



Find us on 



The CHIMES Newsletter

OCTOBER 1, 2023



Yes, it is that time of year again when you start hearing the word “stewardship” in the church. But what

does it mean? What does it mean to the church? And what does it mean to you?

As a basic definition, Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. As a way of life, it means we are called to acknowledge and live in such a way that we demonstrate our understanding that what we have is not actually ours – it is God’s – and we are temporary administrators.

In application in the church, Stewardship is often related to the ways in which we contribute to the running of the church, both in the time we give in service and the resources we give in tithes and offerings.

A healthy understanding of Stewardship should include the following principles: God does not direct us to give out of guilt, in exchange for grace or favors, or to meet the bottom line of the church budget. Giving is a personal discipline, a practice that cultivates our spiritual life. Our giving to the church is not the same as paying another bill or meeting an obligation. It is a continual proclamation that what we have is not ours; it belongs to God. It is a witness

Pastor’s Thoughts

to our belief that God will provide for us. And it is an act of submission that recognizes God is Lord over every aspect of our lives and has a say in our finances even as he has a say in our vocations, our relationships, our time, and our abilities.

to find the generous and abundant attitude that Scripture would have us take towards money?

On November 5th and 12th, I will be preaching on the struggles and freedoms that come with seeking to be obedient to God’s call that we be stewards of all that we have, and the Biblical call to give back to God. I will be unpacking the ideas of scarcity and abundance, obligation and generosity. And I will be asking us all to consider what it means that Jesus said “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10) when so often all we hear about is scarcity, from outside the church and within.

There will be more articles in the November Chimes and a letter coming out in October with more information on our Stewardship Sundays, but I would like to ask everyone to consider now what it means to live in a spirit of abundance – what would that look like, feel like, and inspire others to know? Please share your thoughts with me, as I would like to include them in my preparations for Stewardship season and in my own reflections as well.

Peace be with you,



Stewardship

But how can we do this as faithful Christians while we face rising prices on, well, everything, while living on fixed income or with increases that don’t seem to keep up with expenses? How do we prioritize generosity towards the Lord when family members struggle and ask for help? How can we find freedom from the stresses of obligation and scarcity

Session Summary

The September Session Meeting was held on Tuesday the 19th. Matters discussed included the following:

- Session approved a motion to move the October special offering for ECHO from the 1st to the 8th in order to avoid too much confusion or conflict with the Agape Meal service.
- 2024 budget documents were distributed and dates for budget discussions were set.
- There was consensus on holding a yard sale at the end of October or early November, provided the scouts can take our leftover items.
- Treasurer's Report: Contributions are above budget for the year and expenses are under control, so we are still carrying a surplus. We still have 2 more insurance payments to make this year, so we shouldn't get too confident, but we are in a solid position for this time of year.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$19,718.35
 - Actual Expenses in August: \$ 16,695.12
 - Contributions in August: \$ 13,046.58
 - Income year-to-date: \$ 152,589.04
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$ 139,971.59
 - Surplus year-to-date: \$ 12,617.45



Special Offering E.C.H.O.

On October 8th, we will be taking up a special offering in support



of 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.

If you would be interested in learning more about ECHO go to www.echonet.org.

Thank You for Supporting!



Thank you to all those who supported September's special offering, the Children's Hunger Program. This organization partners with United Way to ensure that children that rely on school breakfasts and lunches for the bulk of their meals have sufficient food to get through the weekends and when school is not in session. Your support of this program will help over 3900 children at more than 50 schools in Brevard County.

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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Wednesday, October 4th
2:00-4:00 PM
*A brief service will begin at 2:00 p.m.
Blessings will be available until 4:00 p.m.*

Treats Provided! Free Gift for Pets!

Pineda Presbyterian Church invites you to celebrate and give thanks to God for the furry, feathery, & scaly creatures that bring us so much joy & companionship at a special "Blessing of the Animals Service"!

All denominations and creatures are welcome!

Pineda Presbyterian Church
5650 N Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL 32940

Family Promise Golf Scramble

This November 3rd and 4th, Family Promise will be hosting its 11th Annual Golf Scramble, a fundraising activity that has grown into a two-day tournament with a helicopter ball drop. First Presbyterian Church is going to be a bronze sponsor of the event, and sending a foursome to play in the tournament. If anyone would like to purchase a ticket for the helicopter ball drop, you can do so at familypromiseofbrevard.org

Looking for Paper Bags

We are soon coming upon our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket season for the Mission Committee, and we are in need of paper bags to help hold all of the items we will be purchasing for the families assigned to us from the Sharing Center. If you can help, please ask for paper bags when getting groceries and bring them into the church office or sanctuary. We appreciate your partnership in this wonderful program!



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. We can always use more bakers to bring in bites to share and also request that you sign up so we know when to expect your creations! Please contact Barbara Musgrave if you have any questions.

Looking for Blank Christmas Cards

Starting on October 22nd, we will have a Card Station in the sanctuary where you can write Christmas greetings to a deployed service member. We have many cards that have been donated for this purpose (and if you have any more, you are welcome to bring them in!). The Card Station will be up through November 12th to make sure that we have plenty of time to send the cards on to United Soldiers and Sailors of America to be placed in Christmas boxes and sent out to various military bases around the world. To learn more about their Christmas Card mission, you can visit <https://www.usaso.org/christmas-cards-for-our-deployed-troops>



PEACEMAKER AMIRA BARHAM

POTLUCK DINNER OCTOBER 8 @ 5:00PM MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Amira Barham, a Palestinian Christian, was born and raised in the town of Beit Jala, near Bethlehem. With a passion for social justice, equality, and helping people, she has worked as a social worker with many diverse and vulnerable populations. She's worked with young unaccompanied asylum seekers fleeing war-torn and dangerous countries, young people and adults struggling with substance misuse and criminal behavior, and vulnerable young people and women suffering gender-based violence. Most recently, Amira's work has been focused on supporting marginalized children in Palestine, mainly from refugee camps, with Sounds of Palestine. Sounds of Palestine is an organization that uses music and orchestra lessons to enhance children's self-esteem and impact positive social change. Additionally, she is connected to Al Harah Theater, as the developer of policies for safeguarding children. Amira recently completed a postgraduate diploma in Health Action Training, which offers training on utilizing drama practice and drama techniques to enhance person-centered care and resilience, specifically in the aftermath of the pandemic to help healthcare professionals.

RSVP NOW

📍 600 S. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL
📞 321-452-5689
✉️ mipresbyterian@gmail.com





Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study is reading through Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. As we read through Ephesians, 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.



Dalip & Angela Singh
October 22

Ernie & Emmy Wohlenberg
October 25

Bill & Joyce McMaster
November 1

The Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for October will be held Thursday the 26th, 11:30 a.m. at Olive Garden, 2508 W New Haven Ave., West Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Carter at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day for sign up will be October 22th.



Thank You to those who blessed us in worship in September

Elder of Month: Karola DeLuca

Ushers: Judy Rutter, Elvie Marshall, Karola DeLuca, Mike Nardelli, Marsha Carter, Evelyn Cox

Flowers Donated By: Inez Rose, Clyde Yust, Tom Glew, Brian Young/Carolyn Teal



Isabel Loyd
October 7

Marsha Carter
October 10

Won Park
October 13

Joanne Ritter
October 22

Grady Evans
October 27

Jim Gaidry
November 3

Fumie Kohn
November 3



Word from the Herd



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!

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

John and Monia Yust – The Road Runner Adventures!

Getting through weeks of drought and heat, fall leaves are coming for John and Monia – they saw some of the first colors while hiking in the last month. They have been working hard (particularly over Labor Day weekend), but also getting out and about to see sights, including Buzzard Rocks, Shenendoah River State Park, Strasburg Emporium, Blue Ridge Tunnel, Seven Bends State Park, a Dukes of Hazard museum, Meems Bottom Covered Bridge, and several old towns. They went apple picking and enjoyed some apple cider donuts, and had a picnic in Staunton, known as “one of the pretest towns in America”

They have also been spotting wildlife – deer, stick bugs, tortoises, and a giant hornet’s nest have livened things up. Rabbits and Squirrels abound. They enjoy all the sightings but are glad that the bears have stayed back.

They are working hard, but still enjoy the experience a lot, and have already started planning for next year’s adventures!



World Dignity Day Breakfast

Daily Bread will be hosting their World Dignity Day Breakfast at the Hilton Rialto on Thursday, October 19 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in celebration of the belief that everyone deserves a life of dignity. The event will be a celebration of their current projects and there will be an exciting announcement for the future. 100% of the proceeds support the mission of Daily Bread. Reserve your space at www.dailybreadinc.org/dignity.



October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SUNDAY	2 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	3 10:30 am DAILY BREAD 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	4 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	5 6:15 pm NA	6 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	7
8 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SPECIAL OFFERING— E.C.H.O.	9 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	10 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	11 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 6:00 pm ADMIN 7:00 pm BAND	12 6:15 pm NA	13 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	14
15 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS' MEETING	16 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	17 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION	18 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	19 6:15 pm NA	20 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	21
22 10:00 am WORSHIP	23 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	24 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	25 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm BAND	26 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCH 6:15 pm NA	27 5:00 pm LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY	28
29 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	30 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	31 11:30 am CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS HAPPY HALLOWEEN				



IN THE WORD

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Weekly Devotional

<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>
<p>October 4 Read Matthew 21: 27 Why do you think Jesus refuses to answer the question? Is it for the same reason as the other leaders or in response to their answer?</p>	<p>October 5 Read Matthew 21:28-30 Jesus asks a different question using the example of a father and two sons. Have you been like one of the sons? Both? Which are you now?</p>	<p>October 6 Read Matthew 21:31 The question Jesus asks is which son did the will of the Father – what does it mean to do God’s will? How do we live that out every day?</p>
<p>October 7 Read Matthew 21:31-32 Jesus states that sinners who come to God in repentance are accepted before the leaders who don’t act on what they know to be right.</p>	<p>October 8 Read Matthew 21:33 In reading this parable, why do you think God puts so much work into the vineyard / world only to have others tend it / live in it?</p>	<p>October 9 Read Matthew 21:34-37 What is expected of the tenants? By what argument or right might they refuse to give what is owed to the landowner?</p>
<p>October 10 Read Matthew 21:38-39 Why does the landowner think that the tenants will act differently toward his son than his servants? What is the tenants’ goal?</p>	<p>October 11 Read Matthew 21:40-41 When judging others, the religious leaders see clearly what the consequences of rejecting God, his prophets, and his son should be.</p>	<p>October 12 Read Matthew 21:42 Jesus tries to point out that the disobedience just condemned in the parable is the action the religious leaders are engaging in right now.</p>
<p>October 13 Read Matthew 21:43-44 The consequences for the people who reject Jesus are laid out here plainly – but what are the “fruits of the kingdom” that are to be produced?</p>	<p>October 14 Read Matthew 21:45-46 When the religious leaders hear the explanation, they are not moved to repentance, but anger. Why do people “dig in” when they are wrong?</p>	<p>October 15 Read Matthew 22:1-2 This parable takes place at a wedding reception – what are the best (and worst) ones you have attended? What made them so?</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>October 16 Read Matthew 22:3-4 When the time comes for the reception to start, none of the invited guests show up! Is this merely a preference, or an insult?</p>	<p>October 17 Read Matthew 22:5-6 The follow-up actions of the guests are bad – they “make light” of the disrespect and go so far as to beat and kill the king’s servants.</p>	<p>October 18 Read Matthew 22:7 The king responds in anger to the insults and actions of the guests – what do you picture God’s anger to look like?</p>
<p>October 19 Read Matthew 22:8-10 The king institutes a new plan – invite everyone, “good” or “bad” alike. The only requirement is to be willing to come celebrate the wedding.</p>	<p>October 20 Read Matthew 22:11-12 Conflict is not over yet – one guest does not show honor for the occasion. Notice the king still calls him friend but demands an explanation.</p>	<p>October 21 Read Matthew 22:13-14 The king condemns the man and throws him out – even though he welcomes all, he still demands respect and compliance from all.</p>
<p>October 22 Read Matthew 22:15 The Pharisees, masters of interpretation of the law, now enter the story as a group who want to trap Jesus with his words.</p>	<p>October 23 Read Matthew 22:16 The Pharisees begin their ploy with flattery, yet the words they say are true. If they believed their own words, would they continue?</p>	<p>October 24 Read Matthew 22:17 The challenge issued is one of obedience to earthly rulers versus the Lord – and Jesus must please the crowd or the authorities.</p>
<p>October 25 Read Matthew 22:18-19 Jesus correctly identifies their ploy and calls them hypocrites in the undertaking. Yet he does not back away from the challenge.</p>	<p>October 26 Read Matthew 22:20-21 Consider the coin in light of Jewish law, which prohibits making an image of God or other deity. Are these coins even legal to have?</p>	<p>October 27 Read Matthew 22:21 What do you think of as the things that belong to God? How do we acknowledge God’s ownership of life, resources, and time?</p>
<p>October 28 Read Matthew 22:22 The pharisees are caught in their own trap, and they exit the scene in amazement at what Jesus did with their tricky question.</p>	<p>October 29 Read Matthew 22:34-35 The Pharisees don’t stay down long – when they hear Jesus silenced their rivals, the Sadducees, they come back for another round.</p>	<p>October 30 Read Matthew 22:36 Do you have a favorite commandment? Is it one of the 10 commandments? What about all the others found in scripture?</p>
<p>October 31 Read Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus actually quotes from the Shema, found in Deuteronomy 6, a foundational faith statement about obeying the Lord.</p>	<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.</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?</p>