



Find us on 



The CHIMES Newsletter

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Pastor's Thoughts



How often are we concerned about having enough ... enough time, enough money, enough energy? I think that for many people, a concern about sufficiency is familiar territory, whereas abundance is not a part of our experience. No matter what level of security we may feel in our own resources or abilities, it can be challenging to be confident that we have enough to continue to meet our needs for the future in the face of inflation, erratic stock markets, and the desire to help family and friends who struggle.

When we consider what we have, and how we need to make it work or stretch, we actually have a lot of power over our mindset. Whether we are anxious or confident, we will be able to find points of proof that reinforce our ideas of whether we are operating in scarcity or abundance at every step of our journey. As Christians, we are called to hear the words of Jesus when he says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10), and to believe that those words are for us. It's not just permission to pursue abundance, it is to be confident that we already have it in Christ.

For the first two Sundays in November, I will be preaching on scarcity and abundance, obligation and generosity, and the mindsets that we have about the resources God has given us. During those weeks, I pray that you will consider your own mindset, and are able to see the abundant love and blessings that God has given you. On Sunday, November 12th, we will have an opportunity to dedicate our Estimates of Giving for 2024, not out of a sense of obligation or concern over scarcity in the church, but in the confidence of abundant blessing and with generous hearts. I hope to see you in worship those days, and to hear your stories of seeing opportunity and blessing when we look differently at the resources God has laid upon each of us.



Remembrance of the Saints

All Saints Day is November 1st and is a day set aside in the church calendar in which we remember and give thanks for those whom we have loved and lost. We wish to honor those who have joined the Church Triumphant in the last year:

Linda Jane Allison

Fedmin Davis

Lynda Dussler

Jason Ingram

Wally Irvine

Eddie Johnson

Judy Luciano

Rev. Dr. Ed Reidesel

Keith Robb

Lewis & Annabelle Schaaf

Dorothy Stokes

Molly Stone

James Williams

Session Summary

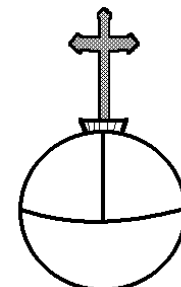
The session met on October 17th. Matters discussed included the following:

- Approved vacation requests from Pastor Debra to use a Sunday she did not take off as part of a week's vacation in summer to be off Friday, November 10th, as well as taking her last full week of vacation to be off December 26th through January 2nd.
- Approving staff Christmas bonuses.
- Approving a cost-of-living increase for all staff except the Sexton of 3.2% in alignment with federal calculations and Presbytery advice. The sexton will receive and increase in accordance with Florida's minimum wage laws.
- Approved purchasing a 3-year extended warranty on our digital sign.
- Approved purchases and approvals related to changing our internet and phone service. The church will purchase a VIOP device to allow for our phone lines to operate over the internet, then will contact T-Mobile to try a two-week free trial of their internet service. After testing speeds and capability, if the service meets the office needs, we will switch to T-mobile and then make decisions about hooking up the sanctuary as well.
- Reviewed timeline for Stewardship and Budgeting
- Treasurer's Report: September had lower contributions and the quarterly insurance bill came, so our surplus was eliminated, but we still feel the church is in a strong financial position at the end of the third quarter.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$19,718.35
 - Actual Expenses in September: \$23,832.83
 - Contributions in September: \$10,734.00
 - Income year-to-date: \$163,323.04
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$163,804.42
 - Defecit year-to-date: \$481.38



Tis the Season to get Decorating!

The season of Advent is approaching, and with it, time to decorate the sanctuary in preparation! On Sunday, November 26th, we will hang the garlands, put up the wreaths, and raise up the Chrismon Tree! These white and gold ornaments contain symbols that reflect Jesus' identity and work as the Savior who is born to us at Christmas. Please plan to stay and help prepare our worship space for Advent and Christmas!



Poinsettia Orders

We love decorating the worship space with poinsettias the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve. These vibrant plants have been associated with Christmas since the 1500s, and in addition to helping celebrate Jesus' birth they symbolize good cheer and success, and are said to bring wishes of mirth and celebration.

This year, poinsettia orders will need to be placed by December 10th. Each poinsettia will cost \$10. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or in the office on Tuesday, December 26th. Watch your bulletins for sign up forms beginning November 26th.



CHURCH POT LUCK PICNIC

Sunday, November 12, 2023

in the Sanctuary

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

See the flyer and sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board for more information!

ECHO Donations

Thank you to all who donated to our October special offering, ECHO. Located in Ft. Myers, ECHO exists to reduce hunger and improve the lives of small-scale farmers worldwide. They have provided agricultural, livestock, and appropriate technology training and resources for nearly four decades to development workers in more than 190 countries. They also create opportunities for community leaders to network with one another to share experiences, ideas and solutions.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART CHRISTMAS SHOP IDEA LIST



Gifts from the Heart
Christmas Shop

- Bicycles and tricycles of all sizes
- Sporting equipment (balls, basketball hoops, etc.)
- Toy instruments (guitars, recorders, xylophones, pretend microphones, etc.)
- Toy figurines (dolls, action figures, etc.) – Marvel and Disney figures are particularly desired, as are Baby Alive, Fur Real toys, and things that come with accessories.
- Pretend / Dress up items (costumes, doctor kits, pretend construction toys, toy kitchens, etc.)
- Educational toys (science kits, roller skates, skateboards, scooters, and protective gear
- Toy trucks
- Craft kits (make your own jewelry, bracelets, string art, sewing, etc.)
- Craft supplies (paints, sketch pads, markers, drawing books, etc.)
- Headphones and earbuds, Bluetooth speakers

Holiday Ministry Opportunities

The holidays are fast approaching, and we have several ways you can get involved throughout the holiday season! See below for some opportunities to serve our community!

- **Thanksgiving Basket Offering**– Sunday November 5th: We will be taking up an offering to fund our yearly Thanksgiving Food Basket Mission. This mission helps provide a holiday meal for families in need. Shopping and basket assembly will take place Saturday, November 18th. Basket delivery will take place the next day, Sunday, November 19th. We could also use paper bags for the baskets, so please consider getting some when you go grocery shopping and bringing them into the church!
- There is a station set up in the Sanctuary where you can fill out a **Christmas Card for an active duty military service member**. We are participating in United Soldiers and Sailors of America's annual Christmas Card drive to get holiday cards into the hands of active duty military so that they can receive a gift of appreciation and recognition for their service during the holidays. The table will stay up through Sunday, November 19th this year, which will give us enough time to get the cards sent out in time to be received by Christmas.
- **Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop**: Gift donations for children's will be collected November 5th – November 26th. Each year, Gifts From the Heart organizes a pop-up store, at church participating families from 10 organizations shop for their children for Christmas. Participating families are able to purchase a set number of items at steep discounts, giving them help while preserving the dignity of being the final provider. Last year, more than 2,000 toys were stocked in the store, and this year looks to accomplish even more! See a separate article in the chimes with ideas of gifts you might find to donate to this organization.
- **Christmas Basket Offering**-Sunday, December 3rd: We will be taking up an offering to fund our yearly Christmas Food Basket Mission. This mission helps provide a holiday meal for families in need. Shopping and assembly will be Saturday, December 16th, and delivery will be the next day, Sunday December 17th. We also need paper bags for these baskets, so keep bringing them in over the next month!
- **Christmas Joy Offering** – Sunday, December 17th: One of the four PC(USA) special offerings, the Christmas Joy Offering donations are used to provide assistance to current and former church workers (ministers, missionaries, etc.) in times of need and also to develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial / ethnic schools and colleges.

Christmas Services and Office Closing

There will be a Candlelight Service with Communion on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th at 7 p.m. Bring family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th, the office will be closed in observance of Christmas Day. We hope that you have a wonderful day with your families and friends!



Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study has finished reading through Ephesians and will be spending the weeks of November discussing sharing our faith with others. With scripture to study, mindsets of evangelism, and practical tips, we hope this class will provide opportunities to discuss both why and how we share our faith with others! All are welcome to come and participate; the class meets Wednesdays at noon in the Library of the CE building.



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.



Bill & Joyce McMaster
November 1

Marlin & Rose Fausey
November 7

Chris & Michelle King
November 11

The Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for November & December will be combined and will be held Thursday, December 14th, at 11:30 a.m. at Hemingway's Tavern, 1800 W. Hibiscus Blvd. #115, Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be December 10th.



Thank You to those who blessed us in worship in October

Elder of Month: **David Collins**

Ushers: **Judy Rutter, Elvie Marshall, Carolyn Teal, Brian Young, Marsha Carter, Evelyn Cox, Mike Nardelli, Nancy Cox, Ronnie Dayton**

Flowers Donated By: **Debra & Chris Cox, Judy Rutter, Terry Twardzik, Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Donna Aguilera**



Jim Gaidry
November 3

Fumie Kohn
November 3

Mike Nardelli
November 4

Ken Reither
November 7

Cassandra Clark
November 24

Cheryl Evans
November 25

Connie Brazee
November 26

Terry Twardzik
November 26

Tom Glew
November 28

Raye Niemeyer
November 29

Harry Wolford
November 20



Word from the Herd



Molly Stone passed away to be with our Lord on Saturday, November 21st. She had family with her and had been able to see and talk with many family members during the week she spent at the Hospice House. There will be a service of Witness to the Resurrection for her on Sunday, November 5th at 1:00 p.m. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations in Molly's memory be made to the American Cancer Society.

Shoe Shopping is About to Begin!

November is the time of year when our Shoe Mission hits its stride! Thanks to the work of Ronnie Dayton, 12 local elementary schools have been provided letters and permission slips for students to be signed up to receive gift cards to the Shoe Carnival in Hammock Landing. We anticipate being able to support up to 120 children participating in the program – an incredible number! The shoe store is having a weekend where the gift cards can go even further, by providing an additional savings to those participating in the program. Please be in prayer the weekends of November 10-12 as many of the families will be picking out shoes those days.



John and Monia Yust – The Road Runner Adventures!

John and Monia are finishing their time in Virginia and beginning to make their way back home. They are looking forward to a family reunion at their son, Chris' house in Georgia, and spending time with siblings, children, and grandchildren. In their last month of volunteering and exploring, here were some of the highlights:

- Leaf season finally came! They were present for the “peak” of the season, even if it wasn't particularly colorful, it was still enjoyable! Some of their hikes offered better views and more red and gold trees.
- Visiting the Route 11 Potato Chip Factory, where they saw equipment and pictures and heard about how they process over 24,000 pounds of potatoes per day to make 8 different kinds of chips – they even tried some!
- Visiting the Mill Museum in Edinburg and trying horehound candy (Monia's grandfather used to talk about it)
- Hikes and visits included Shawl Gap, Rock Cliff Lake, Shenandoah, Lands Run waterfall, Sky Meadow State Park, Tibbet Knob in Wolf Gap Recreational Area, Woodstock Tower, Lake Laura, and Front Royal.
- Surviving stink bugs – ick! – and power outages. Dealt with the rush of campers that came for Columbus Day weekend, but several of them were particularly sweet and offered wonderful food and treats! Took out a hornet's nest.
- Installed some paper towel holders as a gift to the park. Met lots of campers and hikers. Saw a marmot funning across the trail in front of them! Also saw lots of Canadian geese.
- Going on a horseback ride! John and Monia made friends with their mounts, Lorado and Butch, as they went on a fall trail ride and had a delightful time.



Daylight Savings time - I thought we were done with that!

Mark your calendars and be prepared to reset your (non-digital) clocks – Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday, November 5th this year and our clocks will all move backwards one hour. If you are thinking “I thought that nonsense was ending,” well, you're not wrong! But alas, it never passed both houses of Congress, so moving to Daylight Savings Time full-time was never approved at the Federal level.



November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything.</i>						
5 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE THANKSGIVING BASKET OFFERING	6 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	7 10:30 am DAILY BREAD 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	1 ALL SAINTS DAY 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	2 6:15 pm NA	3 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	4
12 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING CHURCH PICNIC	13 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	14 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	8 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 6:00 pm ADMIN 7:00 pm BAND	9 6:15 pm NA	10 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	11
19 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS' MEETING DELIVERING THANKSGIVING BASKETS	20 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	21 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 pm SESSION 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	15 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	16 6:15 pm NA	17 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	18 SHOPPING FOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS
26 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	27 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	28 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	22 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 6:15 pm NA	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	25


IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<p>November 1 Read Matthew 22:39-40 This command is part of a large list of commands in Leviticus 19 yet is lifted up out of all of them to hold second place in Jesus' answer - why is it more important than other commands?.</p>	<p>November 2 Read Matthew 22:41-42 Now it is Jesus' turn to ask a question, and the Pharisees think he is giving them an easy one – where is the Messiah to come from? Why do simple things sometimes trip us up?</p>	<p>November 3 Read Matthew 22:43-45 Jesus asks something of a Bible logic problem related to prophecy about the Messiah being a descendant of David, yet being referred to as David's Lord. Can you answer it?</p>
<p>November 4 Read Matthew 22:46 Jesus was able to silence those who challenged him, not with violence, anger, or cruelty, but with his better understanding of scripture. How can we follow his example?</p>	<p>November 5 Read Luke 21:1-4 What do you think makes the widow's offering of such value? Is it the amount she put in? The percentage of her income? Or is it something about why she gave while having so little?</p>	<p>November 6 Read Luke 21:1-4 Why do you think giving to God through the church is important as a follower of Christ? What does it accomplish? What does it teach us about needs, wants, and generosity?</p>
<p>November 7 Read Luke 21:1-4 Jesus doesn't condemn the rich for their giving, or the amount of it, he praises the widow for her actions. What do you think he feels about the gifts given by others in the story?</p>	<p>November 8 Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 Why is the attitude with which a giver gives so important to God? How much time do you spend asking yourself how you feel about giving, versus whether you can afford to?</p>	<p>November 9 Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-9 Sometimes, people read this passage as a promise that God will provide, when the focus of it is that we always have something God has given us to give and participate in his work.</p>
<p>November 10 Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-12 Paul says that when we see the Lord provide for others and bless their work, it should give us confidence that God will care for and recognize us in the same way.</p>	<p>November 11 Read 2 Corinthians 9:13-15 By calling the ministry created through giving to be a "testing," Paul shows that he knows it is sometimes hard to be generous, yet the faith that pushes us forward is a glory to God.</p>	<p>November 12 Read John 10:1-10 In this passage, Jesus is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees, and comparing himself to them. For what purpose did Jesus come to us? What are the motives of the others?</p>
<p>November 13 Read John 10:1 What do you think the metaphor of the gate is in this passage? Through what methods might false or destructive leaders gain access to people, their trust, and their loyalty?</p>	<p>November 14 Read John 10:2-5 The true owner / shepherd gains the sheeps' attention the correct way - and the sheep respond only to the shepherd. How good are you at responding only to God's voice?</p>	<p>November 15 Read John 10:6-9 Since Jesus' metaphor was not understood, he explains in blunt terms - he is the only way to God, and his sheep aren't following other teachers, only himself.</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>November 16 Read John 10:10 What does it mean that Jesus comes so that his people may have life abundantly? What does it mean to you personally? What does it mean for the world? What does it look like?</p>	<p>November 17 Read John 10:11-15 There is a difference between being a shepherd and a good shepherd, and it all comes down to care. Why is it important to God in Christ to act this way? Why is it important to you?</p>	<p>November 18 Read John 10:16-18 Jesus makes it clear that his willingness to die for his people is not a task or obligation laid on him, but his free choice. We, like God, love as a response, not a demand.</p>
<p>November 19 Read Deuteronomy 8:1-2 God's people are called in this passage to remember where they have come from and what God has done for them so that their future will be blessed as it unfolds before them.</p>	<p>November 20 Read Deuteronomy 8:3-6 As they look back, the people are to remember God's provision and his correction, and to remember lessons that they learned so they might act correctly in this new land and time.</p>	<p>November 21 Read Deuteronomy 8:7-10 After 40 years of nomadic hardship and scarcity, the people will now inhabit a land of provision and abundance. They are to bless the Lord and enjoy what he has given them.</p>
<p>November 22 Read Deuteronomy 8:11 Now comes the warning: just because you are in this new place, don't forget all that you learned on the journey - remember who brought you here.</p>	<p>November 23 Read Deuteronomy 8:12-16 Why would the writer be concerned that abundance will lead to complacency and misplaced pride? Is he mistaken or insightful?</p>	<p>November 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAPPY THANKSGIVING</p> 
<p>November 25 Read Deuteronomy 8:17-18 Are there things that you might claim as the work of your own hand that God had a part in making happen? How can we turn and give praise back to God for what he has done in us?</p>	<p>November 26 Read Ephesians 1:15-19 Today, don't think too hard about whys and whats and wherefores of this passage. Read it as an earnest prayer for yourself and at least one other person in your life.</p>	<p>November 27 Read Ephesians 1:15-16 Imagine someone writes you a letter to say they give thanks to God every time you come to mind - what can you do today that might prompt that kind of reaction to your name?</p>
<p>November 28 Read Ephesians 1:17 Consider the two things Paul asks God to give the Ephesians - wisdom and revelation. What do these two things produce in a person? What might they produce through someone's use of them in the world?</p>	<p>November 29 Read Ephesians 1:18-19 Wisdom and Revelation are to produce enlightenment, which helps us to see where God is leading us, the blessings we already have around us, and how God's power is already at work in our midst.</p>	<p>November 30 Read Ephesians 1:20 God's power in Christ led to his resurrection and ascension to heaven - what does God's power produce in us, both as we look towards the future and even now, as we live for God on earth?</p>
<p>December 1 Read Ephesians 1:21 As you look around, what are the heights of status or achievement to which a human can aspire? They are as nothing to the place that God has placed Jesus when he seated him at his own right hand.</p>	<p>December 2 Read Ephesians 1:22-23 All of us who follow Christ have a place with him - we are connected to him as parts of a body are connected, with Jesus holding all things together and directing where it is we go and what it is we do.</p>	<p>December 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADVENT BEGINS</p> 