

# First Presbyterian Church

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

2230 HARIET ST  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952  
941-625-5045  
WWW.FPCPC.COM

## April/2026 E-GRAM



# From the

# Pastor's Desk

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

As we step into April, our hearts turn toward the garden. In our Gospel passage for Easter Day (John 20:1-18), we find Mary Magdalene standing in the morning mist, weeping at an empty tomb. Her grief is profound until the Risen Christ speaks her name, transforming a place of death into a site of ultimate hope. This “empty” space was not a sign of loss, but the first breath of a new creation. For us, the empty tomb is the foundation of our life together and a reminder that, no matter how deep the shadows of our world may seem, after Good Friday, there is always Easter, and God’s love has already won the day.

This month, I invite you to walk the full length of our Holy Week observances. Our journey begins with the intimacy of a **Maundy Thursday Meal Service**, where we gather around the table to remember

Jesus' last meal with his disciples before He faced the cross. We then transition into the solemnity of our **Good Friday Tenebrae Service**, where the deepening darkness allows us to contemplate the gravity of the cross. Finally, we will gather for our **Traditional Sunday Easter Service**, lifting our voices in the hymns that have sustained our faith for generations, celebrating the truth that Christ is risen indeed.

Besides Holy Week, April is also special for a different reason. In April, we celebrate "Earth Day" and "Arbor Day." There is a holy resonance in the fact that Mary Magdalene initially mistook the risen Jesus for a gardener. In a way, He is the Great Gardener, the author of all life who sustains the world with a steady hand. While we may not all be out planting new trees, we can certainly pause to offer thanks for the beauty of God's creation. For us, these days are simply a reminder to look out our windows and praise the One who made the heavens and the earth, and who called Creation "good".

As your pastor here at FPCPC, I am deeply grateful for the particular way we witness to Christ's love together. May this season of renewal bring you a renewed sense of God's calling and the peace that passes all understanding.

God bless you!

Pastor Syl



# What's Happening at First Pres

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Wednesdays and Fridays – Office Closed

### Wednesday, Apr. 1

- 11:00 AM – Tom Allesee's Celebration of Life Service.
- 12:00 PM – Repast at the Gathering room (no prayer group meeting due to service).
- 1:30 PM – Board of Deacons Meeting.
- 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

### Thursday, Apr. 2

- 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Meal Service.

### Friday, Apr. 3

- 7:00 PM Good Friday *Tenebrae* Service.

### Sunday, Apr. 5

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

### Monday, Apr. 6

- 8:00 AM – *Lectio-Divina* with Wintergarden Pres on Zoom.

**Tuesday, Apr. 7**

- 6:30 PM – Bell Choir Rehearsal.
- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.
- 5:00 PM – House of David Season 2 Episode 1.

**Wednesday, Apr. 8**

- 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.

**Sunday, Apr. 12**

- 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, Apr. 13**

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

**Tuesday, Apr. 14**

- 7:00 AM – Men’s breakfast.
- 5:00 PM – House of David Season 2 Episode 2.

**Wednesday, Apr. 15**

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

**Thursday, Apr. 16**

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

**Sunday, Apr. 19**

- 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, Apr. 20**

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

## **Tuesday, Apr. 21**

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.
- 5:00 PM – House of David Season 2 Episode 3.

## **Wednesday, Apr. 22**

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

## **Friday, Apr. 24**

- Arbor Day

## **Saturday, Apr. 25**

- 11:00 AM – Louis Miceli’s Celebration of Life Service

## **Sunday, Apr. 26**

- 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).
- April Birthday celebrations following the service.

## **Monday, Apr. 27**

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

**Tuesday, Apr. 28**

- 5:00 PM – House of David Season 2 Episode 4.

**Wednesday, Apr. 29**

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

**Thursday, Apr. 30**

- 12:30 PM – PEP Group meets for lunch at Pita & Puffs. RSVP Holly Parkin at 941-240-0758.



**Last Month's**

*Recap*

## **Harry Chapin Quarterly Meeting**



First Presbyterian Church recently welcomed the Harry Chapin team for their quarterly meeting on March 2, 2026. The event served as a valuable hub for professional development, providing specialized training for our volunteers and partner organizations alike. As two-time hosts of this meeting, we value our deepening partnership with Harry Chapin and look forward to our continued collective efforts to alleviate food insecurity in the community.

# Luminosity Conference 2026



In March, Pastor Syl attended the Luminosity Conference in Orlando, hosted by the Presbyterian Foundation. Beyond the insightful sessions, it was a meaningful time of fellowship with old friends from Columbia Theological Seminary and peers within the Peace River Presbytery and the PC(USA). The event was an excellent resource for ministry innovation, and Pastor Syl returned energized by the experience. He is already looking forward to involving our Elders and Deacons in similar leadership development opportunities in the future. He told our church Session he would like to bring a cohort of our church leadership along to participate in the next conference. Below, Pastor Syl is with two ministers he met last year in Arkansas, at the CREDO conference for new PC(USA) ministers.



## Prayer & Praise Service Concluded



We have successfully concluded another powerful season of our Thursday Evening Prayer & Praise services. Nick Miceli and Pastor Syl guided our community through a dedicated seven-week prayer intent, encouraging us to seek God's divine direction for every petition. We are truly grateful for the spiritual growth and the profound peace these gatherings have fostered within our congregation, and we eagerly anticipate resuming this vital ministry next year.

# Jack Dauner, a Swiss–American pianist, performed at First Pres.



Jack Dauner performed at First Pres. He is a classical pianist, composer, and vocal accompanist. What an honor to hear beautiful music on March 22, 2026. Thank you to all who purchased tickets to attend.



## PEP (People Enjoying People)



Our PEP group gathered on March 26, 2026, at Olive Garden for an afternoon of great food and even better company! These moments of simple fellowship are truly

what the PEP group is all about. Please join us this month at Pita & Puff on April 30, 2026.

## First Pres Celebrates February & March Birthdays

First Pres celebrated the February & March birthdays with cake and fellowship. Pictured from left to right is Elder Ambrose Woods, Pr. Syl, Ann Miceli, Betania Esteves, Weldon DeGroot and Elder Claudette McLennon.



## Palm Sunday Service



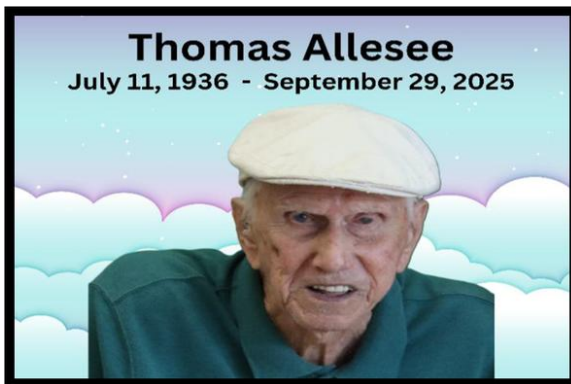
Our Palm Sunday celebration was nothing short of magnificent. The sanctuary was filled with a palpable energy as we waved our branches and lifted our voices in "Hosanna," marking the beginning of Holy Week with such profound spirit. It was truly a beautiful sight to see our church family united in such a vibrant expression of faith and celebration.



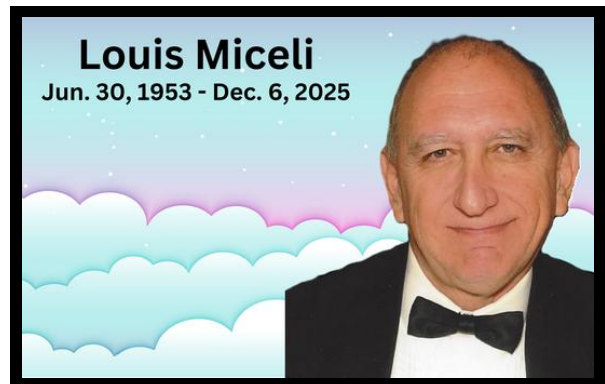
# Upcoming Events

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### April Memorial Services



Join us on **April 1, 2026**, as we remember the life of Tom Allesee. The service will be at 11 AM, with a repast in the Gathering room following the service.



After that, on **April 25, 2026**, we will also celebrate the life of another wonderful man, this time, Louis Miceli. We hope all FPCPC will be present to say our goodbyes together.

### Holy Week Schedule



# Men's Breakfast



Gentlemen, mark your calendars! Join us on **Tuesday, April 14**, at 7:00 AM for our monthly Men's Breakfast. We're heading to Perkins (1700 S Tamiami Trl.) for an hour of great food and even better conversation. Whether you're looking for a bit of mid-week encouragement or just a solid breakfast with the guys, there's a seat at the table for you. See you there!

## Blessing Tree Collection for Animal Welfare of Charlotte County



This month, First Presbyterian's Blessing Tree will collect for the Animal Welfare of Charlotte County. Please donate pet food, towels, blankets, pet treats, pet toys, etc. Thank you for your support of these animals.

## PEP (People Enjoying People)



The PEP will meet for lunch on **Thursday, April 30**, at Pita and Puff (2665 Tamiami Port Charlotte), at 12:30 PM. Please RSVP by calling Holly Parkin at 941-240-0758.

# 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](http://www.zoom.us), and click "Join" in the upper-right-hand corner.

Meeting ID: 878 3208 0869

Passcode: 396015

## House of David is back... Season 2, Tuesdays at 5 PM



Join us in the sanctuary to watch Season 2 of the series House of David, every Tuesday at 5 PM. We will enjoy popcorn and soda.

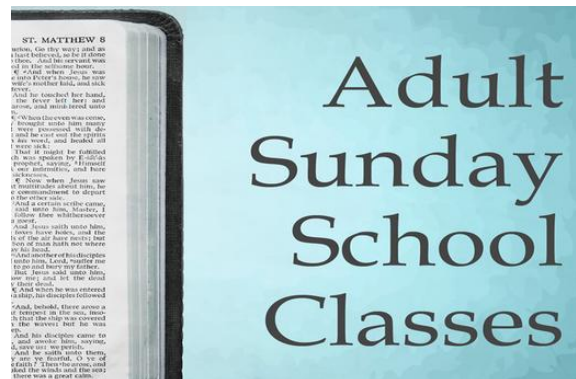
# Prayer Changes Things: Join Us Wednesdays at Noon



They say prayer is the engine room of the church, and we invite you to be part of that movement! Every Wednesday at 12:00 PM, we gather in the First Pres Gathering Room to stand in the gap for our community, our loved ones, and our world. We have seen firsthand how prayer makes a tangible difference in people's lives. Whether you are a "prayer warrior" or simply seeking a quiet place to sit in God's presence, you are welcome here. Note: We will be taking a brief break on Wednesday, April 1st, because of Tom's memorial service and will resume the following week.

## 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.



# Birthdays & *Anniversaries*

April 9 – Amina Lee  
April 18 – Delores Cummings  
April 18 – Sondra Kruse  
April 24 – Hazel Mason  
April 25 – Susan Brembs  
April 26 – Ginny Fisher  
April 30 – Edith Edwards

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

Alzie Lee – strength & comfort  
Sue Littrell – health needs  
Violet Logan/Green – strength & comfort  
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  
Mavis Powell – health, strength & comfort  
Amy Rupert – 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.