



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Port Charlotte, FL

October/2025 E-GRAM

Hello, **Everyone,**

Grace and Peace!

Every October, the so-called “Protestant Christians” around the world celebrate the Protestant Reformation. This movement began in the 1500s with reformers such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, among others, who called the Church back to the authority of Scripture. One of their deepest convictions was that every believer should have direct access to God’s Word. But to make that possible, people needed to be able to read the Bible for themselves. This conviction sparked a movement that forever changed the field of education.

Before the Reformation, formal education was often limited to priests, scholars, and the wealthy. Many ordinary people could not read or write, which meant they had to rely entirely on the clergy to hear and understand God’s Word. The Reformers believed this was not enough. They taught that every child, regardless of social class, should learn to read so they could encounter Scripture personally. This vision led to the establishment of schools throughout Europe, the translation of the Bible into common languages, and a major rise in literacy rates.

This emphasis on education didn’t just change churches. It changed entire societies. Over time, the idea that every child deserves an education became a major cornerstone of modern civilization. Public schools, universities, and even Sunday schools trace some of their roots back to the Reformers’ passion

for an educated, Scripture-literate people. In many ways, the Reformation helped plant the seeds for the educational systems we benefit from today.

We Presbyterians are part of this proud heritage of educating children and equipping people with the knowledge of God's Word. Our tradition has always valued strong schools, Bible studies, and a thoughtful approach to faith. By continuing this commitment, we do more than grow spiritually. We help make the world a better place for everyone, shaping hearts and minds for God's glory and the good of our communities.

Have a blessed October,

Pastor Syl



Comedian & Magician Blake Krabseth

First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte was happy to have Comedian & Magician Blake Krabseth perform for us on Sunday, September 21, 2025. He entertained us with his talents, and we are grateful to have laughed with him during his performance. Thank you to all who came to support and laugh with us.



NEW GLASS DOOR REFRIGERATOR!



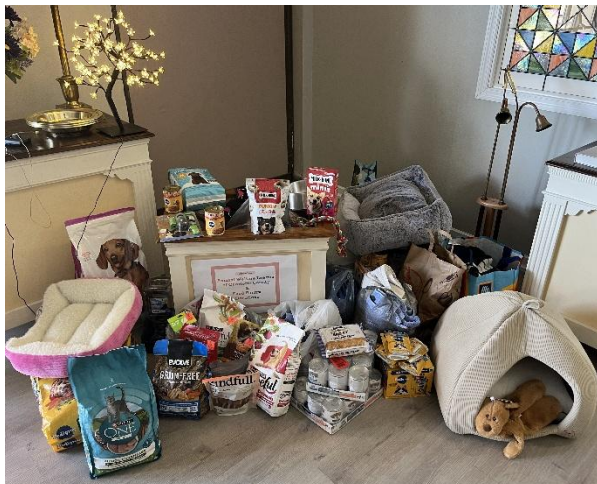
On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, our Food Pantry received a brand-new glass door refrigerator thanks to a Grant through Harry Chapin. We're proud of our pantry, and we thank God for each volunteer who helps there.



PEP (People Enjoying People)



On September 25, 2025, our PEP group enjoyed a BBQ lunch at Mission BBQ. Sadly, Pr. Syl forgot to take a picture with everybody. Be sure to join us next time. Last time, not only did we enjoy great food, but we were also able to support our troops and First Responders. Join us at our next get-together this month. See details later in the newsletter.



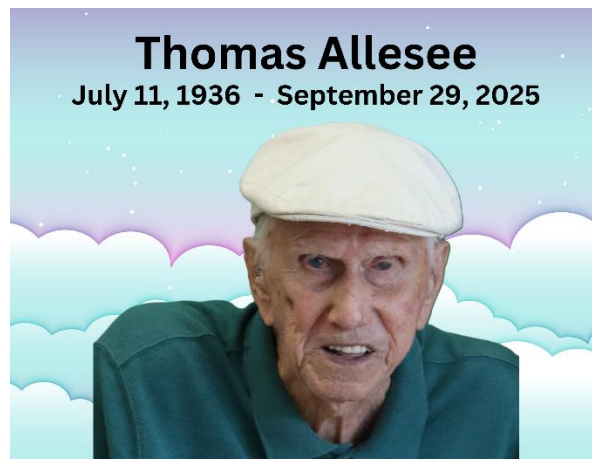
During **September**, our **Blessing Tree** collected pet supplies for the **Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County**. Thank you to all who donated. We will be collecting donations for the **Virginia B. Andes Breast Cancer Program** in **Charlotte County** during **October**.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

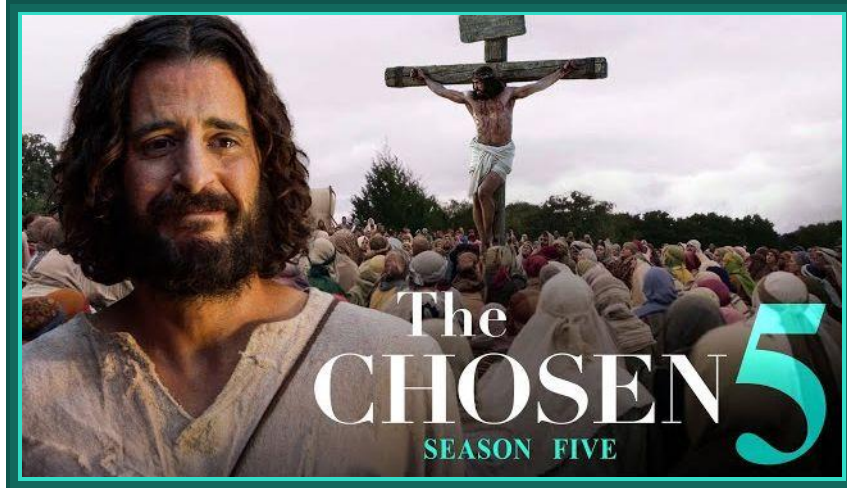


On Sunday, September 28th, we celebrated Eric Bittinger and John Danylak birthdays with cake and ice-cream. Both are pictured here with Pr. Syl.

And these are the wonderful couples who celebrated their anniversaries. Happy Anniversary to Joan Barry and Chris this month, and to Courtney and Hazel, who celebrated their anniversary last month on August 28th.



We say goodbye to a great man, Mr. Tom Allesee, who passed away on Monday night, September 29, 2025. We will miss Tom. Prayers for Bernardine, their daughter Susan and the whole family. May he rest in Peace. Service information to come.



Join us every **Tuesday** for **Season 5** of **The Chosen** at **6 PM**. We will enjoy popcorn and drinks.



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.

“Getting to know you” Church Potluck



Join us for a potluck dinner on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 5 pm. If you would like to bring a dish or need a ride because you don't drive after dark, please add it to our list on the back table in the sanctuary. After dinner, we will enjoy fun & games.

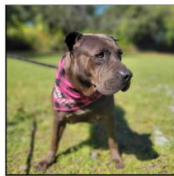


PEP (People Enjoying People)

Join us for lunch at Pioneer Pizza on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 12:30 pm. The restaurant is located at 4560 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte. RSVP with Carol Dunkak-DuneKirchen at 941-204-0758.



In honor of our September Blessing Tree with AWL, we have our PETS OF THE MONTH listed below, which are a few of the dogs and cats up for adoption at the shelter. For more information on adopting a dog or cat, please call 941-625-6720.



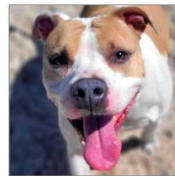
Sarah



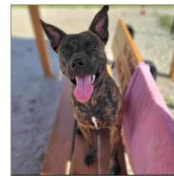
Pink



Cowboy



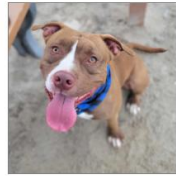
Luna aka Loony Tunes



Bella



Patchy



Cain



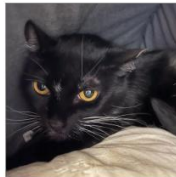
Quincy



Rusty



Bear



Loachy



Purge



Silly



She-ra



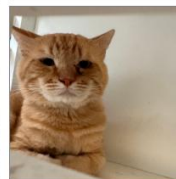
Sloan



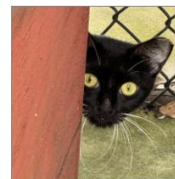
Kalliope



Ginger



Oscar



Dopey



Erin

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.



Wednesday, Oct. 1



- Prayer Group Meeting - noon.
- Deacon's Meeting - 1:30 PM.
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 5



- 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.
- **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.**

Monday, Oct. 6



- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.
- Finance meeting - 11 AM

Tuesday, Oct. 7



- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.
- **The Chosen S5 - 6:00 PM**

Wednesday, Oct. 8



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

Thursday, Oct. 9



- **“Get to know you” Potluck dinner - 5 PM.**

Sunday, Oct.12

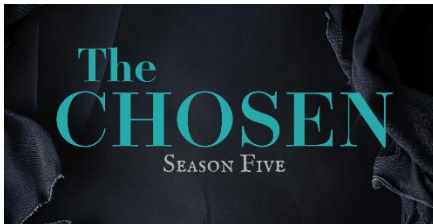
- Continental Breakfast
- from 7:45 to 9 AM.
- Adult Sunday School -
8 AM. On Zoom at 8:05
AM.
- Children's Sunday
School - after Children's
Blessing.

Monday, Oct.13



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

Tuesday, Oct. 14



- **The Chosen S5 - 6:00 PM**

Wednesday, Oct. 15



- **Prayer Group Meeting - noon.**
- Session Meeting - 5 PM.
- Bells Rehearsal - 6 PM.
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM.



Saturday, Oct. 18

- 2025 Stated Meeting - 9 AM.

Sunday, Oct. 19

- 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, Oct. 20

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

Tuesday, Oct. 21

- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.
- **The Chosen S5 - 6:00 PM**



Wednesday, Oct. 22



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

Thursday, Oct. 23

- **PEP Luncheon at Pioneer Pizza - 12:30 PM.**



Sunday, Oct. 26



- 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 October Birthdays.**

Monday, Oct. 27

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

Tuesday, Oct. 28

- **The Chosen S5 - 6:00 PM**



Wednesday, Oct. 29



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

MEMBER ON FOCUS

Have you met?



Joan Hawkins

Joan Hawkins was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Joan graduated from Homestead High School and the Graduate School of Public Health. She would attend high school in the mornings and the Steel Valley technical school in the afternoons. She worked for the Graduate School of Public Health until becoming an employee of the U.S. Steel Homestead Works, where she served as a keypunch operator for about 6 years. She learned many technical machines as well as how to wire the boards for the key cards.

Joan enjoys bowling and met her husband Bob at a bowling alley she went to. After dating for about a year, they were married on October 1, 1977. After

working for 4 years on her marriage and career, Joan and Bob were blessed with Samantha, their one and only daughter.

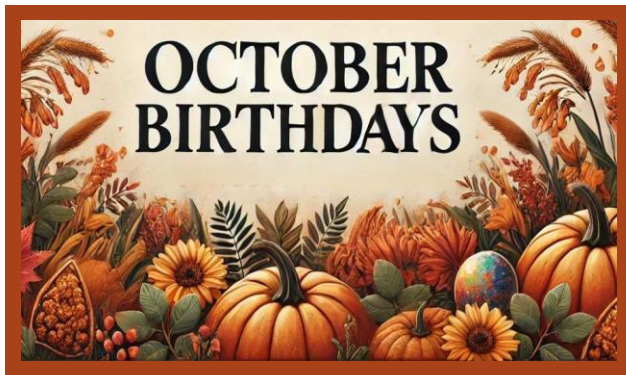
Joan's parents moved to Florida after retiring and soon after, Joan, Bob and Samantha moved to Florida before Samantha's 2nd birthday. Joan had grown up Presbyterian (on her mom's side), so after moving, they found a Presbyterian church near their home, which happened to be First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte and, in 1983 Joan became a member in 1984.

Joan worked for Charlotte County Parks and Recreation for 30 years, retiring on January 6, 2015. After Joan lost her husband in 2020, she became more involved with the church due to the persistence of Ambrose Woods, who encouraged her to join as a Ruling Elder for our Session. She has been serving for 3 consecutive years.

Joan enjoys walking which she does 6 days a week at a 3+mile stretch. She also enjoys bowling, tennis and has tried out pickle ball. She enjoys watching football. Her favorite team is the Steelers. She enjoys games on her IPAD including Gin Rummy and Tiki solitaire. She enjoys playing on a team.

Joan loves to eat at Culver's. She enjoys the fish sandwich as well as the burgers. She also enjoys the Bloomin' Fried Chicken at Outback Steakhouse. She is not a traveler but enjoys visiting family in Pittsburgh, but most of all, she enjoys being home with her miniature schnauzer, Mocha.

Joan loves the small, family feel here at First Pres. She loves that everyone knows and loves everyone. She says, "It's like Cheers, where everyone knows your name." She loves the closeness here and that people are genuine. She says it's the closeness of family that she loves the most. If you see her on or near October 5th, be sure to wish her a Happy Birthday.



Birthdays

October 1 - Rayetta Bittinger

October 1 - Richard Rohler

October 5 - Joan Hawkins

October 25 - Myra Rose

October 30 - Malachi Barrett

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 **October 1, 2025**.
- **The Finance Committee** meets on the second Monday of each month at **11 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 08, 2025 at 3 p.m. for this meeting**.
- **The Worship Arts Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at **11 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 8, 2025**.
- **The Session** meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at **5 PM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 15, 2025**.
- **Adult Sunday School** meets every Sunday at **8:00 AM**, both in-person and via Zoom.
- **Children's Sunday School** meets every Sunday during worship and after the Children's Blessing.
- **The PEP (People Enjoying People)** will meet at Pioneer Pizza on Thursday, **October 23, 2025, at 12:30 PM**.
- **The Bell Choir** will meet on Wednesdays at **6:00 PM**.
- **The choir** will meet on Wednesdays at **6:30**.
- **The Chosen S-5** meets every Tuesday at 6:00 PM.
- **Prayer Group** meets on Wednesdays at **noon**.
- **The Prayer & Praise Service** may resume in November.



Tax-deductible
donations

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 ...

Bernadine Allesee & family - strenth & comfort

Eric & Ray Bittinger - health needs

Hazel & Jerry Brown - health needs

Carolyn & Charlie Brox - health needs

Barbara Edwards - health needs

Jean Heim - health needs

Marjorie Hill - health needs

Carolanne Hoehle - health needs

Senior Lee - health needs

Sue Littrell - health needs

Violet Logan/Green - strength & comfort

Richard Lund - health needs

Courtenay Mason - health needs

Brad Messick - health needs

Louis Miceli & Amy Rupert - health needs

George Mothershed - health needs

Julie Nunez - health needs

Valciana Officer - health needs

Ray Omar - health needs

Holly Parkin - health needs

Mavis Powell - health, strength & comfort

Danny Webb - strength needs

Debbie Webb - health needs

Donna Young - health needs

Deb Phelps' family - strength & comfort

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.



First Presbyterian Church
of Port Charlotte



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