

First Presbyterian Church

P O R T C H A R L O T T E , F L

2230 HARIET ST
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952
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September/2026 E-GRAM



From the

Pastor's Desk

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

There are some goodbyes that are harder than we expect. As I prepare to conclude my time as a Designated Interim Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Rotonda West (FLCRW) at the end of September/26, I find myself thinking about Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus in Acts 20. Paul loved those people. He had shared their lives, taught them, prayed with them, and walked alongside them. And when the time came for him to leave, there was sadness. But Paul knew that saying goodbye did not mean that his love for them had come to an end. It meant entrusting them to God and trusting that God would continue the work. Sometimes, when we truly love, we have to let go.

That is where I find myself now. Leaving FLCRW is painful because I am not simply leaving a place. I am saying goodbye to people who have become very dear to me. During my time with that congregation, we have worshiped together, prayed together, laughed together, and shared some difficult moments as well. Somewhere along the way, that congregation became more than an interim assignment. It became a community of people my wife and I now love. We will miss them very much. Yet I am also deeply grateful that God is bringing a new Interim Pastor to walk with Faith Lutheran through their next season. My hope and prayer are that the people at Faith will welcome this new pastor with the same warmth and grace that were shown to me.

I am also deeply grateful for you, my beloved First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte (FPCPC), where I continue to have the privilege of serving as your full-time pastor. I am thankful to the people and leadership of FPCPC for trusting me and for allowing me to share my time and ministry with our Lutheran brothers and sisters. I know that meant some sacrifices for us. There were Sundays and other moments when I could not be with you as much as I would have liked. Yet I also believe that, together, we knew it was the right thing to do. No flock should have to be without a pastor when there is a way to help. By willingly sharing your pastor with another congregation, you showed something beautiful about who we are called to be as the Church. You opened your hearts and made room for others. I am deeply grateful for that generosity, and I am proud to continue this journey with you.

Coming in October, I am looking forward to being more fully present with you again. I look forward to spending more time together. I am excited to see what God has in store for us. Whatever comes next, I look forward to discovering it together and seeing where God is leading us as we continue our ministry side by side.

God bless you all!

Pastor Syl



What's Happening at First Pres

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Wednesdays and Fridays - **Office is Closed**

Tuesday, Sept. 1

• 8:00 - 11:00 AM - Food Pantry

Wednesday, Sept. 2

- 12:00 PM - Prayer Group Meeting
- 1:30 PM - **Deacon's Meeting**
- 6:30 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Sept. 5

• 11:00 AM - **Empath Seminar about Writing Our Legacy**

Sunday, Sept. 6

- 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, Sept. 7

- **LABOR DAY (Office Closed)**
- No *Lectio-Divina*

Tuesday, Sept. 8

- 7:30 AM - Men's Breakfast
- **5:00 PM - The Old Stories: Moses - Episode 1**

Wednesday, Sept. 9

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

Sunday, Sept. 13

- 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, Sept. 14

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

Tuesday, Sept. 15

- **8:00 - 11:00 AM - Food Pantry**
- **5:00 PM - The Old Stories: Moses - Episode 2**

Wednesday, Sept. 16

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

Thursday, Sept. 17

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

Sunday, Sept. 20

- 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, Sept. 21

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

Tuesday, Sept. 22

- **5:00 PM - The Old Stories: Moses - Episode 3**

Wednesday, Sept. 23

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

Sunday, Sept. 27

- 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)
- Sept. Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebration (following the service)

Monday, Sept. 28

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

Wednesday, Sept. 30

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



Last Month's

Recap

**Elder Sandy Asaro preaching at
First Pres again**



During Pastor Syl's vacation, Elder Sandy Asaro (left) served as Pulpit Supply on August 2nd for our Lord's Supper service and again on August 9th. She was wonderfully assisted by liturgists Elder Elaine Woods (right) and Deacon Sue McConochie (middle). What a blessing to know we can always count with such wonderful ladies.

Celebrating August Birthdays & Anniversaries



What a milestone! The wonderful couple above, Hazel and Courtney Mason, recently celebrated 50 years together. We pray God continues to bless their marriage. Below, we're also honoring Deacon Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen and organist extraordinaire Heather DeGroot on their birthdays. Happy Birthday to all who celebrated in August!



Upcoming Events

Everyone has a story...

Legacy Writing Workshop

Saturday, September 5 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church - Port Charlotte

Guest Speaker: Christopher Parent
Community Liaison

**Have your adult children told you they don't want your stuff,
antiques or possessions?**

Family stories and values recorded in a legacy workbook are the perfect gifts to share with them, consumes little space and are free. You just need some help getting started. This workshop includes:

- Legacy guide and journal
 - Legacy journaling
 - Legacy letter writing
 - How to get started
 - Tips for improving your confidence as a writer
 - Thought-provoking questions
 - Storytelling
-



A Note from Music Director Sue Brembs

A Heartfelt Thank You!

We want to extend a special note of gratitude to:

- Our **Chancel Choir Members** for singing throughout the summer, leading us in responses and Praise Songs even during their scheduled July and August break.
- **Nicole Christian** (electric guitar) and **Ann Miceli** (electronic drums) for providing wonderful instrumental backup for our Praise Songs.
- **Norma Campbell** and **Carol McLennon** for faithfully providing the chimes at the start of every service.
- **Heather DeGroot** for generously offering her talents on the organ alongside the piano for our hymns and responses.

We are truly blessed by the dedication of these wonderful musicians serving the Lord at our church!

Upcoming Rehearsals:

- Chancel Choir: begins Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 6:30 PM
- Bell Choir: begins Monday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 PM

If you are interested in joining either choir, you are warmly invited! If you have any questions, please contact Sue Brembs at 941-241-6480.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Blessing Tree Collection for our Benevolence Fund

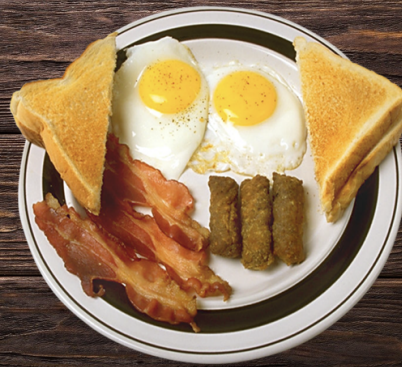
This month, First Presbyterian's Blessing Tree will collect for our **Benevolence Fund**. Please donate by taking a tag from the Blessing Tree. We appreciate your



support in helping people who are in financial crisis have the means to get back on their feet.

Men's Breakfast is back!

Join us for
food, faith, and
fellowship



Gentlemen, mark your calendars! Join us on **Tuesday, September 8th**, 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!

PEP (People Enjoying People) is back!



The PEP will meet for lunch on **Thursday, September 24th**, at Pita & Puff (2665 S. Tamiami Tr., Port Charlotte, FL) at **12:30 PM**. Please RSVP by calling Holly Parkin at 941-766-8376.

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

Featuring *The Old Stories: Moses*



You're invited to join us in the sanctuary on **Tuesdays**, September **8, 15, and 22**, 2026, at **5:00 PM** for "The Old Stories: Moses." This three-episode biblical drama brings to life Moses' journey—from his time in desert exile to the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. Bring a friend and enjoy popcorn and soda on us!

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 Sunday School Classes

Adult Bible studies begin at 8 AM, while children's classes start right after the Children's Blessing during the service.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

September 6 - John Danylak
September 9 - Eric Bittinger
September 11 - Donna Young
September 16 - Gail Gamble

Anniversaries

September 19 - Stephen & Cherie Craig
September 29 - Joan & Chris Barry

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



We are Praying for...

Eric & Ray Bittinger - health needs
Hazel & Jerry Brown - health needs
Carolyn & Charlie Brox - health needs

Lin Christian - health needs
Barbara Danylak - health needs
Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen - health needs
Barbara Edwards - health needs
Jean Heim - health needs
Marjorie Hill - health needs
Carolanne Hoehle - health needs
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
Derrick & Samantha Reams - health & strength
Gay Sorensen's Family - 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.