



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Port Charlotte, FL

June/2025 E-GRAM

Hello, **Everyone**

Grace and Peace to you!

Last month, my wife and I took a short trip to Savannah, GA. While we were there, we visited the Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters. I have to confess that I always feel appalled and disgusted when I visit places where people were kept in bondage.

As we step into June, I would like to encourage you to see Juneteenth as important, since it reminds us of a pivotal moment in American history marking the end of slavery in the United States. I see it as more than just a holiday. To me, it is a call to remember the resilience of those who endured enslavement and to renew our commitment to justice, equality, and love for our neighbors. As a church, we must acknowledge the pain of the past and continue to pray and work for a future shaped by God's righteousness and peace.

Besides Juneteenth, we also celebrate Father's Day. Also a special time to honor and reflect on the profound influence that fathers and father figures have in our lives. Whether they are biological fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, mentors, or others who have stepped into that role, these individuals often shape our sense of security, identity, and values. Their love, guidance, and sacrifices provide a foundation for emotional and spiritual growth.

In the teachings of Jesus, the image of a father was central to understanding the nature of God. Jesus often referred to God as “Father,” emphasizing not only God’s authority but also His intimacy, care, and love for His children. In parables like the Prodigal Son, Jesus depicted God as a patient, forgiving, and compassionate father, eager to welcome His children home. This use of a father figure helped convey the closeness and relational depth God desires with humanity. On Father’s Day, reflecting on this divine example can deepen our appreciation for the fathers in our lives and inspire us to embody these same qualities of love and grace.

Finally, I hope we will have a wonderful month of June together. Yes, things will get a bit slower during the summer months, but hopefully with all the activities going on, you will barely notice anything.

Blessings,

Pastor Syl



Celebrating Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated after the service with **cake and hats... lots of hats.** These ladies were lovely in their hats of all styles and varieties.



We have a new bird feeder!



Thanks to Weldon DeGroot, we have a beautiful bird feeder in front of our church office. He built it himself and provided the bird seed, as well as the plants in the planters. As you can see, there is already a bird enjoying it.

Thank you, Weldon.



Elder Sandy Asaro filled in for Pr. Syl on Sunday, May 25, 2025, to preach God's Word with the help of liturgist Richard Rohlehr.



May Birthdays & Anniversaries



Our May birthday ladies stand with Elder Sandy Asaro: back row; Carol (Jazz) McLennon and Norma Campbell: Front row; Violet “Vi” Wight, Nicole Christian and Laverne Sinkia. The couple, Marilda & Claudemir Sathler, pictured on the right, celebrated their Anniversary alongside Elder Sandy Asaro.

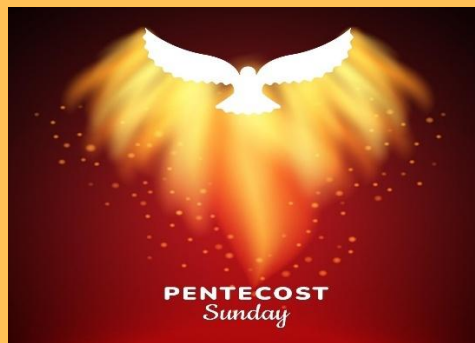
SPECIAL BIRTHDAY goes to Rev. Deb Phelp’s mother, Violet AKA “Vi” Wight, in celebration of turning 106 years old!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VI!



Pentecost Sunday is this Sunday, June 8, 2025.



June's Blessing Tree Boys & Girls Club



We have partnered with the **Boys & Girls Club** to collect items for kids. Suggested items include School Supplies; notebook paper (not college lined), pencils, markers, erasers, pens, rulers, scissors, crayons, index cards and back packs.

Bible study, chapter by chapter, verse by verse.

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE
PHILIPPIANS

Pastor Syl is leading an awesome Bible Study **every Tuesday at noon**. The study will only end the day the study group goes through every single verse of Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. By the end of the study, (and if you have not missed any of the classes), you will be able to say you went through a whole Epistle without missing a single line of it.

Leadership Training - June 21st - 9 AM.

Leadership
training
will be
held on
**Saturday,
June 21st
at 9 AM.**



Training for
leaders

Movie & Pizza Night



Join us on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM**, to watch a movie that will have you chanting "God's Not Dead" loud and proud! We will enjoy delicious pizza, popcorn, and drinks.

PEP (People Enjoying People)



Join us for lunch at Donato's Italian restaurant to enjoy delicious Italian food.

PEP will gather on **Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 12:30 PM**. RSVP with Deacon Carol at 941-624-5402. The restaurant is located at 1900 Tamiami Trail #117, Port Charlotte, FL 33948.

Music Concert in celebration of July 4th!

Circle your calendar for Sunday, June 29th at 3 PM. At that time, we will have a concert with music celebrating the 4th of July! Featured on the program will be Nick Miceli on guitar with narration by Ann Miceli. Come prepared to join in this musical celebration, as there will be plenty of audience participation and many surprises! This is a free concert, but if you wish to make a love offering, all donations will go to benefit the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veteran's Nursing Home. Please invite family and friends to this musical celebration!

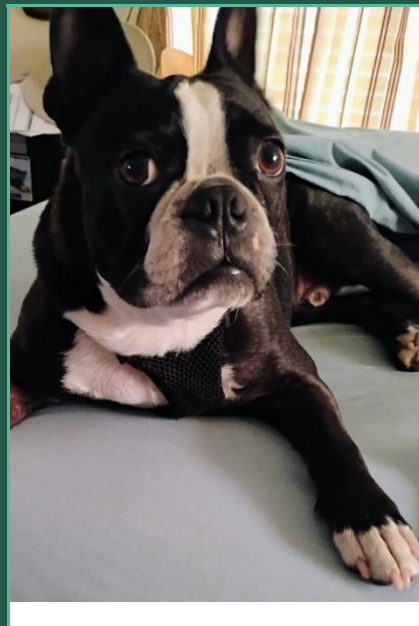


Every **Wednesday** at **12 noon**, our Prayer group meets at First Pres. All are welcome. There is power in prayer, and we know we can make a real difference in people's lives if we just pray.



Meet our June Pet of the Month.

Meet **Alexander Hamilton**, our June Pet of the Month. This handsome guy belongs to our Member of Focus Holly Parkin who says she has more pictures of him on her phone than of her kids.



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

Join us online on Zoom



Sundays at 8:05 AM.

To connect, go to
www.zoom.us
Click "Join" on the right-hand
upper corner
Meeting ID: 9678044713
Passcode: X9b77j

Mondays at 8:00 AM.

To connect, go to
www.zoom.us
Click "Join" on the right-hand
upper corner
Meeting ID: 87832080869
Passcode: 396015



Sunday, June 1



- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- **Sunday Worship Service with Lord's Supper - 9 AM.**

Monday, June 2

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Tuesday, June 3

- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.
- **Bible Study - noon.**



Wednesday, June 4

- **Prayer Group Meeting - noon.**
- **Deacons Meeting - 1:30 PM.**
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.



Sunday, June 8

- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. on Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- **Finance Committee Meeting - 10:30 AM.**



Monday, June 9

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Tuesday, June 10

- **Bible Study - noon.**



Wednesday, June 11



- **Worship Arts Meeting - 11:00 AM.**
- **Prayer Group Meeting - noon.**
- Food Pantry - from 4 to 6:30 PM.
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.

Sunday, June 15

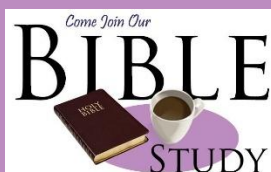


- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- **Father's Day**
- **Session Meeting - after worship service.**

Monday, June 16

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Tuesday, June 17



- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.
- **Bible Study - noon.**

Wednesday, June 18



- **Prayer Group Meeting - noon.**
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM

Thursday, June 19

- **Juneteenth Freedom Day**



Saturday, June 21

- **Leadership Training - 9 AM**



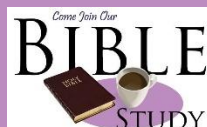
Sunday, June 22

- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.

Monday, June 23

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

Tuesday, June 24



- Bible Study - noon.
- Movie & Pizza night featuring *God's Not Dead* - 6:30 PM



Wednesday, June 25



- **Prayer Group Meeting - noon.**
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM

Thursday, June 26



- **PEP luncheon- 12:30 PM.**

Sunday, June 29



- Continental Breakfast - from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School - 8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05 AM.
- Children's Sunday School - after Children's Blessing.
- **Celebration of June's Birthdays & Anniversaries.**
- **Celebration of July 4th, music concert - 3 PM.**

Monday, June 30

- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.

MEMBER ON FOCUS

Have you met?



Holly Parkin

Holly Parkin was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She married her grade school sweetheart Robert Parkin when she was only 19 years old. Holly attended Michigan Lutheran College for two years until a car accident made it unable for her to return to finish school. Holly and her husband Robert started their family and after having two sons, purchased a house in Livonia, Michigan. Holly was a stay-at-home mom of two at the time but when baby number three was on the way. They purchased a house with a little more room in Westland, Michigan. Holly was an involved mom of three as she attended PTA meetings and other events to support her children.

In 1968, Holly's in-laws moved to Florida. Holly and her family began traveling to Florida to visit the in-laws for sunny vacations. They liked it so much they bought a house of their own here in Florida about 30 years ago. Holly became a widow in 2010. She officially moved to

Florida about 12 years ago after deciding to sell their larger Michigan home.

Holly's three children, Robert, 60, Michael, 57, and Heather, 54, all have children of their own. Holly has eight grandchildren: Ryan, Sarah, Emma, Elayna, Max, Haley, Crystal-Ann, and Jodi. She also has four Great-grandchildren: Kendall, Allison, and twins, Gabriel and Carter.

After trying out New Grace Presbyterian, Holly decided to try new churches that may be more welcoming to its members. She searched the phone book and decided to give First Pres a try. The day she stepped into our sanctuary she felt welcomed. She met Jan Dozy and Jan Baker who welcomed her right away. Jan Dozy was a member of a travel club here at First Pres. They would travel to many places, including: Hawaii, The Strawberry Festival in Plant City, FL, The Concert Hall in Lakeland, Solemn's Castle in Ona, FL, and the mystery train in Ft. Myers. Holly began going on these adventures and got to know other members here at First Pres.

Holly has done many things besides the travel club. She volunteered to help with cookies and coffee that were served before and in-between services. She became a Deacon after only being a member for a year. She also volunteers in the Food Pantry. Holly is currently our Deacon Moderator.

Holly's favorite food is Spaghetti but she is not picky and up to trying anything. Her favorite pastime is driving her motorcycle. She has traveled by motorcycle to every state except Hawaii. Her favorite destination is Upper Peninsula, Michigan.

Holly became a member of First Pres about four years ago. She felt welcomed and comfortable here. She likes the feel of the church and the people. She loves being with her dog, "Alexander Hamilton". He is our pet of the month. Check him out in our pet of the month article above.



Birthdays

June 1 - Lucille Gomez
June 10 - Holly Parkin
June 12 - Vivienne Gooden
June 17- Brad Messick
June 17 - Natalie Wanamaker
June 19 - Marilda Sathler
June 20 - Dorothy Gamble
June 26 - Sue McConochie
June 29 - Lloyd Simmonds

Anniversaries

June 13 - Carolyn & Charles Brox

Do not see your name here? Call the church office and let us know (941) 625-5045.

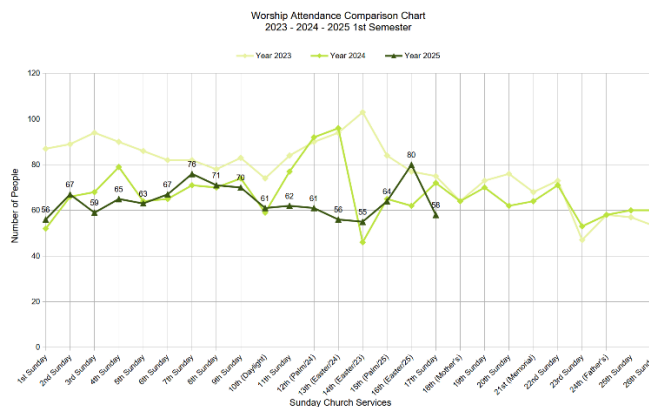
CHURCH OFFICIALS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **The Board of Deacons** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at **1:30 PM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **June 4, 2025**.
- **Prayer Group Wednesdays at noon**
- **Pastor's Bible Study (Philippians chapter by chapter, verse by verse), every Tuesday at noon.**
- **The Finance Committee** meets on the second Sunday of each month at **10:30 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **June 8, 2025**.
- **The Worship Arts Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at **11 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **June 11, 2025**.
- **The Session** meets on the third Sunday of each month, at **10:30 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **June 15, 2025**.

- **Leadership Training will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 9 AM.**
- **Adult Sunday School** meets every Sunday at **8 AM**, including by Zoom now.
- **Children's Sunday School** meets every Sunday during worship and after the Children's Blessing.
- **The PEP (People Enjoying People) Luncheon** meets once every month. The next luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, **June 26, 2025, at 12:30 PM**, at **Donato's Italian Restaurant**.
- **Movie & Pizza Night on Tuesday, June 24, at 6:30 PM.**
- **Music Concert in celebration of the 4th of July - Sunday, June 29, 2025, at 3 PM.**
- **The Prayer & Praise Service** may resume again in November.



FPCPC Attendance Stats



Did you know you can add First Pres to your will or living trust, as your beneficiary? For example, one of the most advantageous ways to contribute to the First Presbyterian Church is through a gift of stock. Making a gift of securities is simple and offers some valuable financial benefits. You can give appreciated stocks to the church simply by transferring them into our account. The total value of the stock upon transfer is tax-deductible, and you will not be obligated to pay any capital gains taxes on the appreciation. For gifts of stock or gifts-in-kind, please contact the finance office for details or speak with our church treasurer, Elder Ambrose Woods.

Please pray for ...

Adams Family - strength & comfort
Cathy & Rick Armstrong - health needs
Bernadine & Tom Allesee family - safety & health needs
Susan Baivey - health needs
Eric & Ray Bittinger - health needs
Sharon Beckman - health needs
Charlie & Carolyn Brox - health needs
Barbara Edwards - health needs
Jean Heim - health needs
Carolanne Hoehle - health needs
Senior Lee Family - health needs
Sue Littrell - health needs
Violet Logan/Green - strength & comfort
Donna & Loren Livengood - health needs
Richard Lund - health needs
Marjorie Hill - health needs
Courtenay Mason - health needs
Brad Messick – health needs
Louis Miceli - health needs
Valciana Officer - health needs
Mavis Powell - health, strength & comfort needs
Samantha & Derrick Reams Family - strength & comfort
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 care of the **Peace River Presbytery**.