



# First News

*Building Faith, Changing  
Lives, Sharing Christ*

June 2020 Edition

## The Time Has Come!



The time has come! Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. We know the litany of responses that follow that verse: there's a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot; a time to tear down and a time to build; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.

If the author of Ecclesiastes was writing his poem today, he might add an extra phrase, "a time to isolate and a time to enter anew into the world." We have come to that time when we need to begin to think of how we responsibly and safely re-enter into an engaged world. We know that there is no vaccine yet for Covid-19. We also know that we must continue to be engaged in best healthcare practices as we enter

into the world. We know that work, labor and life must continue. We are aware that for the next many months, and maybe even the next many years, we will live in the midst of this tension until a vaccine is discovered.

Preparing to re-enter the world includes all of us as individual Christians and it includes you as the church, your congregation of friends and family, as we seek to be the body of Christ in the world. The Session has begun this journey in voting to open our campus and sanctuary for on-campus worship on Pentecost, May 31st. In gathering again as the church, much will be different. Within this newsletter is a list of guidelines and instructions on how we will be engaged in best healthcare practices as we gather together as the church and as we gather for worship. We will gather together, wearing masks and practicing social distancing, as we seek to honor God and one another. There is a time for everything under heaven.

It is our prayer that the guidelines that we have established and the time frame for reopening will lead us to a time when we can gradually be more fully engaged as a congregation in service to world. We are asking for you to pray for your church, the church's leadership, and all our members and friends as we go through this time from isolation to engagement. It is our prayer that as Presbyterians we will once again realize our great tradition by moving into the world "decently and in order."

Please know that your church understands that everyone's timing is different. Many of you cannot, nor should not, make a decision to return to our church's campus at this time. We honor your decision! Many others will seek to return to our campus and we honor your decision as you seek to honor others!

It is time! It is time for you to make the best decisions you can make for the wellbeing of yourself and your family! Pray for First Presbyterian Church as we seek to reopen our campus for worship! May God bless you all!

- Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack

# On-Campus Attendee Instruction List

During the continued presence of the Covid-19 virus and as we seek to re-open our sanctuary for on-campus worship, First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach is asking all worship attendees to honor and comply with the following worship guidelines. These worship times and guidelines will be in place at least until July 31 when they will be revisited.

Please know that choosing not to attend on-campus worship in the near and distance future is a choice each parishioner and each family must make on their own. Your decisions are based on your own health, physical and emotional needs. We validate your decision! We honor your decision! We will continue to strengthen and grow our livestream and virtual production of worship and all meetings and gathers. We are in a new season of congregational life and we will seek to honor the decisions you need to make. You are a valued member and friend of our fellowship whether you are physically or virtually present.

1. **Parishioners will be asked to attend either the 8:30am, 9:45am, or the 11:00am service.** All services will be in the sanctuary as the chapel cannot accommodate social distancing. Each service will last 45 minutes so that adequate cleaning and preparation can be achieved after each service. Parishioners are asked to commit to that same service time through July so that we can ensure attendance limits and appropriate social distancing.

2. Come to the church campus, parking in the North Parking Lot if possible. **The sanctuary doors will open approximately 10-15 minutes prior to the service** (seeking to promote social distancing with no congregating at the entrance doors) so please plan your arrival accordingly. Seek to maintain social distancing as you enter the sanctuary. Please do not physically greet anyone by embracing or touching. Practice social distancing (6 foot minimum).

3. Enter the sanctuary through the rear double doors that face the North Parking Lot. You will be greeted at the door by a "Virtual" greeter.

4. **Please bring your own masks.** To honor other worshippers, FPCVB is asking worshippers to wear masks.

5. If you have come prepared to give an "Estimate of Giving" commitment or a gift as an offering, plates are available at each door when you enter or when you leave. **The plates will not be passed.**



6. Please note that for at least the end of July, there will be no paper bulletins, announcements, or prayer lists printed or distributed. This is for your safety and for the safety of others. **FPCVB will continue to send the bulletins, announcements and prayer list via email each Saturday.** A QR Code will be located in each seating area. With a smartphone, scan the QR Code and you will be redirected to several informational options that will assist your worship.

7. The ushers, also practicing social distancing, will "direct" you to authorized and available seating. The seating in the sanctuary will strive to allow for 8 feet of separation between worshippers. Thus, **attendance at each service will be limited to 75-85 worshippers.** Please accept the seating that is offered as seating has been prearranged in order to create adequate social distancing.

*On-Campus Instructions, continued...*

8. If you need a hearing assistance device, let us know ahead of time or simply get the attention of an usher and they will assist you.

9. Please continue to wear your mask especially when you sing hymns as singing adds to the aerosolizing of respiratory droplets. While awkward and bothersome to wear, the masks represent respect and honor toward those in attendance with us.

10. Worship God in the Spirit of Christ. Know that your attendance and presence is a witness that we will not surrender to isolation or pandemic. As we follow these guidelines, we can honor God and one another. Following these protocols is the definition of "love in action"

11. Following the Charge and Benediction, a closing refrain will be played and sung. When this refrain begins, you are asked to depart through the doors as directed by the ushers and the pastors. The purpose of this is to deter anyone from mingling and compromising the social distancing guidelines established by the White House Task Force, the CDC, the State of Florida and the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach.

12. As you continue to maintain social distancing, return to your vehicle and celebrate the opportunity to be together no matter how seemingly constrained.

13. For the health and safety of our families and children, no Child Care will be available. Families are encouraged to sit with one another in worship. The sound of children will be a joy!

We know that these guidelines are both restrictive and bothersome. These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of everyone. If FPCVB allows even one case of Covid-19 to occur on our campus, we will have to return to Livestream and restrict on-campus worship. We thank you for your patience, help and forbearance in all that we are striving to do.



## **June Schedule**

*Scriptures and Sermon Titles*

June 7, 2020

Psalm 8

"The Gift of Harmony"

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

June 14, 2020

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

"Welcoming Strangers 'Unawares'"

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

June 21, 2020

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

"Strength of the Father"

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor

June 28, 2020

Psalm 13, Matthew 10:40-42

"A Righteous Person's Reward"

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Welcome Back!

## Sunday Service Times

*(Beginning Sunday, May 31st)*

8:30am

9:45am

11:00am

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

If you choose to attend on-campus worship, please commit to one of these service times to ensure attendance limits and social distancing guidelines are met.



# Worship, Music, & Arts

## A "Return to Normal"

The camaraderie of church friends joining together in song has been especially missed by the members of the Chancel Choir. One day in April, Deb Alich had an idea of getting the choir together to sing anthems remotely through ZOOM. Judy Garrett set out to setup meeting times to let the choir continue to join each other at their usual time on Wednesday evenings. Judy would set up meetings and send the link via email to the choir members. Eventually they were able to compile some "virtual choir" ZOOM videos, facilitated by Dr. Jacob Craig, to the delight of our congregation during the Sunday worship livestream. Judy said, "Deb's idea of having the choir sing virtually has been a Godsend! We really have missed being together and singing during Sunday morning services." The choir, orchestra, and handbells began in-person meetings in the sanctuary on May 13th. Even though they have to spread out, they are just glad to be "back together".



*Judy Garrett ZOOMS  
with her First Pres friends*



Jacob has been excited to see everyone again, too! It's been an interesting couple of months for him, but not completely void of things to do. While continuing to work on campus at church during the pandemic, he has kept busy teaching lessons with social distancing intact. His student sits on one side of the choir room with him on the other. Jacob has also frequently been "the man behind the camera" for some of Tim's more entertaining YouTube videos (most notably the "Unveiling of the new van"). Musically, Jacob's talents have remained in high demand. He has recorded several "virtual" concerts for various community organizations such as IRE and the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra. He has also been behind the weekly musical reflection and devotion podcasts that our congregation has seen in their e-mails and on Facebook on Wednesdays.

The April Art Show Reception was understandably postponed. Sadly, Dale Risney had to back out of the show. We are incredibly thankful that Keith Mills graciously stepped forward to show his work in Dale's place. Keith's work will be in the Lobby of the Center for Christian Life. The rest of the art show will be hung soon (if it has not been already) and will remain in place until late September. When you finally return to campus, please take a moment to view these wonderful works by artists Keith Mills, Suzan Phillips, and Donna Ware. The artwork is for sale and price lists are available in the church office. Purchasing inquiries must be made directly to the artist, and you can find their contact information on the artwork's label in the galleries. An opening reception will be announced soon, and a video walkthrough is forthcoming.



*Light in the Woods, by Donna Ware*

Wishing you a fantastic "return to normal", and we hope to see you soon!



# Discipleship

We have certainly all missed one another and the ability to join together with one another at the church! One question I posed at my online bible study recently was this:

*How do we learn the deep 'one another' community of Scripture without being in close proximity?*

Fellowship is from the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14). When God's Holy Spirit graces us with this gift the result is a relationship with the Triune God (1 Jn. 1:3-6) and with one another. Biblical fellowship implies living and sharing life together. The Greek word for fellowship is *koinonia*. This word also has implications of sharing, participation, community, and deep relationship.

There are at least three things that were markers of fellowship for the New Testament Christian community.

- 1) Fellowship was centered in Jesus Christ;
- 2) Fellowship was a gift of the Holy Spirit;
- 3) Fellowship was missional.

When we think of a 'missional' fellowship, we are considering that our purpose is directed outside of ourselves. Our fellowship is to be a living witness to Christ and the Gospel's power in the world.

Even though we cannot be together, we can be the church dispersed in the world! Think of ways you can engage in fellowship with our own church members and with others. How can you engage and encourage those around you and beyond?

Try spreading a bit of loving fellowship this week—make a phone call, send a text, write an email, compose a letter... "Let mutual love continue" (Hebrews 13:1). I have had a chance to "see" some of you through a front door or "porch prayer."

As many of you know I grew up in L.A. (that's "lower Alabama") where the front porch was vital to relationship and life! I want to bring that idea to ya'll with the offering of "porch prayers." If you know of anyone who might be in need of a safe distance prayer at the front door, porch, or balcony, please let me know. While I cannot come into homes just now, I can certainly come by for a prayer and word of encouragement!

Email me at [fredfoystrang@firstpresvero.org](mailto:fredfoystrang@firstpresvero.org), or call/text me at 772-559-6353.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Fred Foy Strang  
Minister of Congregational Care



## An update regarding VBS

During this challenging and changing time, we have come to the difficult decision to postpone VBS. We are looking at a few options on how to serve the church in this ministry, which need to be organized and supplied. Please be patient as we begin to re-imagine what VBS will look like in 2020 for all of us.



## Mission

### Mission and PW Mask Project Update



*Ruth Thomas has made over 100 masks and is still going with 2 machines!*

The FPC Mission Committee and Presbyterian Women continue to join forces to promote this mask-making project. Many of our sewers have been hard at work making masks for our church family. What a caring gift of time and resources! We have had over 75 masks made and donated to FPC. Each mask is a unique and beautiful work of art: different fabrics, some masks with a pocket option for inserting an additional filter, some with elastic ear loops, and some with ties.

To heighten safety for our church staff, a basket of masks (each individually packaged in a ziplock bag) has been placed just outside the church office door for anyone who needs to come inside. The lucky recipient then gets to keep their mask - and it is reusable and washable!

A few facts about mask making from our sewing ladies that you might not know:

*It takes approximately 30 - 45 minutes to make one mask.*

*Some ladies make an average of 10 per day.*

*Materials have been resourced from the activities room sewing closet.*

*One of our sewers has made over 500 masks to donate!*

Thank you to all have participated thus far to enable this protective craft to be available to those who are in need. Keep sewing, because we are going to need to wear masks for some time to come. The act of wearing a mask is one of the greatest acts of care you can offer to others.

A special thank you to some of our talented sewers who have brought masks by the church or donated to those in need: Ruth Thomas, Rose Farr, Carol Marks, Cecily Strang, and Carol Smoyer.

Also, if you are in need of a mask, just let us know! We can deliver some supplies to you to make masks, pick up masks once sewn, or deliver a mask to you if you need one. If you are able to make masks for our church family, please contact Carol Smoyer ([clsmoyer@bellsouth.net](mailto:clsmoyer@bellsouth.net)) or Cecily Strang ([cecilystrang@gmail.com](mailto:cecilystrang@gmail.com)). If you are in need of a mask, please contact Floy Turner ([floyturner@gmail.com](mailto:floyturner@gmail.com)).

### Food Donations

Please continue to bring non-perishable food donations to the church. There is a great need for this. We will make sure it is dispersed to food banks locally.



## Profile of an “Honorary” Presbyterian Woman: Ginny Bauer

*by Joan Irvine*

Keeping steady the course of the First Presbyterian Church while maintaining calm and smiling, our own Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors, is an integral part of our church family. God's plan has brought us this warm, efficient and compassionate “unofficial” Presbyterian Woman.

Virginia (Ginny) began life in the multi-ethnic Ironbound section of Newark, New Jersey with her parents and younger sister. Her mother was Catholic and her father Presbyterian but as promised when they married, the girls were raised Roman Catholic. When Ginny was a high school senior, the family moved to Union while she commuted to finish high school in Newark. After graduation, Ginny went to work as an Executive Secretary to the President of a local chemical plant, quite an accomplishment for this young grad. There she met Joe Bauer and soon after they married. Ginny retired briefly when their two daughters, Jodi and Kelly were born. She went back to secretarial work at the parochial school where the children attended and later, when the young family moved to Bayville, on the Jersey Shore, she continued working part time at Central Regional High School until the girls graduated.



When Ginny's parents retired to Ft. Pierce, FL, Ginny and Joe followed them, living for a short time in Ft. Pierce but eventually moving to Vero Beach. Ginny took a job at Dodgertown Conference Center and there met FPC's Joann Wheeler. With the Dodgers final decision to close the facility in 2008 and jobs eliminated, Joann mentioned to Ginny that First Presbyterian Church was looking for an Administrative Assistant and helped set up an interview with Pastor Tim. Ginny tells of that memorable interview. "Immediately I felt the warm welcome from Betty Judd and met Tim along with Gene Horton representing the Personnel Committee. Just as we started, Gene's phone rang and he apologized for the interruption when suddenly I realized that I hadn't turned my phone off either and apologized in advance because the loud ring tone would be 'Margaritaville'" Little did I know that Jimmy Buffet was Tim's favorite... I think that alone sealed the deal!"

While Ginny has spent her career working in many diverse office situations, transitioning to the more personal aspect of a church office was a challenge, made easier with the help of long-time then church secretary, Ginny Gowell. "Ginny G" could not have been more helpful, compassionate and most gracious, says "Ginny B", as we now know her. It was a time of change--the church had not yet broken ground for the new Christian Ed. Life building. Since then, she has seen the campus change as well as many new personnel. She says that now Tim and Michael are the perfect "complement to each other" and the staff is such a pleasure to work with. As a member of St. Helen's Catholic church, Ginny explains that it helps her to have a more objective view while working on the "inside" of the office management. Walking a tightrope between compassion and running an office takes a particular skill that has become obvious to all who work with her.

Ginny and Joe love caring for their youngest grandchild, Ryan every weekend making sure he completes his Confirmation service at St. Helens. Living close by are daughters Jodi, a Special Education teacher, and Kelly, a Jupiter detective with her children, Tyler and Alyson.

"Everything happens for a reason", Ginny philosophizes and lives by a favorite Bible verse. Jeremiah 29:11 "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity, and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for."

## Transformation

It is that time of year again! Our Wednesday Night Dinners, (more recently known as "Grab and Go Dinners"), are done for the season. While it has been an unusual Spring in that we were unable to gather as a community, we were able to continue providing meals on Wednesday nights. Meals were well received by those that chose to participate and we are grateful for their continued support.

It would be remiss of the Fellowship committee to not give a shout out to those that made these meals possible during these trying times. Thank you to Michael York for helping with the prepping, cooking and packaging meals, Fred Foy Strang for keeping up with the dishwashing and handing out meals, Steve Nystrom for handing out meals and collecting love offerings and Tim Womack for providing prayers and words of hope to those that drove through the loop picking up meals.



*Carol Campbell prepares  
"Grab and Go" meals*

Moving forward, the Fellowship Committee has chosen to continue with the Meals to Heal Program that was started to provide meals for those in need. This program was designed to set aside five meals every week from the Wednesday Night Dinners, to be labeled and placed in the freezer. These meals could then be taken to a shut in, someone who recently had surgery, or other life adjustments. The meals were made available to anyone that knew of someone in need, all they needed to do was come into the kitchen and grab a meal and deliver it.

Currently we have meals available and would like to prepare more to ensure a constant supply. We are asking for volunteers to provide a single serving meal that can include an entrée and vegetable or starch that will freeze well and reheat easily. These meals will be stored in the freezer in McAfee Hall. There will be a sign out sheet on the freezer door so that we can keep track of the meal supply.



*Mark Bradley stops in to pick up a meal  
during his evening bike ride.*

We have containers available at the church to put the meals in and the lid allows for labeling, which should include the contents and the date.

If you know of someone that needs a meal, please come to the church, grab a meal out of the freezer and deliver it to them. If you are unable to deliver a meal but know of someone in need please contact the church office and provide the information and we will make sure the meal is delivered.

If you feel led to assist with this endeavor please contact Carol at [caroljcampbell1@hotmail.com](mailto:caroljcampbell1@hotmail.com) or call her at 810-623-6265.



June 1 - Alissa Bates

June 4 - Joan Kay

June 5 - Kim Conn, Carmen Franek, Margo Hamilton-Stynchcomb

June 6 - Bill Burrows, Phil Schwin, Bob Stuart, Cyndee Wood

June 7 - Meg Dingee, Roger Swanson, Erin York

June 8 - Libby Thompson

June 9 - Ken Foster

June 10 - Nancy Rumford, Dave Stewart, Jonathan Womack

June 12 - Trell Adams, Violet Moyer, Lorna Oswald

June 14 - Shannon Farabow, Mary Husman, Mary Ann Renz

June 15 - Erin Franco, Virginia Ostrander, Cherrie Schreiber

June 16 - Cindy Welford

June 17 - Robbi Peirce, Ann Risinger

June 18 - Nancy Forlines, Michael Goodfellow

June 19 - Jim Newman

June 20 - Mary Spencer Blair, Catella Grigley, Linda Johnson,  
Carolyn Snyder, Stephanie Womack

June 21 - Ben Humphries

June 24 - Gilbert Metz, Jr.

June 26 - Carol Smoyer

June 28 - Joel Shine



## News and Notes

### Dr. Tim's Bible Study

Now available on  
ZOOM, Livestream, and  
Facebook

Tuesdays at 10:30am

ZOOM Meeting ID: 876 7297 7588  
Password: 408224



ZOOM Bible Study  
with Pastor Michael

Tuesdays at 7:30pm



Meeting ID:  
109 343 374



ZOOM Devotional  
and Prayer  
with Dr. Fred Foy

Fridays at 10:00am

Meeting ID: 868 1893 4137

### NEW YOUTH FUNDRAISER

In lieu of the rummage sale, we invite you to  
check out our virtual Youth Fundraiser Wall.

Please visit:

[firstpresvero.org/youth-fundraiser-wall](http://firstpresvero.org/youth-fundraiser-wall)

**Thanks for your support!**



### Youth Fellowship Opportunities

Find out how you can  
stay connected during  
social distancing!

Contact: Jacob Strang, Youth Director  
(772) 643-7737

[jacobstrang@firstpresvero.org](mailto:jacobstrang@firstpresvero.org)

### Prayer Net

Have a prayer request?

Please email the dedicated  
group of people on our team  
who will lift you up in prayer!



Send your request to:  
[firstpresprays@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresprays@gmail.com)



<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



## Need a smile today?



Dr. Tim facilitated a staff zoom meeting from a pineapple under the sea- in Bikini Bottom! (Hey! That's where Spongebob lives!)

Have you been doing virtual meetings lately?  
 Where have you been "zooming" from?

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

## How to Access our Live Streaming Worship Services, Events, Bible Studies, Podcasts, etc.

We broadcast our live streaming in two ways:  
Via our website - <http://www.firstpresvero.org>,  
On our facebook page - <http://facebook.com/FirstPresVero>

You can also use either of these options to watch worship after the live service has ended. For the most up-to-date information, please "like" us on Facebook and check back often for any updates and changes to upcoming events. Also, be sure that you are receiving our emails by joining our mailing list by emailing [info@firstpresvero.org](mailto:info@firstpresvero.org). If your contact information/location has changed, please notify us as soon as possible so that we may stay in touch.



Tech-savvy? Scan this QR code directly from your smartphone to be automatically directed to our website for access to livestream videos, worship services, and additional updates!

### **"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](http://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!

