



FIRST NEWS

"Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ"

March 2023

Live Differently: Our Approach to Easter

As followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are not called to live the life that we lived before our call to Christ. We are called to live a new life. We are called to live in a different, more righteous, and loving manner. As we approach our celebration of Easter in 2023, how are we going to experience that new life? Because of what God has done for us in the empty tomb, how will it be different?

As we approach Easter, maybe we should think of this time in the same manner that an airplane approaches an airport. An airplane leaves the comfort of its cruising altitude to begin the descent to a specific location. To make that descent there are certain disciplines that need to be performed. The pilots need to slow down the aircraft. The pilots need to enter the landing pattern for that airport. The pilots need to adjust the planes ailerons, rudder, flaps, and trim. The pilots need to determine the angle of descent. And finally, the pilots need to land in a safe and productive manner.

As Christians, we approach Easter by engaging in the discipline of Lent. We have certain disciplines that we must pursue as we look to arrive at that specific location of the empty tomb. Like pilots of an airplane, we have certain disciplines in which we need to engage. These disciplines include study, reflection, discipline, penitence, and praise.

During Lent, as we approach Easter, we will be examining our new life in Christ. We will be celebrating that the old life is gone and the new life has begun. During Lent, the sermon series is entitled "Live Differently" because clearly that is what is asked of us. Flee from sin and move to God. The sermon series consists of eight sermons. All under the umbrella of living differently, each sermon will examine our "preparation" for Easter.

- Ash Wednesday Pretense - Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21
- Sunday, February 26th Probation - Luke 4:1-13
- Sunday, March 5 Persecution - Luke 13:31-35
- Sunday, March 12th Penitence - Luke 13:1-9
- Sunday, March 19th Prodigious - Luke 15: 1-3; 11b-32
- Sunday, March 26th Perfume - John 12:1-8
- Palm Sunday, April 2nd Procession - Psalm 118:1-12; 19-29
- Maundy Thursday, April 6th Passion - Tenebrae (Service of Shadows)
- Easter, April 9th Proclamation - Luke 19:28-40 (Cantata)

Cont'd on next page

I must admit that there are times when I become pretty content with my life. It is my prayer though that, while I might be content, I never become complacent. There is always more that I can become and more up-grades to be achieved in my life. Lent is the season for the “examined life.” The examined life in Christ becomes a life lived differently.

Sincerely,
Tim



Art and Music in the Park

This event took place on January 29 at the Gifford Historical Museum and Cultural Center. There were over 200 people in attendance as we listened to beautiful music provided by the First Presbyterian Youth choir directed by Peter Mahtani and accompanied by Jacob Craig. Also, musical offerings were presented by Ka' Henry and the members of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Courtney and Monica Godwin.



Artwork was displayed by Ray McLendon, a second generation Highwayman painter, and by Kelvin Hair, a third generation artist. While basking in the beautiful music and art for two hours, the guests also enjoyed a catered BBQ lunch from 14 Bones restaurant.

It was a great afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun! We look forward to more events with our brothers and sisters in the various communities of Indian River County! Proceeds from the sale of tickets went to benefit the Gifford Historical Museum and Cultural Center.

We are indeed “blessed to be a blessing”!

Mimi Rutland
Chairperson Justice and Honor Team



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Annual Sweetheart Dinner – 2023

By Phil LoGiudice



Every year near Valentine's Day, the Presbyterian Men's Fellowship plan and host a Sweetheart Dinner. The purpose of the dinner is to honor all our ladies. The single women are invited as guests and treated to dinner. The Men's Fellowship does not consider the event a fund raiser. The purpose of all the efforts of the many volunteers is to show our love and respect for our ladies. Planning for the event begins months before the special night. Volunteers include the men along with help from the Presbyterian Women and volunteers from the FPC community.

The evening began promptly at 5:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres served by the young ladies from the Sebastian High School Softball Team and their coach Julie Sharkey-Villars. The servers were led by Linda Zellweger. The Reverend Lisle Kaufman was asked to perform an invocation which he did in his usual lively manner.



It was a beautiful affair, and everyone had a very enjoyable time. Glenn Conn, the president of the Men's Fellowship, welcomed everyone and described the evening's delights. Jerry Garrett graciously served as the Master of Ceremonies and entertained everyone as well with his wry sense of humor.

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful sounds of Dr. Jacob Craig's Jazz Trio. Blessed Manna prepared 110 dinners! We enjoyed a wedge salad with blue cheese dressing, bacon wrapped crème cheese stuffed chicken, buttered parsley potatoes, and mixed vegetables. Dinner finished up with black forest truffle cake, with coffee and tea.

Afterward, Jerry began an entertaining "Name that Tune" competition between Stephanie and Pastor Tim Womack. This was a fun and humorous part of the program and Dr. Tim, as always, was a great sport!



THE TIM CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT MAKES A COMEBACK!

Please keep April 1 available on your calendars for our “annual” golf tournament to support our college scholarship fund. We have so many youth participating in the life of our congregation. The scholarship fund allows us to be engaged in the life of our youth as they move on to their collegiate studies.



The tournament format is a scramble with an 8:30am shotgun start. If you know golfers and can establish a foursome, please strive to do so. If you are a single, or don't have a foursome, we will pair you with some fun people. Please invite friends and other golfers to participate too! The cost is \$100 per player and includes 18 holes at Sandridge Golf Course, cart and luncheon at the conclusion of the event. Men and women are invited to play and we'll be giving out prizes and awards for longest drive and closest to the pin.

If you wish to be a sponsoring partner of the tournament or to sponsor a hole, please call the church office. Registration forms are available for pickup in the office and online for download shortly. This will be the first time we are able to enjoy this tournament since the beginning of the pandemic, and we are looking forward to its success.

Of course, our youth are the winners of this tournament. If you are the winning foursome, you get your names etched into the Tim Cup Trophy for all to see.

So mark your calendars, and be ready to have lots of fun as we support the scholarship fund.

It is wholly appropriate that this tournament is held on April Fool's Day.



Dr. Tim shares opening comments and leads tournament in prayer before heading out to the course.



Previous winners showing off the Tim Cup!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 6TH AT NOON, top of the stairs in the Christian Life Building on the right in the Schumann Conference Room. We've moved to this location because our attendance is growing and we need more room. Save the date for next month's meeting on April 3rd.

SEE THE ENCLOSED FLYER! SPRING LUNCHEON: Sat. March 18th, 11:30, McAfee Hall. See attached flier! Note, rather than reservations we are selling tickets on Sundays after services. Last day to purchase tickets is March 12th. You will enjoy the program as we learn about Shining Lights Gardens here in Vero.

WE WELCOME CONNIE GAMBILL to our PW chapter. She is Spring Luncheon Chair this year bringing nuance and experience to make it a fine success. Watch for her profile in the First Pres Newsletter for March.

LADIES, we will have a non-business gathering for lunch at The Olive Garden on Friday, March 10th at 11:30. Please let Ann Faunce know by email (bafaunce @gmail.com) if you can come. Hope you are able! Thank You!

WANTED: Our Christmas Tree Lane, the Presbyterian Women's fundraiser, features the Unique Boutique, a collection and resale of new and gently used items for sale. This is a cornerstone of the event and a treasured community service. Alas, we are looking for someone or two who would enjoy coordinating it. No experience necessary but a willingness to work with our core of dedicated volunteers. We are also looking for someone with an affinity for promotion to serve as our PR liaison. Timelines and previous promotion copy is available to assist you. If this is a God moment for you, please contact Carol Freeman, 910-448-0771.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Profile of a Presbyterian Woman: Connie Gambill

By Elaine Heeren

With the Presbyterian Women's "Spring Garden Luncheon" just weeks away, Chairman Connie Gambill is increasingly excited about how it's shaping up. She said, "I think everyone will be incredibly inspired by our speaker from the Shining Light Garden. I recently had the chance to visit there and was awed by what I saw. What one man started as a backyard garden has grown into an all-volunteer operation that supplies free produce to food banks, homeless shelters, and others in need throughout Indian River County. It's really an amazing story."

While Connie joined our church just last year, she's been a First Presbyterian virtually all her life. Growing up in Mount Airy, NC – the hometown of TV's Andy Griffith!!! – she attended the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy with her parents and two siblings. Connie recalls her pride in earning perfect-attendance pins 13 years in a row for faithful Sunday School attendance. After graduating from what is now the University of Memphis, she briefly taught math in a Memphis middle school before returning to NC. There she taught a GED course in a community college and later math in a middle school.



Connie next moved to Fort Lauderdale, where she raised two daughters with her first husband and taught math at two schools, including 18 years at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. And, yes, she was active in Fort Lauderdale's First Presbyterian Church and served on the Board of Directors for the church's retirement home for 13 years. Connie's personal life took an unexpected turn when a mutual friend introduced her to an attractive man with Franklin Templeton Investments who also hailed from NC. The two clicked immediately and today Connie & Jim treasure their blended family of 5 daughters and 9 grandchildren.

Over the years, the Gambills became familiar with Vero Beach on their occasional visits to various friends who had left Fort Lauderdale for the slower pace of Vero. Their decision to move was a sudden one. As Connie recounted, "One day Jim came home and said, 'Too much traffic; we're going to Vero Beach.'"

After a year of settling in, the Gambills found their church home in our "very friendly" congregation. And talk about "small world" . . . Connie learned that Dr. Tim's wife Stephanie had sung in the Kirk Singers, the high school choral group at Fort Lauderdale's First Presbyterian Church.

Connie is savoring an active retirement. She's taken on golf and spends relaxing hours creating paintings which she enjoys gifting to family and friends. The Gambills especially love to travel. Said Connie, "We've been to 60+ countries. I keep a list."

Needless-to-say, we're grateful that this capable lady with her contagious zest for life is overseeing our Spring Garden Luncheon. Connie gave careful thought to what Bible verse most speaks to her and it's a beautiful one: Deuteronomy 31:8 *"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCH!

- 1 Nancy Marquardt
- 2 Douglas King, Julia Pelletier
- 3 Carol Goodfellow, Debbie Lindsey,
- 5 Susan Horner
- 6 Jeanie Valentine
- 7 Chuck Husman
- 10 Bonnie Keeler, Sharon Rosen
- 11 John Dearman, Susie Long
- 12 Virginia Allen, Richard Thomas,
- 13 Theresa Kelso
- 14 Edie Collins, Mike Snyder
- 16 Claire Sembler, Luella Stiansen
- 17 Pat Goodfellow
- 18 Jean Hopkins, Kira Kai Yamazoki- Gray
- 20 Churchill Cooke, Charlie Harvin, Nick Kaiser
Darol Keefer
- 21 Bobbi Walker,
- 22 Don Dussing, Amy LeBlanc
- 23 Josie Hamon
- 24 Barbara Bryant, Jacob Craig, Dorothy Linn, Beth
Sembler
- 26 Ryan Nelson
- 28 Joyce Geller, Chloe Winslow, Jack Winslow
- 29 Jeffrey Morgan, Joyce Murphy, Herb Wright
- 31 Gail Sousa, Cathy Westermann

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

March 1

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

March 8

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Salad Bar, Dessert

March 15

Irish Night—Irish Stew and Cheddar Dumplings, Irish Mac and Cheese, Salad Bar, Irish Brownies

March 22 - No dinner / Spring Break

March 29

French Onion Beef Sliders, Cheesy Potatoes, 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



Presbyterian Women's

Spring

GARDEN LUNCHEON

"For the beauty of the earth..."

Program by "Shining Lights Garden"

Greg Vafiades, Speaker

"Feeding the hungry one garden at a time"

Saturday, March 18, 2023

11:30am

McAfee Hall

Plated lunch tickets may be purchased on Sundays after church

\$20/pp, tables seat 8

Deadline to buy tickets: March 12

for more information, contact
Connie Gambill at (954) 629-2419



First Presbyterian Church

520 Royal Palm Blvd

Vero Beach, FL 32960

MARCH SERMONS

Rev. Dr. G Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

March 5, 2023

Luke 13:31-35

Live Differently: "Persecution"

March 19, 2023

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Live Differently: "Prodigious"

March 12, 2023

Luke 13:1-9

Live Differently: "Penitence"

March 26, 2023

John 12:1-8

Live Differently: "Perfume"

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 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.