



# FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

## "Followership" It's an Invitation to Meaning!



Early in the synoptic gospels, Jesus calls fishermen to be disciples. He simply says to them, **"follow me"** and immediately they drop their nets and follow.

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, **"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:18-20

This is the definition and example for all disciples of followership. Many believe that nets in this account represent, and are a metaphor for, all those things which bind us, ensnare us, and hinder us from moving forward. If you have ever used a fishing net or a seine net then you know how easy it is to get entangled. "Nets" bind us and we are unable to move forward.

This is true with so much of what we do in our modern lives. We find ourselves entangled in all those activities that color our living. Our entanglements may be quite enjoyable activities of entertainment, exercise, and self-focus. Our restrictions may be the requirements of our work and labor. Our nets that bind us may be as church member/consultant/mentor, Don Winkler identified as timewasters (binge watching the Game of Thrones, for a second time or playing too many games of FIFA on the X-Box).

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Jesus said, **“Drop the nets!” “Follow me!”** Jesus said that to the fishermen and Jesus says this to us! We are to be fully engaged in followership. Thus, the questions are asked, “Where is Jesus leading us?” “Where are we to follow?” Let me be bold enough to suggest that Jesus is calling us to followership in service to His church.

Jesus is calling you to followership. Follow me to . . .

- . . . be an usher and care for others as they worship;**
- . . . be a bus driver or an adult rider to enable children to attend Quest on Wednesdays;**
- . . . be a reader for 2nd graders at Dodgertown;**
- . . . be a “Dinner Dean” for Wednesday Night Dinners;**
- . . . be a participant on a Mission Trip;**
- . . . be a media leader for our worship and class presentations;**
- . . . be a liturgist on Sunday morning;**
- . . . and as Yul Brynner once said, “Etcetera, Etcetera, Etcetera!”**



What nets are you being asked to drop? What ways are you being called to follow? Maybe this is a minimum rule-of-thumb; “Serve your church in followership of Jesus, attend one educational opportunity once a year, give of your resources cheerfully, and worship weekly!” Followership is an expectation of Jesus!

May God Bless,

*Tim Womack*

For more information about volunteer opportunities, you may scan below, call (772) 562-9088, or email [jessicarussell@firstpresvero.org](mailto:jessicarussell@firstpresvero.org).







## First Presbyterian Church Youth and Children's Ministry

To Our Beloved FPC Family,

This has been a BIG year for our youth and children's ministries at First Pres! The FPC Youth Group continues to meet weekly, Sunday nights at 5:00pm, for prayer, devotion, food, and crazy-fun activities like Fear Factor and our Neon 80's Dance Party. Our youth continue to volunteer in our children's program, serve at the IRC Food Pantry, and recently hosted the first FPC Open Mic Night. As we move into the fall, we look forward to our next Open Mic Night (Sep 12), our annual Bioluminescence Kayak Trip, and the exciting revamp of our youth room!

Our FPC Children's Ministry has also had some exciting changes, beginning with a new check-in system, which is now fully operational for the new season. We were very excited to welcome over 100 children to our Interstellar VBS in June! We enjoyed another successful Bible Blast Camp, led by Janine Jones. As of July, Children's Church is now sharing space with our preschool, which has been a wonderful blessing, and we thank our preschool staff and teachers for assisting with the transition.



Friends, while we are so grateful for all of our volunteers, we are still desperately in need of help. As of today, approximately 72% of our youth and children's ministry volunteer roles remain unfilled. Post-COVID, we are not yet able to offer some of our most familiar and beloved programs for children and youth, as well as risking burn-out to our current volunteers. We please ask you to pray about this and consider if you might be one of the missing pieces in our ministry to children and youth. Here are the current roles that we are looking to fill:



- **Bus drivers**
- **Children's check-in**
- **Children's Church Volunteer**
- **Assistance with youth dinners**
- **Youth Mentors**
- **Quest Volunteers**
- **Assistance with Special Events**

We operate on a rotation basis and schedule a month in advance. If you are willing to help, we can work with your particular interests as well as the needs of your schedule. For more information, please contact Jessica at [jessicarussell@firstpresvero.org](mailto:jessicarussell@firstpresvero.org) or call the church office at (772) 562-9088.

Blessings to all of you,

*Youth and Children's Ministry Team*



*A Word from our Music Director,*

*Dr. Jacob Craig*



## Roots of Sacred Music and the Eastern Tradition



In considering the role of music in worship, or sacred music in general, it is clear the psycho-epistemological role of all music applies directly in a sacred context, specifically through “ecstasy, symbol, and rhetoric” (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 11). Since the physiological response to music is immediate and uncontrollable, indeed since it reduces our senses to a child-like state of stimulus, it is important to recognize that “the primal forces summoned up by the music of ecstasy clearly have great strength” (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 12). While we might consider this experience of ecstasy to be an extrinsic character to life in modern times, for primal humanity and cultures of antiquity, music was intrinsic to their daily experience (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 9), and was “linked with birth,

death, dancing, work, and worship” (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 9). The eastern tradition of orthodoxy following the Byzantine tradition clearly expresses their understanding of this primal power as they seek to stimulate all senses throughout their worship services (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 149), reminding worshippers of their close connection to God, salvation, and the saints.

In “direct contrast to the ability of music to possess or control is its capacity to act as a signpost for an idea which lies outside or beyond it” (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 12). The power music carries as symbology is in its ability to conceptualize culture, beauty, intention, excellence, truth, and much more. Whether part of nomadic celebrations such as protective rites or festivals of the old testament (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 11), or the bell tolls of the Great Lent of Greece (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 150), the power of music to symbolize and conceptualize is unlike anything else. The texture and tonality of music, the timbre and color and sonority of such a wide variety of sounds, instruments, and forms become “a symbol for the infinitely grander patterns and synchronies of God’s creation” (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 12).

The ability of music to communicate emotion itself is most aptly done through musical rhetoric. Each culture has defined its worship through its approach to liturgy, and its handling of corporate and individual worship. Indeed the development of chant, hymns, instruments, and other facets of musical worship have come from attempts to characterize the rhetoric of each individual culture. Whether the ornate cantoring of Byzantine chant characterized by its antiphonal style with no instruments (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 152), or the demand on unison and octave corporate singing for psalms of the early Christian church (Westermeyer, 1998, p. 59), the rhetoric of the musical arts in worship is constantly evolving to better express its powers of persuasion (Wilson-Dickson, 1992, p. 13).

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In understanding the great strength associated with the expression of the musical arts, we as music directors, or perhaps better described as musical theologians are responsible for curating expressions of worship itself. It is our obligation to acknowledge this responsibility, and to present to our congregations experiences which enhance their ability to worship, and not detract from it. We are to be acutely aware that we can act as a sensory deprivation and a distractant through poorly thought-out liturgy, sub-par performance, and disjunct thematic. Whatever our denomination and cultural expression, we are to be the gate-keepers of excellence and beauty within our own worshipping expressions, so that all congregants under our care will be able to more fully realize an expression of worship that assists in their movement towards God, and not away from it.

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References

Westermeyer, P. (1998). *Te Deum: The Church and Music*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Wilson-Dickson, A. (1992). *The Story of Christian Music*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

## *Afternoon of Praise*

**October 29 at 6PM**

**King's Baptist Church**

**3235 58th Ave. Vero Beach, FL**

Join us for an afternoon of traditional hymns and contemporary praise music! We are continuing our collaboration with the music departments of King's Baptist, Christ By the Sea, and First Methodist Church to praise God through music. Our next afternoon of praise is October 29 at King's Baptist Church.





# Unique Boutique

Unique Boutique is once again receiving donations. We will be available at the usual times of Mondays from 9-11 AM and Thursdays 1-3 PM. Make your closets clap and your house happy and bring those things you no longer need to us! We cannot accept large or heavy pieces of furniture. No electronics, clothes, shoes, or damaged items. Thanks for your generous support. Please call Rosalie Perry, 610-780-3111, with any questions. Thanks for your generous support.

As plans for the 69th Annual Christmas Tree Lane are underway, we are asking for donations of gift cards. The CTL committee is planning on raffling a gift card tree to support this fundraising event.

If you have unused gift cards or own a business and would like to donate a gift card, please drop them off at the Church office or you can give them to a committee volunteer outside the sanctuary following the 10:00 AM service.

As always, thank you for your generous support. If you have any questions, please call Joanne Smith at 614-205-8783.



## Upcoming PW Events

### September 11

The next PW meeting is September 11 at 1:00 PM in Earnshaw. Please note the time change. This meeting is a week later than usual due to Labor Day. Our regular schedule of the first Monday of the month will resume in October.

### September 15

Please join us on September 15 at 11:30 AM for lunch at the Olive Garden. Contact B. J. Fisher at 678-481-3835 to make a reservation. The more the merrier!

### October 9

The next Grace Circle meeting will be on Monday, October 9th at 11:30 AM followed by lunch and fellowship. Please mark your calendars for every 2nd Monday! Guides for the Bible Study used at this Circle are in the office. They are in the cabinet on the lower left as you enter the office. There is an envelope for the \$10 cost. Please sign your name. All are welcome!





## *First Presbyterian Men's Fellowship*

By Phil LoGiudice and Glenn Conn

On behalf of the Presbyterian Men's Fellowship officers, we hope everyone has had a great (and warm) summer so far. Glenn has arranged to re-start the **Tuesday Morning Breakfasts** on September 12th. He is planning for a season of events that are always graced with fun, food, and fellowship. Remember any of the men in our church community are welcome to attend breakfast! The more the merrier!

Every Tuesday at 7:30 am we have breakfast gatherings at the 19th Hole Restaurant and Clubhouse located in Vista Royale on US1 just south of McKee Botanical Garden. We have a few speakers lined up and more to confirm for this year. Our objective is to donate to small organizations that support our local community.

**The 8th Annual Antique and Classic Automobile Show** is scheduled for November 4th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm with many of our local car, truck and motorcycle enthusiasts attending. There will be a food truck and possibly some other vendors there to make this an event for the whole family. Each year we have had more cars and trucks than the previous year. This is a great show for everyone. There is no charge for spectators. The event is always in the parking area outside the Christian Life Center.

Ideas are being discussed for our next **Annual Sweetheart Dinner** (or maybe a lunch event) scheduled for February 10, 2024. We love hosting this event each year as a nice way to **honor all the ladies** of our community. This is a free event for our ladies, and all are welcome. The event may be a bit different from past years to better accommodate everyone wishing to attend. Details will be shared in the next few months.

One area where some of us have volunteered our time is the **Safety and Security Team**, technically part of the Hospitality Committee. We take turns each Sunday during services, and for special events, to help secure our environment. We greet everyone and have a good time. We recently hired the Indian River County Sheriff's deputies to assist people using the north (grassy) parking lot and crosswalk. They also patrol the campus while services are in session. We always have a need for more volunteers. We ask that the men and women in our community consider volunteering some time and help us out. Contact George Maroney, Glenn Conn or Phil LoGiudice with any questions or concerns.



*Sewing Ladies at FPC*

# WELCOME ALL!



For many years we have had a very active group of women who have clipped and sewn many beautiful pieces for sale at Christmas Tree Lane, sent handmade blankets and quilts to adults and babies and homeless families, made skirts for Christmas trees, created protective face masks, and even designed children's beautiful dresses for an orphanage in South Africa.

They have even made mats for the Humane Society to be used in the cages of newly adopted pets when they go home. One of their specialties is creating quilts and one of them brought forth a silent bid of over \$1000 to help support the displaced families in Ukraine.

Every Wednesday in the Adult Activity room in McAfee Hall the sewing ladies gather and continue to create beauty with their love for sewing.

Please feel welcome to join them from 2-5pm every Wednesday in the Adult Activity Room in McAfee Hall.

Call Ruth Thomas at 772-532-7201 or email [ruthlthomas@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthlthomas@yahoo.com) for more information.





# SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

## READING WITH CHILDREN



# DODGERTOWN ELEMENTARY

We need volunteers to read with 2nd grade children at Dodgertown Elementary School. Experienced reading volunteers may read with children any day of the week at 12:15-12:45 or 1:05-1:50 starting September 11.



If you are already an experienced reading volunteer, please visit the main office at Dodgertown to become registered and choose a 2nd grade teacher to volunteer with: Tanya Perez rm 202, Nicole Benson rm 308, Patricia Filippone rm 309, Linda Rollins rm 203

If you are a first time reading volunteer, please contact Carol Smoyer and I will meet you in the main office to help introduce you to the school, to register you as a volunteer, and to help you to find a 2nd grade teacher to volunteer with.

A Service of the Mission Team  
For more information call Carol Smoyer at 772-538-8795 or email  
[clsmoyer@bellsouth.net](mailto:clsmoyer@bellsouth.net)



# Wednesday Night Dinners

## Wednesday Night Dinners RETURN!

**September 13, 2023 at 5PM**

Sign up with QR Codes or by calling Lisa in the Church Office

**September 13**

Hamburgers & Hot dogs  
Potato Chips  
Salad Bar  
Dessert



**September 20**

Taco Stuffed Peppers  
Roasted Squash  
Salad Bar  
Dessert

**September 27**

Cuban Chicken & Rice  
Cuban Slaw  
Salad Bar  
Natilla Cubana





# Happy Birthday!

1. Bob Gormas, Steve Nystrom
2. Jean Clements, Ward Gunter, Susie Stoughton
3. Scott Chisholm, Eric Hargreaves
4. David Frantz
5. Bob Barganier, Anne Cormier, John Edgar
7. Sheryl Peterson, Budd Thompson
8. Evelyn Barganier, Bill Beaty, John "Jack" Kellogg
10. Becky Moon, Nancy Smith, Sally Westphalen
11. Jane Holland
12. Sally Davis, Peter Probasco
14. Janet Baines
16. Griffin Mericle, Bennett Smith, Carolyn Toohey
17. Michelle Barley, Robert DeWaters, Mike Stevens
18. Mary Haid, Cal Shields
19. John Schumann
20. Peter O. Crouse, Johntavious Metilus
21. Robin Perry
22. Barbara Schwin
23. Jewel Davis, Darlene Scott
25. David Kelso, Ronald Redpath, Ali Simpson
26. Paul Ives
27. Wendy Spalding, Brady Thompson
28. Deb Fletcher, Jenifer Foster, Eileen Ganser, Judy Garrett, Ruth Ann Haeberle, Bonnie Nolan, James Petzing, Nan Thornton
29. Sam Stryker, Noel Thompson, Anita Williamson
30. Kathy Andress, Debra Peirce, Diana Probasco





# Sunday Worship

September 2023  
8:30AM - Mighell Chapel  
10AM - Sanctuary  
Childcare available at all services

## September Sermon Series *Living the Christian Life*

### September 3

The Characteristics of  
living the Christian Life.  
Romans 12: 9-21  
**Communion Sunday**

### September 10

Faultless Living  
Romans 13: 8-14  
**Children and Youth  
Sunday**

### September 17

Be Accountable to God  
Romans 14: 1-12

### September 24

Standing in the Spirit  
Philippians 1:21-30

## 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

Jessica Russell, Director of Christian Education

Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors

Kimberly Ball, Financial Administrator

Lisa Jeffra, Administrative Assistant

### Elders

(\*indicates Elder/Trustee)

**Class of 2023** \*Allan Bixby, James Ewing,  
Judy Garrett, \*Linda Masterson

**Class of 2024** Rebecca Palmer,  
\*Pat Pritchett, \*Brad Smith, John Toohey

**Class of 2025** Carol Campbell, \*Carol Marks,  
Susie Nystrom, Bob Satola

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

### Board of Deacons

**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, Bonnie Nolan

**Class of 2025** Donna Blankenship, Gayle Bruce,  
Nancy Bucklew, Cindy Judd, Bill Menzies,  
Frank Smith