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The CHIMES Newsletter

November, 2025

Pastor's Thoughts—Holy Cow Presentation part 2



This month we're continuing to share summary information from the Holy Cow Presentation!

Last month we reviewed our style of church life and drivers in the church. The next item we learned about was the priorities of the church as expressed by the members—where everyone felt we should be putting more energy and effort. Out of seventeen options, our top four were:

- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to the church
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church
- Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life
- Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.

When you look at the priorities by different age groups, a few more pop up:

- Those under 35 would also like

to see the church adapt opportunities provided to make them more accessible given the pace and schedule in their life (online education, early morning classes, etc.)

- Those 65 and above want to see the church work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment
- Those between 35 and 64 want to see increased focus on the worship services and music to deepen a sense of connection to God and the overall worship experience.

Finally, we can also look at priorities of those who are able to attend once a month or less or twice a month or more:

- For those who attend infrequently (which likely includes many of our homebound members and friends), there is an expressed desire for opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships and to strengthen the management and support of persons in various ministries so they can do what they do best in work that is meaningful

and celebrated.

- For those who attend frequently, there is a desire for more Christian education and spiritual formation and a strengthening of the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.

Knowing what people are passionate about doing helps us plan activities we know people will be ready to get behind and work on together. It also helps us keep in mind the needs of those who we may not see often but are still vital parts of the congregational community!

The Church that Does ... and can Do More with You!

We are in the process of creating some outreach materials for the church, including Facebook posts and brochures, and we could use your help!

Tell us the activities you think we should be highlighting, and share your pictures and stories with Pastor Debra and members of the Renewal Team (Marsha Carter, Nancy Cox, Sue D'Imperio, Barbara Musgrave). What stories should we be telling about who we are and what we do here at FPC Palm Bay?

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 23rd, 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 14th. Each poinsettia will cost \$10. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or in the office on Tuesday, December 29th. Watch your bulletins for sign up forms beginning November 30th.



Thank You for Making Shoe Mission a Success!

The 2025 Shoe Mission work is now complete, and 108 students from 12 Elementary schools in the area took home gift cards that would help them get new shoes for school! We have heard back from several guidance counselors and social workers at the schools that the students and their families are grateful for the generosity of the church in making this happen!

Thank You for Supporting October Special Offering: ECHO

Located in Ft. Myers, ECHO exists to reduce hunger and improve the lives of small-scale farmers worldwide. Your support will help prepare missionaries and support personnel as they go into the world to help others with food insecurity and as a way of building connection to then share about Christ. Your support will also help their programs for networking among agricultural communities to develop and share innovations in growing food and addressing need. Thank you for your support of this organization!



Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop Idea List

- 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, books, etc.)
- 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

Word from the Herd

There will be a memorial service for Betty Snavely on Sunday, November 9th, following worship in the Memorial Garden, followed by a lunch at her granddaughter's house. If you would like to attend, please speak with Pastor Debra for the address.



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 9TH.

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 22nd. Basket delivery will take place the next day, Sunday, November 23rd. 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!



Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop:

Gift donations for children's will be collected throughout the Sundays in November in order to deliver them to the shop, which will be operating in December. 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. See a separate article in the chimes with ideas of gifts you might find to donate to this organization.



Christmas Basket Offering: Sunday, December 7th: We will be taking up a offering to fund our yearly Christmas Food Basket Mission on the first Sunday in December. Additional information about shopping, sorting, and delivering will be in the Chimes next month!

Christmas Joy Offering: Sunday, December 14th:

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. This special offering is taken up the third Sunday of Advent, the week of Joy.



Session Summary

Session met on Tuesday, October 21st in the CE library. Topics addressed included the following:

- Session approved a request from Pastor Debra to take vacation days in the early part of Thanksgiving Week.
- Session approved a motion from the Admin Committee to raise the Administrator's pay to \$15.84 per hour. This was done in response to the increase in minimum wage keep the compensation for this position more comparable to skilled positions.
- Session approved a motion from the Admin Committee to pay Christmas bonuses to the Administrator, the Music Director, the Organist and the bookkeeper.
- Session approved a motion to spread the ashes of Betty Snavely in the Memorial Garden.
- Treasurer's report: Even though giving was great in September, we had higher bills than usual, with an insurance payment and repairs in the CE building. There was a net decrease in the surplus of \$8,482.92
 - 2025 Budgeted Expenses: \$243,668.12
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$20,305.68
 - Actual Expenses in September: \$25,077.52
 - Contributions in September: \$15,104.45
 - Income year-to-date: \$152,938.60
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$146,557.68
 - Surplus year-to-date: \$6,380.92
- Session discussed the recent flood in the CE building as well as other groups using the space. Session asked Brian Clark to look into the feasibility of options available to the church regarding future use of the building.

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 – please note, there will not be class on November 12th and 26th. 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!

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Daylight Savings time - Here we Go Again!

Mark your calendars and be prepared to reset your (non-digital) clocks – Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday, November 2nd this year and our clocks will all move backwards one hour. We want to make sure to see you in church on time that morning, so double-check your clocks the night before!



Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for November/ December will be held Thursday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m. at Hemingway's Tavern, 1800 W. Hibiscus Blvd #115, Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Corton at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day to sign up will be November 30th.



Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in October

Elder of Month: **Anna Wood, Sue D'Imperio**

Ushers: **Mike & Sue Allison, Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Nancy Cox, Chris Cox, Evelyn Cox, Anna Wood, Marsha Corton, Grady & Cheryl Evans**

Flowers Donated By: **Anna Wood, Judy Rutter, Marie Purdy, Jack & Ronnie Dayton**



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!



Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have already returned both their Estimate of Giving and Church Vitality surveys as part of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign. You can continue to bring those to church or to the office to turn in. We also had requests for the two forms to be separated so that the engagement questions could be answered anonymously. Separate forms will be in the bulletin November 2nd and available in the sanctuary or office if you would like to get a copy.

3rd quarter giving statements are available to be picked up in the sanctuary of the church. Please review yours to make sure we have accurately recorded your gifts!

All 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.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed, and very dear." - Unknown

We will continue to remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant in the last year:

Jose Luis Albaladejo

Beverly Bragg

Arlene Childers

Lonnie Drum

Barry Fairman

Elmer Floyd

Kenneth Germann

Peter Guidone

Graham Hancock

**F.P. "Tim" Hatfield,
Jr.**

Karen Herren

**Margaret Rose
Knowles**

Marcae Lucich

Marilyn McEachron

Millicent Goodlitt

Jim Moore

Gary Purdy

Scott Renfro

Spencer Rowan

Margaret Sanders

Bill Schultheis

Betty Snavely

Brandon Taylor

Tom Tonk

Jim Weldon

William Wilson

Donna Wolford

ALL SAINTS' DAY

NOVEMBER 1ST



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
2 10:00 am WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE	3 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	4 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	5 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY	6 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	7	8
					14	15
9 10:00 am WORSHIP	10 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	11 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	12 5:00 pm ADMIN MEETING	13 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	21	22 THANKSGIVING BASKET SHOPPING
					20 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	28 Happy Thanksgiving 29 OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
16 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DEACON'S MEETING	17 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	18 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING	19 12:00 noon BIBLE STUDY	25 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	27 Happy Thanksgiving 29 OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED	
23 10:00 am WORSHIP DECORATING SANCTUARY THANKSGIVING BASKET DELIVERY	24 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY		26			
30 10:00 am WORSHIP 5 CENTS A MEAL						

IN THE WORD

Daily Devotion

November 1 Read Ephesians 1:11-12 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?	November 2 Read Ephesians 1:13-14 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?	November 3 Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 What do you believe it is good to boast about? What accomplishments do you value in others or want to be remembered for? What are the actions of God we should praise?
November 4 Read Luke 9:1-2 The label “tax collector” defines Zacchaeus’ character for all around him. What labels do we use today that similarly carry assumptions about a person’s character and motivations?	November 5 Read Luke 9:3-4 Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus while he was in town, yet nothing implies he expected to be able to speak with him. Why do you think he wanted to get a look?	November 6 Read Luke 9:5-6 What is most surprising to you—that Jesus noticed Zacchaeus, identified him, invited himself to dinner, or that Zacchaeus welcomed the opportunity? Why?
November 7 Read Luke 9:7-8 The crowd’s reaction indicates they thought Zacchaeus unworthy of Jesus’ notice or presence. Do you think Zacchaeus’ response indicates he is falsely accused or repentant of sin?	November 8 Read Luke 9:9-10 With Jesus’ words, he implies both that Zacchaeus was one of the lost (a sinner) and that he is worthy (he, too, is a son of Abraham). He sees Zacchaeus clearly, and still loves him.	November 9 Read Job 19:23-24 Job, accused by his friends of having committed a sin and earning God’s judgment. Job cries out that he wished his words, his claims of innocence, could be preserved.
November 10 Read Job 19:25-27 Job believes that one day, someone (a vindicator or redeemer) will believe him, and will defend his case before God, who, being just, will recognize the truth of his testimony and will again be “on his side”.	November 11 Read Job 19:23-27 Even though Job never knew to call on Jesus or the Holy Spirit, this passage is a powerful prayer of trust—how much more should we be confident, when we know the name of our redeemer?	November 12 Read Haggai 1:15b-3 The Lord speaks through his prophet to the governor, the high priest, and the people of the destroyed Jerusalem and asks them what they think of the remnants of the Holy Temple.
November 13 Read Haggai 2:4-5 As the Lord prepares to tell everyone his plans for what is left of his temple, and his nation, he first reassures them, telling them to take courage as he is with them. What kind of motivation or courage would that give you?	November 14 Read Haggai 2:6-7 The Lord wants the people to know that he is still powerful and active in the world. Their former defeat is not an indication that he is weak or incapable. He has power over the natural world and the nations of people who live in it.	November 15 Read Haggai 2:8-9 The Lord says that the future of his presence on the earth will be greater than what was seen in previous times. Beyond the silver, gold, and prosperity mentioned, what do you think brings glory to God in his church?

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

November 16 Read Luke 21:5-6 Jesus tells people marveling about the riches of the Temple that all will be destroyed. Why might this be a traumatic event? Why a positive?	November 17 Read Luke 21:7-8 Those around Jesus ask what signs they will see to know it's the time. Why might knowing warning signs be something they want?	November 18 Read Luke 21:9-11 Jesus begins the description by telling everyone not to be terrified—amid all that is to come, we should always remember God is with us!
November 19 Read Luke 21:10-11 Jesus makes it clear that there will be catastrophe and violence near the end, but this is not the only sign, or a definitive countdown to the end.	November 20 Read Luke 21:12-13 Before the wars, there is to be a time of persecution, when faith in Christ is condemned. Yet this should be seen not as an evil, but an opportunity.	November 21 Read Luke 21:13-15 Being willing to endure rejection and suffering for the sake of Christ testifies that we think he's worth it. We should prepare to testify to this.
November 22 Read Luke 21:16-19 The rejection won't only be at the hands of those in power, but from within our innermost circles. We are to take comfort in God's abiding love.	November 23 Read Isaiah 65:17 The foretold destruction of temple, kingdoms, and everything else is made less frightening when we know God has a plan for what comes next.	November 24 Read Isaiah 65:18 We are told to rejoice in what is coming into being—that what is being created will be a joy and delight. The future is promised to be good.
November 25 Read Isaiah 65:19 One joy is that the people of the Lord will no longer inspire his anger, but his delight. There is no sadness, because there is no cause for distress.	November 26 Read Isaiah 65:20 All of the tragedies that bring us grief now will be unknown in what God is building—no life will be cut short, but allowed to be lived abundantly.	November 27 Read Isaiah 65:21-23 The people of God will get to live in joy, peace, prosperity, and hope. They will get to see God bless generation after generation.
November 28 Read Isaiah 65:24 We will be so close to the Lord, that even before we open our mouths to speak, God will respond to our thoughts and hopes.	November 29 Read Isaiah 65:25 All will want to live in peace together, and there will be no place for anyone or anything that seeks evil instead of good.	November 30 Read Matthew 24:36 Since no one knows when, our job is to live in the certainty of Christ's return, but also to do what we can here and now to live as his disciples.
December 1 Read Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus describes the time of his return as happening when no one is looking for it—everyone is living as though their future is limitless and secure.	December 2 Read Matthew 24:40-40-41 The imagery used for the day of Jesus' coming is supposed to be startling—coming out of nowhere, catching people in their everyday tasks.	