

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



Port Charlotte, FL

May/2024 E-GRAM

Hi everyone,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

When we lived in Canada, May was one of my favorites, or should I say “favorites.” The snow would be almost gone, the days were getting warmer, and the summer months were just around the corner, making May very special to me. Not only that but also our eldest son Gabe and my wife Betania were born in May, so we would have special celebrations at home. Finally, May is the month we remember our mothers and mother figures in our lives too.

I guess this is why to me, with the seasons changing and the special days, May feels like a month of creation, fresh starts, and new beginnings. It is the transition from dark to light, from winter to summer, from nothing to something.

In this spirit of new beginnings, the month of March we were reminded at Easter that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the pinnacle of new beginnings. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death, offering humanity the opportunity for a fresh start. For this reason, our church calendar during April and part of May reflects just that. Throughout the whole month, each Sunday after Easter, over and over again, we see the Apostles embracing ideas that never seemed acceptable to them before.

Soon enough, on May 19th, the Day of Pentecost, we will see how the narrative of Pentecost represents a pivotal moment in the early Christian Church, signifying the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of a new era.

My prayers are that, as we reflect on these biblical examples; as we begin to learn more about the Holy Spirit, let us be encouraged to embrace new beginnings in our own lives.

May we trust in God's faithfulness, seek repentance and forgiveness, be open to radical transformations, and find hope in the resurrected Christ. Let this season of renewal, inspire us to let go of past failures, forgive ourselves and others, and embark on a journey of growth and transformation.

Blessings to you all. Yours in the Lamb,

Pastor Syl

Bye Bye Snow-Birdie!



It is that time of the year, too. Our last friends from up north are going home again. We thank God for the time, talents and treasures they give us when they are here. We will miss all of them and can't wait for them to come back again. We hope to see them joining our *Lectio-Divina* time of prayer and study of God's word, every Monday at 8 AM.

Nick Miceli performed songs made popular by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel, Harry Chapin, Cat Stevens, Van Morrison, Michael Bubl  and many more. The crowd enjoyed singing with Nick. We are blessed to have Nick and his many talents .



Sweet Caroline !



So Good ! So Good !
So Good !



Baa Baa
Baaaa ! 🦊🦊🦊

Ordination of First Pres Church Officials

On Sunday, April 21, 2024, at the First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte, four special ladies joined Pastor Syl and the other church officers in ministry. What a blessing that was. We welcome our new Ruling Elder Donna Young, and the new Ruling Deacons Hazel Mason, C. “Jazz” McLennon and Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your ministry. Not only that, but we are proud you have taken this step of obedience to God and our church family.



Since our Clerk of Session, Elder Elaine Woods was traveling, Elder Steve Goettler and Pastor Syl did the litany of ordination. Below, RE Donna Young, RD Jazz McLennon, RD Hazel Mason and RD Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen, with Elders laying hands over them.



PEP Group met at Pioneer's Pizza

Delicious pizza and awesome conversation with wonderful people!
Many thanks to Deacon Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen for organizing this event. We are looking forward to the next one.



We will miss them...



Betty Smith passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Betty served as our financial secretary for many years until her retirement in 2019. The family will hold a private ceremony later this year. The family requests you share a kind word with another to honor Betty and Dan's legacy. Betty was a good servant to our Lord, and we praise her for her many years dedicated to First Pres.



Also, with a heavy heart, we inform the passing of **Jacqueline Christine Faulk**, who entered into rest on April 22.

Jackie at one point was "Baby Jesus" in one of our church plays. She went too soon and was only 35 years old. Pastor Syl will celebrate her life with her family, at Lake Betty Park, on Saturday, May 4th, at 10 AM.

Celebration of our February, March & April birthdays with cake and conversation on Sunday, April 28, 2024.



February Birthdays

Joan Barry, Carolyn Brox, Alzie Lee and Jackie Witt.



March Birthday
Claudette McLennon



April Birthdays
Hazel Mason and Dolores Cummings

The Multicultural Nurses Association came to visit First Pres.



Invited by our Elder Alzie Lee and Deacon Norma Campbell, they are a non-profit group that gives scholarships to potential nursing students. From time to time, they choose a church to worship together, and this time, First Pres was the chosen church. We just loved having them with us. We hope they will come to see us again.



The Chosen is captivating as Pastor Syl does a brief 5 to 10-minute commentary on the episode with some Bible & historical fun facts. We will continue watching the “The Chosen” episodes weekly, every Tuesday, at 6 PM. Rides can be arranged for persons who do not like to drive at night.

Upcoming PEP Group Event at S killets



Please join the PEP group on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the church at 12:30 p.m. to ride over to S killets in the Peachland Promenade to enjoy lunch and good company. Please Call Carol to reserve a spot by Tuesday, May 21st, at 941-624-5402 or email beardiesrule@embarqmail.com.

**24123 Peachland Blvd. Unit A10
Port Charlotte, FL 33980**

Continental Breakfast



A continental breakfast is served every Sunday in the Gathering Room from 7:45 AM to 8:45 AM. Come and enjoy fellowship over coffee, juice, and pastries, just before our worship service. Also, our deacons are looking for persons who would be willing to prepare our breakfast one Sunday of the month. That can be your own ministry here with us. Do you feel called to help? Talk with Deacon **Holly Parkin** or any other deacon for more info.



Lectio-Divina is a traditional Christian practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer, intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word.

Every Monday at 8 AM, we join the brothers and sisters of Wintergarden for *Lectio-Divina* time.

This is a special event for those who are near and far, to see and pray with each other. At Wintergarden, most participants are snowbirds.

To access the meeting, there are 3 ways:

1. You can click on the picture above.
2. You may go to www.zoom.us. Then, click on "Join," which can be found on the right-hand corner of your computer screen. After that, type Meeting ID: 878 3208 0869. If it asks you for a passcode, it is: 396015.
3. You can also access the meeting, by copying and pasting the link below on your web-browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832080869?pwd=TUxCRThUcEdRbTNTWmJ6emZRamUyZz09>

Upcoming EVENTS

May/2024

Wednesday, May 1

- Deacon's Meeting 1:30 PM.
- Bell Rehearsal - 6 PM.

Thursday, May 2

- Choir Rehearsal - 6 PM.

Sunday, May 5



- Continental Breakfast - 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- Sunday Service with the celebration of the **Lord's Supper** - 9 AM.

Monday, May 6

- *Lectio-Divina* - 8 AM (Online on Zoom).

Tuesday, May 7

- Food Pantry - 8-11 AM.
- The Chosen, Season 3, Episode 3 - 6 PM.

Wednesday, May 8

- Worship Arts Committee - 11 AM.
- Food Pantry - 4 to 6:30 PM.
- Bell Rehearsal - 6 PM.

Thursday, May 9

- Choir Rehearsal - 6 P.M.

Sunday, May 12



- Continental Breakfast - 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- Sunday Service - 9 AM.
- Mother's Day

Monday, May 13

- *Lectio-Divina* - 8 AM (Online on Zoom).

Tuesday, May 14

- Finance Committee Meeting - 11 AM.
- Scholarship Meeting 4:45 p.m.
- The Chosen, Season 3, Episode 4 - 6 PM.

Wednesday, May 15

- Bell Rehearsal - 6 P.M.

Thursday, May 16

- Choir Rehearsal - 6 P.M.

Sunday, May 19



- Continental Breakfast from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- Sunday Service - 9 AM.
- Session Meeting - 10:30 AM.
- **Pentecost Sunday.**

Monday, May 20

- *Lectio-Divina* at 8 AM (Online on Zoom).

Tuesday, May 21

- Food Pantry - 8 to 11 AM.
- Southport Square Assisted Living Service - 2:30 PM.
- The Chosen, Season 3, Episode 5 - 6 PM.

Wednesday, May 22

- Bell Rehearsal - 6 PM.

Thursday, May 23

- Choir Rehearsal - 6 PM.

Sunday, May 26

- Continental Breakfast from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- Sunday Service - 9 AM

Monday, May 27



- *Lectio-Divina* at 8 AM (Online on Zoom).
- **Church Office Closed in remembrance of Memorial Day.**

Tuesday, May 28

- The Chosen - Season 3, Episode 6 - 6 PM.

Wednesday, May 29

- Bell Rehearsal - 6 PM.

Thursday, May 30

- Choir Rehearsal - 6 PM.

MEMBERS ON FOCUS

Have you met?



Joan Barry

Joan Barry was born in Boston, Massachusetts, but spent most of her time in Cape Cod where she eventually moved. She attended Cape Cod Community College acquiring a degree in Computer Information Technology. She worked as an IT Specialist for NOAA (National Marine Fisheries). Joan met her husband Chris Barry in Cape Cod and they are celebrating 50 years together. They have 2 boys, Jeff, who is 43, and Jon who is 40. They also have 2 fur babies, Bob and Taz, who were both rescue dogs. Check out our next newsletter to see these two featured in our Pets of the Month.

After Joan retired, she moved to Florida with her family and began working at the Charlotte County Cultural Center as the Learning Place Coordinator, where she taught Mahjong. Joan also enjoys many hobbies. She loves golfing and playing Mahjong, and for seven years she was a member of the Charlotte Harbor Dragon Boat Club.

Joan was raised Roman-Catholic, but decided to become Presbyterian in 2006. She began looking for a Presbyterian Church after moving to Florida and found First Presbyterian Church was conveniently in her neighborhood. She began attending and decided it was a good fit for her. Furthermore, she joined as a member in 2014.

Joan became involved with First Pres and was a Ruling Elder for many years. She also served on the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) and helped to bring Pr. Syl on board as our current Pastor. She has also

served as our Clerk of Session, Chairperson of the Outreach Committee, and Coordinator for the Disaster Committee, as well as a member of our Bell Choir, Sound System and Food Pantry volunteer.

Joan's favorite food is anything with sweet potatoes on the menu. Her absolute favorite vacation destination is Florida, and she liked it so much that she moved here permanently.

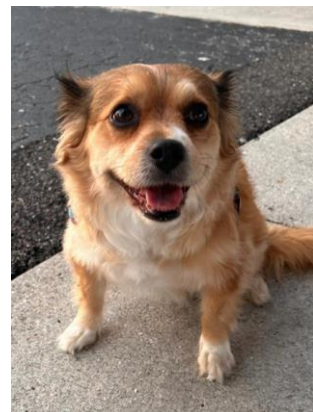
Joan loves the community outreach FPCPC has through missions. She loves the mission work that is done here at First Pres, including projects like the Food Pantry, Shoes For Kids, Santa Run, Salvation Army, etc. She is also happy having Pr. Syl as her new Pastor.



Meet our May Pet of the Month!

The proud owner, Steve Vallillo, often brings Bonnie by for church visits. Bonnie loves to get dog snacks from Nancy and loves to visit her Godparent, Pr. Syl.

Send Pam a picture of your pet to pastorsecretary@fpcpc.com, and your little friend could be one of our Pets of the Month.



Upcoming Birthdays

Nicole Christian - May 2
Sandee Pellerin - May 2
Gillian Knox - May 9
Jazz McLennon - May 13
Betania Esteves - May 14
Violet Wight - May 18
Laverne Sinkia - May 22
Elaine Woods - May 24
Gay Sorensen - May 27
Norma Campbell - May 29
Nora Vermeer - May 31



Upcoming Anniversary

Ambrose & Elaine Woods - May 25

Do not see your name here, call the church office and let us know at (941) 625-5045

CHURCH OFFICIALS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS



- **Board of Deacons** meets on the first Wednesday of the month, at **1:30 PM**. Next meeting: **May 1, 2024**.
- **Worship Arts Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at **11 AM**. Next meeting: **May 8, 2024**.
- **Scholarship Committee** called meeting will be held at **4:45 PM**, on **May 14, 2024**.
- **Finance Committee** meets on the second Monday of each month, at **11 AM**. Although, exceptionally for May, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, **May 14, 2024**, at **11:00 AM**.

- **Session** meets on the third Sunday of each month, immediately following worship. Next regular meeting: Sunday, **May 19, 2024**, at **10:30 AM**.
 - **Choir** meets for rehearsal every Thursday at **6 PM**.
 - **The Chosen Bible TV-Series**, is shown every Tuesday at **6 PM**.
 - **Bell Rehearsals**, meet every Wednesday, at **6 PM**.
 - **Adult Sunday School** meets every Sunday, at **8 AM**.
 - **Children's Sunday school** meets every Sunday, during worship and after the Children's Blessing.
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I ♥ MY
CHURCH

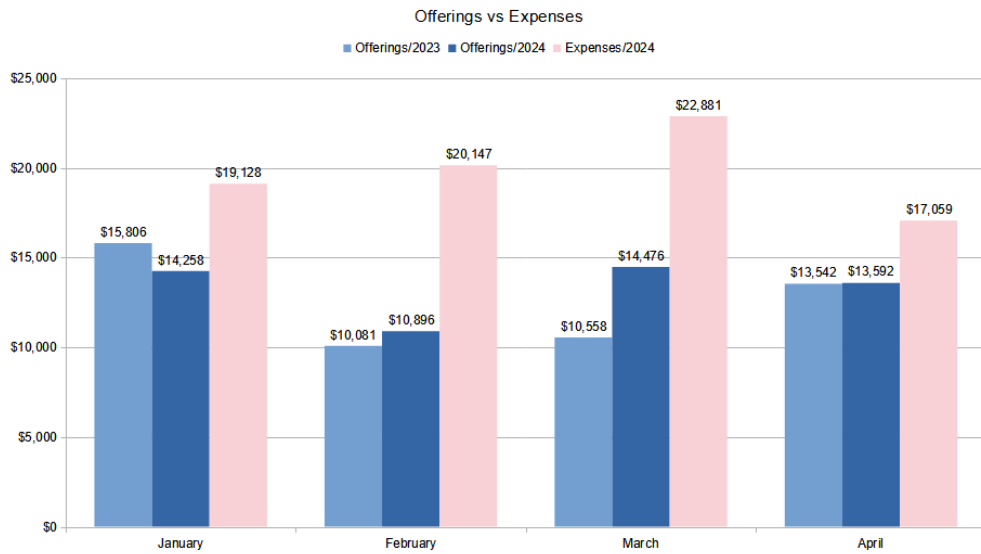
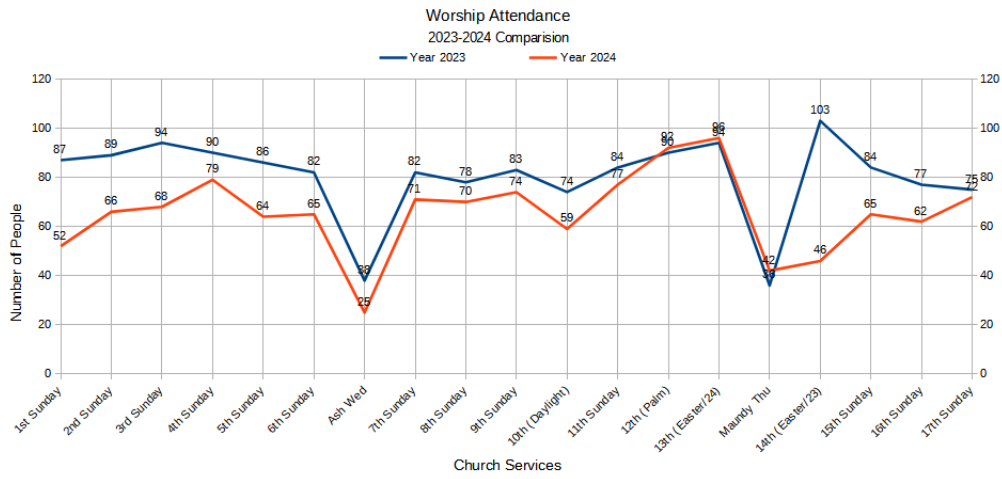
FEELING CALLED TO SERVE THIS CHURCH IN ANY CAPACITY?

We are in desperate need of people to help us draw our vision for the future of our church and our websites. No experience is necessary. E-mail Pastor Syl at pastor@fpcpc.com.

Yes, I am here Lord!

TRANSPARENCY





- The amounts are usually calculated by our treasurer Elder Ambrose Woods, and it is based on the financial reports made by our financial secretary Ms. Jeanne Fell. Although, due to Elder Woods' travels, last month the amounts were calculated by Pastor Syl, who did not have all the information, and therefore, the amounts were incorrect. Although Elder Woods is still traveling, the amounts are reflected more accurately this time.
- Although we are still a church in deficit (meaning, more goes out than comes in), it is important to notice that, despite fewer people attending services this year, we are a community of faithful and generous people. In defiance of our numbers decreasing, in February, March and April, the offerings were higher than last year's. We thank God for your faithfulness and commitment to our ministry. God bless all of the generous hearts.



Please pray for ...

Bernadine & Tom Allesee family – safety & health needs

Barbara Edwards – health needs

Faulk Family – strength & comfort

Gail Gamble – health needs

Jean Heim – health needs

Ruth Hester – health needs

Mary & Muriel Kerr – health & strength needs

Sue Littrell – health needs

Violet Logan – health needs

Donna & Loren Livengood – health needs

Margorie Lotz – health needs

Brad Messick – health needs

Mavis Powell – health needs

Olin Scott – housing needs

Danny Webb – strength needs

FPCPC FAMILY - If you know of anyone else who may need our prayers, please call the church office at 941-625-5045. Names will be removed after 3 months. If you wish to keep them on the list, please call the church office.

The First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte is part of the **Presbyterian Church USA**, under the **Peace River Presbytery** in Florida.



First Presbyterian Church
of Port Charlotte

