



# FIRST NEWS

"Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ"

November 2022

## Giving as Invitation

During November our congregation is engaged in our annual generosity initiative. For the past many years, the culmination of the initiative is our Consecration Sunday Celebration and Luncheon. We believe this process of promoting generosity and giving is faithful and authentic to the call that Christ places on our lives. We honor the truth that giving for the Christian is an "Invitation."

Over the last several years, First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach has not been able to host a big gathering to celebrate the church's giving, our vision, and our mission. We were too close to Covid. This year we believe it is different. We are asking all of you to come out and celebrate in worship and to attend our Consecration Brunch on Sunday, November 13th. We are hoping this will be a joyous and festive time for our church family.

We celebrate our giving because faithful and sacrificial giving is an initiation. As the famous Dutch Catholic priest and writer, Henri Nouwen notes regarding the spirituality of our giving,

Giving is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision and mission are so central to the life of God's people that without vision we perish and without mission we lose our way (see Proverbs 29:18; 21:1-9). Vision brings together needs and resources to meet those needs (see Acts 9:1-19). Vision also shows us new directions and opportunities for our mission (Acts 16:9-10). Vision gives us courage to speak when we might want to remain silent (see Acts 18:9).



*Cont'd on next page*

When we encourage generosity through giving of ourselves and our resources, it is the opposite of "begging." You will not hear us say, "Please, could you help us out because lately it's been hard." Rather, we are declaring, "First Presbyterian Church has a vision that is amazing and exciting." We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which God has called us.

Our invitation to giving is both clear and confident because we trust that our vision and mission are like "trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. (Psalm 1:3) 1 During our Generosity Consecration Sunday, we invite you to give to the vision and mission of the church. In giving, you invite other people to share our vision and mission and to serve Christ faithfully and well.

1 Henri Nouwen, "A Spirituality of Fundraising,"  
Upper Room Books, p.17.

with blessings,

*Tim Womack*

## WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS

### FOR YOUR LISTENING ENJOYMENT



On December 4th, at 4pm in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, the Vero Beach Choral Society will offer a Winter Concert featuring Holiday-themed selections including *The Minute Carol* by McAfee and *Lamb, Christmas Day* by Holst, *Candles of Hanukkah/Candles of Christmas* by Angebrannt, *The Holly and the Ivy* by Gjeilo, and *Fum Fum Fum* by Kern. Following the Choral Society performance, Artistic Director Dr. Jacob Craig offers a collaborative performance of Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*, featuring the Vero Beach High School Choir, First Presbyterian Church Youth Symphonic Orchestra and members of our Chancel Choir. Admission is free; the suggested donation is \$10.



## INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH!

*As told to Phil LoGiudice*

Recently, I received an invitation to play golf. There was a lot to do both at the church and at home and I had to decline the offer. However, it felt good to be invited even though I was not able to go with the guys and play.

Most of us are grateful for invitations even when we are unable to accept them. They remind us that others are thinking about us, are concerned for our well-being and would like for us to be a part of the group. Did you know that 63% of unchurched Americans indicate they would respond favorably to an invitation from a friend or family member to attend church? People just like being invited, even if it is to church!

Most Christians struggle with the gift of evangelism. The Alban Institute estimates that 10% of the members of any congregation possess the capacity to share their faith with others in an effective way. That means that 90% of us wrestle with being God's instrument in helping others to decide for the Christian faith. Yet, while that may be true, 100% of us have the capacity to invite another person to join us in worship at church. As an added incentive do not forget to invite your friend or neighbor to join you for lunch after the service. Like any good host does do not forget to pay the bill!

Let me encourage you to practice inviting people to church. Inviting encourages and blesses others. We can invite people to church dinners, classes, special worship opportunities, and even to participate in the life and witness of the church. Inviting others helps make them feel special and welcome.



As Thanksgiving and Advent approaches, be sure to invite your guests/visitors to join in the life of First Presbyterian Church. It will bless both the inviter and the invitee! Some years ago, in a survey of twenty-two congregations in three major cities, the question was asked: "What brought you to this church?" The response was as follows: 2% of people came due to an advertisement; 6% came because of the pastor; 6% came because of an organized evangelistic outreach; but a whopping 86% came because a friend or family member invited them. Never doubt the power and grace of a personal invitation to church. Every member knows at least one person who is just waiting for you to invite them to a church service.

And when your guest accepts your invitation and comes to church, don't forget to introduce them to the pastor!

*Reverend Graham Bingham* (former Min. of Congregational Care here at FPC)

## Presbyterian Women at FPC Has Been Busy!

THE FALL LUNCHEON took place in McAfee on Oct 15th with home-made soups (six) and salads (five) and deliciously gooey cupcakes. The member/chefs had copies of their recipes on hand. The envelopes on each table collected donations for Dodgertown and First Presbyterian Preschool. Joan Irvine presented Sue Coffey with an award, PW Member of the Year, which is well deserved. It is not given every year. Sue is especially deserved as the Little Engine That Could and DOES.



Carol Smoyer (PW and Mission Committee) spoke about the Reading program at Dodgertown, praising those who participate and encouraging new volunteers. If students are proficient at reading by 3rd grade their success rate rises, an important fact. The teachers feel it is helping and will take all of the help they can get. These students are particularly in need of enrichment.

Lorie Rudolf (red dress), Director of the First Presbyterian Preschool, along with her staff, were introduced and recognized.



### Future Happenings:

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sat, Dec. 17th. Seating at 11:30, lunch at noon. Tickets (\$25) will be available after church in the Courtyard near E.T. Smith Lounge. It is always a lovely event. We issue a special invitation to women who are not familiar with PW to get to know this friendly group. We'd love to meet you! (continue reading for additional details on this and Christmas Tree Lane)

December's Business Meeting will be Dec. 5th at noon, in the Earnshaw Room.



# *Christmas Tree Lane*

December 3rd, 2022

9:00am - 2:00pm



Christmas Tree Lane continues for its 68th year! The annual Presbyterian Women's local mission fundraiser is a highly anticipated tradition of FPC and has gained popularity within the Vero Beach Community as well. Again, this year, our largest venue - the Unique Boutique - will be located in McAfee Hall. As you pass through the building, you will see our Quilting, Sewing, & Crafts Circle's enchanting handcrafts. Exit the building to find more of your other favorite boutiques, all located outside along our one-way Christmas Tree Lane. The Artisans' Gallery this year features local artists and crafters including Alice McKenna's jewelry, tiles, cards & scarves by Pat DeRobertis, Lisa Hanlin's works, and many more. Cookies-by-the-pound and Mrs. Claus' Pantry will be situated under cover along the campus walk and will offer an array of packaged homemade bakery items and more. Cash or checks are preferred. While strolling enjoy a bit of musical merriment provided by the FPC Youth Jazz Combo performing live beginning at 10:30am.

Set aside December 3rd and invite your friends & neighbors. If you would like to volunteer on the day of the event or during setup the week prior, contact one of our Co-Chairs: Carol Freeman, [carolwhite90@hotmail.com](mailto:carolwhite90@hotmail.com) or Maggie Fleming, [margaret.fleming48@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.fleming48@gmail.com).

## **Get ready to BAKE, BAKE, BAKE!**

FPC is blessed to have such creative bakers and cooks! Cookies-by-the-Pound and Mrs. Claus's Pantry are one of the most popular areas at Christmas Tree Lane! Once again, we need your favorite Christmas cookies, delivered in disposable containers and labeled with the name of the cookie. For Mrs. Claus's Pantry, any specialties EXCEPT cookies make a variety of offerings. Pies, cakes, cupcakes, breads, brownies, homemade pickles, relishes, jams, candy, etc. must be ready to travel. Please: No whipped cream; nothing that needs to be refrigerated.

All baked goods may be dropped off, unbagged, by the Sanctuary doors on Thursday, December 1st from 9am - Noon and on Friday, December 2nd from 9am - 11am. As you pull around the handicapped parking circle members of the Committees will unload them directly from your car and will package and price them for the sale.

For more information, contact Cookie Co-Chairs Barb Schwin, [pschwin38@aol.com](mailto:pschwin38@aol.com), Donna Blankenship, [funcouple8@verizon.net](mailto:funcouple8@verizon.net), or Mrs. Claus' Pantry Co-Chairs, Beth Pritchett, [ekpritchett@aol.com](mailto:ekpritchett@aol.com) or Susan Foster, [sue801F@yahoo.com](mailto:sue801F@yahoo.com).



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN cont'd

### Last call for donations...

Now is the time to clean out your closets and donate new or gently used items. We are unable to take clothing, shoes, or electronics. The final drop-off dates for the Unique Boutique are:

Mondays - 9am - 1pm: November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm - 3pm through November 17<sup>th</sup>.  
No donations will be accepted after these dates.

Please note: All donation drop-offs will be accepted at the side entrance door (on the west side of the building) to McAfee Hall in the Center for Christian Life.\*\* For the safety of our FPC staff, please do not leave items in the office. All donations should be clean, undamaged, and gently used. If you need your items to be picked up, please contact Catella Grigley at 808-295-6336.

# Unique Boutique

## NEWS & NOTES

### New Year, New Picture!

Send us your favorite single/couple portraits to update our directory for 2023!

Please email photos to [lisaj@firstpresvero.org](mailto:lisaj@firstpresvero.org).



## Member DIRECTORY

### Monthly Ministry, Committee, and Talent Team Meetings

Please contact your team leader directly to confirm the status of each meeting. All meeting dates and times are subject to change at the discretion of each committee/ ministry team, as needed.

- Deacons - 1st Tuesday; 4:00pm
- Discipleship - 1st Tuesday; 1pm
- Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday; 11:30am
- Hospitality - 1st Monday; 2:30pm
- Mission - 2nd Tuesday; 2pm
- Personnel - Tuesday prior to Trustees Mtg; 3:30pm
- PW Coordinating Team Board - Last Wednesday, 1pm
- Session - 3rd Thursday; 6:50pm
- Trustees - Monday of the week prior to Session; 3pm
- Worship & Music - 1st Thursday; 4pm



[Facebook.com/FirstPresVero](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresVero)



[@FirstPresVeroBeach](https://www.instagram.com/FirstPresVeroBeach)



YouTube

First Presbyterian Church Vero  
Beach



# Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon

by Wild Thyme Catering

**Saturday, December 17th, 2022**

Seating at 11:30am

Lunch will be served at 12:00pm

**Tickets are \$25 per person**

Seating will be limited to 8 per table.

## Menu

Grilled Chicken Garden Salad with Crisp Romaine, Black Olives, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Shredded Carrots, Red Onion, Garlic Herbed Croutons, and Citrus Vinaigrette Dressing

Garlic Bread

Fresh Baked Carrot Cake

Captain Milo Thornton will speak about the Shop with a Cop  
and Bicycle Giveaway Programs supported by PW

**Tickets will be on sale in the courtyard  
after Sunday Services throughout November.**

For further information, or to volunteer for set up & clean up, please contact Maggie Fleming at [margaret.fleming48@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.fleming48@gmail.com) with "Luncheon" in the subject line.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## PROFILE OF A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN: PAT WEMPE

BY ANN FAUNCE



Pat Wempe was drawn to First Presbyterian Church in 1999 when she noticed a PW circle of crafting women listed in the Sunday morning bulletin. This started her journey in the First Presbyterian Church.

Every Thursday morning, this group would sew items to be sold at Christmas Tree Lane and Pat soon became known for her unique and clever American Girl doll clothes!

Pat not only learned to sew from her mother, but she still uses her mother's 80 yr. old Singer sewing machine to create unique and timely items. She gathers ideas from attending craft shows and fairs. Her newest creation for this year is "pockets" for Hand and Foot canasta. This talented lady with a shy smile, bright blue eyes and a dry sense of

humor has been a blessing to Presbyterian Women and to FPC.

Born in New Jersey and baptized in the Plainfield (CT) Presbyterian Church, she finished high school in Stamford, CT and attended Union Junior College where she met her future husband, Fred Wempe. They married young, started their family, son, Rick and daughter, Rebecca and moved to Norwalk, CT. Fred became a licensed realtor while Pat was a stay-at-home mother. Tragedy struck the young family when at age seven, son Rick, sustained a serious head injury. Pat and Fred prayed for a miracle and God answered their prayers. A surgeon was found and they were able to save Rick's life, but it was followed by a long recovery. It was a frightening time that drew the family close-knit, that continues today.

With the children grown, Pat worked in the accounting department for Guess Watches. After visiting a friend in Vero Beach, she and Fred decided to make Florida their permanent home. Pat attended Sunday morning worship at First Presbyterian Church and noticed the Crafting Group listed in the bulletin. Although Fred was raised Roman Catholic, he "enjoyed Tim's sermons" and accompanied Pat for Sunday worship service. Soon after, Pat joined the crafting group and she then joined the church.

Pat quickly rose to become the beloved leader of the sewing ladies and to represent them at PW meetings. Over the years, the group number dwindled down and Pat began sewing at home. The Quilting ladies continued the crafting for Christmas Tree Lane.

When Fred became ill, daughter Rebecca and her husband moved to Vero Beach to help. Rick also began traveling from California to help as much as possible. Fred passed away three years ago. Today Rick has temporarily relocated to Vero Beach awaiting a knee replacement--the family supporting each other once again.

With her family close by, Pat now enjoys water aerobics, and reading and of course, creating beautiful hand stitching creations that significantly add to the success of Christmas Tree Lane! Stop by and say hi this year!

John 3:16 is Pat's favorite Bible verse. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



## FELLOWSHIP

While our regularly scheduled Grief Share Luncheons are on hold til after holiday, we are offering a special gathering with a heartfelt purpose.

Surviving the Holidays Grief Seminar: Tuesday, November 15, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM, E.T. Smith Lounge. This program consists of a presentation, hosted by Susan Long, lunch, discussion, sharing, and concluding with communion. Every participant will receive a Surviving the Holidays Guide to take home to help them get through the holidays. Reservations may be made by calling Lisa at the church office at 772-562-9088, ext. 122. Donation of \$7.00 for lunch is appreciated.

## MISSION



This year's Angel Tree will benefit children from the **Children's Home Society**, the elderly from the **Senior Resource Association**, and women from **Naomi House** all here in Vero Beach as well as scholarship gifts for our **First Presbyterian Preschool** to help provide opportunities for every child in need. Checks for the Preschool may be made to First Presbyterian Church (memo Preschool).

- Take an Angel from the tree
- Wrap and return your gift(s) with the angel attached **no later than Sunday December 11**
- Drop-off boxes will be available in the sanctuary on Sundays and in the church office during the week
- **Please be certain that the angel is attached to the gift(s)**



May you be a blessing to these friends in need and may you be blessed with your giving.



## ***JUSTICE AND HONOR TEAM***

### ***SPONSORS***

## ***BICYCLE PROJECT AND SHOP WITH A COP***

It is that time of year again, when we seek to be a blessing to children in Indian River County who are in need.

The purpose for these worthy projects is two-fold: First, to bring together our law enforcement members and our diverse community in a joint, good-will event.

Second, to bring joy to the heart of children in our county who have very little. Both events will take place before Christmas.

We are again participating in two projects:

1) Bicycle Project- we are collecting monies in order to assist with the purchase of bicycles for needy children in our community. The children will be identified by school resource officers and school personnel. They will be eligible to receive a bicycle free of charge. Parents will be responsible for purchasing a helmet for their child. The bicycles will be distributed by members of Crossover Mission and uniformed law enforcement members.



2) Shop with a Cop - Identified students will go shopping with a uniformed law enforcement officer who will take them to either Walmart or Target and allow them to purchase a toy or gift for Christmas. Usually, each child has around \$50 to spend.

If you would like to donate to these projects, you may write a check to the Justice and Honor Team (or donate cash) to the church office and designate in the byline "Bicycle Project" or "Shop with a Cop".

Thank you, as we are "blessed to be a blessing"!

Joyfully,

Mimi Rutland  
Chairperson Justice and Honor Team



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER!

- 1 Emie Schaaf, Mark Bobseine
- 2 Judith Taylor
- 3 Sara Ann Edgar, Gayel Holt
- 4 Sally Marquardt, Ann Faunce, Vi Spencer
- 5 Lynsey Thompson, Mimi Rutland
- 7 Anita Pew, Emily Zeigler
- 8 Jill Lawrence, Lois Getz
- 9 Gayle Bruce
- 10 Darrell Brock
- 11 James Larkin, Nanette Rappa
- 12 Betty Judd
- 13 Grant Yukins
- 15 Jo Ann Wheeler, George Potochney, Mack Singleton, Elaine Brock
- 16 Tony Gross, George Maroney
- 18 Joe Smith, Paul Stynchcomb, Gloria Burnam, Dennis Croyle
- 20 Hilary Dobson, Samantha Ekin
- 21 Patricia Harvin, Michele Wagner, Laurie Hawley, Lucia Romero
- 22 Rebekah Crews
- 23 Susie Nystrom, Landon Craig
- 24 Marilyn Brooks, Ashley Wright
- 25 Hanson Peirce, Gayle Peters
- 26 Austin Chilberg, David Lang, Nancy Bucklew
- 27 Bob Barber
- 28 Mary Ross
- 30 Jack Wagner

## Thinking About Joining Our Church?

If you have questions about First Presbyterian Church that you would like answered, please join us every second Sunday of the month, in Mighell Chapel, to meet with the pastors. If you would like to join First Presbyterian Church, please join us every third Sunday of the month, in Mighell Chapel, to meet with the pastors and the Session. We would love to have you be part of our FPCVB family.



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Rev. Holly Adams, Minister of Congregational Care

Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence

Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music & Arts

Peter Mahtani, Assistant Director of Music & Arts

Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors

Kimberly Ball, Financial Administrator

Lisa Jeffra, Administrative Assistant

### ELDERS

(\*indicates Elder/Trustee)

#### Class of 2022

\*Jerry Garrett, Phil LoGiudice, Bonnie Nolan, Carol Smoyer

Class of 2023 \*Allan Bixby, James Ewing, \*Linda Masterson, Cindy Rogers

Class of 2024 Art Haeberle, Rebecca Palmer, \*Pat Pritchett, \*Brad Smith

Clerk of Session - Keith Martin

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

#### Trustees-at-Large

2022 - Steve Harrison

2023 - Will Kirk

2024 - Lisa Barnes

### BOARD OF DEACONS

#### Class of 2022

Mary Bingham, Carol Campbell, Sue Coffey, Keith Martin, Barbara Reed, Richard Thomas

#### Class of 2023

Dr. Lucille Craig, Shirley Douglas, Jenifer Foster, Robin Perry, Mimi Rutland, Bob Stuart

#### Class of 2024

John Barley, Raleighine Hoppe, Holly LoGiudice, Beth Pritchett, Brian Robbins, Cyndee Wood



**First Presbyterian Church**

520 Royal Palm Blvd

Vero Beach, FL 32960

## Sunday Worship Times

8:30am in the Mighell Chapel

10:00am in McAfee Hall

(We are unable to offer services in the Sanctuary until further notice)

We are pleased to offer childcare for all services. Our children's Sunday School runs concurrent with our 10:00am service. We will also be having Fellowship Time with coffee and cookies after all worship services.

The first Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday. If you are worshipping from home via LiveStream and would like one of our fellowship cups, please call the church office and we will see that one gets delivered to you. In addition, you may also procure your own elements.

## November Sermons

***Rev. Dr. G Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor***

November 6, 2022

Luke 20:36-38

**"All Are Alive"**

November 13, 2022

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**"Do Not Be Idle"**

November 20, 2022

Colossians 1:11-12

**"Give Thanks"**

November 24, 2022

**Thanksgiving Service**

10AM

November 27, 2022

Matthew 24:37-44

**"The Signs of Christmas"**