



FIRST NEWS

“Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ”

June 2023

Summer Studies

From the beginning of the Reformation in 1517, when Martin Luther invited others to debate with him theological issues, biblical discussion, dialogue and debate has been a critical part of the faith journey of Christians. Without thoughtful biblical study and engagement, such dialogue and discussion is impossible. For Christians, it is important to understand how the Bible continues to speak to us and guide our living. Bible study, and theological study in general, offers us the opportunity to be disciplined in our examination of faith.

For this reason, First Presbyterian Church continues to host our current offering of classes, with the addition of several more. We are going to dive a little deeper this summer. As we know that many within our congregation are snowbirds, vacationing, or traveling during the summer, we are offering two additional classes that will be zoom-based. These will also be available through our website, and each will have an established weekly “open office” time for participants to seek answers to questions or to make and share personal commentary.

The first class we begin in June (exact time and day TBD), focuses on the need to be “A Modern Apologete.” An apologete is one skilled in apologetics. In our modern age, every Christian needs to be devoted to the defense of the “divine origin and authority of Christianity.” In less scary language, regular old Christians need to be able to explain why they practice their faith to their children and friends. This should be bound in clear and defined reasoning. It does not have to explain everything, but simply what we believe and why we do, what we do.

It addresses these questions with a thoughtful and challenging book by Brian McLaren, “Do I Stay Christian?: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned.”

The second study in July and August, will focus on “Everyday Theology: What You Believe Matters.” In this study we will examine the power of belief, and thus, the power of action. Mary Wiley reminds us in this study that theology matters for you in your everyday moments, questions, and decisions. It’s for the big and little, the exciting and mundane. Our theology is the basis of our faith and touches every part of our existence.

Again, exact date and time is TBD. This will be an interactive Zoom class.

Let’s keep our theological minds engaged as we move through this summer. Let us plunge deeper into our theological conversations this summer. As we continue to grow in our educational offerings, please feel free to recommend subjects or topics that would be helpful for you to study.

May God bless you at the beginning of this summer, and be safe.

Sincerely,

Tim Womack

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian are as active as ever. We continue to welcome new participants (technically all of the women in our church are considered Presbyterian Women!).

Wear your name badge - helps as we get to know one another!

NEXT MEETING FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will be June 5th at noon in Earnshaw. It's a "work and play" day! First, some fellowship time with a salad pitch-in. Beverages and dessert will be provided. And then if you can stay a bit longer, we'd very much appreciate your help in assembling a large mailing. This will be our last meeting until September 11, however....

...WE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO HOST THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S PRESBYTERY for their Bible Study on August 12. It's too early to know the size of the group attending, but we would welcome many volunteers from FPC to welcome, usher, prepare, serve, etc. Thanks to those of you who already signed up; hoping that many more will be able to join in. We'll talk some more on June 5th.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE AND UNIQUE BOUTIQUE: Drop-off hours are Mondays from 9-11 AM and Thursdays from 1-3 PM In the Women's Activities room at the CLC. Special note, drop-offs can't be accepted between June 12-16 because Vacation Bible School will be in session. Please, no electronics, clothing, or shoes. The Unique Boutique team would be grateful for help with transporting priced materials to our storage facility, also at the above times. If you need to arrange a different time to either assist or drop off, call Rosalie Perry at 610-780-3111.

FRIDAY LUNCH AT OLIVE GARDEN: Ladies, come join us at the Olive Garden, June 16th at 11:30 am. We are gathering for fellowship and all ladies are welcome! Email Ann Faunce at bafaunce@gmail.com if you can come!



Presbyterian Women

at First Presbyterian Church

Profile of a Presbyterian Woman—Christie Jeffries

By Ann Faunce

Meet Christie Jeffries, a young wife and mother in our congregation. She and Jason are members and parents of Ryleigh 12, Abbey 10, and Eli 2 years old. Christie and Jason came to Vero Beach in October of 2018 when Jason became the Planning Director for the city of Vero Beach. Soon after their arrival, Eli was a surprise Blessing! As Christie says “we got comfortable in Vero Beach”.

Christie has been teaching school for 18 years and is presently at Beachland Elementary School. They visited churches in Vero and made the decision for First Presbyterian Church, when their daughters said this is the Church they wanted to attend! Anne Adams had welcomed and loved them. When they joined, Carie Robins was the Director of Christian Education and she was wonderful too! So the parents listened to their kids!



Christie grew up in Gainesville with her mother and step dad, 2 half brothers and a half sister. She had a happy childhood and loved going to Church where her step father was a Baptist minister. Christie is a true Floridian and loved attending small colleges, Santa Fe College and night classes at St. Leo University. At first she wanted to be a Zoo Keeper! Then changed her mind and received her Bachelors in Education, for classes kindergarten through 6th grade. For a while she had fish and turtles and a Ball Python in her classroom. She also gained guinea pigs at different times when people didn't want them anymore. She said that she would pick 2 students each week to be a zoo keeper in her classroom. They would feed the fish and turtles and when she had guinea pigs the students learned how to change the cage out to keep it clean. The students loved doing that when it was their turn.

God is always with Christie! She shares her confidence in Him as she teaches His young ones. Without realizing she also shows her thankfulness to Him in remembering her life experiences. She is an accepting young woman and is not in a hurry. Jason is helpful in loving their children and is the buyer of the groceries on the weekends! During COVID Christie continued to teach. First Methodist Church Day School where Eli attends, kept their doors open for children of working parents. The Jeffries were very thankful. Jason's parents have recently moved to Vero Beach. Jason's sister, Sara, helped drive them from Spokane, WA to Kansas City. Then Jason flew into Kansas City and drove them to their new home in Vero. They came at the perfect time. The Jeffries have just learned that their daughter, Abbie, after being treated in the hospital for a week from high blood sugar, was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Jason's parents were able to help out with getting Ryleigh to and from violin lessons and bell lessons. Families are a wonderful Blessing!

Jason and Christie love camping in the US such as South Carolina, Georgia, and different places in Florida. They ski in Winter Park, CO every winter break with the kids. They hope to get Eli up on skis next winter break. When Christie has time, she loves to work out and swim with their kids and visit the beach. They attend the 9:30 service and when needed Christie will help teach Sunday School and help in the nursery. She has also helped at VBS! Isaiah 40:31 is Christie's go to Bible verse: “those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” We are so happy to have the Jeffries family a part of our congregation!

MISSION

The Justice and Honor team at First Presbyterian has been busy these past couple of months!

Because of the lack of funds in the school system to support a music teacher at the middle school in Gifford, our own Peter Mahtani is graciously providing them with his choral directing services for free at Gifford Middle School by teaching a chorus class once a day, Monday through Friday.



Since he began teaching there, he has brought a group of students together to sing beautifully, teaching them to memorize their music, and to perform with confidence.

The Justice and Honor team was able to provide the students at Gifford Middle School with the money for music, and bus transportation, to perform a concert in the chapel at First Presbyterian Church in May. It was our joy to partner with the music department in this endeavor.

Also, members of the Justice and Honor team attended the Emancipation Day celebration, held at the Gifford Historical Museum on May 20. It was a wonderful event with food, music and participation from Vero, Beach dignitaries, and the Vero Beach Historical Museum along with many other groups.



Lastly, our team is partnering with our Jewish brothers and sisters along with Rabbi Michael Birnholz to support their efforts in stopping the spreading of antisemitic literature in Indian River County. They have been using the slogan Stop Hate Start Kindness.



The Justice and Honor team wishes to thank the members of First Presbyterian for their support and prayers as we seek to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God”. We are indeed blessed to be a blessing!

Mimi Rutland
Chairperson Justice and Honor Team
First Presbyterian Church



JOIN US FOR AN OUT OF THIS WORLD VBS ADVENTURE!



 **FPC
VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

**NEED SOME SPACE THIS SUMMER?
WE'VE GOT A STELLAR SPOT FOR YOU!**

New friends, Amazing experiments,
Creative games, Super-fun snacks,
Surprising adventures, Incredible music

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
520 Royal Palm Blvd. Vero Beach, FL 32960

 **June 12-16, 2023**
9AM-Noon

Sign up Today!
Use the QR code or
Call the church office to register

772-562-9088



NEWS & NOTES

June 4—Immediately following the 10:00 AM service, there will be a Special Called Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers for vacated positions. Everyone's attendance is requested.



JUNE 13 - MEET & GREET, 5:00 PM, VERO PRIME

June 15 Orchid Cove Sing-a-Long, 10:00 AM



**June 28 Concert - U.S. Army Band,
7:00 PM, Sanctuary**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE!

- 1 Alissa Bates, Stephanie Moore
- 2 Donna Blankenship
- 5 Kim Conn, Rose Farr, Carmen Franek, Linda Gierer, Margo Hamilton-Stynchcomb
- 6 Bill Burrows, Phil Schwin, Bob Stuart
- 7 Meg Dingee
- 8 Libby Thompson
- 9 Ken Foster
- 10 Nancy Rumford, Dave Stewart, Jon Womack
- 11 Sally Smith
- 12 Trell Adams, Violet Moyer, Lorna Oswald
- 14 Shannon Farabow, Mary Husman, Mary Ann Renz
- 15 Susan Foster, Erin Franko, Larry Murphy, Cherrie Schreiber
- 16 Cynthia Welford
- 17 Robbi Peirce, Ann Risinger
- 18 Michael Goodfellow, Alena Yancey
- 20 Mary Blair, Catella Grigley, Linda Johnson, Carolyn Snyder, Stephanie Womack
- 21 Ben Humphries
- 22 John Davis, Kaiden Long
- 26 Carol Smoyer
- 28 Joel Shine
- 29 Ryan Hargreaves



WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP DINNERS ARE ON A BREAK UNTIL THE FALL!

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!



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
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

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

Trustees-at-Large
2023 - Will Kirk
2024 - Lisa Barnes
2025 - Steve Harrison

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



First Presbyterian Church

520 Royal Palm Blvd

Vero Beach, FL 32960

JUNE SERMONS & SERVICES

Rev. Dr. G Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

June 4, 2023
Matthew 28:16-20
"Favorite Places"

June 18, 2023
Psalm 103:13-18
"Attributes of a Good Father"

June 11, 2023
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
"We Have Met the Enemy..."

June 25, 2023
Matthew 10:34-42
"Genuinely Welcomed"

Sunday Summer Worship Times
8:30am in the Mighell Chapel; 10am in the Sanctuary

We are pleased to offer childcare for all services. Our children's Sunday School runs concurrent with our 10am service. We will also be having Fellowship Time with coffee and cookies after all worship services.

The first Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday. If you are worshipping from home via LiveStream and 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.