



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
Port Charlotte, FL



November/2025 E-GRAM

Hello, **Everyone,**

Grace and Peace!

November invites us to remember those from First Pres Port Charlotte, who are now with the Lord. Over the past year, we have said goodbye to faithful friends and loved ones. Even as we still grieve their absence, we give thanks to God for their faith, their love, and the many ways they shaped our lives. Their example reminds us that a life of faith leaves a legacy that endures.

Growing up in Brazil, I learned that in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions, saints are believers whose lives displayed deep faith in Christ. They are honored as examples of holiness and devotion, and while some may ask for their intercession, they are not to be worshiped.

In our Historical Protestant tradition, we understand that every believer is a saint by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We honor those who came before us as examples of courage, faith, devotion, and service. Yet we pray only to God, trusting Christ alone as our Mediator and source of grace. Despite our differences, all Christians can agree that the saints remind us of what it means to live lives shaped by the love of Christ. We share in the "communion of saints," the spiritual unity of all believers – past, present, and future – joined together in Him.

As we remember our saints this November, we also turn our hearts toward stewardship. The many saints of FPCPC gave their time, talents, and treasures to serve God and care for others. Their faithfulness built the foundation we stand on today. Because of them, our church continues to worship, serve, and reach out with Christ's love in our little corner of the world.

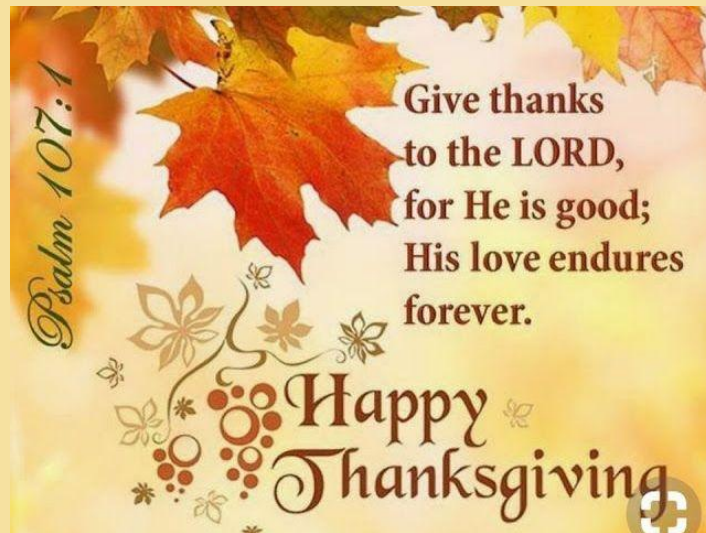
Their example challenges us to do the same. We are stewards of all God has entrusted to us. By strengthening our financial and mission foundation, we are

also honoring their legacy. It enables us to sustain the ministries they began and to create new opportunities for future generations.

When we give faithfully, we continue their work of sharing hope and love in Christ. Together, we can carry forward what they started. With gratitude for the past and faith in God's future, let us commit ourselves again to the mission they cherished. Let us proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in all we do.

Have a blessed November!

Pastor Syl



The Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County gratefully accepted the donations from our September Blessing Tree.



Once again, First Pres Port Charlotte was able to help another organization in our area, this time, the Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County. In the picture above, elders Nancy Sharpless, Ambrose Woods, and Elaine Woods are giving the staff of AWL a check from our church, as well as many gifts.

The Perfect Gift Idea.



Stained glass ornaments & more, brought to you by Weldon Degroot.

We have some stained-glass ornaments along the wall near the Parlor by the Gathering Room. Come and see the beauty, and let us know which one is your favorite.

If you think one of the ornaments would make a nice gift to someone you know, make us an offer and bless that person with a beautiful piece of art.

FPCPC and FLCRW “Getting to know you” Potluck



Pr. Syl is sitting with
Charlie Brox and
Courtenay Mason.





We invited Faith Lutheran Church Rotonda West, and they massively showed up! We enjoyed so many great dishes made by the faithful servants of both churches. We were truly blessed to have our Church Family get closer to our Lutheran brothers and sisters. It turns out, there is so much more that unites us than what divides us. Thank you to all who volunteered and to those who brought delicious food for all to enjoy.

PEP (People Enjoying People)



On October 23, 2025, the PEP group enjoyed Italian gems at Pioneer Pizza in Port Charlotte—great food with great people.

PEP will not be meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

October Blessing Tree



During **October**, our **Blessing Tree** collected donations for the **Virginia B. Andes Breast Cancer Program in Charlotte County**. Together, we collected a total of \$514. Thank you to all who donated. Next month, we will be collecting donations for our very own food pantry. Please refer to the details later in the newsletter.

October Birthdays



We were blessed to celebrate some of our October birthdays on Sunday, October 26, 2025. Joan Hawkins, Raye Bittenger, Myra Rose, and Richard Rohlehr are pictured here with Pr. Syl.

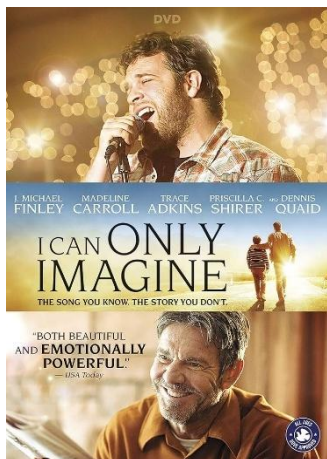


UPCOMING EVENTS



November Blessing Tree

Please help us collect donations for our Food Pantry. We will be collecting items for Thanksgiving for our Charlotte County Community. We will collect the following: Turkeys, cream of mushroom soup, canned vegetables, green & black olives, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, etc. We can also accept monetary donations to buy items. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Join us for movie night featuring, *I Can Only Imagine*, **November 18, 2025, at 5 PM.**

We will enjoy pizza and drinks.

If you do not drive at night, please call the office at 941-625-5045 to make arrangements for someone to pick you up.

Called Congregational Meeting

For the purpose of
electing new
church officers.
**Sunday, November
23, 2025, after the
Sunday service.**

Congregational
Meeting



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.

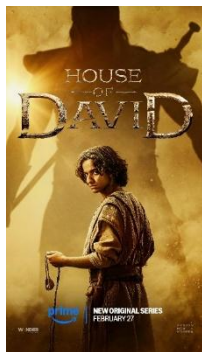
Poinsettias



Stained Glass



We will have Poinsettias and stained-glass items. Prices to be determined. Look for more details in future bulletins.



Coming this January, every Tuesday, we will meet for the news series *House of David*, beginning with Season 1.

We will enjoy popcorn and drinks.

PET OF THE MONTH



Our Pet of the Month belongs to our Office Administrator. Pam's dog, Blue, loves and protects his family but does not like thunderstorms.

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, Nov. 2



- 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.
- **ALL SAINTS DAY SUNDAY.**

Monday, Nov. 3



- *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom - 8 AM.
- **Harry Chapin Quarterly Meeting - from 8 AM to 3 PM.**

Tuesday, Nov. 4

- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.

Wednesday, Nov. 5



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

Sunday, Nov. 9

- 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, Nov. 10

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

Tuesday, Nov. 11

- **Veterans Day**



Wednesday, Nov. 12



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

Sunday, Nov. 16

- 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, Nov. 17

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

Tuesday, Nov. 18



- Food Pantry - from 8 to 11 AM.
- **Movie Night, featuring "I Can Only Imagine" at 5 PM.**

Wednesday, Nov. 19



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

Thursday, Nov. 20

- Finance meeting – 3:30 PM.
- Session Meeting - 5 PM.



Sunday, Nov. 23



- 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.
- **Congregational Meeting immediately after service.**

Monday, Nov. 24

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

Wednesday, Nov. 26



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

Thursday, Nov. 27

- **Thanksgiving Day**
- **Office Closed**



Saturday, Nov. 29

- **Advent/Christmas Decorating
1 PM.**



Sunday, Nov. 30



- 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 November Birthdays & Anniversaries.**



All Saints Day is November 1, 2025. It is the day we honor those believers who have transferred their membership from here on earth to the Church Triumphant. Or, as Paul put it, they are “with Christ, which is better by far” (Philippians 1:23). A Bell ringing will take place on Sunday, November 2, 2025, during worship.



Audreyann Parent

November 21, 1931
- January 05, 2025



Marjorie L. Hansen

July 27, 1928 - Dec. 26, 2024



Stephen R. Vallillo

Nov. 5, 1954 - Feb. 18, 2025



Rebekah M. Baird

Apr. 5, 1931 - March 1, 2025



Stephen A. Powell

May 20, 1964 - March 23, 2025



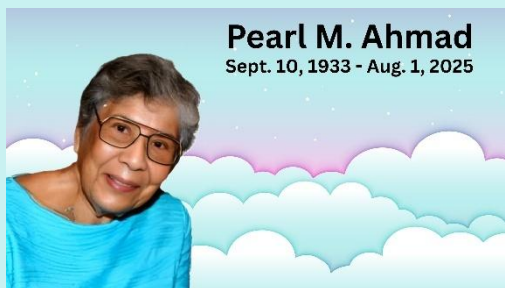
Ruth A. Hester

Aug. 17, 1924 - Apr. 1, 2025



Mary H. Kerr

Apr. 16, 1925 - Apr. 2, 2025



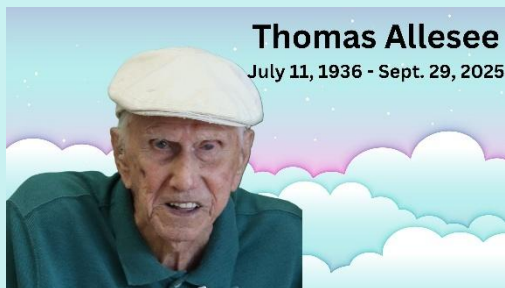
Pearl M. Ahmad

Sept. 10, 1933 - Aug. 1, 2025



Donna A. Livengood

Apr. 19, 1939 - Aug. 16, 2025



Thomas Allesee

July 11, 1936 - Sept. 29, 2025

MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE WITH THE LORD!



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

This year, First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte will host Harry Chapin Food Bank's Quarterly meeting on November 3, 2025, from 12:30 - 3 PM.



A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

As we rapidly approach the Holiday Season, please circle your calendar for the following musical presentations!

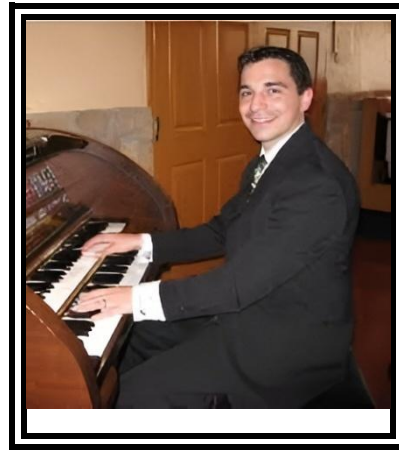
On Sunday, November 9th at 3:00 p.m., we will host a free concert featuring organist Cary Price. This is a very special performance, as he will be playing on our newly acquired organ to demonstrate the many sounds it can produce. You will be truly amazed!

This year, I am thrilled to announce that our Christmas Cantata, "Sing A Song of Christmas," will be performed by a choir of 19 voices, as Faith Lutheran Church is providing us with nine additional singers. The first performance of this cantata will be at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, Dec. 7, during their Worship Service. The second performance will be at our Worship Service on Sunday, Dec. 14. It has been a joy working with this combined group of singers and our talented pianists Heather DeGroot and Candace Montesi, who is the music director at Faith Lutheran Church.

Please try to attend and bring a neighbor or friend. Let's fill our sanctuary with joy on Dec. 14, as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

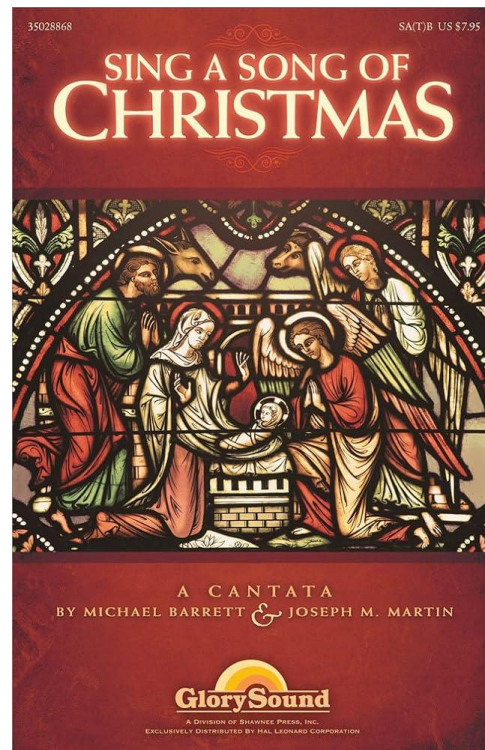
Cary Price Concert

Join us for a good time on
November 9, 2025, at 3 PM,
featuring Cary Price on the Organ
keys for a fun and enjoyable time.
Free will offering.

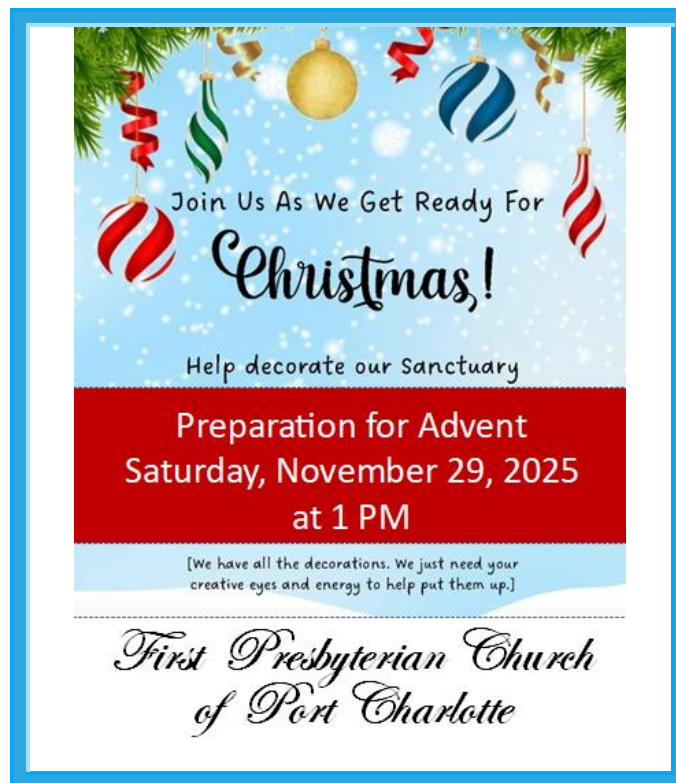


Christmas Cantata

Our Christmas Cantata, “**Sing A Song of Christmas,**” will be performed by a choir of 19 voices, as Faith Lutheran Church is providing us with nine additional singers. The first performance of this cantata will be at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, **Dec. 7**, during their Worship Service. The second performance will be at our Worship Service on Sunday, **Dec. 14**.



Volunteers needed



MEMBER ON FOCUS

Have you met?



Laverne Sinkia

Laverne Sinkia was born and raised in Manchester, Jamaica. After turning 17, her family migrated to Montreal, Canada, to a place where her mother's family lived. After high school, Laverne attended Concordia College and worked part-time at the Royal Bank of Canada. She began working as a Teller and ended 38 years later as Branch Manager. During these years, Laverne relocated to Toronto and was later married to her husband of 48 years, Robert. Together, Laverne and Robert raised their four children: Ginette, Kirk, Roberta, and Dayton.

Laverne and Robert moved to Port Charlotte, Florida, after she retired from the bank, to be close to family. Because Laverne was passionate about banking, and even though she had already retired, she found herself working part-time for eight years at SunTrust Bank, at the Southport Square location. Before officially retiring once more. During her time at SunTrust, she met Dottie Gamble. Dottie convinced her to try out First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte.

Laverne has been very involved with First Pres. She served as a Deacon for many years and even chaired the board. She became a Ruling Elder for many years, as well as serving as the Finance Chair and on the Personnel committee. Laverne has also participated in doing communion and was on the Presbyterian Nominating Committee.

Laverne's favorite food is a toss-up between Red Snapper and Oxtail. She loves them both. She has traveled to Hawaii and other places, but her favorite vacation took place in South Africa. She talked of the beautiful beaches, the flat mountain, Soweto Village, and the Cape of Good Hope. She says there is so much history there.

Laverne and Robert now have four grandchildren, with number five on the way, due this month, as a matter of fact. She looks forward to meeting the new grandbaby soon.

Laverne loves First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte. She loves the friendliness of the people and likes that the church is small and homey. She loves that everyone seems to know one another and continues to be an honorable member.



November 3- Tanner Braun
 November 8- Kathy Bruyere
 November 8- Mavis Powell
 November 28- Stephen Goettl
 November 28- Courtenay Mason

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 **November 5, 2025**.
- **The Finance Committee** meets on the second Monday of each month at **11 AM**. This month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **November 20, 2025**.
- **The Worship Arts Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at **11 AM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **November 12, 2025**.
- **The Session** meets on the third Thursday of each month, at **5 PM**. The next meeting is scheduled for **November 20, 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 not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **The Bell Choir** will meet on Wednesdays at **6:00 PM**.
- **The choir** will meet on Wednesdays at **6:30**.
- **Movie Night: *I Can Only Imagine*** at **5:00 PM**.
- **The Chosen Christmas Specials** will be shown in December, and then, in January, we will be showing a new series called **The House of David**. We will begin meeting every Tuesday at **6:00 PM**.
- **Prayer Group** meets on Wednesdays at noon.
- **Decorating the Sanctuary. Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 1 PM.**
- **The Prayer & Praise Service** may resume in January. Look for details in the December E-gram.



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
Bernadine Allesee family - strength & 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
Loren Livengood - health needs
Richard Lund - health needs
Courtenay Mason - health needs
Brad Messick - health needs
Nancy Newport - 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
Deb Phelps' family - strength & comfort
Mavis Powell - health, strength & comfort
Bernardo Vieira - health needs
Danny Webb - strength needs
Debbie Webb - health needs
Donna Young - health 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**.