



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ



love



“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13a

“And the greatest of these is love!” The Apostle Paul is the Evangelist of the Western Church. Paul strove to establish faith in Christ till His return. Whatever our views of Paul, his theology focused on the primacy of love.

Paul's definition of love is primarily focused on agape love, which is characterized by devotion and selflessness to others. In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul writes, that love is patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, not arrogant, and not rude. For Paul, love is not just an emotion, but an action of the will. It is a self-giving act directed towards the good of another person.

2000 years later, Paul's radical call upon the Christian to embrace “agape love” remains counter cultural. When the word “agape” is used in the Bible, it refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another's highest good. The broken nature of humanity would have us pursue the opposite of “agape love.” →

First
Presbyterian

November 2024

520 Royal Palm Blvd.
Vero Beach, FL 32960
firstpresvero.org
772-562-9088

CONTINUED

In the world we are so often impatient and not kind. We are jealous and prideful. The world around us is full of being arrogant and rude to others. Our world is full of selfishness. The world rejoices when others fail, when others are exposed to be wrong, and is resentful when it endures the same.

Paul reminded the earliest Christians, and us as well, that Christians must live differently. "Christ-like" agape love is an act of devotion and selflessness to others. In Philippians 2:3, Paul reminds us that we are to have the same mind that was in Christ, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." For Paul, this is the agape love in action.

Paul clearly had his strong opinions. His views were important and he was not timid in sharing them. Paul also understood that he was not correct in everything (the immediate return of Christ), yet, his principal focus was not on being "correct," it was on being "loving." Living the "action" of agape love was for Paul the principle way of being a faithful Christian.

In the days and months and maybe in the years to come, the world will continue in striving to have us act in ways that do not embody "agape love." Yet, if we are to be the faithful Christians of the 21st century, we are to be as counter culture as was Paul. To be a Christ follower, we are to resist pride, impatience, arrogance, rudeness, being unkind, and treating others as though they do not matter.

Paul is crystal clear, "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way. Love never ends. Other things in this world end yet faith, hope, love abide, but the greatest of these is love.

Let the light that guides us be "agape love" and we will endure even through the darkest valleys for Christ is with us! The Good Shepherd leads us to the greener pastures!

May God Bless!

Tim Womack



Dr. Tim's Bible Study

Every Tuesday Morning, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM- ish in the Schumann Conference Room, Christian Life Center. Bring your Bible. The coffee is hot and the cookies delicious. Come enjoy the opportunity to 'deep dive' into Scripture.

Contemplating Consecration Sunday

Sunday, November 10th is Consecration Sunday aka Generosity & Stewardship Sunday

Celebrate with us!

Your generosity keeps the lights on, the A/C running. It prints the bulletin every Sunday and the First News every month.

More than that: It is the underpinning for the bringing of Jesus Christ to you, in the form of study of the Bible, educating our children, caring for the spiritual needs of all, through sermons and music - to the mowing of the grass and trimming the trees. All that you see and hear and sense here at FirstPresVero requires your generosity.

Could you be more generous with your time, your talents or your treasure this coming year?

In Christianity, consecration is the act of setting apart a person, building, or object for God. The word "consecrate" means to declare or dedicate something for a sacred purpose. In the Presbyterian church, Consecration Sunday is a day to celebrate the act of giving and to dedicate one's time, talent, and financial resources to God and to the Church as His visible representation.

On Consecration Sunday we invite everyone to bring forward their "Estimate of Giving" form for 2025, so that we might dedicate these financial gifts to furthering the Glory of God in our church.

Celebrate With Us

Blessings,
Jimmy Gambill
Consecration Sunday Chair



Fellowship

Wednesday Night Dinners

Sign up on realm or by calling Lisa in the Church Office

November 6

Salad bar

Orange Cranberry Pork Loin

Cheesy Potatoes

Broccoli

Thin Mint Cake

November 13

Salad Bar

Chili with fixings

White Chicken Chili

Corn bread

Carrot Cake Cupcakes

November 20

Salad Bar

Turkey rolls with dressing

Mashed Potatoes and
gravy

Sweet Potato Casserole

Rolls and butter

Pumpkin Dump Cake



SERVICE TIMES
BEGINNING NOV 3

Worship Times
8:30AM - Chapel
9:30AM - Sanctuary
11AM - Sanctuary

2024 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME INFO

FALL BACK 1 HOUR

November 3, 2024 at 2am



Discipleship



Congregational Care



COMMUNION AT HOME

Bringing Communion to you

On the first Sunday of each month, members of your Church Family will bring Communion to your home/hospital/rehab center, in order that you can practice the Spiritual Habit of "Spending Time with God." If you are interested in participating please contact Anne Adams 772-562-9088 ext.115

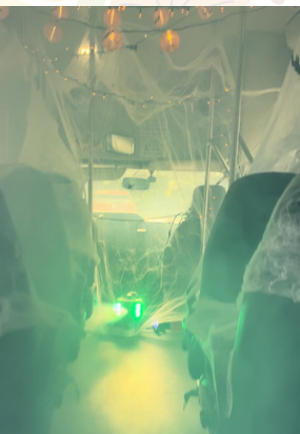
"THE CASE FOR FAITH, THE FILM"

Thursday, November 15, Earnshaw Room 10:30am.

Join us on Thursday, November 15th for a powerful Biblical film based on journalist Lee Strobel's bestselling book of the same name. The film includes interviews with scholars, theologians and ministry leaders who present an honest message of hope and spiritual clarity on the toughest objections to Christianity. The film will be in the Earnshaw Room starting at 10:30am. Reserve your spot now!

Trunk or Treat Success!

FirstPresVero was the early bird with the community's Halloween Festivities. October 23rd saw the expert organization of Coordinator of Congregational Care, Anne Adams' and the Preschool's Trunks n Treats - and a few Tricks event. It enlivened the Fall season. Children, their parents - and grandparents - enjoyed hot dogs and burgers; got faces painted, and tummies filled with sweets. Volunteers made certain all had a good time: Mother and daughter team, Deacon Suzanne Breese, her daughter Lila Sandgren-were disguised as blonde black cats; Mimi Rutland dressed as a witch - so opposite to her delightful self - she fooled no one. There was a jack o lantern orange pumpkin VW, courtesy of Glenn Conn, and other sights too numerous to list. The saying: "A good time was had by all", certainly appears to apply.



Church Bus decorated by Youth Music, Glenn's VW, Children's Face Painting

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Quest Kids



Openings still available!

Wednesday After School Program, QUEST KIDS CLUB, still has a few openings! We provide transportation to the children (VBK - 5th Grade) from all around the community and bring them to FPC to participate in Bible Study, Music, Group Activities and Snacks. If you would like your child or grandchild to join the fun, please contact Anne Adams in the Church Office (ext.115).

Youth Group

Youth Group meets weekly on Thursdays in the Youth Room from 4-7 PM. Youth Handbells meet weekly from 5:30-6:45 PM in the Baines Room. Youth Choir meets weekly from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Choir Room. Youth may come to youth group and step out for music rehearsals, or they may just simply come for fellowship, dinner, and other youth group activities. You do not have to be musical to come to youth group. We are looking for volunteers to chaperone and cook for the youth. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Peter at petermahtani@firstpresvero.org.

Our next event is Big Shots on November 10!

A Call for Acolytes



Acolytes begin the worship service by bringing forth the light of Christ to the Communion table. If you are interested in having your child or grandchild become an acolyte please contact Anne Adams (ext.115). There will be a training session at the end of November and the acolyte program will begin the first Sunday of Advent.



Family Advent Wreaths

Make an Advent Wreath with your child - or grandchild
Sunday, November 24 in McAfee Hall (after the 9:30AM Service)

Advent, which means "arrival" or "coming," is a special time of preparing for the Birth of Jesus. An Advent Wreath is used to celebrate this holy season. The circular shape of the wreath represents God's never-ending love for us. We will be making Advent Wreaths with your children on Sunday, November 24 in McAfee Hall after the 9:30am Worship Service. Come and join your children in making a wreath for you to take home and prepare in welcoming Jesus.

Kids' Cookie Bake

Bake Cookies with your Kids (or the grandkids)

Mark the date-Saturday, December 14! We will be enjoying the holiday season, with the children, by cooking/decorating Christmas cookies and learning about the birth of Jesus! There will be two sessions: 9:30am-10:30am, the preschool kids and first graders (along with their parents) will do non-baked cookies. The second session, 11:00am-1:00pm, children 2nd thru 5th grade will bake and decorate. Don't forget to bring your Christmas tins so you can share your goodies with friends and family!

Space is limited - sign up early! Contact Anne Adams (ext.115).



November in the Archives:

From the Archives 1954

November 10, 1954 As Chairman of the Memorials Committee [for the Sanctuary to be built] suggested that the Furnishings Committee send out a letter to the Congregation pointing out that in a new church it is the general practice that members have the privilege of giving certain of the equipment as Memorials. Memorials suggested were: pulpit, lectern, organ, piano, baptismal font, communion table, special pews, etc. At present, the pulpit and baptismal font have been applied for. The cornerstone is being donated by Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Cox.

November 1954: By vote of Session the Clerk [of Session] was authorized to sign a letter setting forth our planned progress toward full self-support. This letter to be approved by the congregation before signing.

November 1954: The Moderator [Dr. McAfee] reported that Mayor Allen of Dodgertown had told him that new Churches now being built in Vero Beach would be allowed to sell tickets to certain games this next Spring and retain the proceeds of the sales. It was suggested that the Young Adult group sponsor this and handle the sale of the tickets.



Jiřičky



Girls'choir from Czechia



in concert at

First Presbyterian Church, 520 Royal Palm Blvd, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 6:00 pm

**Program includes folk songs, patriotic hymns,
sacred selections, film music, spirituals & more...**

Free admission!

(A love offering will be received in support of the choir's travel fund)

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE-DONATIONS NEEDED

Begins Thursday 9/5/2024 Drop off is from 1-3 pm Christian Life
Adult Activities Room

Regular Monday and Thursday

Drop Off through 11/21/2024 will be as follows

Monday 9-11:00 am, Thursdays 1-3:00 pm

Enter from West Side of Christian Life Center
Activities Room is on left.

No electronics accepted. Small Furniture Only

All donations should be GENTLY used items which are CLEAN

For additional information contact Rosalie Perry: (610) 780-3111

Presbyterian Women held their Annual Welcome Back Luncheon, Saturday October 16th. Fifty-eight members attended the luncheon, catered by Carol Campbell's "Blessed Manna". Floy Turner was presented with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in Presbyterian Women. Floy, author and former DEA member, has been an active member and special contributor to FirstPresVero Presbyterian Women.



Floy Turner, whose lifelong dedication to law enforcement and public service, continues to inspire her active involvement in Church life and her contributions in support of important goals for safety, security and community unity.

A faithful Presbyterian since childhood, Floy is a tireless advocate for child safety and for victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking.

Wherever her distinguished career took her as a Florida State Trooper, Floy often served as a church Elder. That dedication has continued since she and her husband Gary joined First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach seven years ago.

From the start, Floy became an active Church volunteer: organizing a new Safety and Security Committee, serving as Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women and as a member of Grace Circle.

Currently, she serves on the Honor and Justice Committee and volunteers for the Indian River County Sheriff's Office by assisting with community events such as Shop With A Cop for disadvantaged youth.

Floy is a dedicated Christian, tirelessly doing God's work as an advocate for child safety, and protections from domestic abuse and human trafficking. She is truly an inspiration to all those who know her.



Dr. Sam Rutland - About Storms, Hurricanes, Tornadoes and God's Plans

By Phil LoGiudice



The Men's Fellowship was treated to a very interesting talk by Sam Rutland at a recent breakfast meeting. He began by saying that his topic would be storms, hurricanes and tornadoes and the different ways we react prior and during bad weather events.

He asked all of us if we were okay after the storm. He wanted to know if we lost power. He showed us his favorite flashlight that suddenly stopped working and a heavy-duty extension cord. He said he has several of the cords that are used when the power goes out and his generator is put to work. Using a small generator means choices need to be made. Do you want internet or air conditioning? He claimed that Mimi thinks it is time for a whole house generator, but that is a story for another time.

Another question posed to the men was how long their power was out and several guys said five days! Sam's power was out for three days. Then

So, when the extreme weather occurs, we ask ourselves, "Why Lord? Why?" and say "again?" Then he quoted from 1 Kings 19 about Elijah and how the wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. Then came an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After that there was a gentle whisper. And the voice said, "what are you doing here, Elijah?" Meaning that God wanted Elijah to get moving and do something.

Sam then said that it is human nature to question why these things happen. What is this all about and why does this happen to me and not them? The tornado hop-scotched and came near Sam's community. It destroyed a Methodist Church on the feeder road and several homes in Spanish Lakes, and five people died. His area was not affected, but a street nearby was decimated and made to look like a war zone.

So, the question was why were his neighbors affected and not him? We want to figure things out and determine if there is a Divine intervention. Are these things lessons from the Lord? Does it mean people choose to live in mobile homes and therefore suffer the consequences? Going back to the story of Elijah it should be noted that the Lord was not part of the wind, earthquake or fire. The gentle whisper told Elijah to get moving and do something. In our case we pray for our neighbors and ourselves.

We are tempted to believe that these bad events may be God's intention and His plan to address evil. We need to be careful when we pray so that we do not ask the Lord to spare us but choose someone else. We should not suspect Divine intervention when someone is spared, and another person was injured or killed. It makes for a very difficult situation when we want to explain God to others.

As Presbyterians we learn, and try to understand predestination, which begs the question of whether we truly have free will and are not subject to God's plan. Over the years people's understanding of the doctrine of predestination has softened a bit. Sam's talk this morning gave us a lot to think about: One, God is always with us. Two, Community and fellowship are God's ideas. Three, shutdown those who want to interpret God's intentions. Show them love and concern and be faithful.

Justice and Honor

The Justice and Honor Team of First Presbyterian Church is undertaking two special projects this fall. We are partnering with Crossover Mission to once again sponsor the Bicycle Project. School resource officers will identify students in need and those students will be eligible to receive a bicycle and a helmet for Christmas. This project brings joy to the hearts of children and much goodwill in our community as the bikes and helmets are handed out by uniformed School Resource Officers.

Along with Crossover Mission, we are sponsoring the Laptop Project this year. Students graduating from high school who are college bound and unable to afford a computer, are awarded a computer based on need. Last year Crossover was able to give a handful of computers out, but with our support, hopefully there will be a larger number of computers available to be given to these students.

The bicycles cost around \$75 apiece and the computers cost around \$500 apiece.

If you would like to contribute, checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church with : Bicycle/ Laptop project written in the byline. Please leave the check in the office.

What is Crossover Mission?

Justice and Honor Team of First Presbyterian Church, works closely with organizations in the community which seek to help children get a better start in their life journey.

Crossover Mission, started in 2014 - ten years ago - helps the kids who need us most to become successful adults through a program of year-round basketball training and one-to-one academic mentoring. Our kids often live in difficult family situations and are surrounded by violence and drug abuse. Because of this, they are at risk of school drop-out, gang involvement, and incarceration. Crossover Mission redirects their lives by providing structure, accountability, positive role models, and exposure to broader life experiences



Mission

Dodgertown Elementary Thanks FirstPresVero for Uniforms and Backpacks



The Mission Committee reports another successful year of our congregation providing school uniforms, backpacks and school supplies. The children were so happy with their acquisitions. The teachers were pleased that we have come to the aid of those in need.

The final tally: we supplied uniforms for many children, many backpacks for children and school supplies whose families could not otherwise afford them. Your donations also included a very good supply of notebooks and pencils and other school supplies.

Dodgertown Elementary staff, the parents and children all thank you who donated to this worthy mission. You are blessed for having been a blessing to others

Save The Date The 32nd Annual **Soup Bowl**

**November 7th
2024**

11:30AM-1:30PM
Benefiting
Catholic Charities'
Samaritan Center

For information contact:
Renee Bireley: 772-770-3039
rbireley@ccdpb.org



in McAfee Hall



Our own chefs (aka those who love to cook) will provide several of their favorite soups along with bread and a beverage and a small dessert.

There will be a \$5 donation and \$15 for a quart of take away soup.

We have partnered with Indian River Clay and the Heritage Center and will have a one-day pottery buying event that will happen on Soup Bowl Day, Thursday, November 7th from 9am-7pm at the Heritage Center... It is a great opportunity to see 1000's of the most beautiful bowls in one location.

THANKSGIVING HOPE BASKETS



Please use our church's labeled blue bags and purchase the food items listed inside the bags and return to the church sanctuary on any Sunday by November 24th, or the church office during the week. Please be as complete as possible. Food items will not be sorted and No other food items will be added to the bag. What you place in the bag is what the family will receive. A \$25 gift card to Publix from the Mission Team will be attached for families to purchase their choice of a ham or turkey. Multiple bags will be given to larger families.

**MAY YOUR GENEROSITY BE A BLESSING TO YOU
AND TO THE NEIGHBORS YOU HELP.**



Happy Birthday!

1. Ernie Schaaf, Mark Bobseine
2. Judith Taylor
3. Sara Ann Edgar, Gayel Holt
4. Sally Marquardt, Ann Faunce, Vi Spencer, Susan Lizotte
5. Lynsey Thompson, Mimi Rutland, Nancy Edmiston
7. Emily Zeigler
8. Jill Lawrence, Lois Getz
9. Gayle Bruce
10. Darrell Brock
11. Nanette Rappa
12. Betty Judd
13. Grant Yukins
14. Nancy Stuhler
15. Jo Wheeler, George Potochney, Mack Singleton, Elaine Brock
16. George Maroney
17. Ralph Alewine
18. Paul Stynchcomb, Gloria Burnam, Dennis Croyle
20. Hilary Dobson, Samantha Ekin, Cathy Sullivan
21. Patricia Harvin, Michele Wagner, Laurie Hawley, Lucia Romero
22. Aubrey Whigham
23. Susie Nystrom, Landon Craig
24. Marilyn Brooks, Ashley Wright
25. Hanson Peirce, Gayle Peters
26. Austin Chilberg, B.J. Fisher, Nancy Bucklew, Russell Peterson
27. Bob Barber
28. Doris Roberts
29. Jack Wagner



NOVEMBER DATES

November 2nd, Saturday
November 3rd, Sunday at 2AM
November 3rd, Sunday

November 7th, Thursday
November 10th, Sunday

November 11th, Monday
November 11th, Monday
November 15th, Thursday
November 21st, Thursday
November 21st, Thursday
November, 28-29th

Ninth Annual Car, Bike & Truck Show
Daylight Savings Time ends
Three Services begin:
8:30AM Chapel; 9:30AM & 11:00AM Sanctuary
Thirty-second Annual Samaritan Soup Bowl
Consecration Sunday Brunch
(bring your 2025 estimate of giving)
Veteran's Day - office closed
Meet & Greet at Green Marlin
Film: "The Case for Faith" 10:30 Earnshaw
Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays E T Smith 9:30AM
Last day to donate stuff to Christmas Tree Lane
Thanksgiving: office closed

Sunday Worship

November 2024

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

9:30AM - Sanctuary

11AM - Sanctuary

Childcare available at all services

November Sermons

November 3

John 11:32-44

"Arriving on Time"

Rev. Holly Adams

Minister of Congregational Care

Communion Sunday

November 10

Mark 12:38-44

"Involuntary Giving"

Rev. Douglas Brouwer

Guest Minister

Consecration & Youth Sunday

November 17

"Home is Where the Heart Is"

Scripture: Genesis 2:4b-9

Rev. Holly Adams

Minister of Congregational Care

November 24

John 18:33-37

"So You Are a King?"

Dr. G. Timothy Womack

Senior Pastor

November 28

Colossians 3:12-17

"And Be Thankful!"

Dr. G. Timothy Womack

Senior Pastor

Thanksgiving Day

Church Leadership & Staff

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Rev. Holly Adams, Minister of Congregational Care

Anne Adams, Coordinator of Congregational Care

Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence

Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music & Arts

Peter Mahtani, Associate Director of Music & Arts

Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors

Kimberly Ball, Financial Administrator

Lisa Jeffra, Administrative Assistant

Elders

Class of 2024 Rebecca Palmer,

Pat Pritchett*, Brad Smith*, John Toohey

Class of 2025 Carol Campbell, Carol Marks*,

Susie Nystrom, Bob Satola

Class of 2026 Louise Feroe*, Judy Garrett*,

Jim Gambill*, Ted Miller

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Board of Trustees President - Holly LoGiudice

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

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Moderator - Holly LoGiudice

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Holly LoGiudice*, Bonnie Nolan, Beth Pritchett

Class of 2025 Donna Blankenship, Gayle Bruce,

Nancy Bucklew, Cindy Judd, Bill Menzies,

Frank Smith

Class of 2026 Ginger Allen, Suzanne Breese,

Connie Derman, Carol Rhodes, Lee Tiebout,

Ashley Wright

(*indicates Trustee)