



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

The Dangers of Loneliness and the Healing Power of Fellowship

More and more studies are revealing, in these years after the height of Covid, that loneliness is extremely dangerous. Loneliness has been proven to cause emotional stress, physical decline, and mental illness. It is even said that we are living through the “epidemic of loneliness.” While people are often surrounded by many others, and we may be in relationships, studies reveal it is the quality of our friendships, marriages, and relationships that prove to be that which is healthy for us.

The holidays for so many can be a lonely time. Even if they are surrounded by others, without deep and meaningful relationships, we can experience the deep loneliness of the holidays. At First Presbyterian Church, it is our desire during this holiday season to replace the “dangers of loneliness” with the “power of fellowship.”

Fellowship matters. Fellowship is healthy. Fellowship that is meaningful and expressive adds to our life and living. We want you to be involved in the fellowship of the church. If you are lonely, this will add to your health and wellness. If you are not lonely, your presence will lead to the fellowship of someone who might be lonely. It is our responsibility to be engaged in the fellowship of the church, for it is this fellowship that binds us together as the body of Christ.

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.” Acts 2:42-47

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How can you participate in the fellowship of the church as we fight the pandemic of loneliness?

First, participate in the small group Advent Devotion. This is an opportunity for you to gather your friends, neighbors, and guests together, as you reflect on the good news of this holy season. “Wherever two or more are gathered . . .”

Second, get involved! Get involved in a mission project that helps others during Christmas. Get involved in the variety of fellowship activities that are taking place in the life of the church. Get relationally involved in your neighbor and at your club or with your family. Attend worship and be intentional about meeting and greeting new people and making new friendships. Participate in very special extra events from the Christmas Variety Show to the Cantata to all the different events offered. Get out there and have fun!

Third, look for those who might be lonely this holiday season. It really doesn't take that much of an effort to see that those around you are subject to loneliness. Identify where you can make a difference, and reach out and offer your time and fellowship to others.

Combating loneliness will continue to be a major focus of the church in the years to come. We are just beginning to understand the implications of the Covid pandemic upon our children, and upon all of us. Help us to strengthen the fellowship life of our congregation by seeking deep and meaningful friendships in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless and Merry Christmas!

Tim Womack



Discipleship

FPC PRESENTS

A Merry Little Variety Show

December 8 and 9 at 7:00pm

All proceeds to benefit the
Food Pantry of IRC

Suggested minimum \$5 donation

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Christmas Eve Story

hosted by

FPC Youth and Children

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:00PM

Advent Happenings

FIRST PRES VERO

WORSHIP SERVICE - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3: 8:30 AM & 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

FPC'S MERRY LITTLE VARIETY SHOW
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
7:00-8:00 PM - MCAFFEE HALL

FPC MUSIC DEPARTMENT AT MCKEE GARDENS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13. 6-8PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, BUY TICKETS DIRECTLY FROM MCKEE

WORSHIP SERVICE - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10: 8:30 AM, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17: 8:30 AM, 9:30 & 11:00 AM
CANTATA AT 9:30 AND 11:00 AM
10:30 AM - BREAKFAST WITH THE ANGELS

WORSHIP SERVICE - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24: 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
3:00 PM - TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
5:00 PM - FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
7:00 PM - TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
9:00 PM - CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
10:00 AM: INFORMAL - COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

WORSHIP SERVICE - FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 31: 10:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE
5:00 PM - COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

FPC MUSIC DEPARTMENT



McKEE

BOTANICAL GARDEN

Wednesday,
December 13
6-8PM

Open to the public.
Purchase tickets at McKee

FPC'S

Christmas

CANTATA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30AM & 11:00AM

69th Annual Christmas Tree Lane **December 2, 2023, 9:00am-2:00pm**

The annual Presbyterian Women's fundraiser is a highly anticipated tradition of FPC and has gained popularity within the Vero Beach community as well. Again, this year, our largest venue - the Unique Boutique - will be located in McAfee Hall. As you pass through the building, you will see our Quilting, Sewing, & Crafts Circle's enchanting handcrafts. Outside, the Artisan's Gallery this year features local artists and crafters including Alice McKenna, Pat DeRobertis, Lisa Hamlin, Shelby Ratelle and Robyn Thompson. Cookies-By-the-pound and Mrs. Claus' Pantry will be situated under cover along the campus walk. Cash or checks are preferred. Enjoy a bit of musical merriment provided by the FPC Youth Jazz Combo performing live beginning at 9:30am. Set aside December 2nd and invite your friends & neighbors. If you would like to volunteer on the day of the event or during setup the week prior, contact one of our CO-Chairs, Carol Freeman, carolwhite90@hotmail.com or Maggie Fleming, margaret.fleming48@gmail.com.

Get Ready, to BAKE, BAKE, BAKE! FPC is blessed to have such creative bakers and cooks! Cookies-by-the-pound and Mrs. Claus's Pantry are two of the most popular areas at Christmas Tree Lane! Once again, we need your favorite Christmas cookies, delivered in disposable containers and labeled with the name of the cookie. For Mrs. Claus's Pantry, any specialties EXCEPT cookies: pies, cakes, cupcakes, breads, brownies, homemade pickles, relishes, jams, candy, etc. must be ready to travel. Please: Nothing that needs to be refrigerated and make a note if your goodies contain nuts. All baked goods may be dropped off, unbagged, in ET Smith Lounge on Thursday, November 30th from 9am-Noon and on Friday, December 1st from 9am-10:30am. As you pull around the handicapped parking circle members of the Committees will unload them directly from your car and will package and price them for sale. For more information, contact Cookie Chair, **Barb Schwin**, pschwin38@aol.com or Mrs. Claus' Pantry Chair, **Beth Pritchett**, ekpritchett@aol.com.

December will be a busy month for the Presbyterian Women! Following Christmas Tree Lane, our monthly meeting is December 4th at 1:00 in the Earnshaw Room, then the Christmas luncheon on the 16th. Happy Holidays!

PW Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 16, 2023
Tickets are \$25 per person
Doors open at 11:30am
Tickets on sale in courtyard
after Sunday services through 12/10

For information contact Sue Coffey at
suecoffey07@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR THE 69TH ANNUAL

SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 2023
9 AM TO 2 PM

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE

FPC Youth Jazz Combo: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Home made Cookies by-the-Pound, Mrs. Claus's Pantry (everything BUT cookies), Handmade Treasures, Artisan's Gallery, Unique Boutique



Bargain prices on kitchenware, decor items, linens, wall art, jewelry, games, sports, books, and small furniture - even a handyman's corner!



The Men's Fellowship 8th Annual Car, Truck and Bike Show

November 4, 2023

By Phil LoGiudice



On Saturday, November 4, we put on our latest show, featuring cars, trucks, and motorcycles from the past. The show, our 8th annual, was a resounding success. We had fantastic weather with occasional gusts of wind that cooled everyone down. For those of you who may not know, our show was the brainchild of Jacob Craig and is the Presbyterian Men's major fund raiser. All the proceeds are donated to several Indian River County charities.

Sixty-five automobiles and many spectators attended and enjoyed the beautiful entries. Now, you may think that because the show is a single day's affair, that it was a simple event to plan. However, I can tell you that there were several months of planning involved. Many people gave their time and energy to make this such a success. I want to acknowledge our many volunteers from our church community.

Glenn Conn, Bill Menzies, Robin Perry, Jerry Duhaime, Frank Smith, Cathy Sullivan, Laura Sitko, Lisa Jeffra, Shirley Douglas, Kim Conn, Butch Almberg, Terry Long, Peter Mahtani, Jacob Craig, Jessica Russell, Paul Ives, Bill Maule, Billy D'Arton and I, spent hours planning and making this happen. And we managed to have a good time doing it!

The entries are mostly antique vehicles (over 25 years old); some were almost 100 years old. They fall into several categories: Originals, like the day they rolled off the assembly line, Hot Rods, Restomods, Muscle Cars and Foreign makes. One of the original founders of our church, John Schumann brought a rare exotic beauty to our show: It was a 2011 Mercedes SLS with Gullwing doors. This is the successor to the fabled 300 SLS Gullwing of the 1950's. It is motivated by a 6.3-liter V8 making 536 Horsepower, backed by a 7-speed transmission. Only 2731 of these cars were made from 2011 to 2015.

Every year we award trophies based on our judges' careful deliberation. For our 8th show, we thought we would do something a little different. The award categories were Best GM, Best Ford, Best Mopar and Best Foreign. We also had a special category - Drivers/Owners favorite car.

The winners were: Best GM, John Glas and his 1963 Chevy 409 convertible. The Best Ford was won by Ronnie Bessant with his 1928 Model A pickup truck. The Best Mopar was won by Jim Ferew and his 2022 Dodge Challenger. The Best Foreign car was won by Scott Carmine and his 1967 Volkswagen Sedan 1200 CC. The drivers who entered our show picked Phillip Hogan's Black 1955 T-Bird as their favorite.

After every show we brainstorm and list what worked and what did not! So, every year our shows have gotten better and attracted more automobiles. We are already thinking about our 9th Annual Show and details will follow!





This year's Angel Tree is a response to the needs of children from the Children's Home Society, the elderly from the Senior Resource Association, and women from Naomi House all here in Vero Beach as well as scholarship gifts for our First Presbyterian Preschool to help provide opportunities for every child in need. Checks for the preschool may be made to First Presbyterian Church (memo Preschool).

- 1. Take an Angel from the tree starting November 26.**
- 2. Wrap and return your gift(s) with the angel attached no later than Sunday December 3.**
- 3. Drop off boxes will be available in the sanctuary on Sundays and in the church office during the week.**
- 4. Please be certain that the angel is attached to the gift(s)**

May you be a blessing to these friends in need and may you be blessed with your giving.

Your Mission Team

Fellowship

Wednesday Night Dinners

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



December 13

Salad Bar
Stromboli
French Fries
Christmas Cookies



December 6

English Night

Salad bar

Bubbly Andy Squeak
(Ham, cabbage, and potatoes)

Brown Sugar Glazed Carrots

Victoria Sponge Cake



Shop with a cop & the Bicycle Project



The Justice and Honor team is sponsoring “Shop with a Cop” and the Bicycle Project again this fall.

Shop with a Cop is put on by the Indian River County Sheriff’s Department each year to assist needy children identified in the IRC schools who are given a \$50 gift card for Christmas. They are then taken by a uniformed officer to shop usually at Target or Walmart, for Christmas.

The Crossover Mission is sponsoring the Bicycle Project this year, and again, law enforcement officers help distribute bicycles and helmets to needy children for Christmas. These two activities go a long way towards forging positive relationships between our beloved, law-enforcement community and citizens in underserved parts of Indian River County.

In the past, our congregation has been wonderfully supportive of these two projects. If you would like to donate, you may make your check out to First Presbyterian Church, and in the byline write “Bicycle project “ or “Shop with a Cop”. Please submit checks to the church office by December 10. The donations will be collected by the Justice and Honor Team and presented to the IRCSD and Crossover Mission in early December.

Thank you! We are indeed “blessed to be a blessing”!

Mimi Rutland/Chairperson
Justice and Honor Team



Spread Sunshine Not Hate

This proclamation was presented to the County Commission of IRC on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Members of the Justice and Honor team of First Presbyterian Church are participating in the stop, hate spread sunshine campaign along with our diverse community members. These members include but are not limited to our Jewish brothers and sisters, people from other faiths in the community, as well as civic organizations, such as the Rotary club.

A proclamation was made that we will not tolerate hate language in any form in Indian River County. This particular proclamation specified that we will not tolerate antisemitic language. This was a response to pamphlets filled with hate language, being dropped on doorsteps and driveways in Indian river county. This literature was distributed by groups targeting those citizens who are Jewish.

We also showed up to a school board meeting with our Spread Sunshine T-shirts to support World Kindness Day.



Happy Birthday!

2. Jonathan Miller

3. Marilyn Case

4. Michael Tittle

5. Nick Synder

6. Carol Christiansen

7. Jeff Austin, Lisa Barnes, Jeff Davis, Joanne Smith

8. Susan Breese, Bertie Centerbar, Steve Harrison,
Nancy Jones, Robert McCullough

9. Ginny Bauer, Janie Divers, Gail Jackson, Betty Peachey

10. Carol Billett, Jane Smith

11. Ricky Ray, Angel Schade

13. Richard Schroeder, Betty Ruth Williams

14. Jack Gasche, Lisa Hanlin, Hannah Horowitz, Scott Westermann

15. Alan Hager, Jenny Hancock, Paul Harmon, Christopher
Spalding

16. Barbara Andress, Nicole Barley, Anna Wolfe

17. Bruce Hawley

18. Phillip TenEyck, Gracelyn Thompson

19. Suzanne Berran, Helen Schroeder

22. Scott Davis, Haileigh M. Diaz, Brian Robbins

23. Merrick Figueroa, Esten Peirce

24. Holly Newman, John Toohey

25. Jesus Christ

26. Laurie Iodice

27. Esther McAfee, Jack McAfee, Phyllis McKallip

29. Bruce Andress, Georgina DeLillo

Sunday Worship

December 2023

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

9:30AM - Sanctuary

11AM - Sanctuary

Childcare available at all services

December Sermons

December 3

Mark 13:24-37

Stay Awake: "Beware, Keep Alert"

Communion Sunday

December 10

Mark 1:1-8

Stay Awake: "Prepare the Way"

December 17

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Stay Awake: "Make Straight the Way"

Cantata Sunday

December 24

10 AM

Luke 1:26-38

Stay Awake:

"Nothing is Impossible with God"

December 24

3, 5, 7, 9 PM

Luke 2:1-20

The Most Beautiful Words:

"God Is With Us"

December 25

John 1:1-20

"Better than a Tie"

Merry Christmas!

December 31

10 AM

John 1:1-20

Stay Awake: "My Eyes Have Seen

Your Salvation"

December 31

5 PM

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Matthew 9:17

"Having the Eyes of Christ in 2024"

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