

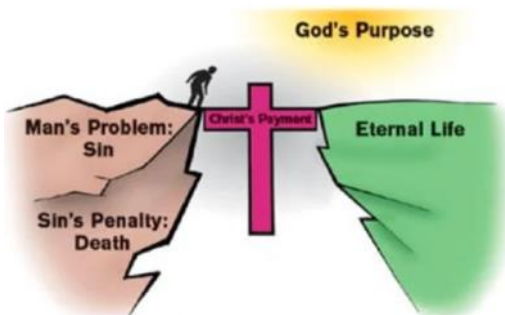


FIRST NEWS

"Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ"

April 2023

Celebrating Easter: The Atonement



The great Easter proclamation is that "He is Risen!" And the response is shouted, "He is Risen Indeed! Easter represents that great defining moment of Divine and human history when God intervenes so that the chasm between God and humankind is removed. When Jesus comes out of the tomb, death is defeated, and new life is affirmed.

Historically this great act of God's radical intervention is known as the "atonement." Through the atonement, God acts in ways that we, as sinful humankind, cannot. Thus, Easter is not about what we do; Easter is al-

ways, and forever, about what God does for us!

There are many understandings of the atonement. The early church understood the atonement as "ransom." Humankind is bound by sin, yet Jesus paid all the cost of our sins. When the Apostle's Creed speaks of Jesus descending into hell, it is the ransom that God gives so that we might be freed. This was the reigning concept of the atonement for the first thousand years of Christian history.

This atonement concept changed with St. Anselm (1099) who wrote of the atonement as a substitute for our sins in order to reinstate the honor of God. Satan holds nothing over God and God has the right to act in God's own creation as God pleases.

John Calvin expands substitutionary atonement. It is not simply a matter of God's honor being reinstated. The primary issue is that God cannot abide with sin. Humankind has fallen so short of God that humanity cannot possibly come close to repaying God for our sins, only God can. Thus, Christ comes to earth as fully human and fully God, receives our punishment, and God's demand for justice is fulfilled. Remember, Jesus stated, "I did not come to condemn the law, I came to fulfill the law."

In one way or the other, this remains the dominate concept of the atonement which is the great act of God that we celebrate on Easter. The graphic above is what I call "napkin theology;" theology that can be drawn on a napkin. In the graphic, we as humanity are separated from God. The chasm is too wide for us to traverse. Christ intervenes on our behalf so that we might be able to "cross" to God. The cross becomes the bridge, not by what we have done, but as a result of what God has done for us. As the Apostle Paul says in Romans 9:16, "It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy."

This Easter, remember, our celebration is not about us; it's about what God has done for us! Happy Easter 2023!

-Tim

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VERO BEACH

520 ROYAL PALM BLVD

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
APRIL 2 AT 8:30AM, 9:30AM, 11AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
APRIL 6 AT 7PM

Easter Cantata
APRIL 9, 2023 AT 9:30 OR 11AM

BELLS ARE RINGING!

Peter Mahtani and six of our Chancel bell ringers had the opportunity to participate in the Florida State Handbell Festival in Lake Placid, FL on March 3-4. We were one of 30 church bell choirs participating; comprising of over 200 individual ringers.

The festival included many facets of musical training and performance. There were small group rehearsals, bell ringing technique classes, and Mass rehearsals with all 200 ringers. Mr. Dave Harris, director of the infamous Raleigh Ringers, was the clinician for the event. The festival concluded with a public concert on Saturday afternoon. The closing piece was an arrangement of America The Beautiful by Lloyd Larson which prompted a standing ovation from the audience.

Our participants benefited immensely from the two day experience and are looking forward to performing some of the festival selections for our congregation in the near future.



MISSION

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Our Church was recognized at an Awards program by the School Board of Indian River for their many volunteers who faithfully read with the second grade students at Dodgertown Elementary School. Accepting the award for our church is Carol Smoyer pictured here with the school Principal, Aretha Vernetta.



A beautiful quilt made by Carol Goodfellow and donated for a Silent Auction with the Proceeds to be given to the Aid of Families who are suffering from the war in Ukraine. The winning bid was offered by Jonathan Miller for \$1101.



MISSION

Ukraine at War for their Survival

The women and mothers of Ukraine use picture drawing as a therapy to deal with their loss and fear of the war in Ukraine that has devastated their homes and torn their families apart.

These framed drawings are original art works and they are given as a **gift for a donation** to "This Child Here". You may select a framed picture of your choice. (The Mission Team recommends a generous gift of \$150 or more). This organization is where **Jo Wheeler** (second from right) from **the First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach, FL** visited in Izmail, Ukraine. She spent 20 days in February to see the ongoing work that our church helps to support. She met mothers and children, went to grocery stores to buy products and food, and visited the center where mothers and families came for help and therapy. Also pictured is Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble (on far left) who is the director of the project.



These framed drawings are currently on display in McAfee Hall. Please make checks to 1st Presbyterian Church (memo This Child Here).

MISSION

This editorial was in the Press Journal on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 on behalf of the Justice and Honor Team in response to hate propaganda that was distributed in Indian River County against the Jewish community. We stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters, as well as all citizens of our diverse community.

Our motto is Stop Hate, Start Kindness

“When Hate is Normalized All Americans are Threatened.”

The Justice and Honor Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach applauds the Press Journal’s coverage of recent antisemitic attacks on fellow Americans and our democracy on the Treasure Coast. One might assume that in 2023 we as a people have grown beyond leaving hate-filled message bags on homeowners’ driveways. Sadly, we would be wrong. As Law enforcement and the ADL tells us—some still find enjoyment in distributing hate, intended to demonize any group not resembling their own. And such incidences are rising.

The Justice and Honor Committee of First Presbyterian Church strongly condemns the actions of those spreading hate propaganda on our doorsteps. We stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters, and all who are victimized simply because they do not look, act, or worship the same as others. As Christians, our mandate comes from Jesus of Nazareth who said, “Love one another, as I have loved you”. We have decided to choose love. As Americans our mandate is reflected a pledge often recited, “One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Thank you, Press Journal, and Josephine Gon for the sober reminder: “Our democracy is threatened when hate becomes normalized. This is not a Jewish problem to solve. This is an American problem to solve.” We intend to help in finding a solution.

*choose love
& kindness*



Dr. Sam Rutland, theologian in residence, writing on behalf of the Justice and Honor Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach, Fl.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

FROM MODERATORS, BETH PRITCHETT AND JOAN IRVINE:

"Thanks to Connie Gambill and Beth Pritchett for the outstanding Spring Garden Luncheon, a success in every way! Shining Light Gardens speaker, Greg Vifiades, gave a heart-felt presentation. Lunch was by Blessed Manna, flowers were arranged by Arly Urbauer and McAfee decorations were by Carol Marks. Thanks to Maggie Fleming and her crew for ticket sales, to Ginger for the colorful publicity fliers and all PW members who set up, cleaned up and helped in so many ways with this wonderful event."

We heeded Holly Adams's (Congregational Care pastor) encouragement to get to know those at our tables, to share "factoids" that would help us recall one another easily. Holly brings a lovely vibe to our gatherings.

APRIL MEETING: APRIL 3, at Noon in the Earnshaw Room, second floor of the Christian Life Center.

Joann Wheeler will share her intense experiences during her March trip to the Ukraine. All are welcome! Despite her arduous trip she returned inspired and humbled.

"UNIQUE BOUTIQUE" is the part of December's Christmas Tree Lane that accepts gently used items for resale. It is a MAJOR, very successful part of our PW fundraising for the local charities to which we commit each year. Donations are accepted every Monday 9-11AM and Thursday 1-3PM. Christmas is just around the corner...sort of!

BULLETIN BOARDS outside Eleanor Smith Lounge are more eye catching now that Rosalie Perry is updating them. This month you will find photos from the Spring Garden Luncheon. If you have ever been in charge of a bulletin board(s) you can appreciate the special talent it incorporates. Thank you, Rosalie!

And the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership for 2023 goes to...

Judith Taylor



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Joan Irvine read the following as Judith's Honorary Pin was presented:

"The Presbyterian Church honors women who give outstanding service to the church and to the ideals of the Presbyterian organization. Today we are going to present this Honorary Lifetime Membership to one of our own. (con't)

She came to our church in 1994 when she was appointed Dir. of Music/Organist. She and her son joined the church soon after. During the time she held this position, she started the cherub and youth choirs, increased the adult choir, started the handbells, Orff Instrument Band, and ran Vacation Bible School. In 2001 she was approached with an offer to purchase an Allen Renaissance Organ for our sanctuary. She set up a planning committee with this donor and established an organ fund. When it was installed, she performed with other musicians at the dedication of our beautiful pipe organ.

In retirement she serves as a curator of the handbells program, works with Jacob Craig to reorganize the music library and volunteer at the 1st Pres Preschool reading to the 4 & 5 year olds. She is outgoing Corresponding Secy. of the Presbyterian Women.

This honor is long overdue and so for her outstanding service I'm proud to present this honorary pin to Judith Taylor. This comes with a contribution in her name to the PW's Scholarship Fund."



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Profile of a Presbyterian Woman: Lorie Rudolph, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool

For the past seven years, the First Presbyterian Preschool has quietly gained a reputation for excellence in the community. It has more than fulfilled the promise to elevate Christian preschool education in Vero Beach and has become a successful self-sufficient entity and a valued part of our church family. At the onset, the preschool created division within our congregation, and, for some, a fear that it would detract from our mission. Calm reassurances, practical studies and surveys convinced those skeptics and our preschool opened the doors in 2015. Since then it has continuously filled the classrooms and with the addition of aftercare; it is now a vibrant child-centered mainstay of our church.



The Captain at the helm of this endeavor is Lorie Rudolph, the Preschool Director and Mother Hen to a staff of 13 teachers and administrators. With children ages 2 yrs. – 5 yrs., the classrooms are exciting places of learning with carefully selected and trained preschool teachers. Hundreds of children have benefitted from this caring community of faith. So, who is Lorie Rudolph and how did she end up as the Director of our First Presbyterian Preschool? Born and raised in Syracuse, NY, Lorie and her younger brother lived with their hard-working parents, her mother, a music teacher devout in her Roman Catholic faith and her father - owner of a men's clothing store who celebrated his Jewish heritage. Lorie calls it a blended faith family. She was active in the youth fellowship group at Holy Cross Catholic church, taught sailing on Lake George, played piano and was active in the arts/drama program. After high school graduation, she attended nearby Alfred University graduating with an Elementary Education degree. She married a long-time Syracuse friend, Randy Rudolph in 1980.

Unable to find a teaching job at that time of low school enrollment, Lorie worked at her father's store for five years, learning the retail business and eventually becoming the Head Buyer when the store expanded to Women's clothing. She worked as a substitute teacher and taught Sunday church school at Holy Cross. Randy worked in insurance. The family expanded with two sons, Barry and Harrison and then their daughter, Marley.

Lorie continued to work in education whenever possible. She worked with the Catholic Charities early morning program, as well as an afterschool cooking class for disadvantaged youth in the inner city. Then, with their children grown, Lorie and Randy had a rare business opportunity with his insurance company to move to Florida. In 2015, the Rudolphs left snowy Syracuse for the south. Unfortunately, Randy's business position fizzled and once again, Lorie found herself scrambling to find employment. She answered an ad for a VPK teacher ("What is VPK??, she questioned") in the Kid Zone preschool in Port St. Lucie and started mid-year. This required that she have certification so she trained in the Voluntary Preschool Kindergarten program offered by the state of Florida thus earning her state certification. While she enjoyed teaching the 4 years old in the VPK, she found the daily commute difficult and at the end of the school year, she resigned and began looking again for employment.

The First Presbyterian preschool was in its fledgling first year when they hired Lorie for the VPK position. "They took a chance on me", she smiles. And the next year when the director unexpectedly quit, Lorie was interviewed by Anne Adams, FPC Christian Education Director. "I knew I could do it. My years acquiring business acumen, teaching in a variety of education positions as well as working with teachers, parents and children, prepared me

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

well" She took over as director in 2016.

The job of Preschool Director is multi-faceted--administrator, social worker, personnel manager, master of complicated State certification requirements, evaluator, and sounding board for complaints, joys and successes. It has been a perfect match and our school is thriving!

Sadly, in 2021, husband Randy contracted Covid and died very suddenly. Lorie was not allowed with him at that time. "it was a blessing in some ways". The church, she says, was wonderful during this stressful time, supporting her and the teaching staff during the Covid years when other preschools closed. She especially appreciated Pastor Tim and Pastor Michael York.

Lorie lives with her two children, son, Barry, a techie and daughter, Marley now teaching in the Allapattaha Flats k-8 school in Pt. St. Lucie. Son, Harrison is an attorney working in Washington, DC. She is devoted to our First Presbyterian Preschool children and to our church. Fate brought her here but she has earned the love and respect of all who know her. God bless Lorie Rudolph!

NEWS & NOTES

The Deacons are excited to roll out a new Deacon Congregational Care Program:

"DEACONS HAVE A HEART"

We look forward to sharing this program with our church family and kindly ask you to stay tuned for details in the coming days.



All Aboard!

Calling all train enthusiasts! We will be gathering a group and meet at a place where we can set train layouts into motion and have great discussions.

If interested, please call the office - 772-562-9088



WORSHIP & MUSIC

The FPC Youth Music Department invites you to a Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction on May 6. All proceeds will go towards our Music Tour to NYC in June.

The food service and entertainment will be provided by the youth going on this trip.

This will be an event you will NOT want to miss.

This will be an upbeat and exciting night. Broadway tunes, classic favorites, and more to be expected.

Games, prizes, and a beautiful silent auction will also occur during this one night event. Bring cash or your checkbook to support the youth music department!

Registration is required. Tickets are \$30 until April 21. Then, tickets will change to \$35 if you have not registered **and** paid. Buy your tickets soon. We can only host 200 guests for dinner!

Final Payments are due May 1, 2023

Registration can be done online or by calling Peter Mahtani. PeterMahtani@firstpresvero.org 7725629088 ext.130

<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri54478/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=Yzk5MDhjMDEtNWMONy00MThhLWEwZTItYWZjNDxM2M2ZTk1>

FPC Youth Music NYC Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction May 6 at 5:30



Registration Required



HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL!

- 1 Dorothy Swenson, Nevena Yancy
- 2 June Bercaw, Nat Norton
- 3 Betsy DiBenedetto, Art Haeberle
- 4 Marge Albertson, Gerry Duhaime, Jean Simmons
- 5 Jeff Rayfield
- 6 Barbara Gormas
- 7 Bob Clements, Carol Rhodes
- 9 Barbara Rigby
- 10 Gary Peirce
- 11 Janel Lund, Brad Smith
- 12 Tony Sapienza
- 13 Chris Grant, Margot Williams
- 15 John Reed, Melissa Roig
- 16 Carole King, Heather Reeb
- 17 Carol Beaty, Les Herbst
- 18 Graham Bingham, Catherine Reichert
- 19 Ryan Caddy, Nancy Morgan
- 20 Gigi Giampieto
- 21 Marsha Brizzie, Betty Burtch, Jane Thompson
- 23 Barbara Burrows, Sarah Jane Moore
- 24 Josh Frantz
- 26 Jon Forest, Ava Long, Mary Ellen TenEyck
- 27 John Ashby
- 28 Bill Rountree, Devin Stanley
- 30 Dolores Foster, David Gunter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

April 5

Potluck—Please bring a dish to feed 6-8, Meat and dessert will be provided, No Salad Bar

April 12

Salisbury Steak Bake, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Dessert

April 19

Greek Night—Spanakopita, Greek Chicken, Lemon Greek Rice, Salad Bar, Dessert

April 26 - Tacos, Mexican Rice, Salad Bar, Dessert



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 Art Haeberle, Rebecca Palmer, *Pat Pritchett, *Brad Smith

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

Clerk of Session - Keith Martin
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

APRIL SERMONS & SERVICES

Rev. Dr. G Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

April 2, 2023—Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-12, 19-29

Live Differently: "Procession"

April 16, 2023

Isaiah 41:8-10, 13-16

Gifts from Jesus: "Reassurance"

April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 PM

April 23, 2023

Jeremiah 30:10-17

Gifts from Jesus: "Restoration"

April 9th—Easter

Luke 19:28-40

"He is Risen!"

April 30, 2023

2 Samuel 22:1-6

Gifts from Jesus: "Protection"

Sunday Worship Times

8:30am in the Mighell Chapel; 9:30am & 11:00am in the Sanctuary

We are pleased to offer childcare for all services. Our children's Sunday School runs concurrent with our 9:30am 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 worshiping 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.