

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PORT CHARLOTTE

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

We remember history so we don't repeat it.
Let's stand against racism, prejudice, and
discrimination.

February/2026 E-GRAM



From the

Pastor's Desk

My dear, **Pamela**, peace be with you!

February is already here, and with it, three opportunities to help us become better Christians: Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Black History Month.

First, Ash Wednesday. When ashes are placed on our foreheads, they remind us that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. This is not meant to scare us, but to tell us the truth about our lives, namely, life is short, and we are here only for a brief moment. Psalm 90 reminds us that we usually live seventy years, or with luck, eighty, and often all we have to show for it are our days of toil, our troubles, and eventually a marker in the graveyard. That is why the psalmist prays, "Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom (v.12)."

I must agree with the Psalmist. Life is indeed brief, and as the years go by, we should grow in wisdom. Yet, as the French philosopher René Descartes once observed, people often complain about lacking money, health, and even beauty, but rarely about lacking good judgment. Most people assume we have enough “good sense” in us as is, and nobody prays for more.

This is why, on the first Sunday of this month, the prophet Micah will remind us that we are required to walk humbly with our Lord. Humility may be humanity’s greatest challenge, since we cannot help but think we are capable of judging everything, convinced that our ways are always right. However, Scripture begs to differ. Proverbs 12:15 says, “Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice.”

So, listen to this, my beloved.

Second, Lent. In the forty days that follow Ash Wednesday and in anticipation of Easter, let us seek to walk humbly with the Lord, making more room for prayer, repentance, generosity, and listening more closely to God’s voice. This season is an open invitation for us to grow in humility. We may come as we are, trusting that the same God who meets us in ashes will also meet us in resurrection joy.

Third, Black History Month. As part of our Lenten journey, I invite you to learn with me from our African–American brothers and sisters, and from their struggles to have their dignity recognized as people created in the image of God. Let us see if the mistakes of the past can help us to create a better present and future for everyone.

As we walk through Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Black History Month, may God teach us to number our days, grow in wisdom, walk humbly, and listen more closely for God’s voice in our lives and in the lives of others.

God bless you and your family.

Pastor Syl



What's Happening at First Pres

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – 2026

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays – 9 AM to 2 PM

Wednesdays and Fridays – Office Closed

Sunday, Feb. 1

- 7:45 AM – Coffee & Pastries.
- 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School (On Zoom at 8:05 AM).
- 9:00 AM – Sunday Lord's Supper Service.
- ~9:20 AM – Children's Sunday School (after Children's Blessing).

Monday, Feb. 2

- 8:00 AM – *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom.
- 6:30 PM – Bell Choir Rehearsal.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.
- 5:00 PM – House of David Series (Season 1 – Episode 4).

Wednesday, Feb. 4

- 12:00 PM – Prayer Group Meeting.
- 1:30 PM – Board of Deacons Meeting.
- 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday, Feb. 5

- 7:00 PM Praise and Prayer Midweek Evening Service.

Sunday, Feb. 8

- 7:45 AM – Coffee & Pastries.
- 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School (On Zoom at 8:05 AM).
- 9:00 AM – Sunday Ordinary Service & “Souper Bowl of Caring” Soup Can Drive.
- ~9:20 AM – Children’s Sunday School (after Children’s Blessing).
- 3:00 PM – Gospel Singers Concert.

Monday, Feb. 9

- 8:00 AM – *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom.
- 6:30 PM – Bell Choir Rehearsal.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

- 7:30 AM – Men’s Breakfast with Pastor Syl at IHOP Port Charlotte.
- 5:00 PM – House of David Series (Season 1 – Episode 5).

Wednesday, Feb. 11

- 11:00 AM – Worship Arts Committee Meeting.
- 12:00 PM – Prayer Group Meeting.
- 4:00 – 6:30 PM – Food Pantry.
- 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday, Feb. 12

- 7:00 PM – Praise & Prayer Midweek Evening Service.

Sunday, Feb. 15

- 7:45 AM – Coffee & Pastries.
- 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School (On Zoom at 8:05 AM).
- 9:00 AM – Sunday Ordinary Service.

- ~9:20 AM – Children’s Sunday School (after Children’s Blessing).

Monday, Feb. 16

- 8:00 AM – *Lectio–Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom.
- 6:30 PM – Bell Choir Rehearsal.
- **President’s Day.**

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- **8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.**
- 5:00 PM – House of David Series (Season 1 – Episode 6).

Wednesday, Feb. 18

- **12:00 PM – Ash Wednesday Midday Service.**
- 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday, Feb. 19

- 9:00 AM – 2 PM – Peace River Presbytery Stated Meeting in Bradenton, FL.
- **4:00 PM – Finance Committee Meeting.**
- **5:00 PM – Session Meeting.**
- 7:00 PM – Praise & Prayer Midweek Evening Service.

Sunday, Feb. 22

- 7:45 AM – Coffee & Pastries.
- 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School (On Zoom at 8:05 AM).
- **9:00 AM – Sunday Ordinary Service.**
- ~9:20 AM – Children’s Sunday School – (after Children’s Blessing).
- **10:00 AM – Annual Congregational Meeting.**
- **11:00 AM – Black History Month Luncheon.**

Monday, Feb. 23

- 8:00 AM – *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom.
- 6:30 PM – Bell Choir Rehearsal.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

- 5:00 PM – House of David Series (Season 1 – Episode 7).

Wednesday, Feb. 25

- 12:00 PM – Prayer Group Meeting.
- 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday, Feb. 26

- 12:30 PM – PEP Group meets for lunch at Cheddar's.
- 7:00 PM – Praise & Prayer Midweek Evening Service.

Saturday, Feb. 28

- 10:30 AM – Healing Hearts Event.
-



Last Month's

Recap

Delivery for Misión Peniel



Thank you to all who participated in donating shoes and to those who took the time to personally deliver the shoes for Misión Peniel.

Blessing Tree & Benevolent Fund



Thank you to all who participated in donating to our Blessing Tree. Through you, now our Deacons can bless a few more of our neighbors. You are a wonderful blessing to people who come to us in need of help during hard times.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



We celebrated the birthdays in January with cake and fellowship. Standing with Pr. Syl, we have Nancy Emrick, Amy Rupert, Barbara Danylak, Claudemir Sathler, and Veronica Walters. Happy Birthday again to all this special people.



Upcoming Events



A note from FPCPC Music Director

Our Bell Choir will begin weekly rehearsals starting Monday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 PM. Anyone interested in joining is welcome. No prior experience in bell ringing is necessary.

Our Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday at 6:30 PM. We are always happy to welcome new voices to our choir.

We have two outstanding concerts coming up.

The first will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 3 PM by “Final Harvest”, a female singing trio who will perform Gospel, Contemporary, and original music selections.

The second will take place on Sunday, March 22, at 3 PM. This program will feature Jack Dauner, a Swiss–American concert pianist. Tickets are now available for \$15. Each, or purchase a combo Package for \$25.

Please tell your friends and family about these concerts and hopefully, we can fill our Sanctuary. We need your support to continue providing a variety of entertaining events!

Please tell your friends and family about these concerts and hopefully, we can fill our Sanctuary. We need your support to continue providing a variety of entertaining events!

Tickets for these concerts are now available after our church service or by contacting Sue Brembs at 941–241–6480.

Blessings,

Sue Brembs, Music Director

MONTHLY EVENTS

Feb. 8 – Final Harvest Gospel Trio



Sings a wide range of music styles, including southern gospel, contemporary, and original classical inspirational. Final Harvest seriously pursues communicating the gospel of Jesus through music.

Feb. 8 – Souper Bowl of Caring



This month, we invite you to help us feed our community by donating cans of soup on February 8, 2026, Super Bowl Day. Strap a dollar bill of any amount to the cans, and we will be able to help even further.

How can you help?

1. Donate cans of soup.
2. Make a Donation: Place your cash or check in a Blessing Tree envelope and drop it in the designated box.

Your generosity ensures that when our neighbors face difficult times, we can offer them a helping hand and a sign of hope.

Feb. 10 – Men’s Breakfast Fellowship



Join Pastor Syl for a new monthly fellowship opportunity! Inspired by our friends at Faith Lutheran, we’re starting our own Men’s Breakfast Fellowship on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Meet us at 7:30 AM at IHOP for great food and even better company.

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday Service



On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads and hear the sobering words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” or “Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” These words are not meant to shame us, but to tell the truth about our lives: we are fragile, dependent on God, and always in need of grace. Let us mark our Season of Lent with a midday service on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 12–noon.

Feb. 22 – Annual Congregational Meeting & Black History Month Luncheon



On Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 10 AM, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. Following at 11 AM, we will celebrate Black History Month with a luncheon. Bring your favorite “Soul/Southern/Jamaican Food” dish and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Feb. 26 – PEP (People Enjoying People)



The PEP will meet for lunch on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Cheddar’s (18600 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL), at 12:30 PM. Please RSVP with Carol Dunkak–Dunekirchen.

Feb. 28 – Healing Hearts Event



In moments of loss, the search for solace can be daunting. Join us for a presentation with Chris Parent from Empath Health, where we'll explore ways to understand and cope with grief. Remember, you don't have to navigate the path of healing alone. Grief is a shared human experience, and this session will provide valuable insights for our journey. The event will be Saturday, Feb. 28, at 10:30 AM.

WEEKLY EVENTS



Join our brothers and sisters at Wintergarden Pres every Monday at 8: 00 AM for deep reflection on God's word. To connect, go to www.zoom.us, and click "Join" in the upper-right-hand corner. Meeting ID: 87832080869
Passcode: 396015

On M

On Tuesdays – Movie Nights



Every Tuesday, now at 5:00 PM, we will meet to watch the new series **House of David – Season 1**. We will enjoy popcorn and drinks, and great fellowship. Pastor Syl is also preparing a special lesson for February 3rd, about the period of King David's time, and a brief overview of the time prior to that.

On Wednesdays – Fill Your Year with Prayers



Every Wednesday at 12–noon, our Prayer group will meet at First Pres' gathering room. All are encouraged to participate and welcome. There is power in prayer, and we know we can make a real difference in people's lives if we just pray.

On Thursdays – Renew Your Spirit: Prayer & Praise Cotemporary Service is back!



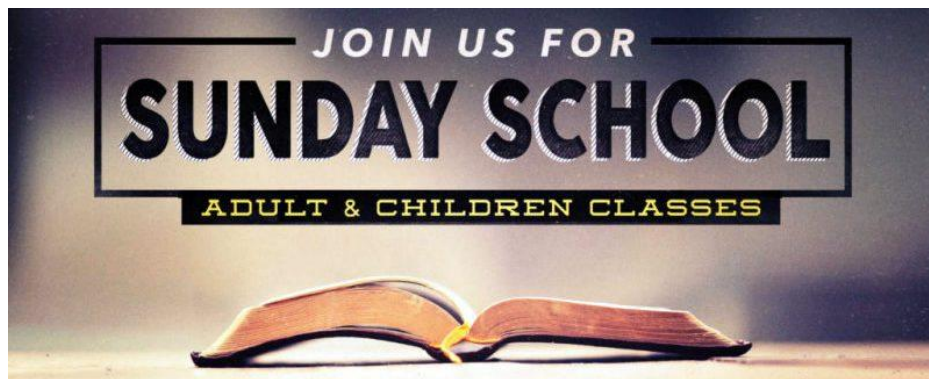
Our Praise & Prayer Evening Midweek Worship service is every **Thursday** at **7 PM**. The service is led by Pastor Syl and Nick Miceli.

Life is so busy, so it can be hard to find a moment of true peace. This service is designed to be your mid-week sanctuary, a sacred hour dedicated entirely to prayer and adoration.

Whether you are carrying a heavy burden, seeking guidance, or simply want to rest in God's presence, this is the place for you. This will be a quiet, spirit-filled church service focused on worshiping through song and heartfelt prayer.

Come as you are, and let's lift our voices and hearts together. We invite you to make this a part of your weekly rhythm as we journey toward Maundy Thursday. We can't wait to see how the Spirit moves among us!

On Sundays – Bible School



Our Sunday School classes are truly wonderful, thanks to our dedicated Christian Education Committee and our resident Bible expert and Christian Educator, Elder Sandy Asaro. Whether you join us in person or online, there is a place for you! Adult Bible studies begin at 8 AM, while children's classes start right after the Children's Blessing during the service.



Birthdays & *Anniversaries*

February 1 – Marjorie Lotz

February 7 – Alzie Lee

February 16 – Joan Barry

February 21 – Carolyn Brox

February 24 – Jeanne Fell

February 26 – Jackie Witt

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



We are Praying for...

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

Paul Heins & Ann Boubant – strength & comfort

Amy Rupert – strength & comfort

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

Sue Thompson – strength & comfort

Bernardo Vieira – health needs

Danny Webb – strength needs

Debbie Webb – 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**.