



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach is so excited about where we are now as a Church. We have an amazing sanctuary initiative that will allow us to be debt free when the sanctuary is open in 2027. It means a great deal that we will be debt free when we have our first worship service in our new sanctuary.

Many of you have heard me say on regular occasions that “Brick and Mortar” is meaningless if we are not doing what we are called to do as the church. With that in mind, the leadership of the church, is intently focused on the summer of 2027. While we are doing so many things faithfully and well, there certainly are upgrades and improvements that we can address.

We have many goals. It is our desire to make sure that our attendance at worship continues to increase as we move toward our new sanctuary. We will be working to make sure that our choir continues to grow and thrives and offers us the best music that we can accomplish. The new sanctuary will offer intentional space to our choir with room to grow from our current numbers. Would you like to be a part of an expanding choir as we move into the new sanctuary? We will be improving and strengthening our ministry to children, young families, and those who are continuing in the workforce. We will also be working to ensure that we offer the very best congregational care.

Our congregation is truly a blessing to this community. We have a heart of generosity that extends well beyond financial means. Our generosity is given to those within our community who need to know the good news of God in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Reformed Tradition. Our theology is faithful, articulate, and intentional. Our community needs us to be the most faithful Reformed Tradition that we can possibly be.

The leadership of are church asks you as faithful members, to invite your friends and neighbors to join us. There is no better marketing initiative for a church then to have members willing to invite their friends to worship God in our setting. This will become even more important as we move toward our new sanctuary.

We ask you to continue to keep your church in your prayers as we move forward and exciting and meaningful ways. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Tim Womack

First
Presbyterian



May 2026



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

Watching for Divine Signs and Divine Proddings

I grew up in the church and have felt a bit inadequate at times among friends in the church who can point to a specific point in their life that they “accepted Jesus into their life” or “were saved.” Having been a part of the church through almost all my life, I don’t have such a story. Perhaps some of you have had a similar experience. That doesn’t mean, though, that we haven’t sensed divine signs or proddings; I’ve had a few such experiences including a confirmation of my call to ministry and an assurance during travels in Malawi (Africa).

In seminary, we would often share our “call stories” – the stories of how we sensed God’s call to ministry. Many in seminary had sensed a call into ministry for many years – some dating even back to age six. Many of you know I had spent around 13 years working as an engineer and a few years studying and working in genetics. My memory of my call story seemed much shorter – going back a few years. Around nine years after entering seminary, I was going through all my belongings that had been in storage through my time in seminary and serving in Africa, New York City, and Bahrain. I was preparing to move all my belongings from Iowa to Montana. In reviewing all the files I had kept, I came across a journal entry from my first semester in my engineering program while taking a class on Judaism and Christianity about 29 years earlier when I wrote the class had “made me wonder if God is calling/will call me to be a minister.” Suddenly my call story extended back far longer than I imagined; God had been preparing me years before I remembered.

I’ve shared with some of you the story of traveling through Malawi from Zomba in the south to Likoma Island in Lake Malawi. My host in Zomba had driven me to the bus station there, and I waited some time for the bus to arrive. It wasn’t possible to buy a ticket in advance. A large crowd arrived just before the bus arrived, and I feared I might not get a ticket. I used the jostling of the mass of people at the door of the bus to move me forward. When I made it to the door, I was able to purchase a ticket, but when I walked up onto the bus, I realized all the seats were full. I had purchased a ticket to stand in the aisle for the 8+ hour bus ride to Nkhotakota. When I arrived late at night, I climbed down the stairs to a number of men on bicycles offering me a ride on their bicycle taxis. It would take two bicycles for me and my luggage, and I was unwilling to be separated from my luggage. I told them I needed a car taxi. They claimed it was too late. As we went back and forth, a boy went running across the street and down a couple blocks. He stood at a car for a while and ran back. He grabbed a piece of my luggage, and I followed. He had found a couple men in a car willing to give me a ride to the ferry landing miles away for a very small fee. When we arrived at the ferry landing, the ferry was nowhere to be found. They found a guest house nearby at which I could stay, and I awoke every 15-45 minutes to check for the ferry; it was my only chance of getting to this island with the second or third largest cathedral in all of Africa. Morning came, and the owner of the guest house came to my door to alert me that the ferry was finally on its way. He, also, described that the dock was


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inoperable, and I would either need to pay a small fee to take a fishing boat out to the rescue boats that would be sent from the ferry, or to wade into waist-high water with my luggage to the rescue boats to board. I made it onto the ferry and the overnight trip to the island. The journey was a stressful one as I wondered whether I would make it the island safely. I would have eight more countries to visit in my journeys back to the United States including more journeys in Malawi. There was a tremendous amount of uncertainty in what was ahead for me; however, as we were approaching Likoma Island, I was reassured that God had guided all that had to happen that day and would continue to do so in my ongoing travels as I snapped a photo of the island we were approaching and saw a cross formed by the sun and a very small cloud. God had placed gracious and kind people in my path to ensure that I would arrive.

Perhaps, we could fully explain away this sight through natural causes, but I do believe God works through natural processes to engage us at times. When has God amazed you, prodded you forward, reassured you, or caused you pause? Have you shared this with others as an encouragement for their faith or a testimony to those outside the church? Have you thought about writing it down as an encouragement to you in more difficult times?

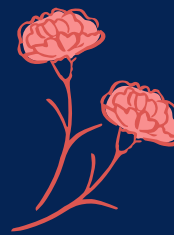
Grace and Peace,
Pastor Andy



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New Sanctuary Fund

Mobility Assistance

If you or a loved one has need of a mobility aids, the church office has several wheelchairs and different types of walkers available for use. Sometimes if insurance is slow to approve, the need is immediate and/or temporary; these mobility aids can help out!

New Sanctuary Construction

On Saturday, 4 April, we had our new church groundbreaking ceremony! Dr. Craig was dressed to represent our Scottish heritage and opened the ceremony with bagpipes. Dr. Womack officiated the occasion with representatives from each of the sanctuary committees, Trustees and Session. It is fascinating to see the progress by Proctor construction - video and photos will be coming soon to share the progress. Although April showers have slowed some work progress, the project remains on schedule. So many people have contributed to making this vision become reality - Thank You!



CONTACT Your New Sanctuary Awaits Capital Fund Committee Officers

**Co-Chair: Bill King cell: 917-375-7160
email: billking28@gmail.com**

**Co-Chair: Scott Westermann, cell: 719-649-1214
email: swestermann01@me.com**

**Financial Administrator, Kimberly Ball: tel:772-562-9088, ext. 111
email: kimberlybefirstpresvero.org**

Worship



Service Times
Beginning May 24, 2026

8:15 AM - Mighell Chapel
10:00 AM - McAfee Hall



Join us Sunday, May 10th for Mother's Day!

May 2 - Space Coast Symphony Orchestra - 2:00 PM

May 3 - PRIMO Recital - 3:00 PM

May 11 - Concerto Competition - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

May 17 - Concert - Dezmond Rogers - 3:30 PM

All Events To Take Place in McAfee Hall

RINGING BELLS

Recently, six adult handbell members and our director Peter Mahtani had the privilege of participating in the Florida Handbell Festival held in Sun City Florida. This is a two day event with approximately 200 handbell ringers in attendance.

The Festival is focused on the art of handbell ringing via the expert leadership of two nationally renowned clinicians. Rehearsals are conducted in both small group sessions as well as mass group sessions with all 200 ringers in attendance.

In addition to bell ringing rehearsals, the festival provides the option of attending bell related workshops. These are informative classes focusing on bell techniques such as weaving, bell maintenance, necessary tools for good performances, etc.

The final event of the Festival is a concert that is open to the public. The program opens with a composition played by the Mass Ringers, followed by performances of each of the smaller groups, and concludes once again with the Mass Ringers - 200 bells playing together.

The Festival opened our hearts and minds to the art of making more beautiful music to the Glory of God. We are blessed to have had this opportunity.

Mission

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

We're going back to Guatemala to serve the villagers outside Chiquimula on August 15-22! Would you consider joining us?

While there we will participate in village church services, take food to those who are hungry, pray with individuals and families in the villages as well as visit with patients in the local hospital.

The real bonus will be visiting the local schools where we will have the opportunity to share a story from the Bible as well play with the children. Please feel free to email me at cgillespie04@att.net if you have interest or if you have questions.

- Cris Gillespie



Sunset Apartment Food Distribution

Food from the Treasure Coast Food Bank is delivered to the Gifford Youth Achievement Center, where volunteers package and distribute it to residents of 36 Sunset Apartments, a subsidized housing community primarily for seniors. Distribution is typically held on the last Wednesday of each month.

Through this ministry, we build Christian friendships while meeting practical needs. Volunteers are always welcome to help package and deliver groceries just a short drive from the GYAC.

GYAC location:

4875 43rd Ave, Vero Beach, FL. 32967

We meet at the GYAC at 8:30 am on the following Wednesdays. Please volunteer. For more information call or text Carol Smoyer (772-538-8795) email: clsmoyer@bellsouth.net

Remaining Dates of Distribution for 2026

May 27	July 22	September 23
June 24	August 26	October 28
November 18	December 9	

Mission

Please help by donating baby diapers and wet wipes!

The Mission Team is collecting baby diapers and wet wipes for Care Net Pregnancy through May 31st. Care Net is a Christian-based agency that provides everything from parental training to adoption consultation.

You can drop off your box of diapers (size 1-6) and your wet wipes into the playpen outside the worship space.



Once again , many thanks to our generous congregation for your food and monetary donations toward the Easter bags and gift cards. The groups receiving those blessings: Safe Space, Samaritan Center, Dodgertown Elementary families, Senior Resource Center, and Gifford Youth Achievement Center.

Your support is SO appreciated ❤️,
The Mission Committee

Discipleship



**BREAKFAST FOR GRADUATES
8:30 AM IN THE YOUTH ROOM
FOR PARENTS AND
GRADUATES.**

**GRADUATES WILL BE
RECOGNIZED DURING THE 9:30
AM SERVICE.**



SUMMER CAMPS



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for VBS!
It's a rewarding week for all!
June 8-12**

8:30 AM-12 PM

**We need teachers, assistants, craft assistants, and snack assistants.
Please contact Lyn Smith (772.539.1113 or email smilynl32@aol.com)
if you can volunteer for the week of VBS.**

**Kids In the Kitchen
July 13-17
9AM-12PM
\$60
completed 3rd grade-completed
6th grade**



**Teens In the Kitchen
(youth only)
July 13-17
12:30-2:30 PM**

**Bible Blast | July 20-24 | 9AM-12PM | \$50
(completed VPK- completed 5th graders)**

**Mallets and More
July 20-24 | 12:30-2:00PM
(completed 3rd graders - completed 5th
graders)**



Fellowship

Wednesday Night Dinners

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

**LAST DINNER IS MAY 13, 2026
DINNERS WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 16, 2026**

MAY 6

Mexican Chopped Salad
Chicken Fajitas
Mexican Street Corn
Chips and Salsa
Dessert

MAY 13

Salad
Spaghetti with Meat
Sauce
Garlic Bread
Dessert

Presbyterian Women



The June business meeting of the Presbyterian Women will be replaced by a group field trip on Wednesday, June 3rd at 10:00 am to the Gifford Historical Museum and Cultural Center, followed by lunch at the home of Laurie Peterson. The address for the museum is 2880 45th Street in Gifford. An email will be sent through Realm where you can sign up for this event. Further instructions and directions to Laurie's house will be included. Hope you can join us for this very interesting visit to one of our community's best kept secrets as well as an afternoon of good food and fellowship.

Unique Boutique will begin collecting for 2026 Christmas Tree Lane

When: Beginning April 2nd through May 28th. Every Monday 9:00-11:00am; Every Thursday 1:00-3:00pm.

Where: West entrance of Center for Christian Life (Bldg. D). Please do not drop off at the church office.

What: New and clean, gently used items may include: dishes, glassware, kitchen, linens, toys, games, artwork, small furniture, sports equipment, jewelry, decorative items, tools, etc. Please no clothing, books, electronics or large furniture. For more information contact Cyndi Johann 309-224-5301.

Hospitality

SINGLE SENIORS

Single Seniors a newly formed group that meets at Vero's top restaurants, for brunch and fellowship on the last Sunday of each month. This month, May 31st, we will meet at 11:30am at the newly open Tradewinds 41 on Royal Palm Point in Vero Beach. Please RSVP on REALM or contact Anne Adams, ext. 115.

WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER!

If you have been thinking about joining our Church Family but have questions, then consider attending "Pastries with the Pastor" on Sunday, May 10th in the Schumann Conference Center. Just take the elevator to the second floor after the worship service (both services) and meet Dr. Tim to find out the many faith base and fellowship opportunities that First Presbyterian Church has to offer.

NEW DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are in the process of updating our Church Directory for 2026-2027. If you would like to have a new picture included please email your favorite photo to: lisaj@firstpresvero.org by May 15th.

SCOTLAND JOY JOURNEY

Enjoy traveling with your Church Family this Fall on a 10-day trip to Scotland with Dr. Jacob Craig! The trip, leaving from Orlando, will take place on 9/28 thru 10/7, and will visit Glasgow to Edinburg; visiting such places as Isle of Skye, Lock Ness and the Victorian town of Pitlochry! For more information and pricing contact Anne Adams, ext. 115 or go directly to sign up with Collette Travel (<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1433181>).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1. Donald Pascal
2. Claudia Bobseine, Barbara Fazekas,
Anne Zabcik, Jim Zabcik
3. Jen Eisenmann
5. Jayline Gomez, Rodney Keefer,
Melissa Shine, Janice Ward, Pat Wempe
6. Bob Christiansen, Judy Gagne,
Cindy Hultquist, Ansley Palmer,
James Rogers
8. Pamela Taylor
9. Frank Keeler, Carol Marks, Joan Yukins
10. Floy Turner
11. Joe Dolby, Betsy Hess, Anne Posey
12. Scott Berran
13. Ted Allen, Sandy Clark, Anne Hawkins,
Nancy Kauffman, Ralph Schregardus
14. Clyde Gordon
15. Laura Black, Scooter TenEyck
16. Lucy Guisto, Jeff Humberson,
Robyn Thompson
17. Stephanie Austin, Catherine Burton,
Beannie Silverstein
18. Louise Feroe, Lynn Miller, Arly Urbauer
19. Bud Johnson
20. Stacy Gabbard, Reid Hawkins,
Dorothy Kingsbury, Barbara Reed,
Ryan Sandgren
21. David Gilman, Kevin Maloney,
Linda Masterson
22. Peter Ritchie
23. Lucille Craig
25. Betty Alewine, Devin Peirce
26. Stephanie Magel, Mark Peirce,
Jamie Penza, Deborah Whitaker
28. John Colmey, Kathleen Dennis,
Amy MacMillan, Janet Thompson
29. Joan Hobson, Jan Satola
20. Chuck Horner
31. Keisa Black, Jodi Hargreaves,
Beth Pritchett

What's Goin' On - May at FirstPresVero

Here are some recurring activities, meetings or classes that you might like to attend
Everyone is welcome.

Group/Class	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Time & Place	Chair/Contact details
Men's Discussion	Monday	Yes		3:00PM Youth Wing	Frank Iodice (772) 538-5697 email: lfrankbi@cs.com
Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Tuesday	Yes		8:00AM McAfee Hall	Glenn Conn (740) 803-3519 email: gconn@msn.com
Bible Study	Tuesday	Yes		10:30AM Schumann	Dr Tim 772-562-9088
Fellowship Dinner	Wednesday	Yes		5:00PM McAfee Hall	Lisa Jeffra (for reservations) 772-562-9088
PW Bible Study Grace Circle			2nd Monday	11:30-12:30	Ann Faunce (303) 947-7984 email: bafaunce@gmail.com & Jane Millar (732) 600-5118, email: jvm75@aol.com
FPV PW social/luncheon	Friday		3rd Friday	11:30AM Olive Garden	BJ Fisher 678-481-3835 email: harrysally11262@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

Childcare available at all services

May 3, 10, 17, 2026

8:15 AM - Mighell Chapel

9:30 AM - McAfee Hall

11:00 AM - McAfee Hall

May 24, 2026 through October 25, 2026

8:15 AM - Mighell Chapel

10:00 AM - McAfee Hall

May Sermons

May 3

Acts 7:55-60

“Stephen: Crowned with Honor”

May 10

Isiah 66:12-14

“Happy Mother’s Day”

May 17

Acts 1:6-14

“Staring or Going”

May 24

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

“The Birth of the Body”

May 31

Matthew 28:16-20

“Mathatais”

Church Leadership & Staff

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Rev. Andrew Smothers, Associate Pastor

Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence

Dr. Holly Adams, 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

Anne Adams, Membership Coordinator

Roger Wagner, Facility Coordinator

Kayla Chaples, Communications Coordinator

Elders

Class of 2026 Anne Posey*, Judy Garrett*,

Jim Gambill*, Ted Miller

Class of 2027 Ann Faunce, Bill King*,

Jonathan Miller, Phil Schwin

Class of 2028 Cris Gillespie, Melissa Snyder,

Sumner Case, Robyn Thompson

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Board of Trustees President - Lisa Barnes

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Board of Deacons

Moderator - Carol Rhodes

Class of 2026 Ginger Allen, Suzanne Breese,

Connie Derman, Carol Rhodes, Lee Tiebout,

Shirley Douglas

Class of 2027 B J Fisher, Susan Gordon,

Eileen Ganser, Frank Iodice, Ruth Thomas,

Marsha Brizzie

Class of 2028 Sue Appel, Nancy Edmiston,

Deb Fletcher, Nancy Morgan, Louise Tranquilli,

Rick Tranquilli

(*indicates Trustee)