

SEPTEMBER, 2026

The CHIMES

Pastor's Thoughts



Update and
Information
regarding the CE /
Office Building

As the newsletter is being written, the congregational meeting that is scheduled for August 30th has not taken place. By the time the Chimes is distributed, this meeting will have already taken place. Without being able to print the congregation's decisions, this article will contain information that is going to be presented at the meeting regarding the Session's recommendations for the CE / Office Building.

Earlier in the year, Session presented information about our current usage of the building, the maintenance issues we have had, and the financial commitment we have made to its upkeep. Even though we rent space out, we spend more than we take in. There is also cost in terms of volunteer hours invested in repairs and the opportunities we can not take because of the time, energy, and financial investment we make to upkeep the building. The congregation agreed with a plan to look into the possibility of selling the half of the property with the CE / Office building.

There have been many months

of investigation and effort into preparing a recommendation to the congregation:

- We talked with all the groups who use the church for meeting space to let them know what we were considering and promised to keep them informed as to decisions we made, but invited them to seek alternative spaces for their meetings, as we couldn't promise availability of meeting space in the future.
- We obtained a professional, third-party appraisal of the property and have been informed its current value is \$1.37 million.
- We confirmed that the church sits on two official lots, which would make dividing the property a simpler task than it would be otherwise.
- We made a concerted effort to clean out materials from the building that the church no longer needs / uses, including donating furniture from the nursery, CE materials to schools, and throwing away broken chairs and unused items. The dumpster got filled up a lot this summer, but we pretty much finished the clean-out work on the school side of the building and now can turn

our attention to cleaning out old office materials and consolidating the items we still use.

- We have had several discussions about configurations of the sanctuary space that could be considered for moving the office to the sanctuary and brainstormed ideas of how to increase space in that building that would be cost-effective.
- We have reached out to the Presbytery in order to inform them of our discernment process, confirming our ability to sell part of the property, and agreed to remain in contact with the staff and Council of our decisions as they are made.

There have been some informal conversations with Lifeline Academy about the building, and they are interested in purchasing it from the church. As part of a sale agreement, Dr. Cooks from the school indicated they would be open to the church keeping the offices in the building while we made physical changes to the sanctuary to accommodate the office.

With all of this in mind, session will be recommending that the

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congregation agree to list the CE / Office building for sale, and for the first 60 days not accept any outside bids for the property in order to dedicate time to negotiating with Lifeline Academy to see if sale terms can be reached with them. This course of action would give us the permission needed to see if a formal agreement could be reached, and if for some reason it cannot, to proceed with listing the property more publicly and accepting bids on it without needing to come back to the congregation again. No sale agreement can be finalized without another congregational meeting approving the action.

While this is going on, there is still going to be ongoing work – the office space still needs to be cleared out more, as does several areas of sanctuary storage space. We want to be working with Presbytery, and specifically the Church Development Committee, to get ideas about how we can intentionally reach out into the community to create home group and small group opportunities that will build relationships within the church and bridge our presence into more areas in Palm Bay.

There will be a lot of details to work out no matter what path we take, and we will do our best to keep communicating with the congregation as to what is going on, asking for input and advice, and working together to build a strong future for our ministry in Palm Bay. Please be in prayer for our process, our decision-making, and for this next big step!

Colombia Earthquake - A Note from Celia & Mike Keen

Thank you for reaching out. We have checked in on our leaders and they are physically fine. There is a lot of damage. As we are able to assess their needs, we will try to communicate that. For now - We are asking for prayers for the people of Colombia, including the partner programs of Colombia Kids. We have programs in Cali, Armenia and Cartagena. Cali and Armenia experienced a lot of damage. We ask for prayers for the country, its people and leaders, as well as the participants, workers and families in our Colombia Kids programs. Thanks, Celia & Mike

Road Runner Adventures

In August, John and Monia tried to beat the heat as much as possible with early morning walks and visits to museums to take up their free time! They made it to Bentonville, AK for a lovely 2-day trip featuring four museums: Museum of Native American History, the Walton museum, which commemorates Sam Walton of Walmart fame (the entry is through his original 5 and dime store), Peel Museum and Botanical Gardens, and Crystal Bridges. They loved this trip a lot, looking at exhibits, flowers, and even architecture. Monia suggested looking up Crystal Bridges on the internet, as it is difficult to describe it other than to say it's built over a natural ravine and features glass and copper pavilions and stone rooms. They enjoyed seeing a drone window washer that used water from the pond!

It's a good thing their Bentonville trip was such a success, because their adventures antiquing didn't go as well. The days got hot and their RV air conditioning struggled to keep up, as they don't have insulation, but they are getting by. They made a trip to see the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery, which is a bigger operation than Mammoth Spring, and they sent some pictures of the pumps and fish pens to get an idea of the size. In their most recent email, Monia mentioned seeing red headed woodpeckers and a marmot!



September's Special Offering: Children's Hunger Project

On September 6th 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 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 with 108 weekend packages in 2010 to over 5000 children at 63 schools this year. The project continues to grow each year in response to need, as over 60% of Brevard Students are on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

This ministry is very important to the students involved. During the week, they have access to breakfast and lunch programs that provide a secure and sure way of obtaining food that may not be available to them at home. Hunger among students is a pressing issue in the schools, and the effects of it are widespread – hungry students are affected physically, with growth and health issues, getting sick more frequently, as well as mental effects, like difficulty focusing on lessons and struggles with memory. Behavioral issues increase as the children are under a constant stress and anxiety due to the hunger, and don't have the energy to engage with fellow students to develop strong social-emotional skills. Altogether, their entire lives are affected by the lack of food security.

There are a variety of causes for food insecurity that need to be addressed within our communities, and a lot of complex solutions to consider. Providing food for hungry children, however, is a very clear and simple mission that we can all help support. We can help put a dent in the effects of food insecurity through the Children's Hunger Project.

Thank You for Supporting Our Shoe Mission

Thank you to everyone who contributed in August to FPC's Shoe Mission. With the contributions made in April and August, we are confident that we will again be able to help students across the elementary schools in Palm Bay. We will have additional updates on the program over the next couple of months once we begin working with representatives from the schools to distribute gift cards and coupons.

Word from the Herd

June Johnson passed away in her sleep on August 2nd. She

was born as June Claire Patterson on July 7, 1931 to William Patterson and Claire Griffin



Patterson in White Plains, NY. She was married to Earl Johnson on December 31, 1949 for 47 years until he predeceased her on November 3, 1996. They raised a family together in Peekskill, NY before moving to Barefoot Bay, FL in 1983.

In 1997 June built a house for herself in the Sandy Pines subdivision of Palm Bay where she lived until December 2023 when she moved to Victoria Landing. She was a parishioner and Deacon at the First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay. She was a member and Treasurer of the Port Malabar Garden club and was a Queen of the local Merry Red Hatters.

She is served by her sons Michael (Kathy) Johnson, William (Susan) Johnson and Steven (Ellen) Johnson as well as a 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

She was much loved and will be sorely missed.

Sunday School Class

The Sunday School class is finishing their study of Ruth and Esther and has selected their next study, which will be on the book of Job. From the description of the study: This 12-week study invites us to take an honest look at the agony and pain experienced by Job, which are immediately relevant to the suffering we all experience while on earth. However, it takes us beyond the suffering and into the sovereignty and trustworthiness of God in the midst of our trials. Eric Ortlund helps us see God's purposes in suffering as we look ahead to the restoration of all things in the new creation. All are welcome to participate in the class. 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.

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

Our Wednesday in the Word Bible Study group is meeting regularly! The class meets at 12:00 each Wednesday. Pastor Debra leads a study and discussion on various passages of scripture, on topics requested by class members. 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!

In September, the class will NOT meet on Wednesday the 23rd due to Pastor Debra's vacation.



Patty & Edward Darcy
September 20

Chris Leary & Jackie Adams
September 22

James & Marsha Corton
September 28

Vicki & Mark Cather
September 29

Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for September will be held Thursday, September 24th at 11:30 a.m. at Applebee's, 1545 Palm Bay Rd. NE, Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Corton at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day to sign up will be September 20th.



Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in August

Elder of Month: **Jack Dayton, Nancy Cox, Clyde Yust, Sue D'Imperio, Judy Irvine**

Ushers: **Cheryl & Grady Evans, Mike Nardelli, Karola Deluca, Marsha Corton, Evelyn Cox**

Flowers Donated By: **Cheryl & Grady Evans, Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Jim Corton, Tom Glew Marylynn Yust/Inez Rose**



Seymour Sailsman
September 1

Inez Rose
September 2

Joyce McMaster
September 6

Linda Riggelman
September 7

Elvie Marshall
September 8

Lyneth Marshal
September 11

Karola Deluca
September 14

Clyde Yust
September 16

Kevin Carter
September 19

Carolyn Teal
September 25

Clysen Sailsman
September 27



Hurricane Season Isn't Over Yet

We've been blessed to have an absolutely quiet hurricane



season this year. With a potential wave coming off of Africa, it is a good reminder that we are in the midst of an active hurricane season, and coming into the months 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

Session met in a special meeting on Sunday, August 9th. The purpose of that meeting was to review materials related to the CE / Office building in preparation for the stated meeting later in the month. Session also approved a motion at that meeting to apply for a St. Marks Legacy Grant from the Presbytery to offset the cost of the new A/C unit for the sanctuary.

The session met for their regular stated meeting on Tuesday, August 18th. Topics addressed included the following:

- Approved a building usage request from the PEO Sisterhood to have a chili cook-off in the sanctuary on Saturday, October 24th.
- Approved a request from Pastor Debra to take a week of vacation from Wednesday, September 23rd through Tuesday, September 29th.
- Session approved Sue D'Imperio to be the elder commissioner for the September Presbytery meeting, which will take place on Zoom.
- Session approved a rationale to use with the congregation and Presbytery to explain our discernment process and goals related to the potential sale of the CE building / Office
- Session approved a recommendation to engage Brian Clark to represent the church as a listing agent for the CE / Office Building.
- Session approved a recommendation to the congregation to list the CE / Office building, with a 60 day period in which we would not accept bids from outside entities while working out a potential sale agreement with Lifeline Academy.
- Session approved calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 30th following the worship service to bring information and recommendations to the congregation regarding the CE / Office Building.
- Session authorized Debra Cox to enter into a cleaning contract with Eureka's Cleaning Services, LLC for a bi-weekly cleaning service costing up to \$250.
- Treasurer's Report: Contributions in the summer months have been below monthly projections, and our expenses have been on track with the budget, increasing the deficit. There have been several building maintenance and repair expenses that have been driving the deficit.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,222.32
 - Actual Expenses in July: \$16,274.03
 - Contributions in July: \$11,318.98
 - Income year-to-date: \$116,985.55
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$132,279.50
 - Deficit year-to-date: \$15,293.95

**We will be closed
on Monday in
observance of**

Labor Day

**We will resume
regular hours on
Tuesday.**

SEPTEMBER, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	2 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	3 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	4	5
6 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP CHILDREN'S BACKPACK OFFERING	7 HAPPY LABOR DAY- OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	8 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	9 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY 5:00 p.m. ADMIN. MEETING	10 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	11 PATRIOT DAY	12
13 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE	14 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	15 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 p.m. SESSION MEETING	16 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	17 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	18	19
20 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP DEACONS MEETING	21 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	22 FIRST DAY OF FALL 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	23	24 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	25	26
27 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP 5¢ A MEAL	28 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	29 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	30 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY			

IN THE WORD

Daily Devotion

August 30th through September 5th

Read Exodus 3:1-15

The call of Moses is both a “typical” Old Testament call story (God calls, the called person doubts, God presses, the called person begins serving) and a unique moment in the history of his people—God names himself rather than being named by those who experience encounter with him. Usually, people named God based on what he did in that moment, and everyone had a different name for him. When God names himself for all time, it’s a big deal!

August 30: What were Moses’ past jobs / experiences? Prince, revolutionary, fugitive? Do you think he liked being a shepherd?

August 31: If you saw something that defied reason and experience, are you the type of person to seek it out or avoid it? Why?

September 1: Have you ever met someone who you didn’t know but they knew a family member of yours? How did that connection impact your response to them?

September 2: Has there been a time in your life when you felt God was telling you to respect him as Lord, or treat a time, place, or event as a holy moment? What happened?

September 3: God makes his plans clear, and Moses expresses a lot of doubt as to his place in those events. What is God’s response?

September 4: Moses’ big question, for himself and the Israelite people, is “who are you?” How would you explain who God is to someone?

September 5: God’s response of “I am who I am” is both confounding and the best answer that can be given. Why is it important that God be the only one who can define God’s very self?

September 6th through 12th

Read Romans 13:8-14

Paul has a great deal of advice for the Roman church that all circles back to one thing: what love requires us to do. If our foundation is love, our goal is love, our conscience set to love ... then we don’t need to worry about the law, because all of our actions will be in accordance with it. Paul wants the believers in Rome to be able to hold on to this one truth to guide them.

Once they have the right instructions to follow, Paul wants them to live with a sense of urgency, expecting that Jesus will return at any moment. Whether we believe Jesus is returning tomorrow, next year, or next millennia, we are called to that same sense of urgency that leads us to live as though every action matters, lest we fall into bad habits and lazy devotion.

September 6: Paul wants the Roman Christians to base their relationships and actions towards one another in love alone. Why?

September 7: Have you ever had a business, family, or social relationship that felt more like obligation? Why is it easier to end those?

September 8: Paul says that most commandments can be wrapped up in “love one another” – if we do this, we don’t sin against one another.

September 9: The laws that we have are not the goal to meet, but the low bar we should not transgress. Love is the actual goal.

September 10: What does it mean to have a “sleepy” kind of faith? What does it look like for believers to “wake up”?

September 11: To throw off darkness and put on light implies putting off disguises or old habits – what might you need to cast off?

September 12: Paul wants the church to seek after Christ and Christ alone, not making a goal of satisfying earthly desires.

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily

September 13th through 19th

Read Jonah 3:10, 4:1-11

Jonah is one of the most reluctant prophets ever recorded – he tried to run away from delivering the message God commanded him to, and even when he finally obeyed (after being kidnapped by a whale), he told the Assyrians God was going to destroy them and then left town. When they repent and God shows mercy, Jonah gets angry. God spends a lot of time trying to help Jonah understand why he relented from his plans.

September 13: Jonah's announcement to Ninevah kicked off a massive response of repentance. Why was he upset by this?

September 14: When God changes his mind, Jonah was angry. He wanted to see his enemies destroyed? How did God see it?

September 15: Jonah accuses God of being gracious and merciful as though it were a character flaw. Why is this ridiculous?

September 16: Jonah saw the whole adventure of going to Nineveh as a pointless activity. But was it? What fruit did he produce?

September 17: God causes a bush to grow over Jonah for shade and then for that plant to die. What was Jonah's reaction?

September 18: God tries to teach Jonah a lesson with the bush – what do you think it was? How might this change Jonah's heart?

September 19: Why does God love Nineveh? Why is it important to remember that God loves more people than we are comfortable with?

September 20th through 26th

Read Matthew 20:1-16

The parable Jesus tells is one that addresses the idea of fairness when it comes to God redeeming those who are lost. Those who respond early, who live lives of devotion and sacrifice, can sometimes get frustrated or angry when the "latecomers" get the same benefit of grace. Jesus challenges this feeling, asking why those who have received the promised reward begrudge others for seeking out God for the same and try to control who is "allowed" to be blessed by the Lord.

September 20: In your own life, how do you determine what is or is not fair? What are the criteria?

September 21: Why do we feel dissatisfied when we feel like someone else got a better deal on something we also purchased?

September 22: Has there ever been a time when someone else's generosity bothered you? Why? What were the circumstances?

September 23: Is it God's actions or the workers' assumptions that lead to the trouble in the story? Why?

September 24: Why do the long-day workers feel like they should know better than the landowner what they should be paid?

September 25: When have Christians tried to dictate who should or should not receive grace? How does that look?

September 26: How can we do a better job of being grateful for our blessings and not being jealous over others'?

September 27th through October 3rd

Read Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

There is a major shift in theology presented in this passage from Ezekiel: If one person commits sin, who will bear the consequence? That person only, or their children, grandchildren, and so on? Similarly, who will bear the blessings of faithfulness? God's people were accustomed to assuming multiple generations of blessings or curses, but in this passage, God says he will deal with each person and each generation individually.

September 27: Have you seen examples of how one person's mistakes have impacted generations of their family? What happened?

September 28: Have you seen examples of how one person's faithfulness resonates through generations? How was their influence felt?

September 29: Have you benefited or been hurt by the actions of those who went before you? In what way? How did that influence you?

September 30: What is the legacy you are leaving behind? What actions, beliefs, or values do you hope are carried forward?

October 1: The people of God were upset that God didn't offer "partial credit" for goodness that became sin. Do you think that was fair?

October 2: Is it "fair" of God to offer forgiveness for sin committed before someone turns their life over to him? Why or why not?

October 3: The final message of this passage is "Turn, then, and live." God wants to offer blessing, but can only do so if we first obey.