

First Presbyterian Church

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

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

May/2026 E-GRAM



From the

Pastor's Desk

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

You, most likely, heard the saying: “if looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it is probably a duck.” The saying implies that by relying on appearance and behavior, it is possible to make a common-sense judgment, especially when the nature of something is disputed. Well, the reasoning is catching, but not always easily applicable.

When it comes to the true nature of a Christian, appearance tells us very little. Yes, the cross on our necks or cars, the Bible in our homes, and even our presence in Sunday worship may point to our identity in Christ. But at the end of the day, behavior is really what sets us apart.

While looking at some of the Lectionary Bible passages for this month of May, I came across the passages on the Epistles known as First Peter (2:2–10; 3:13–22 and 4:12–14). According to these passages, God’s chosen people are called to behave in a Christlike way. But the author is not saying that it will be easy, either. Yes, we are given an identity we did not earn. Then we are given a way to live that reflects that identity. And then we are told not to be shaken when trials come, because they certainly will come.

What does that look like for us, in simple, daily terms? It means we choose patience when it would be easier to snap. It means we answer harsh words with gentleness. It means we keep doing what is right, even when no one notices, even when it feels like it makes no difference. It means that even though we may face struggles, we are not alone in them, and we are not without hope. This is not about putting on a show. It is about a life that is slowly being shaped from the inside out.

So when life presses in — and it will — we return to what we have been given. We remember who we are. We lean on the Spirit for strength. We trust that God is at work in us, even in the quiet, unseen places. And step by step, choice by choice, our lives begin to bear a family resemblance to Christ.

My dear church. Together, we will strive to look like Jesus, walk like Jesus, talk like Jesus, and especially act like Jesus. This is the road we must walk, and I am grateful to walk it with you. Let us keep close to one another, encourage one another, and keep our eyes fixed on the One who calls us and keeps us.

God bless you and your family!

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

Sunday, May 3

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

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.
- No showing of House of David—Pr. Syl will be at a Conference.

Wednesday, May 6

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

Sunday, May 10

- **Mother's Day**
- 7:45 AM – Coffee & Pastries.
- 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School (On Zoom at 8:05 AM).
- 9:00 AM – Sunday Ordinary Service (Installation of Church Officers).
- ~9:20 AM – Children's Sunday School (after Children's Blessing).

Monday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 12

- 7:30 AM – Men's breakfast at Bob Evans (near the mall).
- 5:00 PM – House of David Season 2 Episode 4.

Wednesday, May 13

- 12:00 PM – Prayer Group Meeting.
- 4:00 – 6:30 PM – Food Pantry.
- 6:30 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday, May 14

- 9:00 AM Presbytery Stated meeting (Arcadia, FL).

Sunday, May 17

- 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, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

- 3:00 PM – Worship Arts Committee Meeting.
- 4:00 PM – Finance Committee Meeting.
- 5:00 PM – Session Meeting.

Sunday, May 24

- 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, May 25

- Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- No *Lectio-Divina*

Tuesday, May 26

- 5:00 PM – House of David Season 2 Episode 6.

Wednesday, May 27

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

Thursday, May 28

- 12:30 PM – PEP Group meets for lunch at Thaicafe. RSVP Holly Parkin at 941-204-0758.

Sunday, May 31

- 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).
- May Birthday celebrations following the service.



Last Month's

Recap

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday



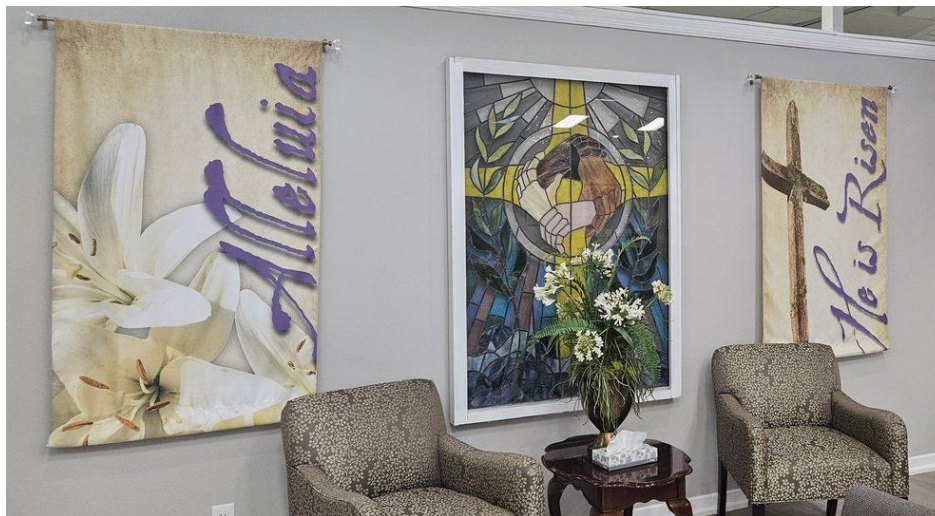


Good Friday



Easter Sunday





What a powerful and visually stunning journey we shared in our Holy Week services! From the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to the vibrant joy of Easter Sunday, our sanctuary and fellowship spaces were transformed into a true reflection of God's grace.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless hands and hearts of our volunteers. The sanctuary was breathtaking. The attention to detail —from the meaningful props and banners to the abundance of Easter Lilies — created a sacred space that helped us all focus on the beauty of the Resurrection.

A special thank you to Elder Elaine Woods (pictured below in front of her beautiful Maundy Thursday decoration piece), to Weldon DeGroot for the beautiful 3 crosses decor and Lily stands for Easter Sunday, to Deacon Holly Parkin and Elder Sandy Asaro for their care in preparing

for our youngest members, to all the ladies who helped prepare, serve, and clean up during our Maundy Thursday meal, and everyone who helped in any way, even if only moving chairs or helping pastor Syl with the liturgies. You are all amazing people. You should feel incredibly proud of the dedication and love you poured into our church home this month.



Celebrating April Birthdays



These great-looking ladies next to Pastor Syl are some of our April birthday people and anniversaries. From left to right, they are Ginny Fisher, Sue Brembs, Hazel Mason, and Dolores Cummings. Happy Birthday again, ladies.

April PEP (People Enjoying People) Luncheon



The PEP luncheon was warm and inviting with great food from Pita & Puff and even better conversations with friends. Join us for our next luncheon at Thaicafe. Look for more details in this newsletter below.



Upcoming

Events

MONTHLY EVENTS

Men's Breakfast



Gentlemen, mark your calendars! Join us on **Tuesday, May 12**, at **7:30 AM** for our monthly Men's Breakfast. We're heading to Bob Evans near the mall 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. Pick up a flyer near the Blessing Tree for more information on how you can be a blessing.

PEP (People Enjoying People)



PEP will meet for lunch on **Thursday, May 28**, at Thaicafe (4200 S. Tamiami Tr., Port Charlotte, FL) 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, 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. **Please note, we will not be meeting on May 5th.**

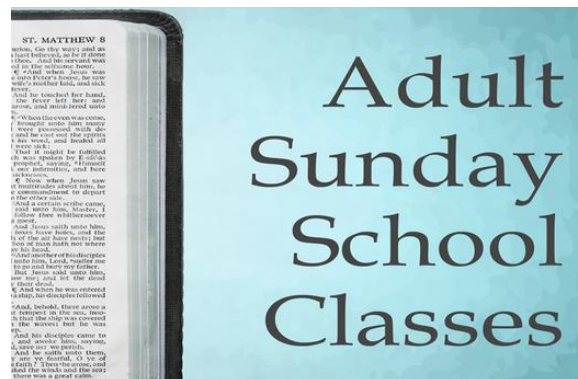
Prayer Changes Things: Join Us Wednesdays at Noon



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.

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*

Birthdays

May 2 – Nicole Christian

May 2 – Sandee Pellerin

May 9 – Gillian Lee Knox

May 13 – Carol (Jaz) McClennon

May 14 – Betania Esteves

May 18 – Violet Wight

May 22 – Laverne Sinkia

May 24 – Elaine Woods

May 29 – Norma Campbell

Anniversaries

May 8 – Marilda & Claudemir Sathler

May 25 – Elaine & Ambrose Woods

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



Forever in *Our Hearts*

Sondra Kruse

Apr. 18, 1943 - Apr. 28, 2026



We transition into this month remembering a dear sister in Christ, Sondra Kruse, who has very recently passed away. After many years of faithful fellowship alongside her husband Ed, Sandy has finished her race. We will miss her greatly, yet we rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection and the legacy of kindness she leaves behind. We were also informed by Bernardine Allesee that another former member of our church, Mr. Conrad Hanson, also passed not so long ago. We will keep both families in our prayers.



We are

Praying for...

Richard Barmore – health needs
Eric & Ray Bittinger – health needs
Hazel & Jerry Brown – health needs
Carolyn & Charlie Brox – health needs
Lin Christian – health needs
Carol Dunkak–Dunekirchen – 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
Richard Lund – health needs
Courtenay Mason – health needs
Brad Messick – health needs
George Mothershed – health needs
Julie Nunez – health needs

Ray Omar – health needs

Mavis Powell – health needs

Amy Rupert – strength & comfort

Sue Thompson – strength & comfort

Danny Webb – strength needs

Debbie Webb – health needs

Mariata Williams – 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*



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**. We are also part of the compendium of Reformed and Presbyterian churches worldwide.