than assisting him.</p>	<p>September 6 Read Matthew 16:24 To be a disciple, we must put Jesus' intentions and desires above our own, and being willing to sacrifice anything for his sake.</p>
<p>September 7 Read Matthew 16:25 It is a truth that if we seek to hold onto our personal desires, we must forego accepting what God would offer us. In holding on, we lose out.</p>	<p>September 8 Read Matthew 16:26 What would we be willing to sacrifice to purchase eternity in heaven? Why are we not willing to sacrifice those things now?</p>	<p>September 9 Read Matthew 16:27-28 Jesus tells the disciples that this is not the time when all God's plans come to fruition, that day is still to come.</p>
<p>September 10 Read Matthew 18:15-17 These verses are a paradigm for resolving sin among believers. Do you have a way you handle conflict in your life?</p>	<p>September 11 Read Matthew 18:15 Step one is to speak one-on-one with the person who offended you, where the goal is to help that person not be lost to sin, but to repent.</p>	<p>September 12 Read Matthew 18:16 Step two is to bring a witness or two in order to provide corroboration that you informed the sinner of their wrongdoing and to hear the response.</p>
<p>September 13 Read Matthew 18:17 Step three is to bring the matter before the entire church, and if the person still refuses to repent, they will no longer have fellowship.</p>	<p>September 14 Read Matthew 18:15-17 Think on the purpose and consequence of the steps described. What is the purpose of confrontation? Why this consequence?</p>	<p>September 15 Read Matthew 18:18 What do you think it means for something to be "bound" or "loosed" in heaven? If it is sin, could it be the consequences affected?</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>September 16 Read Matthew 18:19-20 Rather than being about “how to get prayers answered”, this passage is about the power of the body being in agreement with and before God.</p>	<p>September 17 Read Matthew 18:21-22 The question of how many times we must forgive is one we all wonder. Is it about the number of sins to forgive or our willingness to do so?</p>	<p>September 18 Read Matthew 18:23-27 Jesus begins a parable of a slave in debt who cannot repay, who begs for mercy and receives it. How are we like this man?</p>
<p>September 19 Read Matthew 18:27-28 Having received mercy and forgiveness of his debt, what is the first thing that the slave do? He seizes and intimidates a fellow slave.</p>	<p>September 20 Read Matthew 18:29-30 The fellow slave is also unable to repay, but the first man shows no forgiveness and demands the man be jailed, as is his right.</p>	<p>September 21 Read Matthew 18:31 The witness of others around the two men is supposed to mirror our own distress. What about this scenario feels wrong, and why?</p>
<p>September 22 Read Matthew 18:32-33 The lord in the parable explains the problem – one who had been freed from his debt should have shown similar mercy.</p>	<p>September 23 Read Matthew 18:34-35 Jesus warns, we should show mercy because we understand it’s power, otherwise, we neither earn nor deserve it for ourselves.</p>	<p>September 24 Read Matthew 20:1-2 This parable is about getting what we deserve and being jealous over what others receive. How do you decide what is or is not fair?</p>
<p>September 25 Read Matthew 20:3-7 The characters are all laborers who are happy at being hired to work and receive pay. At this point, everyone is content with their roles.</p>	<p>September 26 Read Matthew 20:8-9 At the end of the day, it is time to get paid, and the first groups to be paid are happy with what they receive – a full day’s wage.</p>	<p>September 27 Read Matthew 20:10-12 It is the long-day workers’ assumptions of what they will get that make them unhappy to receive what they had been promised.</p>
<p>September 28 Read Matthew 20:13-14 The landowner reminds the workers they were happy with the wage earlier, and it is for the owner to decide who deserves what.</p>	<p>September 29 Read Matthew 20:15 Why is it that we can feel unhappy when someone chooses to be generous? What effect does this have on our spirits?</p>	<p>September 30 Read Matthew 20:16 If we know now that God chooses to show grace where he will, why do we still want to have some kind of say in how he does it?</p>
<p>October 1 Read Matthew 21:23 Enjoy for this moment the irony of servants of God asking Jesus by what authority he does anything – if only they knew to whom they spoke!</p>	<p>October 2 Read Matthew 21:24 Jesus offers a deal – a question for a question. If Jesus offered you this deal to answer a question of yours, would you take it?</p>	<p>October 3 Read Matthew 21:25-26 The question and conundrum are stated clearly – it’s not the question that is of importance, it is the reasoning of the elders that is revealed.</p>