



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

Thinking on What is Excellent Philippians 4:8

Paul writes, “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

In a world filled with distractions and negativity, Paul invites us to a different way of seeing. Our thoughts shape our hearts, and our hearts shape our actions. When we choose to dwell on what is good, pure, and praiseworthy, we create space for God’s peace to grow in us.

I have the opportunity to write this newsletter article from Reims, France. Reims is the home of the champagne house Veuve Clicquot. Brought to its fame by Madam Clicquot, a woman of strong will, leading a business in a time when women CEO’s were unheard of. In her drive for excellence, Madame Clicquot famously said, “The world is in perpetual motion, and we must invent the things of tomorrow. Act with audacity.” Audacity can be understood as “intrepid boldness.” As we live out Philippians 4:8 in our daily life, it will require intrepid boldness.

Living this intrepid boldness doesn’t mean that we ignore hardship or pretend that struggles don’t exist. Instead, it means training our minds to notice God’s goodness, even in small ways—a kind word, a moment of beauty, an act of justice, a sign of hope.

As a community of faith, may we encourage one another to think on such things. By doing so, we reflect Christ’s light in a world that desperately needs it.

May God Bless,
Tim Womack



The Celebration

With stealth, persistence and precision, Anne Adams, Membership Chair, and long-time church member organized a spectacular, surprise post-service celebration of Dr. Tim's twenty-fifth anniversary as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach.



As the service was concluding, Dr. Jacob Craig, microphone in hand, asked Dr Tim not to leave the Chancel. The screens suddenly announced the Celebration. During the next hour we were entertained with kudos, reminiscences, praises and best wishes from past staff members, via video. Among those presenting their congratulations were the "Revs": Rev. Russ Feroe, Rev. Tom Harris, Rev. Holly Adams, Rev. Rob White, Rev. Graham Bingham all smiled in agreement about the great benefits they, as well as First Pres Vero, have received at the hands of this good pastor.

Lyn Smith, the lone surviving member of the 1999 Pastor Nominating Committee, who sought out this new pastor, outlined his ministry to date.

She presented him with a handcrafted stole - in Presbyterian blue - as well as a commemorative glass trophy. The Lady of the Manse, Stephanie, was presented with a customized olivewood cutting board with a swathe of blue across it, and the Mathatas cross carved into it.

All this while, tables with blue cloths rolled into place. Screens disappeared, and in a matter of minutes, Carol Campbell's worker bees snapped into action - food magically appeared onto the lengthy buffet table. The long table groaned under the plethora of sugary treats, the especial favorite being Carol's baklava pastry, dripping with honey, and walnuts on phyllo dough - crispy and memorable. Another favorite was the pecan-less miniature pecan pies. Chocolate chips (Hershey's of course) filled little corners of muffins. The other sweet treats Carol prepared are too numerous to list, but they were oohed and ahed over mightily.

It was a warm, sincere tribute to the man, the minister who has given his life to this good church for twenty-five years.

Now this was just 'practice' for the main event, an in-season celebration to be held in the new year, (date to be announced) WOW.



The Year 2000

What else was happening in the world as FirstPresVero welcomed Dr. Tim as our new Senior Pastor?

Millennium bug

The Y2K issue, also known as the millennium bug, was a widespread computer problem anticipated to occur at the start of the year 2000 due to the use of two-digit year representations in many computer systems. The widespread panic and predicted chaos largely did not materialize due to the proactive measures taken.

Human Genome sequence data

25 years ago, In January, 2000, Dr. Michael Ashburner, a prominent geneticist and bioinformatician, played a significant role in advocating for the open access and public availability of the human genome sequence data generated by both the public Human Genome Project (HGP) and Celera Genomics. On June 26, 2000, President Bill Clinton hosted a White House celebration to mark the first draft of the Human Genome Project (HGP).

New York Yankees

The 2000 Major League Baseball season ended with the New York Yankees defeating the New York Mets in five games, for their third consecutive World Series title.

U.S. Open (golf)

Tiger Woods won his first US Open and did it in style with a 15-stroke lead over the runner up. That win still remains as the biggest winning margin in any major championship. Tiger Woods also won the PGA Championship that year to become the first-ever in the last four decades to win three majors in a calendar year.

Arsenal 2000-2001 Season

Arsene Wenger, manager, and Thierry Henri, top goal scorer, led Arsenal to 2nd place in the Premier League, (Sir Alex Ferguson led Man United took the winning spot); and to the quarter-finals in UEFA Champions League.

Hanging chads

Hanging chads were partly responsible for the unusually high proportion of invalid votes recorded in Florida during the November 7th, 2000 US Presidential election. If chads (the little bits of paper punched out in the 'punch process') weren't completely punched through, the ballots were considered 'spoiled' and not valid. Therefore, the count reflected fewer papers recorded people voting for fewer than the minimum number of candidates required. With the advent of online voting, hanging chads and the problems they bring to elections can stay where they belong - in the past.

106th Congress December 23, 2000

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, commissioned a study of routes comprising the Lincoln Highway:

1.The Lincoln Highway, established in 1913, comprises more than 3,000 miles of roadways from New York to San Francisco, California; (2) The Lincoln Highway played a historically significant role as the first United States transcontinental highway, providing motorists a paved route and allowing vast portions of the country to be accessible by automobile. (3) The Lincoln Highway transverses the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. The evaluation shall address its significance in American history, options for preservation, use of remaining segments of the Lincoln Highway, and the preservation and interpretation of significant features associated with the Lincoln Highway.

New Sanctuary Fund

Why I'm IN (in 100 words or less)

It really was an easy decision for me to make to support the New Sanctuary Fund. First Presbyterian has been there for me and my family on many occasions. They were there when my husband was undergoing cancer treatment and a year later when he passed. They were there during my son and daughter-in-law's difficult pregnancy and now I have beautiful twin granddaughters. I truly believe their prayers made the difference. So it is only naturally I would want to be there when First Presbyterian was in need.

-Betsy DiBenedetto

Sanctuary construction update:

North Parking lot - A paver walk path has been installed between the CCL and ET Smith lounge. The deputy stops traffic for pedestrians. We are working with the city of Vero Beach for altering the crosswalk.

A chain link fence on the exterior and wooden fence on the interior courtyard were been installed to keep people out of the demo and construction area. From this point forward - please stay outside of the fence perimeter. It will be locked soon.

- The purpose of the wooden fence is to cut down on noise and dust during demo and construction. It will be painted a medium brown.
- A swing door has been installed on the wooden fence to allow normal access to the Chapel on Sundays.
- The wooden fence near the Playground now blocks walkway access to the courtyard. It was positioned to protect children on the playground since one end of the covered walkway needs to be demolished.
- Entry from the North parking lot to the CCL is one of two ways. 1) For a limited period on Sundays, entry to the CCL can be made through the Preschool. 2) If this door is locked, you can use the two Playground gates along side of the CCL building for access.

The Building, Site Plan and Engineering drawings are at 95% ready.

The Planning and Zoning Committee approved the Site Plan in late August.

The Building and Engineering plans were approved for Building Permit in early September.

These approvals mean the most important regulatory and local government approvals have been satisfied.

The Demolition Permit will commence immediately after Asbestos Mitigation is complete.

Most of the work getting to this point has been 'behind the scenes.' From now forward - expect to see progress on the ground!

Mike Snyder



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: kimberlyb@firstpresvero.org



GALLERIES

AT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

520 ROYAL PALM BLVD

VERO BEACH

OPENING RECEPTION:

SUNDAY

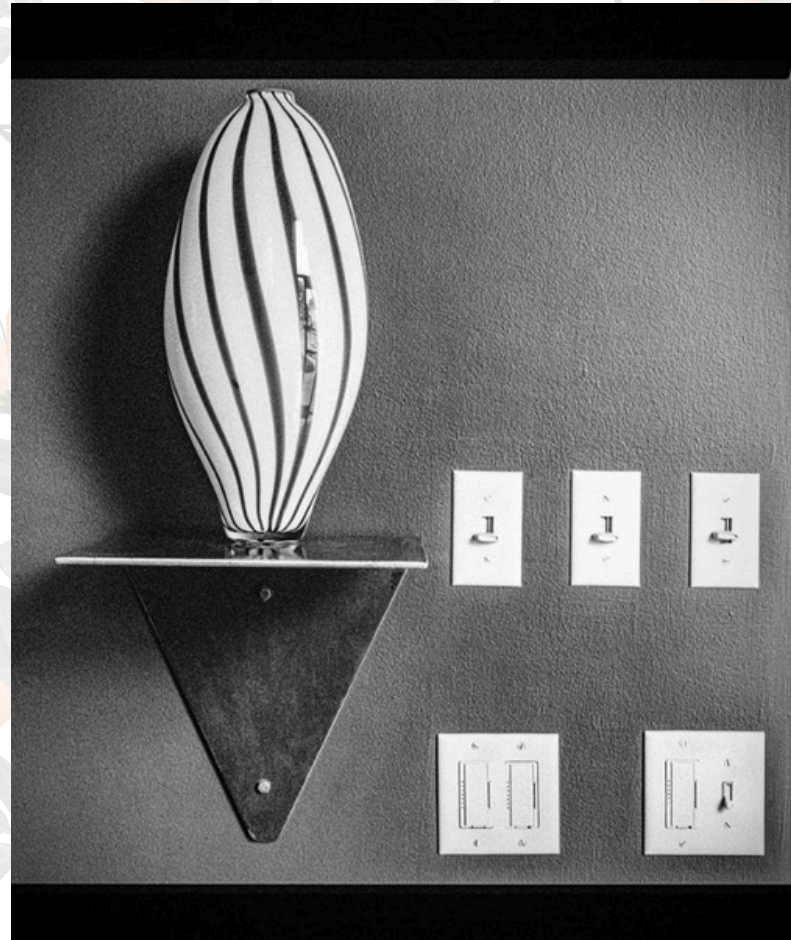
OCTOBER 5

1PM-3PM

Live Music by Dr. Jacob Craig

Refreshments will be served.

Exhibit runs until December 31



Contemplating Calvin: Rightful Prayer



Let the first rule of right prayer then be, to have our heart and mind framed as becomes those who are entering into converse with God. This we shall accomplish in regard to the mind, if, laying aside carnal thoughts and cares which might interfere with the direct and pure contemplation of God, it not only be wholly intent on prayer, but also, as far as possible, be borne and raised above itself. I do not here insist on a mind so disengaged as to feel none of the gnawings of anxiety; on the contrary, it is by much anxiety that the fervor of prayer is inflamed...

What I say is, that all foreign and extraneous cares must be dispelled by which the mind might be driven to and fro in vague suspense, be drawn down from heaven, and kept groveling on the earth.

When I say it must be raised above itself, I mean that it must not bring into the presence of God any of those things which our blind and stupid reason is wont to devise, nor keep itself confined within the little measure of its own vanity, but rise to a purity worthy of God.

Book 3 Chapter 20, p. 1103 (Beveridge translation; Kindle edition, \$.99 Amazon)

Christian Educator Corner

College Care Packages

We like to send 'Presbyterians Care Package' to our college students throughout the school year. Please fill out for a college student you know - who would like a PCP. Click on the link: <https://forms.gle/DUu5UJ6NwwA7p6M86>

Envelope Wall: Commencing September 7th, the youth and tweens will have an Envelope Wall Fundraiser outside of both worship services. Take an envelope and donate to send youth and 'tweens' to Presbyterian camps and conferences. There will be a youth or 'tween' to answer your questions.

Sunday School

Pre-K through 5th grade Sunday School-

runs concurrently with our 10:00AM worship service. Following the Time for Young Disciples, they assemble upstairs, and return just prior to the end of 10:00AM service.

Youth 6th through 12th grade-

runs concurrently with our 10:00AM worship service. They have been 'echoing' the stories of the Old Testament. Christian Educator Jessie Kuehner and the volunteer leaders enjoy opportunity to introduce the Bible to these youth. All youth are invited to leave worship when the preschoolers leave, and go upstairs to the Youth Room.

First Presbyterian Church wants to share with the congregation many of the higher judicatory commitments that Jessie Kuehner, our Christian Educator, has been engaged in this summer. Jessie serves the local church and the broader church in very faithful ways. As a Certified Christian Educator and having obtained her Masters of Divinity degree, Jessie has been active in many national commitments this summer.

Below are some of the commitments that Jessie has been engaged in with the broader church this summer:

- Jessie is on the board of the Women's Conference at Mo Ranch in Texas. Mo Ranch is one the PCUSA's national Camp and Conference Centers. She will serve as President of the Women's Conference in 2028.
- Jessie also serves on the leadership team at Summit46, a summer program for tweens and youth.
- Jessie is part of the leadership team at Triennium, a conference held every three years through the PCUSA. Attending this year's conference were 2,025 youth and young adults.

These experiences provide Jessie new ideas, better knowledge and a rejuvenation in her service to the church. Jessie is appreciative for the support of FPCVB in allowing her to serve through these higher judicatories of the PCUSA.

PW News - September 2025

PW/Grace Circle Bible Study

Grace Circle monthly Bible Study will resume Monday, October 13th, 11:30AM-12:30PM in Earnshaw Room in the CCL (Bldg. D). Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship after study time. This year the PW/Horizons Bible Study "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" will be led by Ann Faunce and Jane Millar. The study will be available for purchase in the office in

September. Questions: Ann Faunce 303-947-7984

For more information on Presbyterian Women, click on this link:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/>

PW Welcome Back Luncheon

McAfee Hall October 18th, 11:30AM; Guest Speaker Carol Nelson executive director. Friends After Diagnosis. Reservations close October 11th. Questions: Floy Turner 706-455-2985

Seventy-first Annual Christmas Tree Lane Donations

September 4th - November 20th every Monday 9:00AM - 11:00AM and every Thursday 1:00 PM - 3:00PM, at the west side of Building D - McAfee Hall- (sign posted). We are unable to accept the following: books, clothes, shoes, electronics, large or heavy pieces of furniture or damaged items. Questions: Rosalie Perry 610-780-3111.

Christmas Tree Lane Gift Card Tree Raffle

Donate gift cards or donate a gift card from your business. Drop them off at the Church Office or give them to a CTL Committee Volunteer outside the Worship Center following the 10 AM service.

Questions: Michelle Shaner 772-766-6655.

Fellowship

**Wednesday
Night Dinners
Return 9/10 at 5PM**

Sign up by calling Lisa in the
Church office or by signing up
on Realm

772-562-9088

September 10

Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Coleslaw
Macaroni and Cheese
Cupcakes

September 17

Tossed Salad
Chicken Chimichangas
Rice
Mexican Street Corn
Churro Bars

September 24

Antipasto Salad
Baked Rigatoni
Garlic Bread
Broccoli
Cookies

Mission

Care and Share Packages for the Homeless in our County

This mission has been led by Sandy Thiel for many years. Because of her dedicated service we honor her and ask the congregation to help us continue this local outreach to our homeless neighbors. These bags can be carried in your car and ready to hand out to those individuals on street corners or in parking lots.

Bags will be available after service on Sunday September 14

Bags contain toiletries, snacks and food as well as information where help is available.



Justice and Honor

“How to Act at a Traffic Stop”

workshop provided by the Justice and Honor Team of First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach, Fl.

In conjunction with

The Indian River County Sheriff's Dept.

Where: When: GYAC (Gifford Youth Achievement Center)

4875 43rd Ave. Vero Beach, Fl

Sunday, September 28, from 3:00-4:00pm

This seminar is focused on young adults, so if you have a new driver or young adult in your family, please encourage them to attend.

**Come have lunch and enjoy a lively presentation by
Officer Darrell Rivers, IRC Sherri's Dept.
with emphasis on respect for all and staying safe.**

Pizza and soda are free to those who attend the workshop.



Youth Music Thursdays

For the past four years, our church has been welcoming varied youth on Thursdays for music rehearsals. The program grew quickly and in the fall of 2024, we launched a new Thursday youth group program during the school year. This provided students with a safe and welcoming place to come after school before rehearsals for devotion, study, and dinner.

As of spring 2025, the general attendance was between 15-20, and this semester now averages 30+ every Thursday with 53 attending this past Thursday, September 4! Many participate in music rehearsals in addition to youth group, while others come for the meal, friendship, and devotion time.

The devotions, led by Peter Mahtani, are designed to meet students where they are currently, addressing real struggles and questions they face in daily life in this current cultural climate.

Melissa Snyder kindly volunteers to prepare meals every week for this program, and also keeps the fridge stocked with support from a rotation of volunteer chaperones. The current rotation of Youth Thursday Volunteers is Melissa Snyder, Melissa Cooke, Bonnie Nolan, and Rafael & Dora Forero. Thank you all!

In addition to this regular group, we absolutely are in need of even more volunteers, and as such we are currently seeking:

- Volunteer chaperones/counselors to join the Thursday rotation.
- Cooks to assist with preparing meals.
- Drivers to help us begin transportation from local middle schools, so more students in that age group can join us.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Peter Mahtani at petermahtani@firstpresvero.org.

All youth (6th grade and up) are invited every Thursday—whether or not they participate in music rehearsals and performances. There is a place for everyone at Youth Music Thursdays!

-Dr. Jacob Craig

Thursday Schedule:

4-5:00PM - Arrival/Check-in and get settled.

4:15-5:00PM - Middle School- BELLS

5-5:20PM - Devotions/prayer/discussion.

5:20-5:45PM - Dinner.

5:45-6:45PM- High School - BELLS.

5:45-6:45PM- Non-bells- fellowship/homework.

7-8:30PM - Choir/Dismissal.

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack: Twenty-five Years at First Presbyterian Church, Vero Beach By Phil LoGiudice (with help from Stanford Erickson)

Recently, I was asked to write an article commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Tim's ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach. His early history of service to our congregation was covered by Stanford Erickson several years ago in an article for the church newsletter. I have expanded upon Stanford's good work.

Dr. Tim did not plan to become a minister while attending Eckerd College. He planned to practice law, but God had different plans. Dr. Tim said, "I had a double major in Political Science and in Economics and spent my junior year studying at the London School of Economics in England, while getting ready for a career as a lawyer."

Although he passed his LSATS and was accepted to law school, he received permission to delay his admission for a year so he could travel throughout Europe staying at various hostels with his brother, who was stationed with the U.S. Army in Germany at that time.

Dr. Tim attended Columbia Theology Seminary in Atlanta for his Master of Divinity. He described a deep need to help bring about social justice. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi challenged him to attempt, in a small way, to emulate their efforts. In his second year at Columbia, he met his wife Stephanie. They married, and are the parents of Savannah and Jonathan.

In August 2000, Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack became the seventh Senior Pastor since First Presbyterian Church held its first Sunday service on January 3, 1954.

Before accepting the invitation to be Senior Pastor and Teaching Elder at First Presbyterian Church in 2000, Dr. Tim spent three years obtaining his Doctor of Ministry at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Among his professors was Rev. Dr. Desmond Tutu, a then visiting faculty member.

Early in his ministry at FirstPresVero, he focused on building the Christian Life Center. It currently houses our Sunday Worship Center for the 10:00AM service. Its primary focus, however is the community Preschool. In addition, it also hosts Bible Study meetings; Fellowship dinners; Quest, Music and Youth projects. It has brought many families to our church. It was a major undertaking and a preview of our current project to build a new sanctuary - all of this under Dr. Tim's guidance.

In the years since Stanford Erickson wrote about Dr. Tim, the life of our church and congregation has been very busy and productive. In addition to his congregational care, Dr. Tim has been a significant, active partner in the Central Florida Presbytery. He served on the Committee on Ministry for six years; as Head of Examinations Commission in 2010; chaired New Church Development Committee for six years; chaired the Presbytery Nominating Committee for three years.

At FirstPresVero, he leads a dedicated, efficient staff, as well as acting ex-officio to all the Talent Teams, Pillars and Committees which contribute to the smooth running of our church. We thank Dr. Tim for his leadership.

After horrific Hurricane Jeanne in 2004 caused major damage (think of a small canoe in the flooded Sanctuary), Dr. Tim led the rebuilding process. The repaired "old Sanctuary" continued, under his leadership, to serve our congregation: weddings, baptisms, and end-of-life memorials and interments, contributing to the memories of our church family.

As the 'old Sanctuary' reached its final days. Dr. Tim, once again, spearheads the rebuilding process. As we say goodbye to the old church building, we look forward to the new Sanctuary, under his leadership of the many talented people who are working hard to realise our dream.

We thank Dr. Tim for his superb leadership and for his thoughtful, at times humorous, sermons-which are never too long!

His dedication to us, the congregation and community of First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach, is priceless. We have been blessed with his ministry for twenty-five years.

Happy Birthday

1. Bob Gormas, Steve Nystrom
 2. Jean Clements, Ward Gunter,
 Susie Stoughton
 3. Scott Chisholm, Sandy Flegler,
 Eric Hargreaves
 4. David Frantz
 5. Bob Barganier, Anne Cormier, John Edgar
 6. Sharon Young
 7. Sheryl Peterson, Lila Sandgren,
 Budd Thompson
 8. Evelyn Barganier, John Kellogg
 10. Becky Moon, Sally Westphalen
 12. Sally Davis, Dick Kelly, John Kuehner
 Peter Probasco
 15. David Gaule

16. Carolyn Toohey, Louise Tranquilli
 17. Michelle Barley, Robert DeWaters,
 Mike Stevens
 18. Mary Haid, Cal Shields
 20. Peter O. Crouse
 21. Robin Perry
 22. Barbara Schwin
 23. Darlene Scott
 25. David Kelso, Ronald Redpath, Ali Simpson
 26. Paul Ives
 27. Brady Thompson
 28. Deb Fletcher, Jenifer Foster, Eileen Ganser,
 Judy Garrett, Bonnie Nolan, Nan Thornton
 29. Sam Stryker, Noel Thompson,
 Anita Williamson
 30. Kathy Andress-Dietz, Debra Peirce,
 Diana Probasco

What's Goin' On - September 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) 778-3437 email: lfrankbi@cs.com
Book Club	Monday	Yes		5:30PM Earnshaw Room	Rebecca Palmer (772) 538-0957 email: Beccapalm@gmail.com
Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Tuesday	Yes		7:30AM 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

In September, many groups are resuming activities and meetings: Men's Discussion Group resumes
 September 8th; Fellowship Dinner resumes September 10th; Olive Garden/Presbyterian Women
 Monthly Lunch September 18th; Men's Breakfast in McAfee Hall resumes Tuesday, October 7th;
 Grace Circle Bible Study resumes October 13th.

Sunday Worship

September 2025

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

10AM - McAfee Hall

Childcare available at all services

September Sermons

September 7

Philemon 1:1-25

"Oops!"

Rev Dr. Sam Rutland,
Guest Minister

September 14

Luke 11:1-13

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

Rev. Dr. Paige McRight,
Guest Minister

September 21

Ephesians 5:8-16a

"A More Beautiful Hope"

September 28

Acts 4:32-35

"Amen"

Church Leadership & Staff

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Jessie Kuehner, Director of Christian Education

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

Elders

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

Class of 2026 Anne Posey*, Judy Garrett*,
Jim Gambill*, Ted Miller

Class of 2027 Ann Faunce, Bill King*,
Jonathan Miller, Phil Schwin

Clerk of Session - Dr. Lucille Craig

Board of Trustees President - Lisa Barnes

Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Board of Deacons

Moderator - Gayle Bruce

Class of 2025 Donna Blankenship, Gayle Bruce,
Nancy Bucklew, Cindy Judd, Bill Menzies,
Frank Smith

Class of 2026 Ginger Allen, Suzanne Breese,
Connie Derman, Carol Rhodes, Lee Tiebout,
Ashley Wright

Class of 2027 B J Fisher, Susan Gordon,
Eileen Ganser, Frank Iodice, Pat Stella,
Ruth Thomas

(*indicates Trustee)