

February 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent
Celebration of Black History Month
First Presbyterian Church
2230 Harriet St. Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Worship 10:00 a.m.
(941) 625-5045
www.fpcpc.com



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Chimes

Greetings

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

My Lord, What A Morning

Judy Prier

by Raymond H. Haan

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to worship God, who creates us and loves us;

All: who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Leader: who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

All: who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

Leader: to seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

All: who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

Leader: and whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living. We gather to worship God.

All: To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

Introit

Come, Let Us With Our Lord Arise

Chancel Choir

Opening Prayer

Leader: My Lord, what a morning! You have raised up a mighty nation and a mighty people

All: and we are strong, proud, and yours.

Leader: My Lord, what a morning! You have brought us through the dips and hollows, up and down the streets, over the hills and mountains and through the valleys.

All: and we are strong, proud, brave and yours.

Leader: My Lord, this morning, we have come to celebrate you, to affirm ourselves as images of you in all your glory and to say,

All: "Yes, Lord, we are strong, proud, brave, and yours in every way." We count it all as joy! Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Hymn**

Kum Ba Yah

Blue Hymnal #338

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: God of all races and people, too often we do not get along with one another, fearing that which is different. Too often we become color blind in attempts to be sensitive, rather than embracing our diversity. Too often we color, engender and nationalize you, refusing to recognize that you are the God of all. Too often we choose to remain blind to injustices still present in flawed systems that give privileges to some and disadvantages others. As we walk into the wilderness during this time of Lent, help us to face those conscious and unconscious parts of ourselves that separate us from you and one another. Forgive us, then lead us to the place where love and faithfulness meet together for all people.

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God follows us into the most remote parts of our lives, even into the wilderness, ready to help us find the courage to face the darkness of temptation; ready to offer forgiveness. Believe the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

***Congregational Response**

Gloria Patri

Blue Hymnal #579

Children's Sermon

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Litany of Thanks In Celebration of Black History Month

Leader: God of all people, all races and nationalities, all able and broken bodies, all people who breathe your sweet air of life...

All: we give thanks that you have made us in your image.

Leader: Today we give thanks for the great gifts of our Black American sisters and brothers that make our lives richer and fuller.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: For the writers: W.E.B. DuBois, Audre Lorde, Langston Hughes,

All: thank you God for their words!

Leader: For the healers: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, Dr. David J. Peck,

All: thank you Jesus for their healing!

Leader: For the peacemakers and justice seekers: Sojourner Truth, Fredrick Douglass, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Harriet Tubman,

All: thank you Spirit for their passion!

Leader: For the scientists: Percy Julian, Patricia Bath, George Washington Carver,

All: thank you God for their ingenuity!

Leader: For the government officials: Thurgood Marshall, Barack Obama, Carol Mosely-Braun,

All: thank you Jesus for their persistence!

Leader: For the professors and educators: Cornell West, Ruth Simmons, Charles L. Reason,

All: thank you Spirit for their intellect!

Leader: For the musicians: Marian Anderson, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday,

All: thank you God for their creativity!

Leader: For the athletes: Jackie Joyner Kersee, Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe,

All: thank you Jesus for their agility and strength!

Leader: For these and all our black brothers and sisters who surround us this day, those in our very own church family and those in our community, we give thanks.

All: Amen. And Amen!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Anthem

All Night, All Day

Chancel Choir

Gospel Setting arr. by Greg Gilpin

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation

It Is Well With My Soul

Silver Hymnal #705

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 9-15

Pages 34 & 35

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Proclamation of the Word

All Night, All Day Angels Watchin' Over Me

Rev. Terri Jo Crego

*** Affirmation of Faith**

excerpt from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith

...We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Deep River

by Sam Batt Owens

***Congregational Response**

Doxology

Blue Hymnal #592

***Prayer of Dedication**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn of Dedication**

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Silver Hymnal #564

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Once More, My Soul

by George Shearing

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, February 18

Sunday School for all ages	9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Christian Education Meeting	11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, February 19

Exercise Class Monday – Thursday (All are invited - \$1 per class)	9:00 a.m.
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TUESDAY, February 20

Food Pantry	9:00 a.m.
Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Worship Arts Meeting	11:00 a.m.
Youth Group	4:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, February 21

Peace Picers - MacDonald Hall	9:30 a.m.
Cards & Games	1:00 p.m.
Lenten Class Soul Keeping	5:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, February 22

Presbytery Meeting @ 1 st Presbyterian Sarasota	9:00 a.m.
Mahjongg (all are invited)	1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, February 23

Office Closed

SATURDAY, February 24

Office Closed	
Memorial Service For RuthAnn Jones	11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, February 25

Sunday School for all ages	9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	11:00 a.m.

**The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte is:
To be a beacon in the community by leading all people into a life changing,
ever growing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

Ministry Staff

Rev. Terri Jo Crego, Pastor	pastor@fpcpc.com
Betty Smith, Financial Secretary	bsmith@fpcpc.com
Tanga Killian, Church Secretary	tanga@fpcpc.com
Butch Rotert, Custodian	butchnjoyce@yahoo.com
Scott Austin, Grounds Keeper	scottaustin0557@gmail.com
Judy Prier, Organist	judyprrier@comcast.net
Joan Byron, Music Director	jfbyron@comcast.net

Session

Class of 2018: Nancy Sharpless, Ron Smith
Class of 2019: Joan Barry, Rebekah Baird, Richard Lund
Class of 2020: Sandy Asaro, Lynn Webster, Elaine Woods

Deacons

Class of 2018: Dottie Gamble, Pauline Paquin, Laverne Sinkia, Donald Whitmarsh
Class of 2019: Andy Buell, Clarence Diersing, Diane Schmidt
Class of 2020: Norma Campbell

Trustees

Richard Lund (President), Ron Smith (Vice President)
Ambrose Woods (Treasurer), Sandy Asaro (Secretary)
Class of 2018: Clarence Diersing (Member at Large)
Class of 2019: Bob Hull (Member at Large)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18, 2018

Thank you to Elaine Woods and Rich Rohlehr who are serving as liturgists this morning.



Black History month was created by Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher. It began as Negro History week in 1926 and became a month long celebration in 1976. The celebration is in February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave who became a national leader of the abolitionist movement. He was also an orator and writer. Abraham Lincoln was our 16th President and who signed *The Emancipation Proclamation* on September 22, 1862 resulting in the abolition of slavery.

Here at First Presbyterian Church Port Charlotte, we have been celebrating Black History month since 2000 under the leadership of Rev. Russell Hickman who was Pastor of First Presbyterian at that time. Today, we not only celebrate Black History, we also celebrate our diversity in our church family, the Body of Christ that is more whole because people of all races worship and serve here.

SOUL KEEPING
6 Week Lenten Class Series
Wednesdays Evenings
February 21st - March 28th
5:30-6:30pm
Conference Room

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

“Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.” (Psalm 33:20)

Jesus said: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:29)

The church is the only place in our culture to ponder the mystery of the human soul. So come to FPCPC to consider profound questions:

What is the soul? What is a lost soul? What does the soul need? How is a soul restored?

For the first four classes, we will be immersed in author John Ortberg’s recent book,

“Soul Keeping: Caring For The Most Important Part of You.” The church office has ordered 12 copies which you can purchase for \$15 each.

Author Ortberg offers personal experience, scholarship, faithfulness, humility and humor in this important study. We will use the book and accompanying short videos to explore scripture, the ups and downs of the human condition and the wonder of God’s infinite outreach to us.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & CORPORATION MEETING

Sunday, March 11, 2018

immediately following the Worship Service

Our Annual Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, March 11, 2018 for the purpose of:

- *Electing new Nominating Committee Members*
- *Electing the Pastor Nominating Committee*
- *Receiving the 2018 Budget*
- *Receiving the Session Report*

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

It's that time of year again..... In fact, it's past that time of year. The Scholarship committee was doing a Rip Van Winkle. Actually, we were all busy with other committees and just woke up to the fact that we needed to get the Scholarship information out..... in January. So pretend this is January!

High school seniors and adult church members who wish to continue their education with college level courses, technical school or to enroll in classes for improving their job skills for advancement or other opportunities in the job market may apply.

Applicants for a scholarship need to meet the following criteria:

- be an active member of the First Presbyterian Church Port Charlotte
- demonstrate leadership abilities
- abstain from using tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs
- demonstrate academic achievement
- demonstrate a need for financial assistance

Because the Scholarship Ministry Team is late in getting the information out to the congregation, the deadline for applications will be extended to Sunday, March 18, 2018. Scholarship Application Forms may be picked up on the information desk in the Narthex or in the church office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact a member of the Scholarship Ministry Team. Becky Baird, Nancy Sharpless, Veronica W. Betts and Ambrose Woods

FPCPC YOUTH
Tuesday, February 20th
4:45 p.m.
New Life Center

Join us on Tuesday for youth group in the New Life Center for snacks. After clean up, Kathy will lead us in a full Drum Circle in the Music Suite.

RUTHANN JONES MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday
February 24th
11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

The Celebration of Life Service for RuthAnn Jones will be Saturday, February 24th at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. You are invited to join the family for a reception in the New Life Center following the service.



The season of Lent is an important one for many Protestant denominations, including Presbyterians. “The season of Lent has served a variety of purposes in the history of the church and the life of Christian communities, specifically a period of preparation for baptism at the annual Easter Vigil; a time for the reconciliation of penitent persons; and an opportunity for spiritual discipline through prayer, fasting, service, and generosity,” says the Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, associate for worship in the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s office of Theology and Worship. “The common thread—whether one is new to the church, estranged from the community, or wanting to grow in faith and faithfulness—is deeper and more authentic relationship with God and one another through Christ. Lent points to the cross, where Jesus is lifted up with arms outstretched in compassion and welcome. And Lent points beyond the cross to the empty tomb, where Jesus offers new and abundant life to all.”

While many people find meaning through a spiritual practice of *giving something up for Lent*, many find a more valuable spiritual exercise in *taking something on* during Lent — a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, a special service project or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 14th this year) and ends with Easter, which is on April 1st this year. A baptismal font is often placed at the front of the church to remind the congregation of their birth in Christ. All fasts come to an end. Joyous songs are sung and praise is given for the resurrected Son of God.

Please remember FPCPC in your wills and trusts.