



Special Anniversary Edition - August 2020

First News

*Building Faith, Changing Lives,
Sharing Christ, (& Staying Healthy)*

Help in Our Weakness

As the pandemic continues, so many of us find ourselves frustrated, tired, and uncertain. The most vulnerable shelter in place, now going on months. Our teachers are discerning how they can teach and care for their personal health, their students' health, and their family's well-being. Medical personnel become infected and they pray that they do not infect their families. Hospital, convalescent, and residential visits are still almost impossible to offer or receive. Our friends respond with a lack of reason and engage in sheer fear as they hear of the surge in cases.

While the Apostle Paul might not have faced a pandemic, he and his church were not excluded from the reality of suffering. There were so many times that Paul was frustrated, tired and uncertain. It was in the midst of these moments that Paul's counsel was to rely on the "Spirit." In Romans 8:26, Paul lifts up this truth to his congregation,

"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our **weakness**; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit **intercedes** with sighs too deep for words."

When we are frustrated, tired, and uncertain; when we have been hurt or when our trust has been misplaced we feel a sense of separation; in the midst of a pandemic, surrounded by social tensions and dealing with the normal stresses of life, separation is a genuine issue in our present lives. How do we overcome separation when we literally have to self-isolate?

Paul says we are to remember and embrace our faith in God through Christ. In Romans 8, Paul affirms in the midst of his weakness and separation this truth,

". . . all things work together for good for those who love God, . . ."
(Romans 8:28a)

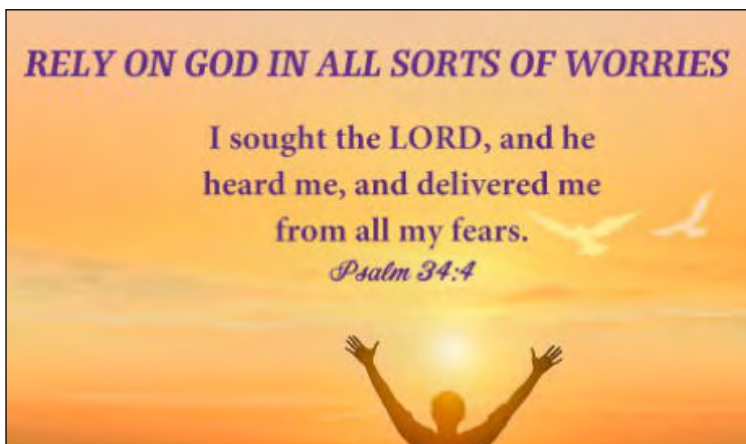
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Crying out in his weakness, in his uncertainty, in the lack of equilibrium in his life and leadership, Paul surrenders his weakness on the altar of faith when he affirms the power and presence of God in the crescendo of his argument,

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, **nor things present, nor things to come**, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-38

As you endure this time of pandemic and social stress; as you overcome illness and loss of income; as you bear separation and disorientation; remember, God is with you! The promise is:

1. That the Spirit intercedes for us.
2. In God, all things (even though some of those things are **not** good) work together for good for those who love the Lord (i.e. those who reflect God's love even in dark times.)
3. And, nothing... nothing... nothing... can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Separation is a genuine issue in our lives. We will be separated physically from one another, from family, from friends; we will be separated as our children leave home and as we lose loved ones; we will be separated when we are hurt and our trust is misplaced; yet, and this is a big YET, "if God is for us, who can be against us!" As children of God, heirs of the Kingdom, know this day and, every day, "nothing can separate us from the love of Christ."

Be Strong! Be Well! Be Safe!

May God Bless,

Tim Womack



Worship, Music, & Arts

Music and Art in the time of COVID19

The beginning of the rise of COVID19 saw many events cancelled at the last minute as church leaders and many other organizations scrambled to make sense of things and keep their congregations, customers, and constituents as safe as reasonably possible. The advent of mask wearing, social distancing, and quarantining became the new “national past-time” as we navigated the spring and summer months of uncertainty. We now feel that it is safe enough, with proper protocols being followed, for us to enjoy those events once more- even if the procedures are a little different.

For the safety of our congregation and choir members, we have decided to continue the ZOOM choir videos and socially-distant choir rehearsals in the sanctuary for the foreseeable future. This system has worked very well in everyone’s favor and we feel it is safe enough to continue to meet with safety protocols in place until the pandemic is under control.



We are very excited to announce a Summer Series Strings Concert featuring our own Youth Orchestra, to be held on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 3:00pm in the sanctuary. This concert will also serve as a fundraiser to benefit the Youth Orchestra’s invitational trip to the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado next summer. The suggested donation is \$10 per person, to be collected at the door. As always, masks are required

to attend and only the first 100 people will be permitted into the sanctuary, so arrive early for a seat. If you do not feel comfortable attending in person, the concert will be livestreamed via facebook or on our website, firstpresvero.org (click on “Media”, then “Concerts and Such” to find it). If you are unable to attend in person and are interested in providing the youth orchestra with a sponsorship or general donation please contact Dr. Jacob Craig for more information on how you can help.

On August 9th after the concert we will also offer a reception to celebrate the reopening of The Galleries at First Pres. Our artists Keith Mills, Suzan Phillips, and Donna Ware have been waiting patiently since things were put on hold in April to show you their outstanding work. The reception will take place after the Strings concert from 4:00-6:00pm. Bottled water will be provided, while masks and social distancing of 6 feet will continue to be required throughout the campus.

As always, the Worship, Music, and Arts department greatly appreciates your support and understanding while we attempt to safely navigate meeting the needs of our musicians, congregation, and community. Thank you!



Discipleship

When word got out about Tim's 20 year anniversary, this message was sent to us to honor the man whose influence inspired a Spiritual Leader, and it was so beautiful we thought it was worth sharing with all of you.

My thoughts on Tim...

by Rev. Rob White

I met Tim in May of 2005 on my 23rd birthday, when I flew down from Arkansas to South Florida where he personally joined the chair of the committee in welcoming this soon to be college-graduate. I was so impressed that he took the time to come meet me. However, that was the lesson I learned about Tim: no matter how busy he was, he has always found the time.

From that moment on, Tim took an interest in me.

He made sure I always had a place to live, money to pay for rent, people willing to take me out to eat, and a vision. Tim pushed me to have a vision for the youth ministry, for each student who came in the program, and for myself. Tim has always had a vision and I've rarely seen one of Tim's visions not come true. From deciding in 2005 to hire a recent college graduate to building relationships with other churches to mission opportunities to how he wanted a program to run to building the future Womack Center (you know they'll name the family life center that one day, right?)

Tim showed me how important it was to appreciate where folks came from, as he would always give me 5 pages of the back story after meeting someone for the first time. Heck, I haven't worked there in over 10 years and I still know half the people because of Tim's example of learning the story of people.

Tim has gone from treating me like a son to treating me like a little brother to now treating me as a colleague.

When I met Tracy, my wife, I wanted his approval and I wanted him to marry us.

When I applied to seminary and to every job since Tim has and will be my first reference.

When I had my first child, it was he who I wanted to baptize him.

When I was ordained, there was nowhere else and no other person I would want to take part in that celebration.

I find Tim's voice in my sermons.

I find myself accidentally saying "pres-terian" instead of Presbyterian sometimes.

Whenever I come to Vero Beach to see my in-laws, Tim is often the first one I tell, just so I can be around him because *his presence, guidance, friendship, and family mean so much to our family.*

I'm sure I'm like a little brother who gets under his skin, but I want to glean as much as I can as often as I can. My kids call him "Uncle Tim" when he isn't around.

When folks ask what my vision for my life is, I say, "I want Tim's job".... but only if Tim's there, too. I've always been 20 years younger than Tim, and so that means he started at FPC Vero Beach when he was my age. If I can accomplish half as much as Tim has in the next 20, I will call my career a success.

If I can touch one life nearly as much as Tim has touched mine, I will call my life a success.

- Rob



Dr. Tim poses with Liam White on his baptism day in 2011

Rev. Rob white is currently the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hernando, Mississippi.



Discipleship

My Take on School Options During This Unusual Time of Pandemic

by: Carie Robbins, Director of Children's Ministry

As a teacher, I loved the beginning of the school year. I enjoyed labeling and writing my students names on everything, laminating new posters and cutting them out, and decorating my classroom. I know this year will be different for my teacher friends. I know they will work just as hard and be just as dedicated to their students on whatever platform they are teaching. I know they will show each child love as they develop their classroom community in whatever option they are teaching. I took a break from teaching in a classroom when I became a mom.

As a mom, I never dreamed I would be weighing different options to which I feel is the safest for my child and my family. I am sure that I am like many parents and weighed each option given by the school district. (Here are the choices given: Option 1. Traditional brick and mortar. Option 2. Online school/Virtual school. 3. Start online and transition to brick and mortar.) I played out each scenario in my mind. My husband and I read numerous articles, talked to our friends in healthcare, discussed the options with our teacher friends and family. But, the biggest thing we did was pray. In Philippians 4:6, we are told *"Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God."* So, this is what we did. We prayed for God's guidance, for forbearance, for our son's education, for the health of others and our anxieties we were feeling. We prayed for the teachers and administrators trying to offer the best options for families. We looked to Romans 8:26, for Spirit to help us when we couldn't find the words.

Then we came to a conclusion that worked best for our family. Our choice doesn't look like our friends' choices. It doesn't look like our neighbor's. It is ours. When someone discusses their school choice, remember it is what is best for their family. **So, exhibit grace. Show forbearance. Demonstrate compassion. But above all- extend love.**

Here are some important updates from the Children's Ministry:

Quest Kids Club



Much like everything this year, we have had to reimagine Quest Kids Club. The tentative start date for Quest is the first Wednesday in October. This date is also contingent on how the school year progresses on the district level. We will need to use new measures to ensure the health and safety of all. Transportation, sign in/sign out procedures, and the number of children enrolled will need to be redesigned. We will also be utilizing the outside areas of campus for Quest Kids Club. Stay tuned for further exciting news and upgrades regarding Quest.

Vacation Bible Camp

Camp was a fun week of fellowship, games, and learning about using the "armor of God" in our daily lives. We explored the church campus to complete many of the activities. With our small group, we walked through the memorial garden and talked about it's meaning and beauty. The area just below the bell tower served as our craft center. The grassy area in front of the church office was our main assembly area. We had to venture into McAfee Hall during a rainy day. The children drew 9 foot tall Goliaths out of chalk on the sidewalk and 'erased' him using water balloons. They made snow to show Mary's trek to Bethlehem was difficult much like winter weather to navigate. We did so many fun and wonderful activities this week. We had an intimate group, but we sure had a blast. I would like to thank some special volunteers: Christie Jeffries, Melissa Shine, and Kari Palmer.



Mission

Taking into account: 20 years of mission work

Tim Womack's mission to share the love of Jesus Christ



Tim Womack is a man on a mission. Not just one mission, either. Over the last 20 years, he has traveled to places like Cuba, Mexico, and South Africa to spread love and the Word of the Lord to those who might need to hear it most.

For over 200 years, Presbyterians have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into all the world and bearing witness to Christ's saving love to the ends of the earth. Today the Holy Spirit is still on the move, calling us to share in what God is doing in the world. Tim received that call over 20 years ago and he still answers it as much as possible.

It was a little difficult to get all of this information, and thanks to Carol Smoyer and Stephanie Womack we were able to get a good accounting of Tim's mission work throughout his tenure as Senior Pastor here at First Presbyterian.

Here are some of Tim's Missions through the years:

- 1) He did several trips through the Brevard Indian River Presbyterian (BIRP) mission organization back in the early 2000s. Several groups traveled to Ticul, Yucatan to help build a church. Tim made 5 trips.
- 2) First Presbyterian helped raise money and worked on many houses for Indian River Habitat. This was under the direction of several Associate ministers as well as Tim.
- 3) Several trips by our church were taken to Abram Kriel Kinderhaus (orphanage) in Potchefstroom, South Africa. Tim was on 3 of these trips.
- 4) More recently, in 2019, Tim participated in a mission trip with 5 members to our sister church in Cabaiguan, Cuba. He was also there in 2010.
- 5) Traveled to the Bahamas to teach Vacation Bible School and serve in a pulpit exchange.
- 6) Traveled to Mississippi to assist with relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

It is important to note that nobody ever expects gratitude for these selfless acts of kindness. However, in looking at the Mission history of a man who has changed so many lives for the better- it's no secret that we owe our thanks to Tim for dedicating his life to share the blessings of Jesus Christ with others. What a beautiful testament to the kind of wonderful man that he is.

The missions team would like to wish Tim a Happy 20th anniversary at First Presbyterian.
We honor his dedicated service and can't wait to see what he does next.

Thank you, Tim, for your Leadership of Love.



Fellowship: Presbyterian Women

Profile of a Presbyterian Woman: Karen Boylan

by Ann Faunce

Meet Karen Boylan! Karen was baptized as an infant in the Collingwood Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio, where all her life she knew God had a plan for her. Karen's mother was the church organist so when the Church was gifted with a complete set of hand bells, Karen was asked to start the high school hand bell choir! Within a year, they were able to charter a bus to Salt Lake City, UT for a National Hand Bell Ringers concert. This is where she truly felt the power of God's presence and guidance in her life.

Her Sunday School teachers inspired her to become a teacher. Karen graduated from college with a teaching degree but, because there was a surplus of teachers, she became a "teacher's aide" and got her Master's Degree while working part-time at Sears and JC Penney. Her prayers were realized when she became a third grade teacher for 15 years in Toledo, OH.



Karen relocated to Florida accepting a third grade teaching position in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. A fellow teacher introduced her to her future husband, Dan Boylan. Not surprisingly, the adult hand bell choir of their church rang at their wedding! After she retired from teaching, they spent every summer in Maine where Dan was a Registered Maine Fishing Guide. While Dan took his clients fishing, Karen worked part time in the bakery of a fresh vegetable market where she made specialty breads and fruit pies. For fourteen years, they enjoyed their lakefront cottage and wonderful neighbors.

Five years ago, the Boylans were searching for a small town with little traffic and friendly people and they found their permanent home in Vero Beach. While visiting churches, they discovered First Presbyterian Church. The next week, Karen attended hand bell practice and became a member of the hand bell choir, which she loves, and the Boylans became church members.

Karen and Dan now live on North Hutchinson Island and love the peace and quiet of the beach. Karen became a Deacon and served for three years. During this time, she had a knee replacement, and created handmade "thinking of you" cards with "prayer crosses" and a Bible verse in the pocket. She has made over 500 of them, given out by the Deacons. If you or anyone you know would like a cross, contact her at: kardan1950@gmail.com

Karen has become active in the Presbyterian Women. She has worked at the annual Christmas Tree Lane. Because neighbor friend Jane Millar has developed vision problems and is currently unable to drive, Karen has "filled the gap" so both of them are able to attend church activities. Jane says, "Karen is the kindest, most compassionate friend and will do anything for you". And from Music Director Jacob Craig, "Karen Boylan is one of those rare people who simply exude grace in all things. Whether it is in the way she plays hand bells, greets you, or lifts up ideas"

One of Karen's favorite Bible verses that she places in her Prayer Crosses: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" -Proverbs 3:5

God has truly Blessed us at First Presbyterian again and again!



10 Decades of Love for Sybilla Hunt

by Ginger Lagemann

On July 12, Sybilla Hunt celebrated her 100th birthday! Due to the current times we are facing, sadly Mrs. Hunt wasn't able to throw the all-night dance party I assume she might have wanted. (If I make it to 100, that's what I'd be doing!) Fortunately, the pandemic couldn't stop us from showing her how much we love and cherish her.



In the days leading up to her birthday, Sybilla received hundreds of cards and flowers from church family and friends to wish her well on her special day. Cecily Strang also stopped by to deliver a beautiful orchid on behalf of the Presbyterian Women- with whom Sybilla was a very active member for many years.

Sybilla said that she can't possibly thank everyone individually, and so she wanted to share this message with you all:

To all of my church family,
I am so blessed to have such a church family. The outpouring from all for good wishes, love, cards and flowers and pastoral visits made making my 100th year a joy. The final joy of "Happy Birthday" being sung by the congregation. May God bless you.

Love in Christ,

Sybilla





News and Notes

August Birthdays

- 1- Valerie Kirk, Bill Knoell
- 2- Connie Derman, Connie Lent
- 3- Rhonda Horowitz
- 4- Charles Robertson
- 5- Bob Masterson, Nancy Mitchell
- 6- George DiBenedetto, Beverly Dillon, Mike Simmons, Charley Stanton
- 7- Gary Campbell, Wendell Davies, Richard Harris, Joanna Milliken
- 8- Bob Hempton, Bob Satola, Ann Taylor, Sandy Thiel
- 9- Owen Brooks, Peggy Martin, Valerie Redpath
- 10- Colton Peirce, Treyson Perice
- 11- Barbara Bixby, Scott Chilberg, Kyle Gabbard, Katie Grant,
William Kirk, Kathi Schumann
- 12- Sally Lowndes, Cheryl Petzing
- 14- Ann Gibson, Joni Penza
- 16- Jan Binney, John Collins, Thomas Snyder
- 17- Kalani Peirce
- 18- Ann Chappuis, Heidi Coxson,
- 19- Cathie Beck,
- 20- Beverly Jones, Esther Keegan
- 21- Joseph Pitman, Jr., Duane Weise
- 22- Dale Ritchie, Michael Timmons
- 23- Kevin Palmer, Bonnie Ramsey, Ruth Stewart
- 24- Carol Fensterer, Dan Rolls
- 25- Keith Martin
- 28- Bev Brooks, Kathy Rolls
- 29- Dr. Andy Burnam, Marty Taylor
- 30- Phyllis Bradley, James Ewing
- 31- Barbara Brugh, Jackie Rossi





News and Notes

Presbyterian Women's ZOOM: Afternoon Tea

Make your cup of tea (or drink of choice), log on,
and join the PW Coordinating Team!

Go to www.zoom.us, click "Join Meeting", and enter
the Meeting ID below.

Monday, August 3rd at 1:00pm
Meeting ID: 849 8476 3948



Presbyterian Women of Central Florida Presbytery

Into the Light: Horizons Bible Study
LIVESTREAM EVENT - *Presented on Facebook*

Saturday, August 15, 2020
Introduction and Overview - 9:30-11am
Deeper Review w/Q&A: 12-1:30pm

Be sure to join the Presbyterian Women of Central Florida
Presbytery facebook page before the event. You must be a
member of the group to gain access to the Bible Study.



The FPC Youth Orchestra & The Galleries at First Pres

present:

Summer Series concert and Opening Reception

Sunday, August 9

Concert begins at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary

Admission is free, \$10 donation suggested

The Galleries will be open from 4:00-6:00pm

QUEST is returning!

We plan to start weekly QUEST *tentatively* on:

Wednesday, October 7th
3:30-5:30pm

Contact Carie Robbins for more information:
childrensministry@firstpresvero.org



Youth Fellowship

Opportunities

*Find out how you can
stay connected!*

Contact: Jacob Strang, Youth Director
(772) 643-7737
jacobstrang@firstpresvero.org

A message from Glenn Conn:

Thank you for all your prayers, cards of
encouragement and phone calls during
my recent shoulder
surgery. It is a blessing
to have the support of
our First Presbyterian
Church family.



<http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresVero>



@FirstPresVeroBeach



First Presbyterian Church Vero Beach



News and Notes

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor
 Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Fred Foy Strang,
 Min. of Congregational Care
 Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence
 Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music and Arts
 Jacob Strang, Youth Director
 Carie Robbins, Director of Children's Ministries

ELDERS **indicates Elder/Trustee*

Class of 2020

Carol Campbell, *Steve Harrison, Steve Nystrom,
 *Noel Thompson

Class of 2021

Deb Alich, *Harvard "Bud" Johnson,
 *Carol Marks, Kari Palmer

Class of 2022

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

Clerk of Session - Connie Herr
 Treasurer - Scott Westermann
 Director of Development - Allan Bixby

Trustees-at-Large

2020 - John Reed
 2021 - Melissa Shine
 2022 - Bob Satola

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2020

Peter Coe, Churchill Cooke, Maggie Fleming,
 Sally Lowndes, Barb Schwin, Susie Stoughton

Class of 2021

Scott Berran, Sue Coffey, Michael Goodfellow,
 Charles Hancock, Jan Satola, Floy Turner

Class of 2022

Mary Bingham, Reita Byrket, Keith Martin,
 Jeff Morgan, Barbara Reed, Richard Thomas

Monthly Ministry, Committee, and Talent Team Meetings

Please contact the committee/ministry team leader directly to confirm the status of each meeting regarding the continuation of online-only teleconferences or in-person meetings.

All meetings are subject to change at the discretion of each committee/ministry team, as needed.

Deacons - 1st Tuesday; 4:30pm
 Discipleship - 2nd Tuesday; 4pm
 Fellowship - 2nd Wednesday; 11am
 Finance & Policy - 1st Thursday; 3pm
 Heritage - 4th Thursday; 10am
 Hospitality - 1st Monday; 3pm
 Missions - 2nd Tuesday; 1:30pm
 Personnel - Tuesday prior to Trustees Mtg; 3:30pm
 PW Team - 1st Monday; 1pm
 Session - 3rd Thursday; 6:50pm
 Trustees - Monday of the week prior to Session; 3pm
 Worship - 4th Thursday; 4pm

Weekly ZOOM Bible Studies and Prayer Opportunities

Dr. Tim

Tuesdays at 10:30am
 Meeting ID: 876 7297 7588
 Password: 408224

Pastor Michael

Tuesdays at 7:30pm
 Meeting ID: 109 343 374

Devotional & Prayer with Dr. Fred Foy

Fridays at 10:00am
 Meeting ID: 868 1893 4137

First Presbyterian Church
520 Royal Palm Boulevard
Vero Beach, FL 32960
<http://www.FirstPresVero.org>
(772) 562-9088

August Schedule

Scriptures and Sermon Titles

August 2, 2020

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack
Romans 9:1-5
Romans: Living Together Anew
"It Pains Me To Say This"

August 9, 2020

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
Romans 10:5-15
Romans: Living Together Anew
"Proclaim Christ and Love Him in Your Heart"

August 16, 2020

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Romans: Living Together Anew
"Mercy for All"

August 23, 2020

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
Romans 12:1-8
Romans: Living Together Anew
"The Renewal of Your Mind"

August 30, 2020

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
Romans 12:9-21
Romans: Living Together Anew
"If Possible, Be At Peace with Everyone"

Sunday Services

8:30am

10:00am

All services will continue to be held
in the sanctuary until further notice.

"For God Loves a Cheerful Giver"

Even though our doors are closed for in-person worship for the foreseeable future, we wanted you to know that your offering can still be accepted via mail or in person via the secure dropbox just outside of the church office door.

Did you know that you can also give an offering online?

To give online from our website, visit www.firstpresvero.org and scroll down until you see the "GIVE ONLINE" button.
This will take you to our secure online portal!

You can also use your smartphone for mobile giving.
Simply text "Firstpresvero" to the number 73256 and follow the prompts!

