



First News

*Building Faith, Changing Lives,
& Sharing Christ.*

First Presbyterian's Anniversary with St. Valentine

On Sunday, February 14th, First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach will celebrate the life of St. Valentine while we also celebrate the 67th anniversary of our congregation. It has always been meaningful to me that the anniversary of our particular church is on Valentine's Day.

The Valentine's Day we celebrate is usually focused on the notion of romantic love and gifts for our beloveds. We celebrate with flowers, gifts, dinners and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates (Hershey's, of course). We buy cards and sign them with the iconic salutation, "Your Valentine." We buy our children boxes of flimsy cards with candies attached in order to pass out to their classmates, striving not to forget or miss anyone. We pay little to no attention to the fact that Valentine was a Christian martyr from the 3rd century.



In *Lord of the Rings*, Tolkien notes that history becomes legend and legend becomes myth. The "myth" of the Valentine's Day celebration is derived from "history." The legend of St. Valentine is indeed rooted in fact. Born in 226 A.D. in a tiny little town called Terni, in Umbria, in Italy, Valentine lived in a time of great intrigue and sexual immorality during the reign of Claudius II.

In contrast to these destructive forces, the witness of the early Christians was that they stood up for the value of a Godly marriage. For the early church, marriage allowed sexuality to be channeled into its God-given boundaries. Marriage became the institution that reveals what "enduring love" could look like.

To make a long historical story short, Claudius II outlawed marriage because married men could be excused from going to war. Rome was under attack from many corners and Claudius needed men who are available to fight. Thus, Claudius outlawed marriage. Valentine's crime was that he converted people to Christianity and would also "marry" them.



...continued from page 1

For this, Valentine was arrested and imprisoned in Rome. While in prison, Valentine presented the gospel to his jailers. One of his judges is said to have brought his blind daughter to Valentine. Upon laying his hands on her eyes, she was healed. Despite this miraculous healing, Valentine was murdered in 269 on February 14. Prior to his execution, it is said that Valentine wrote a letter to the healed daughter of his jailer and signed the letter, "Your Valentine."

From the very beginning of the celebration of Valentine's Day, the church has celebrated much more than romantic love. This date has celebrated that true love requires sacrifice, commitment, effort, healing and faithfulness in all its relationships, particularly marriage. When Christian marriage is realized, it brings a message of healing and hope to a very broken world.

On Valentine's Day in 1954, First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach was chartered as a congregation. Being tied to the witness Valentine, our congregation embodies the love of Christ to his bride, the church. Marriage has been said to be a "holy parable," revealing God's love to God's beloved children.

When First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach demonstrates sacrifice, commitment, effort, healing and faithfulness, it witnesses to the power of God's enduring love and, as Paul affirms, "and the greatest of these, is love."

So, give the flowers, the cards, and the Hershey's chocolates. Go to dinner and try to be as romantic as Presbyterians can be. Yet, do not forget that Valentine's Day is so much more. Let your relationships and marriages be a "parable" of God enduring commitment and service to all of us. And, pray for First Presbyterian Church as we celebrate 67 years of loving service to Indian River County and beyond. Long may our commitment to love endure, and may God bless you all.

Your Valentine,
Dr. Tim Womack



Worship, Music, & Arts

PRIMO Music Teacher Spotlight: *Emily Dreher*

Ms. Dreher came to Vero Beach from Columbus, Ohio in July 2012. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the Ohio State University and has over 20 years music teaching experience in public school, church and music studio settings. She has worked with students of all ages from preschool through adulthood.

Emily works as a cantor and musician at St. Helen's Catholic Church in Vero Beach, and also sings at other area churches. She teaches K-8 general and choral music at The Willow School and beginning piano and oboe and voice of all levels.

Ms. Dreher enjoys performing in a variety of genres including musical theater, classical, jazz and rock, and sings in the community whenever singers are needed!



FPC Youth String Orchestra: Aspen Invitational Update

As you may know, our Youth String Orchestra has been invited to Colorado this summer to participate in the Aspen Music Festival. The trip is being made in response to a special invitation by a member of our congregation, Mrs. Patsy Shields, who is a board member of the festival. We are beyond excited for this opportunity to perform, learn, and experience the beauty of the Rocky Mountains during this week-long engagement from July 31 to August 7, 2021.

Our musicians will have several opportunities to perform in Aspen. They will also partake in masterclasses and private lessons with world-class musicians who travel from all over each year for this prestigious festival. At the completion of their festival engagements, the group will travel to Breckenridge - another popular ski town within the Rocky Mountains. They plan to hike about 8.2 miles (reaching an elevation of 12,408 feet above sea level!) to the beautiful Mohawk Lakes and Continental falls. After a night in Breckenridge, our group will embark on a Whitewater Rafting Adventure before arriving at their final destination in Denver. This portion of the trip will feature a self-guided tour of the famous Red Rocks Amphitheatre, a 6-mile hike on Mt. Falcon on the front range of the Rockies, and visiting historic areas such as Denver's Larimer Square and Downtown Littleton.



What an exciting trip for our Floridian students who may have never experienced these amazing adventures! In preparation, we will be holding several fundraiser concerts to help offset the cost for our student musicians and chaperones to attend. The first performance is offered by Gretchen Cover, whom you have seen performing on the harp for many of our Sunday Services. The recital will feature harp, three bassoons, violin, and piano, and will be held on March 18, 2021, in our sanctuary. Stay tuned for more information on this and many more performances as we prepare for this educational and transformative undertaking.



Discipleship

Lots of zoom opportunities for discipleship with "The Year of the Bible"

Topic: The Year of the Bible Q&A

Hosted by: *Pastor Michael*

Time: Thursdays at 10:00 AM

To join via computer or smartphone, [click here](#)

To dial in by phone, call (929) 436 2866 and enter the
Meeting ID: 892 0180 7418, when prompted,
enter the passcode: 575376



Topic: Year of the Bible with Palmdale Presbyterian Church

Hosted by: *Dr. Fred Foy Strang*

Time: Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

To join via computer or smartphone, [click here](#)

To dial in by phone, call (929) 436 2866 and enter the
Meeting ID: 892 7205 5968



Topic: Coffee & Conversation on "The Year of the Bible"

Hosted by: *Dr. Fred Foy Strang*

Time: Friday mornings at 10:00 AM

To join via computer or smartphone, [click here](#)

To dial in by phone, call (929) 436 2866 and enter the
Meeting ID: 868 1893 4137



Mission

Supporting the Maya Women of Guatemala

First Presbyterian Church will begin to support a mission to help the very poor indigenous communities -specifically the women- of Guatemala. The woman's role in this culture has been one of submission, with few opportunities for advanced education or leadership positions. In fact, education in nutrition, hygiene, health, and child care are in critical need. Military rule has helped perpetuate an intense concentration of wealth and land that left the indigenous Maya population almost totally disenfranchised and thus contributed to a 36-year-long civil war. While peace accords were signed in December 1996, they were never ratified by Guatemala's Congress. The disparities continue and the country continues to struggle with violence, corruption and economic challenges. Those in marginalized communities, the majority of whom are indigenous (Maya, Xinka and Garifuna), remain politically, socially, and economically disenfranchised. So, it is here we step in to help through the guidance of Rev. Eliane Menezes and her ministry with these women.



Rev. Menezes seeks to empower women by facilitating development of their leadership skills and by helping to nurture relationships between the women of the National Union of Presbyterian Women in Guatemala and Presbyterian women in the United States.

In the weeks and months to come you will hear more of our partnership with Rev. Eliane Menezes and with the women of Guatemala as we seek to share kindness and God's love.



Presbyterian Women

Great Opportunities for Fellowship and Volunteering!

~~~~~

### Morning Tea and Fellowship on Zoom

We will have a time for devotion, prayer, fellowship and check in with all who join, updates on PW activities, and a sharing of ideas for the upcoming year. We would be blessed by your presence with us.

Monday, February 1, 2021  
10:00 am

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

To call in, dial (929) 436-2866 and enter the Meeting ID: 843 0894 1429

Sincerely,

Floy Turner, floyturner@gmail.com and Cecily Strang, cecilystrang@gmail.com, PW Co-moderators

~~~~~

Grace Circle and Horizons Bible Study

All Ladies are invited! Grace Circle is currently the only circle meeting at this time. All other circle members and all church ladies are invited to join the Grace Circle for fellowship, prayer, and bible study. Grace Circle is meeting the 2nd Monday of each month from 1-2pm by way of Zoom and in-person in the Dr. George Earnshaw Room. Our guidebook is "Into the Light--Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." These books are free of charge and are located in the church office. Come and join your sisters in Christ for great discussion and fellowship! Masks and distance requirements are adhered to. Call Ann Faunce at 303-947-7984 for information.

Monday, February 8, 2021
1:00pm

Join in-person in the Earnshaw Room, or

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

passcode: 125490

~~~~~

### Christmas Tree Lane needs help for 2021

We are in great need of help for next year's Christmas Tree Lane. The date is December 4th, but plans start early to make it a successful fundraiser for the Mission giving of the Presbyterian Women. Maggie Fleming and Joan Irvine will co-chair it again but we are looking for some new ideas, new skills and new enthusiasts.

Do you enjoy writing publicity?

Are you good at organizing new and used items for resale?

Are you an adventurous cook?

Have you run an event or activity at your previous church?

Are you a leader or a team member?

This is a one-day event that takes all hands working for its success. We need new participants!

Contact [Maggie Fleming](#) or [Joan Irvine](#) by clicking on their names.



# Presbyterian Women

## Profile of Two Presbyterian Women:

Sybilla Hunt and Carol Swartz

*by Ann Faunce*



Carol Swartz, is the daughter of Sybilla Hunt and both are in the photo above. As many of you remember, Sybilla celebrated her 100 year Birthday last summer. And many of you sent cards and balloons and helped Sybilla and Carol in many special ways! Carol has been living with Sybilla almost a year. The 2 ladies are very happy. One is not sure who is the happiest!

Sybilla has macular degeneration and her eyesight is very poor. She knows where every piece of furniture is in her house! When she had a fall last March, Carol wanted to come and be with her mother. Carol said her childhood was a happy, happy life. It was like Ozzie And Harriet's home! Sybilla was a wonderful seamstress and made Carol's clothes...enough for a different outfit every day. Carol remembers growing up riding her bike and playing in the neighborhood all day until dinner time. And Carol wants to give her Mom all that she gave her - a happy and safe life.

Carol lives in Kissimmee FL with her husband Ken, an independent contractor who moves to his jobs and lives in his mobile home. He is close to retirement as well. Carol goes home for her medical appointments. When she leaves, there is a home service that comes and stays with Sybilla. Sybilla loves her home and having her daughter means the world to her. Both have such a wonderful faith in our Lord! There is a lot of joy and laughter in Sybilla's home.

Carol has a son, who has 2 grown daughters, and 5 grandchildren! And right now she is where she and Ken want her to be and that is with Sybilla! All are greatly Blessed! Carol's favorite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 15:51-2. "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet."



## Presbyterian Men

### Valentine's Day Dinner in June

Over the years, our First Presbyterian Church's Presbyterian Men's Fellowship has hosted a Sweet-heart Dinner for the women in our lives. We have offered this dinner every year in February to honor and demonstrate our gratitude, devotion, and care in celebration of our mothers, wives, sisters, and sisters in Christ in our church congregation and community.

Unfortunately, with regard for the health and safety of all of us, the current pandemic requires a change of plans. As Christians, we are instructed not only to endure but to have hope. It is the Presbyterian Men's Fellowship's hope that we only postpone our Valentine's Dinner to June or thereabouts, depending on the healthy status of everyone.



Women of the church, we hope you will look forward to celebrating Valentine's Day - and you - with us in June! Stay tuned.

Sincerely,

*Glenn Conn*

President of the Presbyterian Men's Fellowship



## News and Notes

To my First Pres Family,

You may have already heard but, after much prayer and consideration, I have decided the time has come for me to retire. It is with great gladness and sadness that I share this with you. I am glad that I will have more time to spend time with my family and to do some traveling. It is with sadness that I am leaving this position. I have never had a job that I love as much as this one. Everyone I have had the pleasure of working with has been extremely kind and supportive. I will miss coming to work every day. However, I will still be fully engaged in the church through the choir and the diaconate. I plan to leave at the end of March. That will depend on how quickly my replacement is found. It is more important to me to have a seamless transition than to leave at exactly a particular time. I want to thank each and every one of you for sharing in this part of my life journey with me. You have made it extremely rewarding.



Sincerely,

*Shirley Douglas*

*Please join us in wishing Shirley a wonderful, relaxing, and fun-filled retirement!*





# February Birthdays

- 1 - Karen Deigl, Marta Schneider, Pete Smith
- 2 - Dorothy Flynn, John Klasing, John Weisbecker
- 3 - Holly Ann LoGiudice
- 4 - Betty Burgess, Gene Horton, Art Irvine, Alice McKenna
- 5 - Ashlee Offutt, Harry Offutt, Gloria Raines, Henry Ray, Bill Seely
- 6 - Cindy Judd, Gerry Marvin, Mavis Stephen, Bill Thompson
- 7 - Tiffany Carlsen, Sandi Cooke, Cindy Rogers
- 8 - Roger Wagner
- 10 - Elliott Bates, Marilyn Bauknecht, Ryan Capone, Emily Lagemann, Harriet Moore
- 11 - Donald Guisto, Jay Miller
- 12 - John Barley, Vernon Daniel
- 13 - Barry Berg, Doug Lagemann, Susan McGarry
- 14 - Elly O'Connor
- 15 - Dale Peirce
- 16 - Sally Dussing
- 17 - Patti Frantz
- 18 - Barbara Power
- 20 - Lyn Smith
- 21 - Lona Bang-Olsen, Gail Murdough
- 22 - Carol Campbell
- 23 - Robbie Broeffle, Jamari Chandler, Evan Chilberg, Rachel Horowitz
- 25 - Stanford Erickson, Monny Gasche, Richard Springmyer
- 27 - Pam Dolby, Joe Moore, Ann Weir
- 28 - William Hutchison





## News and Notes

### Ready to join us?

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we welcome our new members during each service. Also, after each service we also encourage those who are moved by the Spirit and wishing to seek membership to join us for a meeting with the Pastors and Elders.

For more information, please contact Deb Alich at 772-999-3644, via email at [daalich@comcast.net](mailto:daalich@comcast.net), or call the church office at 772-562-9088.

Welcome to the world!

*Asher Jacob Strang*

Born on January 13th, 2021  
9lb, 6oz., 21 inches

Congratulations to  
Jacob, Shelly, and  
newly promoted big sister Ivy!



**Call 1-772-206-3548**

**to hear our latest sermon**



### Grocery Shopping Assistance Program

This is now a permanent service offered by the Senior Resource Association. All seniors age 60+ in Indian River County are eligible. Senior Resource Association staff will pick up a grocery list, do the shopping, and deliver items all on the same day - with NO delivery fee!

Please call for more information:  
(772) 569-0760

### Our Annual Sweetheart Dinner has been cancelled

Due to the pandemic and a need to ensure the health and safety of our congregation, we have cancelled the Sweetheart Dinner for February.

We look forward to offering this wonderful event to celebrate the women in our lives sometime in June 2021.

### The Year of the Bible

To sign up, please contact  
Pastor Michael:

[michaelyork@firstpresvero.org](mailto:michaelyork@firstpresvero.org)  
(772) 562-9088 ext. 113



<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 2021

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

Class of 2022

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

Class of 2023

\*Allan Bixby, James Ewing, Linda Masterson,  
\*Cindy Rogers

Clerk of Session - Connie Herr

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

Trustees-at-Large

2021 - Melissa Shine

2022 - Bob Satola

2023 - Will Kirk

### BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

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

Class of 2023

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

## 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 - 1st Tuesday; 1pm

Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday; 11:30am

Finance & Policy - 1st Thursday; 3pm

Heritage - 4th Thursday; 10am

Hospitality - 1st Monday; 4pm

Missions - 2nd Tuesday; 2pm

Personnel - Tuesday prior to Trustees Mtg; 3:30pm

PW Coordinating Team- varies; contact team leader

Session - 3rd Thursday; 6:50pm

Trustees - Monday of the week prior to Session; 3pm

Worship & Music - 1st Thursday; 4pm

## Weekly Bible Studies and Prayer Opportunities

Dr. Tim

Tuesdays at 10:30am  
via LiveStream or Facebook

[Click here to join](#)

Pastor Michael

Tuesdays at 7:30pm via Zoom

[Click here to join](#)

Devotional & Prayer

with Dr. Fred Foy

Fridays at 10:00am via Zoom

[Click here to join](#)



# First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach



520 Royal Palm Boulevard  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 562-9088

<http://www.FirstPresVero.org>

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor

## Sunday Services

8:30am, 10:00am, and 11:15am

The first Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday. If you 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.

Each week, as you are able, continue to bring food items to support the work of our Mission Talent Committee. We will make sure that these food offerings go to those in need in our community.

"Meals to Heal": If you know of someone who needs a meal during a difficult time, 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.

## February Scriptures and Sermons

### February 7, 2021

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

Mark 1:29-39

"The Response to Healing"

### February 21, 2021

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

Mark 1:9-15

Living in Christ: "Temptation in Christ"

### February 14, 2021

*Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor*

Mark 9:2-9

Living in Christ: "Transfiguration in Christ"

### February 28, 2021

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

Mark 8:31-38

Living in Christ: "Suffer in Christ"



## "For God Loves a Cheerful Giver"

Our in-person offertory procedures have changed, and we wanted you to know that your offering can also 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?*

[Click here to be directed to our secure portal.](#)

Or, use your smartphone for easy mobile giving!  
Text "Firstpresvero" to 73256 and follow the prompts!

