

First Presbyterian Church

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

2230 HARIET ST
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952
941-625-5925
WWW.FPCPC.COM



March/2026 E-GRAM



From the Pastor's Desk

Hello, **Everyone**, peace be with you!

John 4:5–42 is one of the passages the church lectionary will bring us this month of March. In that passage, our Lord sits at a well in Samaria and speaks with a woman whom the people in her own community avoided. She was a Samaritan. She was a woman. She carried a complicated past. In the world of first-century Judea, each of those facts made her unwanted. Despite that, Jesus treated her as a person made in the image of God.

As we approach St. Patrick's Day, I was reminded of some of the people I worked with in a resort in Idaho. Two of them had very distinct Irish names. Both were proud US Citizens. Then, I was reminded that even the Irish were once pushed to the edges of the American life. In cities across the nation, signs were posted that read "No Irish Need Apply." They were mocked for their accents, suspected because of their extreme poverty, and distrusted because many were Catholic. Over time, Irish families found their place. They built neighborhoods, served in public office, and strengthened churches. Sadly, their story is not unique. Italians, Germans, Jews, African Americans, Asians, and many others have walked or are walking similar paths. Even though the American story is full of opportunities, it is also full of struggles.

If you study church history with me this fall at Calvary Chapel's Bible College, you will notice that churches have not always spoken clearly when neighbors were excluded or mistreated. At times, we were silent. At times, we opted to be cautious even though people were being hurt. At times, we just did not care enough. The gospel, however, does not permit indifference. If Christians are to follow the example of Jesus in John 4, Jesus crosses social, ethnic, gender, and religious boundaries without hesitation. He did not ignore the woman's faults, but even when confronting her, He did so with truth and grace. He showed that the kingdom of God gathers those whom society keeps apart. He showed us He cared for someone when his people or her own people didn't.

In our own communities here in Florida, we continue to meet people who quietly wonder whether there is a place for them. Some carry accents. Some carry poverty. Some carry mistakes from their past. Some simply carry the weight of being different. The church of Jesus Christ must not repeat old silences. We are called to see as our Lord sees, to speak when dignity is denied, and to open our doors and our hearts without partiality. If Jesus could sit at a well and begin a new story with someone others dismissed, then we can cross the street, start the conversation, and make room at the table. May we be known as congregations where no one hears "No need apply," but instead hears the gracious invitation of Christ, who still wants to welcome people from many backgrounds and have us calling them brothers and sisters in faith.

God bless you and your family.

Pastor Syl



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – 2026

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

Wednesdays and Fridays – Office Closed

Sunday, Mar. 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, Mar. 2

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

Tuesday, Mar. 3

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

Wednesday, Mar. 4

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

Thursday, Mar. 5

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

Sunday, Mar. 8

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

Monday, Mar. 9

- 8:00 AM – *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom.
- 6:30 PM – Bell Choir Rehearsal.
- **Pastor Syl will be away at a Presbyterian conference.**

Tuesday, Mar. 10

- No Men’s breakfast.
- No House of David.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

● **Pastor Syl will be away at a Presbyterian conference.**

- 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.

● **Pastor Syl will be away at a Presbyterian conference.**

Thursday, Mar. 12

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

Sunday, Mar. 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, Mar. 16

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

Tuesday, Mar. 17

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.

Wednesday, Mar. 18

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

Thursday, Mar. 19

- 4:00 PM – Finance Committee Meeting.
- 5:00 PM – Session Meeting.

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

Sunday, Mar. 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).
- 3:00 PM – **Jack Dauner Concert.**

Monday, Mar. 23

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

Wednesday, Mar. 25

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

Thursday, Mar. 26

- 12:30 PM – PEP Group meets for
lunch at Olive Garden. RSVP sign-
up sheet.
- 7:00 PM – Praise & Prayer
Midweek Evening Service.

Saturday, Mar. 28

- 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Spaghetti
Fundraiser at Wintergarden
Presbyterian Church (18305
Wintergarden Ave).

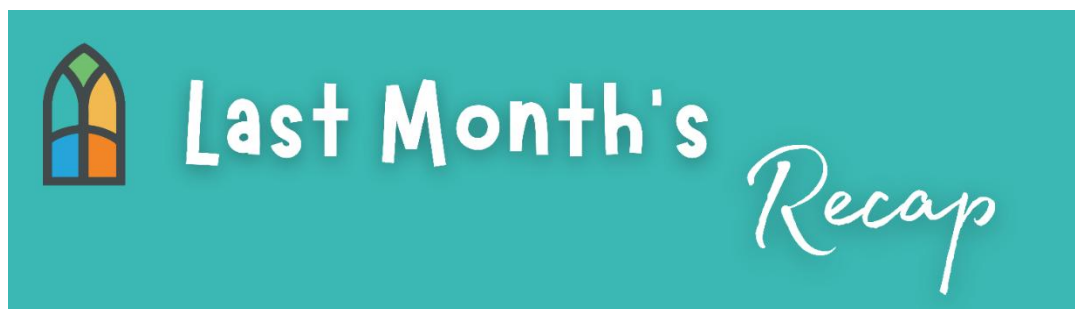
Sunday, Mar. 29

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

- ~9:20 AM – Children’s Sunday School – (after Children’s Blessing).
- February & March Birthdays and Anniversaries celebrations after service.

Monday, Mar. 30

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



Special Music



From time to time, our choir soloists will do a special music piece for us. We have some beautiful voices in our choir. Last month, it came from Veronica Walters, who sang *Wayfaring Stranger*. What a beautiful song. Thank you, Veronica, for sharing your special talent, and thank you, Sue for playing with them.

Souper Bowl of Caring Results



We did it again, Church family! 🙌 Thanks to your incredible generosity and the generosity of our brothers and sisters at Rock Calvary Chapel, Faith Lutheran Rotonda West, St. Paul's Presbyterian, and Burnt Store Presbyterian, we've reached a staggering \$1,053 and 1,894 cans! 📦 ✨

This means thousands of meals for our neighbors in need, and our hearts are absolutely overflowing with joy. A massive thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this miracle happen!"

Final Harvest Concert



Final Harvest sang beautifully for an outstanding performance. Thank you to all who purchased tickets to bring this amazing talent to First Pres Port Charlotte.

Black History Month Luncheon



On Sunday, February 22nd, our gathering room was filled with an extra measure of joy as we celebrated Black History Month with a special Luncheon. Following our annual congregational meeting, our small community came together to honor the profound legacy and contributions of the Black people through the universal languages of food and fellowship.

The tables were overflowing with a delicious spread of Soul, Southern, and Jamaican favorites, a true feast for both the body and the soul! More important than the food, however, was the laughter and connection shared across the table. It was a beautiful reminder of how blessed we are to walk together as a diverse, united family in Christ. Thank you to everyone who cooked, served, and joined us for this unforgettable celebration!





Special thanks to these amazing ladies, from left to right, Deacon Hazel Mason, Elder Claudette McLennon, Deacon Jaz McLennon, Deacon Norma Campbell, and Elder Alzie Lee.

Men's Breakfast



Our first Men's Breakfast encounter of the year was a wonderful morning of meaningful conversation and connection! While our gathering was small, with only two of our dedicated brothers joining Pastor Syl for a hearty meal, the spirit of fellowship was strong. We shared a great breakfast, a moment of prayer, and a few laughs to start the day right.

Note for March: Because Pastor Syl will be away in Orlando on the second Tuesday of this month, we will be taking a short break. There will be no Men's Breakfast in March. However, we are already looking forward to our next meeting! We would love to see our table grow, so please consider joining us next time for food, faith, and friendship. Whether you're a regular or have never been, there is a seat saved just for you!

PEP (People Enjoying People)



Our PEP group recently had a wonderful time gathering at Cheddar's for an afternoon of great food and even better company! It was a joy to see so many smiling faces around the table, sharing stories and strengthening our bonds of friendship. These moments of simple fellowship are truly what the PEP group is all about.

We are keeping the momentum going with our next lunch on Thursday, **March 26, 2026**, at **12:30 PM**. This month, we'll be heading to **Olive Garden** (1341 Tamiami Trail) to enjoy some breadsticks, pasta, and plenty of laughs! Please sign the RSVP sheet located at the front of the church or let Deacon Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen know you are coming.

Margie Lotz-Hills Says Hello



It is a difficult reality that some of our members are no longer able to join us for Sunday service, often due to moving into assisted care rather than a lack of desire to be with us. This is currently the case for our dear friend, Margie.

However, distance does not mean disconnection. Pastor Syl continues to visit our homebound members regularly to ensure they remain a vital part of our church family. In this photo, Pastor Syl and Margie enjoyed a beautiful moment together, catching some sunshine and fresh air outdoors.



Upcoming Events



A note from FPCPC Music Director

We have an outstanding concert coming up.

It 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.

Please share this concert with your friends and family, and hopefully, we can fill our Sanctuary. We need your support to continue providing a variety of entertaining events!

Tickets for this concert are now available after our church service or by contacting me at 941-241-6480.

Blessings,

Sue Brembs

March 22nd at 3 PM – Featuring Jack Dauner, a Swiss–American pianist.



Jack Dauner is a classical pianist, composer, and vocal accompanist. He often incorporates inspirations from nature and wildlife, which he enjoys capturing through the medium of photography, into his musical work.

MONTHLY EVENTS

New Blessing Tree schedule

Although we successfully helped 12 different causes last year, this year, because of our limited resources, our church Session decided we should concentrate our efforts on fewer causes. We want to ensure our outreach makes a deeper impact, and by narrowing our scope, your generous donations can provide more meaningful support to those in need.

Our 2026 Focus Areas:

January: Benevolence Fund

First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte Benevolence Fund Tags with suggested amounts will be placed on the tree. Anyone wishing to participate will take a tag with the amount they wish to donate. Envelopes marked Blessing Tree will be provided for people to use. A person will select a tag and place it with either cash or a check made out to First Presbyterian Church in the envelope. Filled envelopes will be placed in a box by the tree.

February: Souper Bowl Sunday

Souper Bowl Sunday will be extended for the month. Anyone attending will be asked to bring cans of soup for our own Food Pantry. If a person prefers, he or she may write a check or donate cash in a provided envelope.

April/May: Animal Welfare of Charlotte County

Pet food, towels, blankets, pet treats, pet toys, etc.

June/July: Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project

Sneakers for school-age children – children’s sizes 5 through adult 12.

August: Benevolence Fund

First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte Benevolence Fund Tags with suggested amounts will be placed on the tree. Anyone wishing to participate will take a tag with the amount they wish to donate. Envelopes marked Blessing Tree will be provided for people to use. A person will select a tag and place it with either cash or a check made out to First Presbyterian Church in the envelope. Filled envelopes will be placed in a box by the tree.

October/November: First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

Thanksgiving foods – cream of mushroom soup, canned vegetables, green and black olives, cranberry sauce, turkeys, stuffing mix, boxed potato casseroles, etc.

December: Mision Peniel in Immokalee, FL

Clothing for adults and seniors: jeans, shirts, socks, shoes and sweaters.

Mar. 26 – PEP (People Enjoying People)



The PEP will meet for lunch on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**, at Olive Garden (1341 Tamiami Trail) at 12:30 PM. Please RSVP by signing the sign-up sheet provided by Carol Dunkak–Dunekirchen at the front of the church.

Easter Lily for your loved ones



Beginning Sunday, March 8th, there will be an Easter Lily insert in the bulletin to donate in loving memory of, in honor of, or to the glory of your loved one. The deadline to return forms is **Thursday, March 9, 2026**. Please place it in the offering plate on Sunday or bring it to the church office.

WEEKLY EVENTS

On Mondays – *Lectio Divina* Online



Join our brothers and sisters of Wintergarden Pres, online, 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: 878 3208 0869

Passcode: 396015

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 – Fill Your Spirit with Praise

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

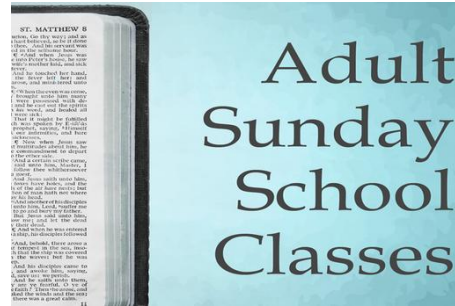
Life is so busy, so it can be hard to find a moment of true peace. This service is designed to be your mid-week sanctuary, a sacred hour dedicated entirely to prayer and adoration.

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, 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.

OTHER EVENTS (COMMUNITY)

NURTURING THE NEIGHBORHOOD ON WINTERGARDEN

W *AWCE Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser*

TO SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY



SUGGESTED DONATION
\$15/ADULT
\$5/CHILD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
3:30-4:30PM TAKE OUT
4:30-6:30PM ALL YOU CAN EAT
SIT DOWN DINNER

18305 Wintergarden Ave,
Port Charlotte FL 33948



Forever in

Our Hearts

Senior Lee

July 12, 1942 – Feb. 19, 2026



Birthdays &

Anniversaries

March 6 - Weldon DeGroot

March 20 - Claudette McLennon

March 29 - Susan Littrell

March 30 - Barbara Soine

March 30 - Ambrose Woods

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



FPCPC

Online

PLEASE, FOLLOW OUR CHURCH
ON FACEBOOK, AND PASTOR SYL
ON INSTAGRAM AND YOUTUBE.



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 Family – strength & comfort

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.



Our Church's *Affiliations*



The **First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte** is part of the **Presbyterian Church USA**, under the care of the **Peace River Presbytery**. We are also part of the compendium of Reformed and Presbyterian churches worldwide.