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The CHIMES Newsletter

October, 2025

Pastor's Thoughts—Holy Cow Presentation



On Sunday, September 28th, we heard a presentation about the results of the CAT survey from our Holy Cow

consultant. Thank you to everyone who stayed after church in order to be a part of the discussions and to hear about our data.

For the next couple of months, this column will share some of that information again – in part, to summarize it for those who weren't present, but also to serve as a reminder for all of us as to what we learned, as there was a lot of information shared quickly.

Our church was labeled as one that is "clergy-focused" – what does that mean? It's not a good or bad thing, it is a descriptive label that indicates that the highest areas of focus expressed during the survey were actions or responsibilities traditionally associated with the clergy – preaching, pastoral care, vision casting, etc. Other label options include "power-focused" (the work of the decision-making group), and "ministry-focused" (work associated with various ministries or committees of the church).

Some advice we've received about this facet of our church is that this kind of focus is conducive to being able to make needed changes, and is also fertile ground for growth, both internally (better connections) and externally (growth in numbers). It can leave us vulnerable to anxiety and conflict, as a lot rides on the perceived success or likeability of one person. To address this, building strong accountability, agency, and leadership development skills throughout the church strengthens our stability.

We also learned about "drivers" in our church – the parts of our life together that help people to feel satisfied and also excited, energetic, or passionate about what is going on. The idea of the drivers is to be aware that when certain things within the church are done well (in our case, preaching, quality CE opportunities, small group opportunities, visible pastoral leadership), we have a heightened sense of peace, fulfillment, cooperation, meaning, and belonging.

When we do other things well, like having the pastor articulate a clear vision and keep it at the forefront of our attention, or working

together on discerning gifts for ministry, the energy level of the church goes up – we get excited about what's going on in the life of the church. We have a bigger sense of purpose, we feel passionate about what we are doing.

Knowing this information will help all of us pay attention to where we need to put in some initial work: building up the practices and programs that impact the congregation the most in order to promote engagement, connection, and rally everyone together before taking our next steps forward.

It's the Great Pumpkin!

Presbyterian Church of the Good Shepherd, our neighbor to the North, is having a pumpkin patch again this year! If



you are interested in visiting their pumpkin patch for jack-o-lantern supplies or pictures, sales start Saturday, October 11th and finish on the 31st. Saturday hours are 9am to 7pm, Sunday hours are 11:30am – 7:30pm, and weekdays they are open 12pm – 8pm.



Stewardship Sunday 10/26

During October you will be receiving information about our Stewardship campaign for 2026. Our theme this year will be "Stepping Out in Purpose and Passion," based on 2 Corinthians 5, which talks about living in faith, sharing Christ with others, and being new creations and ambassadors for Christ in the world.

The emphasis of our Stewardship program will be asking the congregation to committing to the journey of the next year, when we will be taking the information we collected from the CAT survey, continuing to have conversations with the church about our identity, priorities, and aspirations, creating a vision for the next 3 years, and taking action to ensure that we respond to what you have shared is important to the church to put some work into our worship, Christian Education, and outreach ministries.

We don't have the vision plan mapped out and ready to present to the congregation in a neat PowerPoint presentation. But we will be doing more than talking 2026—we will be taking our first steps in a committed direction. We are asking the congregation to commit to walking with us on that journey, one that will be marked with clear purpose and exciting passion.

On Sunday, October 26th, we will be asking the congregation to make a commitment to this journey with estimates of giving and participation interest forms—a way of saying, "I'm interested in walking with you." We hope you will come!

Please be in Prayer for Shoe Mission Work!

We have just started the process of putting the shoe mission into work for 2025! Packets will be going out to schools in early October asking counselors to identify students whose families may need some extra help to get them new shoes, and gift cards going out at the end of the month. We're asking for your prayers as this work begins: for Ronnie Dayton as she coordinates our efforts, for the families to feel seen, blessed, and encouraged, and for the students to feel excited and proud of their new shoes.

Thank you for supporting September's Special Offering: Children's Hunger Project



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 contributions help vulnerable children with more than food – you give them the assurance that someone cares about their needs. Thank you!

On October 5th, 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.

Word from the Herd

There will be a memorial service for Betty Snavely on Sunday, November 9th, following worship. More details will be shared closer to that time.



Session Summary

Session met on Tuesday, September 16th. Topics addressed included the following:

- Session voted to instruct our bookkeeper to pay out benevolences as budgeted for the remainder of the year – we had been looking at finances closely this year and were deciding quarter-by-quarter what we could do based on our resources. We feel confident that we can afford to pay our benevolences fully for the rest of the year at this point.
- Session approved a motion to update check signers with our bank.
- Session agreed to begin discussions with the person who cleans for the school about expanding their responsibilities to include church needs.
- Treasurer's Report: We saw a slight increase in August due to consistent, generous giving and careful monitoring of expenditures. We still intend to use any surplus at the end of the year to build up our Reserve Fund that pays for repairs to the church, since we did not purchase wind coverage in 2025.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,222.32
 - Actual Expenses in August: \$13,198.77
 - Contributions in August: \$13,580.52
 - Income year-to-date: \$137,834.15
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$122,970.31
 - Surplus year-to-date: \$14,863.84



Nominating Needs Your Help!

We are beginning the Nominating season, looking through the congregation for who would make an excellent Deacon or Elder. 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 Jack Dayton or Judy Rutter.

Nomination For Church Officer

I suggest the name of _____ for nomination to the office of _____

- ☐ Elder _____
☐ Deacon _____
☐ Nominating Committee _____

The nominating committee needs additional information to help decide, among the names suggested, whom to nominate. Please comment on the candidate in such areas as the following:

Consistent attendance at worship: YES _____ NO _____

Comments: _____

Participation in church activities: YES _____ NO _____

Comments: _____

Former offices held: YES _____ NO _____

Comments: (which office) _____

Participation in Bible Studies/Sunday School: YES _____ NO _____

Comments: _____

Other services rendered: _____

Elder characteristics: Organized, makes good decisions, wise, spiritual, able to delegate.

Deacon characteristics: Compassionate, cheerful, helpful, spiritual, at ease with those being sick, able to pray with people.

Nominating officer: Spiritual, wise, encouraging, has good rapport with people, knows many people.

The Nominating Committee appreciates your input in the important matter of selecting new church officers. Please put this form in an envelope and address to Church Nominating Committee. Either put the envelope in the offering plate or bring to the church office.

Your signature

Date

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study group has also resumed! The class meets at 12:00 each Wednesday. Pastor Debra leads a study and discussion. We are currently reading through the Gospel of Luke and discussing the contents as well as application to our lives today. All are welcome to attend, and participants may bring a bag lunch or snacks to enjoy while we delve into scripture together. We hope you will join us!

Sunday School Class

The Sunday School class is currently studying the books of First and Second Samuel. These books contain the story of Samuel, who was God's spokesperson as the nation transitioned from separate tribes into the Northern and Southern kingdoms and, eventually, the united kingdom of Israel. They also contain the stories of the reigns of Saul and David as kings. If you are interested in joining, talk with Chris Cox or simply come to a class – they meet every Sunday morning **except** the second Sunday of the month at 8:45 in the CE building library.

All Saints

Please help us collect names to remember those we have lost in the last year. On November 2nd we will celebrate All Saint's Day and we would like to



commemorate those who joined the Church Triumphant at both the worship service on that day. We would also like to recognize them in November Chimes. Please sign in names on the bulletin board by Friday, October 24th to be included.



Dalip & Angela Singh
October 22

Ernie & Emmy Wohlenberg
October 26

Bill & Joyce McMaster
November 1

Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for October will be held Thursday, October 30th at 11:30 a.m.



at Sonny's BBQ, 1020 Malabar Rd. SW, Palm Bay. Please contact Marsha Corton at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day to sign up will be October 26th.

Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in September

Elder of Month: **Sue D'Imperio**

Ushers: **Brian & Sue Clark, Ed & Patty Darcy, Marsha Corton, Evelyn Cox, Carolyn Teal, Brian Young**

Flowers Donated By: **Inez Rose, Marylynn Yust, Tom Glew, Jim & Marsha Corton**



Marsha Corton
October 10

Won Park
October 13

Judith Fairman
October 17

Frank Cundari
October 19

Joanne Ritter
October 22

Grady Evans
October 27

Kent Duda
November 3



Did you Know...

The church subscribes to a daily devotion called The Upper Room on behalf of our members? We have printed devotional booklets in both regular and large print available in the office and sanctuary, with new editions coming out every other month. They are free to take a copy, or you can leave a donation if you want to help offset the cost. The devotions are written by many different contributors and always include a scripture basis, reflection to read, a thought for the day, and a prayer focus idea. Pick one up – even if you only read it a couple of times, it's a step towards cultivating a daily Bible-reading discipline that helps keep God at the forefront of your thoughts each day!

World Dignity Day Breakfast

On Thursday, October 16th, Daily Bread (which is in the process of changing its name to Providence Connects) will once again be hosting their World Dignity Day Breakfast to increase awareness of what drives homelessness and how we can make a difference in our community. It will be held from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Hilton Rialto. Visit www.dailybreadinc.org/dignity for more information.



John and Monia Yust – The Road Runner Adventures Continue!

John and Monia continue to both serve and explore Yellowstone National Park, catching sight of animals, geysers, and waterfalls as the temperatures start to cool down.

During September, they continued their work making and putting up shutters — every time they thought they were done, they would find more wood and get back to work! They also spent time in the Visitor's Center, on "broom and shovel duty" and also assisting park personnel with maintenance and safety work, like putting in snow poles or reminding people they can't hold up traffic to take pictures of the wildlife.

In their free time, John and Monia hiked the park and continued their explorations of the nearby area, including Jackson Hole, and attend a star party (the moon didn't help). They also keep their eyes open for animals to see, and they see a lot! Beautiful pictures of bison, bears, coyotes and elk— Monia finally got a view of some really impressive antlers!

Near the end of the month, they got a new camera, so expect even more pictures in their next updates! They aren't sure what a potential shutdown will mean for the park or their time there, so keep them in prayer for now while they wait to see what happens.



October 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 5 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE E.C.H.O. SPECIAL OFFERING | 6 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY | 7 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS | 1 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY | 2 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA | 3 | 4 |
| 12 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING | 13 COLUMBUS DAY 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY | 14 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS | 8 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY 5:00 pm ADMIN MEETING | 9 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA | 10 | 11 |
| 19 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACON'S MEETING | 20 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY | 21 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING | 22 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY | 23 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:00 am WORSHIP 5 CENTS A MEAL | 27 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY | 28 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS | 29 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY | 30 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA | 31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN |  |

IN THE WORD

Daily Devotion

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>October 1 Read Colossians 2:13-14 Jesus died for our sins before we were believers, and while still Gentiles for the Corinthians. If Jesus was ready to claim them as they were then, they don't need to change now.</p> | <p>October 2 Read Colossians 2:15 Whereas many would see Jesus' death on the cross as shameful and lowering, Paul says that it was the powers of the world that were revealed as weak by the cross.</p> | <p>October 3 Read Luke 17:5-10 Do you sometimes think your faith is too small to accomplish anything? Even tiny amounts of faith can accomplish astounding things, if we are bold enough to put it in action!</p> |
| <p>October 4 Read Luke 17:6-5 What do you think it means to "increase" one's faith? Can it be done, and if so, how? What part of this work is your responsibility, and whose help do you need to succeed?</p> | <p>October 5 Read Psalm 66:1-4 The psalmist invites all to praise the Lord for what he has already done. Does this kind of praise easily spring to mind for you?</p> | <p>October 6 Read Psalm 66:5-7 If examples of God's works aren't immediately remembered, we are invited to look around and see what he is up to!</p> |
| <p>October 7 Read Psalm 66:8-12 All the people are invited to direct their attention and their praise back to God, as even the psalmist turns and directs his words to the Lord.</p> | <p>October 8 Read Luke 17:11-14 Jesus sends the lepers to the priests to be declared clean even before they showed signs of healing – going to them was an act of faith!</p> | <p>October 9 Read Luke 17:15-16 Only the Samaritan stops to return - perhaps the others were in a hurry to be restored to their community by seeing the priests?</p> |
| <p>October 10 Read Luke 17:15-17 Of all who were made clean, only one returns to thank Jesus. Why do we so quickly forget those who help us, or neglect to thank them? What was different about the one man who returned and gave thanks?</p> | <p>October 11 Read Luke 17:19 The man who came back is sent back to live again in the community. How do you think this experience will have changed him? What might inform his future relationships with former friends or new acquaintances?</p> | <p>October 12 Read Luke 18:9-14 Read the entire parable, then focus on verse 9 – Why do you think Jesus addressed these people specifically? How is he hoping they will act after they hear his message?</p> |
| <p>October 13 Read Luke 18:10 If you did not know anything about the two men mentioned, what assumptions might you make because of their jobs? What judgments do we make about people's relative goodness or morality based on their position in life?</p> | <p>October 14 Read Luke 18:10-12 Does the prayer of the pharisee sound like a righteous man's prayer? If not, what is wrong with what he is saying? Where is there a disconnect between all of the good things he has done and not being considered the good person in the parable?</p> | <p>October 15 Read Luke 18:13 What emotion characterizes the tax collector's prayer? Is that a good thing or bad? Why might this prayer be pleasing? How is it that sometimes shame can lead us to repentance, and other times keep us away from seeking forgiveness?</p> |

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

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|---|---|--|
| <p>October 16</p> <p>Read Luke 18:14</p> <p>What is the main point of the parable Jesus told? How do you think it was received by Jesus' audience—would they be likely to embrace it's lesson?</p> | <p>October 17</p> <p>Read Luke 18:9-14</p> <p>Having studied the parable, read it again and honestly explore this question: with whom do you identify most in this story?</p> | <p>October 18</p> <p>Read Luke 18:9-14</p> <p>How can the people of the church seek to be righteous without falling into the trap of the pharisee? What does that look like?</p> |
| <p>October 19</p> <p>Read Psalm 65:1-2</p> <p>How often do you think of God as being your father or friend? Judge of all creation? How does our image of God affect our prayers?</p> | <p>October 20</p> <p>Read Psalm 65:3-10</p> <p>In your contemplations of God, do you often focus on his personality or his actions? Which help you feel safe or loved?</p> | <p>October 21</p> <p>Read Psalm 65: 11-13</p> <p>What are the effects of God's presence and action on the world around him? How can you help create or nurture something similar?</p> |
| <p>October 22</p> <p>Read Luke 18:1-8</p> <p>Read this entire parable and then read the first verse again. Who is Jesus speaking to and why would they need this message?</p> | <p>October 23</p> <p>Read Luke 18:2-3</p> <p>Who are the characters in this story, and who has the power in this relationship? What should be done with that power?</p> | <p>October 24</p> <p>Read Luke 18:2-5</p> <p>What is it that causes the judge to act? Are his reasons the most important part of the story, or his actions?</p> |
| <p>October 25</p> <p>Read Luke 18:6-8</p> <p>What is the expectation someone might have of an authority who is just and loving over one who is selfish or unfair?</p> | <p>October 26</p> <p>Read Romans 1:16-17</p> <p>Why was it revolutionary that Paul wrote about faith being the essential part of salvation and not heritage or actions?</p> | <p>October 27</p> <p>Read Romans 2:13-16</p> <p>What is the difference between hearing the law and doing the law? Why is doing more important, if faith is all that is needed?</p> |
| <p>October 28</p> <p>Read Romans 3:10-12</p> <p>Why is it that knowing everyone is a sinner both a burden and a relief? What does it mean for creating community?</p> | <p>October 29</p> <p>Read Romans 3:21-25</p> <p>What do you think Paul means when he says, "there is no distinction?" Is it between people, or sins? Do you agree?</p> | <p>October 30</p> <p>Read Romans 4:13-17</p> <p>What would it mean to have a faith inheritance? God's promise does not go through blood, but by faith – how can it be passed down?</p> |
| <p>October 31</p> <p>Read Romans 5:1-5</p> <p>Read carefully for the verbs in this passage to understand the effects of our redemption and also of suffering for the faith—what did you learn?</p> | <p>November 1</p> <p>Read Ephesians 1:11-12</p> <p>Have you received an inheritance before? A trait, a skill, or financial support? What was your relationship with the person who gave it to you?</p> | <p>November 2</p> <p>Read Ephesians 1:13-14</p> <p>If the Holy Spirit is a seal and a pledge, consider this—what quality, ability or interest do you most closely associate with having the Holy Spirit at work in you?</p> |