

First Presbyterian Church

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

2230 HARIET ST
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952
941-625-5025
WWW.FPCPC.COM



August/2026 E-GRAM



From the Pastor's Desk

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

Like June and July, August is often a quieter month in the life of our congregation. Many of us are still traveling, our routines look a little different, and the slower pace allows us to pause and breathe. As many of you already know, I am away during the last week of July and the first two weeks of August, as I take some scheduled vacation time. I thank you in advance for your prayers, your encouragement, and for the many ways you continue to care for one another while I am away.

From the very beginning of Scripture, God teaches us the importance of rest. You all remember reading that after the work of creation was complete, God rested on the seventh day, blessed it, and made it holy (Gen. 2:2-3). *Sabbath* is much more than a day off. It is God's gracious gift, reminding us that our lives are sustained not by constant activity but by God's faithful care. I know that I need those times of rest, and perhaps you do too. We all need moments to step away from our work, renew our strength, enjoy the people God has placed in our lives, and make space to delight in God's presence. But

my point here is that choosing to rest is also an act of faith. It reminds us that God is always at work, even when we are not.

As I think about August, I am also reminded that this quieter season is preparing us for what lies ahead. Before long, summer will give way to fall, familiar routines will return, and the life of our church will once again be filled with opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, and service. I always enjoy seeing our church come alive with the energy that September brings.

I look forward to being back with all of you mid-August, worshipping together, catching up on the stories of our summer, and continuing the work God has entrusted to us.

Finally, I thank you for allowing me this time away. It is a gift that helps me return to ministry with renewed energy and joy. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us in the months ahead as we continue growing together in faith, hope, and love.

God bless you and your family!

Pastor Syl



What's Happening at First Pres

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS – please read

- **PEP (People Enjoying People) Group and Men's Breakfast Group** will not be meeting during the summer months but will resume in September. Details to come.
- **Choir rehearsal** will not be meeting in August, but will resume in September.
- **No meetings in August**; will resume in September.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Wednesdays and Fridays – Office is Closed

Sunday, Aug. 2

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

- 9:00 AM – Lord’s Supper Service.
- ~9:20 AM – Children’s Sunday School (after Children’s Blessing).

Monday, Aug. 3

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

Tuesday, Aug. 4

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

- 12:00 PM – Prayer Group Meeting.

Sunday, Aug. 9

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

Monday, Aug. 10

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

Wednesday, Aug. 12

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

Sunday, Aug. 16

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

Monday, Aug. 17

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

Tuesday, Aug. 18

- 8:00 – 11:00 AM – Food Pantry.

Sunday, Aug. 23

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

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

Monday, Aug. 24

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

Wednesday, Aug. 26

- 12:00 PM – Prayer Group Meeting.

Sunday, Aug. 30

- 7:45 AM – Coffee & Pastries.
- 8:00 AM – Adult Sunday School (On Zoom at 8:05 AM).
- 9:00 AM – **Ordinary Service.**
- ~9:20 AM – Children’s Sunday School (after Children’s Blessing).
- Aug. Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebrations following the service.

Monday, Aug. 31

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



Last Month's

Recap

Blessing Tree results for Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project



Last month, First Presbyterian's Blessing Tree collected **39** pairs of shoes and donated **\$1,320** for the **Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project**. Thank you for your support.

Celebrating July Birthdays & Anniversaries



Our July Birthdays and Anniversaries were celebrated on Sunday, July 26, 2026. Standing with Elder Sandy Asaro are Barbara and John Danylak on her right, and Heather and Weldon Degroot on her left. We wish you a Happy Anniversary to these wonderful couples. As well as a Happy Birthday to all July birthdays!

First Pres welcomes back Rev. Vinod



While Pr. Syl was away, Pr. Vinod served in our pulpit on July 26, 2026. What a blessing to know we have Rev. Vinod willing to serve our church family.



Elder Sandy Asaro served as liturgist alongside Rev. Vinod.



In the name of Session, our Clerk of Session, Elder Elaine Woods, welcomed Rev. Vinod back. The Rev. Vinod Immanuel Gnanaraj serves as the pastor at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in North Fort Myers, Florida.



Upcoming Events

MONTHLY EVENTS

Blessing Tree Collection for our Benevolence Fund



This month, First Presbyterian’s Blessing Tree will collect for our **Benevolence Fund**. Please donate by taking a tag from the Blessing Tree. We appreciate your support in helping people who are in financial crisis have

the means to get back on their feet.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Would you like to learn more about God?



Every fall term, pastor Syl volunteers to teach New Testament and Church History classes at the Calvary Chapel Bible College of South Florida. The campus of the college is now located next to our church, in what used to be our church’s meeting room. The classes start this week. If you would like to attend our pastor’s class or any other classes, please contact pastor Dave Hole at (941) 914-8229 to get more info.

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

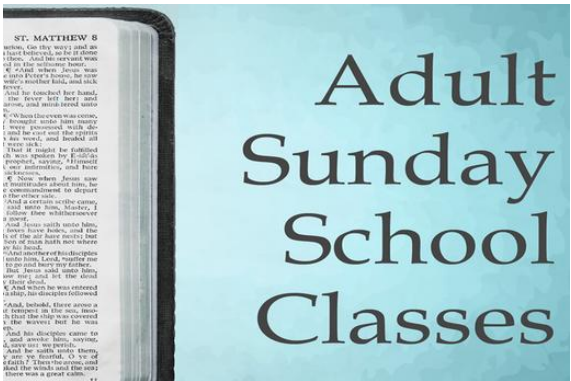
Prayer Changes Things: Join Us Wednesdays at Noon



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

August 11 – Carol Dunkak–Dunekirchen

August 18 – Dorothy Leage

August 18 – Robert Snyder

August 23 – Patricia Bevens

August 25 – Carolanne Hoele

August 26 – Heather Degroot

Anniversaries

August 28 – Hazel & Courtenay Mason

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.



CLICK THE ICONS BELOW:



Forever in

Our Hearts

Gay M. Sorensen

May 27, 1936 - June 30, 2026



Gay Sorenson passed away on June 30, 2026. We ask that you keep her family in your prayers as they continue to honor her memory.



We are *Praying for...*

Betty Belcher – health needs
Cheryl Berlonr – 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 family – strength & comfort
Sue Littrell – health needs
Richard Lund – health needs
Courtenay Mason – health needs
Brad Messick – health needs
George Mothershed – health needs
Amanda Nunez – strength & comfort
Julie Nunez – health needs

Ray Omar – health needs
Mavis Powell – health needs
Amy Rupert – strength & comfort
Gay Sorensen’s Family – strength & comfort
Sue Thompson – strength & comfort
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



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.

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