

STAFF

Rev. George T. Head - Pastor
 Rev. Bill Chegwin - Pastor Emeritus
 Rev. Bev Richardson - Parish Associate
 Gale Luttrell - Office Administrator
 Babs King - Choir Director
 Tim Murphy - Pianist
 Steve Looney - Sound Tech
 Bruce Wilson - Custodian
 Audrey Geer - Nursery Attendant
 Susan Stuckey - Librarian
 John Bros & Floris Rogers - Slide Techs
 Marshall Wright - Media
 Susan Church - Faith Community Nurse



ELDERS/DEACONS

Elders 2024:

Ed Carter - Finance/
 Personnel
 Margaret Catanzariti
 - Worship
 Frank Ibbotson -
 Property Manage-
 ment
 Chuck Johnson -
 Safety and Security
 Jim Kennedy -
 Education
 Anne Perdue - Clerk
 of Session/Personnel
 Floris Rogers -
 Fellowship
 Ralph Stonebraker -
 Missions
 Susan Stuckey -
 Education
 Dennis Toth - Prop-
 erty Management
 Marshall Wright -
 Worship

Deacons 2024:

Sharon Bradshaw
 Leigh Chegwin
 Debbie Devine
 Audrey Geer
 Pam Gravelding
 Barbara Johnson
 Trish Kennedy
 Laurie Lee
 Ellenorr Osterhaus
 Jackie Toth
 Wanda Ulewicz
 Chris Williams
 Sandi Wirth

**Deacon of the
 Month:**
 Pam Gravelding



September 2024

509 Magnolia Street, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 386-428-2397

COMMUNION TO THE FARTHEST PEW

Sunday worship here at First Presbyterian is central to who we are and always meaningful because we have the opportunity to be together as a congregation and worship God through prayer, praise, thanksgiving, scripture reading, singing, music, and message. In order to keep people connected to worship, we record and post the service on our website and YouTube for all to see. The first Sunday of each month takes on special significance because we gather, as the body of Christ, at the Table of Jesus Christ to give thanks to God, remember the sacrifice and commands of Jesus, invoke the Holy Spirit, and share a meal in the realm of God through communion, the Lord's Supper.

As joyous as this time together is, there are many reasons for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to be unable to attend worship. It is important for us to stay connected and provide the blessing and joy of the Lord's Supper with them, especially when they are unable to be in worship with the entire congregation.

In order to symbolize our love for and commitment to those from our congregation who cannot be with us for communion on the first Sunday of each month, we take communion to them – in their home, hospital, nursing facility or somewhere else – to “The Farthest Pew”. Our Pastor, Elder, and/or Deacon go out, as Jesus sent his disciples, two by two to share the love of God and the congregation, as well as The Lord's Supper.

Arrangements are made in advance, coordinated by the Deacons, so those receiving the visit and communion are aware and can include family, friends, caregivers, or others, if they choose.

How can you be part of this loving ministry? If you have been an ordained Deacon or Elder, please contact **Susan Church (910-988-4881 or schurch1922@gmail.com)**, since it isn't just currently serving Deacons and Elders, but all who have been ordained. You will be put on the list of those willing to go out on the first Sunday of the month to take Communion to The Farthest Pew. Occasionally that is not a good time for the person we are serving, so we go as early in the same week as we can.

One more really important note, if you or someone you know cannot be at worship and would like to have communion brought to them, please also notify Susan Church. It can be an ongoing need or perhaps just one month. The length of time or the reason does not matter. The purpose is to share the love of God and the love of this congregation with someone who cannot be with us in worship. This is another of God's blessings – our worshiping community to The Farthest Pew.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

9/3 Jackie Smith
 9/4 Carolyn Peters
 9/6 Laurie Lee
 9/10 Wilson Johnson
 Mark McCain
 9/11 John Bros
 Ellen Kimbell
 9/13 Sue Rottmann
 9/15 Patti Snow
 9/16 Buddy Rippeon
 9/18 Doreen Coln
 Pam Bennison
 9/20 Bill Chegwin
 9/21 Al Imbert
 9/24 George Hunter
 Carol Robinson
 9/25 Janet Horton
 9/25 John Robinson
 9/30 Jim Harper

September Anniversaries

9/10 Alan and Rae
 Lyn Dobson
 9/14 Ken and Diane
 Grether
 9/30 Richard and
 Ellenorr Osterhaus

SEPTEMBER



CHANCEL FLOWERS

September Chancel Flowers

9/1 Available
 9/8 Available
 9/15 Available
 9/22 Available
 9/29 Available



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

The 150th Anniversary Task Force met on Monday, August 19th:

1. The scripture foundation for our 150th Anniversary celebration is Psalm 150. Our goal is to Celebrate God's Faithfulness and the Legacy of 150 Years with the theme words of Renew, Rejoice, Reconnect, and Remember.
2. A "Save the Date" for our worship celebration on March 2, 2025 communication will be sent by e-mail in September to everyone on the church email list. The committee has developed a list of over 80 names of pastors, friends, and former members who will be receiving a letter of our plans for our anniversary in hopes they will come and celebrate with us on that date.
3. The committee is completing a thorough history of the church, including pictures and original handwritten information. They are developing the best way to share this information with the congregation.
4. Our celebrations will begin in December 2024 by having a float in the New Smyrna Beach Christmas Parade on December 7th, including some from our congregation wearing period clothing from 1875. On December 17th, Presbyterian Women is sponsoring the Showdolls, a dance team from New Smyrna Beach High School. Watch for more details, as both events will be a great start to our year-long celebration.
5. New sanctuary banners are being made and an outdoor banner will be hung at the front of the sanctuary between the columns for all the community to know of our history and celebration.
6. There will be events throughout the year, including an ice cream social, talent show, concert, and opportunities for the congregation to participate in Presbyterian Women sponsored church-wide events, as well as 150 Acts of Kindness through the Mission Committee. It's going to be a full and active year of celebrating and giving thanks for God's blessings.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE

The Hurricane Preparedness Task Force met on Monday, August 5th:

- 1..The Task Force is grateful for those of you who completed the Congregational Information Form so we can keep in touch with you if we are impacted by a hurricane. We will be testing the "Text Blast" – everyone on the list gets a text message, you reply "Yes", and we will know you received it. This will happen in the next week or so.
2. Members of our Task Force have been to a Volusia County Emergency Management COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) meeting to become part of assisting the county when and how we can.
3. Members of our Task Force also participated in a disaster simulation with the American Red Cross, learning about situations that can develop if we are an Emergency Evacuation Center or Shelter. This led to an official site survey by the Red Cross to see how our facility could be used. We want to be ready, not only to assist our congregation, but our community as well.
4. The Property Committee is ready with the plan and supplies (plastic, sandbags, etc.) to prepare our building, if necessary.
5. We continue to receive non-perishable food to have in case of an emergency and thank those who have brought donations.
6. This is now the peak of hurricane season – September and October – so stay personally prepared, knowing your church is also prepared to assist you and our community.

MISSIONS/SISTER CHURCHES



Good Samaritan Purse

Sister Churches of the Month

Other churches in our presbytery, please lift up prayers.

- 9/1 Markham Woods/Lake Mary
- 9/8 Graceway/Leesburg
- 9/15 Lake Square/Leesburg
- 9/22 Wekiva/Longwood
- 9/29 First Presbyterian/Maitland



SESSION NEWS

1/01/2024-7/31/2024 (7 months)

Income/Expenses	
\$ 48,798.29	\$ 273,404.23
<u>23,048.65</u>	<u>207,083.61</u>
\$ 25,749.64	\$ 66,320.62



1/01/2023-7/31/2023 (7 months)

Income/Expenses	
\$ 33,943.43	\$ 244,314.34
<u>31,354.42</u>	<u>197,638.76</u>
\$ 2,589.01	\$ 46,575.58

ATTENDANCE FOR JULY:

2024: 610 (4 Sundays)
2023: 669 (5 Sundays)



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Welcome All Men!! A Men's Bible Study will begin on Wednesday September 4. This will be a weekly study for a small group and will be meeting in Room 2 from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY OF ROMANS

Beginning Monday, September 16, Anne Perdue will lead a Bible Study of Romans at her home or on Zoom. The same class will be REPEATED on Tuesday, September 17 at the church. Both classes will continue for about twelve weeks. Watch for details in future bulletins.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met on Monday, August 19th and below are a few highlights:

1. Our church membership is 165, as well as having many regular participants in worship who are friends and consistent visitors.
2. Approved a new Facility Use Policy, including appropriate forms to request use and an agreement after approval.
3. Received reports from committees which met this month, including Property Management who reported on the new shelving, repairs, painting and updating of five (5) of our meeting rooms and new flooring in Eubank Hall. Names have been given to two of our rooms to help identify them. The room across from the Columbarium is now the "Garden Room" and the room across from Eubank Hall is now the "Gathering Room". Signs for these rooms, as well as new directional signs have been ordered.
4. Received reports from both the 150th Anniversary Task Force and the Hurricane Preparedness Task Force.
5. Prayed for individuals in our congregation who are ill, recovering from surgery, and returning home from rehab.

ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Over 40 in attendance...great turnout!



Rev. George with his guitar!!

A warm "thank you" to Rev. George Head for his great leadership and entertainment for a successful Adult VBS this past month, over 40 people in attendance. Thank you to the Education Committee for their organization.

And a "thank you" to all that came and participated in the fun week of Bible Studies and games plus singing. A very special "thank you" to all the Fellowship ladies for the great food and the hard work you did for VBS and for fellowship hour on Sundays. You ladies do an awesome job and such great cooks!! Great week!!



Presbyterian Women of FPC

Building God's Kingdom in our Community

"See you in September" is almost a reality for our "Hearts of Hope" Presbyterian Women! We will be meeting the 2nd Monday of each month (September-May) and ALL women are invited to join us. Monday, September 9, we'll be gathering for a Bible Study at 9:30 (Chapel), fellowship time at 10:00 (Fellowship Hall) and Hearts of Hope meeting at 10:30 (Fellowship Hall).

Our Bible Study for this year is "Who is Jesus?" Books are now available and if we need to order more, we'll make that happen! Our Community Outreach for September will be feminine hygiene products for our local middle and high school young women. At the conclusion of our meeting, we'll be assembling boxes as we begin our focus on Operation Christmas Child. We welcome your presence to praise God, learn about HIS word, enjoy fellowship and then roll up our sleeves to make a meaningful difference in the lives of women and children!

In August, we thanked our congregation for their generous contributions to fund school supplies for Edgewater Elementary, Read-Pattillo and Chisholm Elementary Schools. Our "Hearts of Hope" shoppers were very busy making purchases and delivering the supplies to our local elementary schools - just in time for the start of school! Special thanks to Debby Haak, Missy Guentz and Jodi Loveday for their efforts, on behalf of everyone at First Presbyterian Church! Enjoy these pictures of some of what was delivered. Thanks to YOU, we'll be able to deliver additional supplies later this year.

