



First Presbyterian Church
310 Plantation Road, Perry Florida



Fall Newsletter, 2021



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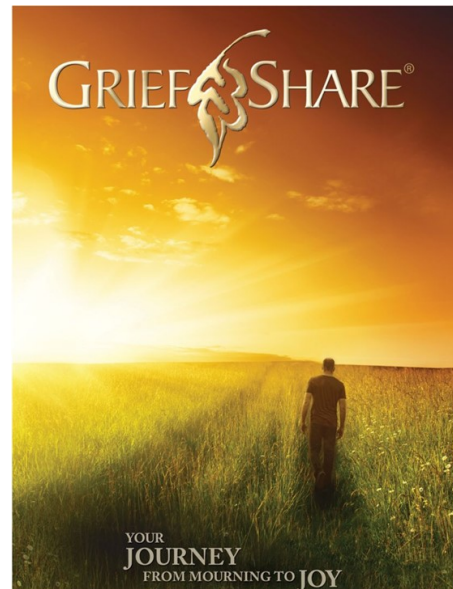
There are many in our church and community who suffer with grief and loss. I am currently planning to facilitate a Grief share support group that will be open to anyone in our church or community.

It is a 13 week program that will meet weekly. Griefshare is designed to help us face the challenges of grief and move toward rebuilding our life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements:

1. Video seminar with experts
2. Support group discussion with focus
3. Personal study and reflection

The exact date and time of this support group has not been determined but will depend on the schedules of those who wish to participate.

If you are interested in learning more about this group or would like to join contact pastor Natasha by phone or email her at pastor@firstpresperry.org



FPC Website:

www.firstpresperry.org

Office Phone:

1(850) 584-3826

Email:

office@firstpresperry.org



A Word from the Pastor

Dear FPC Family,

It is a saying that began years ago and spread through the church. It is a call and response phrase, and requires at least two people to attain the full effect of its meaning. Person one says, “God is Good” and person two responds, “all the time”. Then person one says, “all the time” and person two says “God is Good”. By the time the exchange is completed both persons have agreed that God is Good all the time. It is a simple and clear affirmation that rolls off the tongue easily when life is going according to plan.

However, in the midst of trials and constant sorrow one must pause and reconsider that phrase carefully. We usually only hear it when life is carefree and going our way, almost a sentiment of joy. However, what happens when we say the phrase in a very different context, one full of difficulty and sorrow. It is so easy to believe in the goodness of God when life fits within our definition of what is good. When we have health and wealth confessing the goodness of God comes so easily. However, what if we lose someone precious to us? Is God still good? What about the trials of the pandemic? What if our health declines or our wealth disappears? Is God still good?

God is indeed, very good. There is no better time to say God is good than when life is full of sorrow. It confesses a God who enters into the darkest places, our dark places, to sit with us, and suffer alongside us. It speaks of a God willing to journey into the darkness of death that we may be drawn back into life eternal.

The psalmist say “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.....You hem me in, behind and before,.....Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you.....Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed....I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you (Psalm 139 selected verses).”

Whatever our difficulty and no matter where we find ourselves, God is our lifeline and hope. There is no place on earth or below the earth, that God would refuse to go for us, no matter how dark or treacherous. So let us confess and proclaim that indeed, *God is Good...all the time....all the time...God is good.*

Grace and Peace, Natasha



F.P.C. Worship

Worship Committee News

The Worship committee has been working hard behind the scenes this summer. The committee has been busy planning and working on projects that add to our Worship service. One such project the committee is working on is adding to our Ordinary Time (green) Paraments. We are excited about the new addition and hope to unveil it in September.

Communion has been a big part of our discussion, and we were able to do a modified intinction version of Communion in August. It was wonderful to see a more personal interaction of the Lords Supper. Thank you Pastor Natasha for helping us figure out how to move forward with the Communion process.

The church, through the sound system, is offering two systems that aid in Worship access. During the service we are offering Zoom for church members that cannot make the service in person. It has been great having members join us each Sunday watching through Zoom. The other device that promotes hearing access is our loop hearing system. It too, has been an extremely beneficial addition to our service.

During the summer we have moved some of our Covid separation ribbons from the pews. We have two areas that are separated by ribbons. These areas are for people that may want to socially space themselves for various reasons. We also have two pew areas that are not separated for families and friends that are in your social bubble. Please remember to social distance. Masks are not mandatory but they are available in the Narthex.

-Alex Lutz, Chair of the Worship Committee

Contact the Worship Committee: Send email to worship@firstpresperry.org

Committee Members: Alex Lutz (chair), Marne Helberg (co-chair), Dianna Sandonato, Jeanne Hilgendorf, Juanita Ratliff, Margaret Poppell, Merna Archer, Sandra Allen, Cindy Brown

Meetings: The first Monday of the month

“Hear the Word of the Lord...”

Sunday after Sunday I say these words as I begin to read the scripture lesson during worship, words that we can easily take for granted. We come to worship to listen to the music, praise the Lord, and hear the Word of God! But what about those who cannot hear? How do they worship each Sunday morning? Hearing loss often means the loss of much more than just hearing because hearing is part of participating so much of the time. We are reminded in our directory for worship that the true Church is present when the Word of God is preached and heard. This past summer, after phone calls, research, meetings, and an anonymous donation, we were able to install a (T-coil) hearing loop system in our sanctuary. We give thanks to God for the many things that came together to make this possible and we give thanks for the generosity that made it possible. There are many symbols in our sanctuary that express something about Jesus Christ and this new one is a symbol we didn't want

What is a telecoil?

A telecoil is a small copper coil that is an option on most hearing aids and is built into cochlear implant processors. They are also known as telecoils and were originally used to boost the magnetic signals from the telephone handset. The telecoil is activated by a t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant. All landline and some cell phones are designed by law to be used with a telecoil.

The telecoil can make a noticeable difference in your life when you combine it with hearing assistive technology. This pairing of technology bridges the physical space between you and the sound source. Hearing assistive technology connects the listener directly to the sound source while most background noise is eliminated.

When would you use a telecoil?

Increasing the volume on your hearing aid or cochlear implant won't necessarily increase the clarity of what you hear. Hearing assistive technology combined with a telecoil can improve your understanding of dialogue at work, in a meeting, in the classroom, theaters, places of worship, tour buses, and other places. Some people use telecoils at home with the TV while keeping the TV volume low for the comfort of others.

Many public places are equipped with hearing assistive technology. With the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, hearing assistive technology is increasingly available in public places.

What is Hearing Assistive Technology? (HAT)

There are three types of wireless hearing assistive technology discussed here:

The **hearing loop** is a wire that circles a room and is connected to the sound system. The loop

transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electromagnetic signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant. To use a hearing loop, one easily flips the t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant. No additional receiver or equipment is needed. Using a telecoil and hearing loop together is seamless, cost-effective, unobtrusive, and you don't have to seek out and obtain special equipment.

Purchasing a Hearing Aid

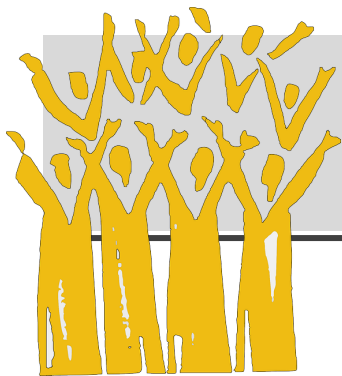
Don't assume that your hearing aid will automatically come with a telecoil or that it will be recommended. Or, if a telecoil is present, don't assume it has been programmed to suit your individual needs. Today, approximately 71 percent of all hearing aids dispensed in the United States have telecoils. Yet, few consumers are told about them and know how to use them.



Use the Consumer Checklist published by the Hearing Loss Association of America when purchasing a hearing aid (available on www.hearingloss.org or in hard copy). This checklist includes asking about telecoils. Some states have laws that require audiologists and hearing instrument specialists to tell consumers about telecoils when purchasing hearing aids.

***Note:** Automatic telecoils are available but work only with telephones, not hearing loops, so ask your audiologist or hearing instrument specialist to include a manually-operated telecoil in your hearing aid and ask for advice on how to use it.*

**Get in the
Hearing Loop**
A program of the Hearing
Loss Association of America



F.P.C. Music Corner

Praise the Lord!

Greetings Church,

A little note to update you on all things music! Currently, we are still on a temporary choir-rehearsal hiatus. However, beginning in October we will commence rehearsals to prepare for special services like Reformation Sunday, and Christmas!

Weekly, Rev. Natasha and I collaborate on worship themes and musical selections. This is something that we want you, yes YOU, to be a part of! We want worship to be meaningful for everyone and to ensure that happens we welcome your input. If you have a contemporary music, hymn, or other musical requests send it to leah@firstpresperry.org.

Looking to the future we hope to have a special night of worship where we gather for evening of prayer and praise and being refreshed. Stay tuned for more information!

~Leah Metzger

Rehearsal Dates:

- Wed, October 20th (After Fellowship)
- Wed, October 27th (After Fellowship)
- Wed Nov. 3rd (Weekly Rehearsals Begin)

Remember
to mark
your
calendars!



A Note of Thanks!

A huge thank you to those of you who have been carrying the music through these covid months! And to those of you who have been unable to participate at this time, but continue to support through prayer and encouragement, thank you! I am truly grateful for each of your contributions to this ministry.

Music Ministry and Piano Accompanist: Leah Metzger leah@firstpresperry.org



I want to tell y'all a story about young Leah. I began taking piano lessons at the age of seven, because my parents encouraged us to choose an instrument in which we would like to be proficient. My older sister chose piano, and I chose to emulate her in as many ways as possible. The first few years were great! Practice for 15-20 minutes a day, learn a song that is maybe 30 seconds long, done. But then the music got more difficult. Spanning multiple pages. Sometimes there was even *gasp* a page turn. Remembering dynamics. Practicing scales. Memorizing the music. And so began my lack of motivation. Until I learned a very valuable piece of information: if you win competitions, you get paid. As a child whose allowance was around \$2 a week and everything that I wanted to buy was \$50+. You can understand how winning a hundred (or more!) dollars, just for playing well, was very incentivizing!

Enter the world of classical piano competitions. And comparison. And failure. And fear. And self-criticism. In all my years of playing at competitions, I remember exactly two times where I was pleased with how I performed. I crushed it. I knew it. Everyone knew it. I was congratulated before awards were even handed out. One of these competitions I won. One of these I placed not first, not second, and not third. I won: nothing. What was wrong with these people!? Did they not realize how fantastically I had performed. Did they not hear my brilliant dynamics? My creative phrasing? They had denied my winning the trophy that I wanted to display in my room, to remind myself every day: I am awesome. More awesome than every other musician on that day. Clearly not more humble.

I tell you that story from my past to tell you this about my present: sometimes I still want that trophy. That visible symbol that I am better than others. That reminds me that while I am not at the top I am most certainly not at the bottom. When I fall into this mindset, more frequently than I care to admit, I lose what my true gift is. The willingness to use my gift, however, when, ever, and wherever, God sees fit. Yes I have a skill that I have developed, but without His Spirit moving through my music, it falls completely flat. The times where I am least happy with my performance, has always been when I get the most positive feedback. Because the truth is, it's not me, it's Him. When my eyes are off of me, my performance, my expectation, my feelings, that is when I am truly able to worship. By surrendering every ounce of my gift, whatever that gift may be, however great or small, to Him.

In looking to the future I believe we have to take inventory of our present. I suspect that many people do not feel like they have anything to offer to worship. Or it's not that you feel you have nothing to offer, it's just that your worship isn't that "trophy level" worship. Other people are "trophy level" and you are just...not. But this isn't true! Each of our hearts, when surrendered to God, IS the absolute most that we can offer. Our gift of worship is our surrender to Him. Whether that is singing a solo, singing in the choir, singing a hymn from the pew, or at home over Zoom. My prayer is that each of us is able to recognize the true gift of worship that we bring, as we are increasingly surrendered to Him.

Leah Metzger, FPC Music Ministry; Contact email: Leah@firstpresperry.org



We have a great need for Fellowship Committee Team members. Please join our team.

Fellowship Committee



Wednesday Night Fellowship Events Starting Soon!

The past year has taught all of us how important fellowship is in the life of the church. It's not just about food and fun. It strengthens our relationships with others who serve alongside us in the congregation, and it brings us together as a church family. In many families the meals, activities, and traditions are what build us in love and make memories. When we think of it like family time, its importance in church ministry comes into view.

#1. Come for Others. The particular menu or activity may not interest you, so pickup a burger and come anyway. Its about church family and families show up for one other. Find ways to participate regularly.

#2. "Make New Friends", Traditions, Memories. Families change, but it doesn't mean their old traditions have to disappear. Rather, they adapt and change to include new traditions that ensure new members feel welcome and included. When everyone knows the story of great Talent Show of 93 and its funny jokes except you because you came in 98, its easy to feel like an outsider. Keep the tradition, laugh at the memory but focus on making new ones.

Chili Cookoff with a Secret Twist

It's time to unpack your aprons and track down your best chili recipe for our annual Chili cookoff on Wednesday November 10th . The Fellowship Committee will host the annual chili cookoff with one slight difference from years past. Email the fellowship committee at fellowship@firstpresperry.org to enter your own chili in the cookoff.



Fellowship Continued...

F.P.C. Perry Presents.....The Great Talent Show of 2022



Presbyterians Got Talent!

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a
Talent Show in February of 2022 & needs you!

God has blessed us with the gift of laughter and we know it is often the best medicine. So, the Fellowship Committee is asking everyone (and they do mean everyone) to pull together to make this night one to remember- a night of joy, laughter, and church family.

Anyone can enter the show. Individuals, committees, couples and groups. Don't be shy. Start brainstorming, practicing, and planning for this special event. Ideas and suggestions welcome.

Wednesday Morning Fellowship Art



Fellowship Continued...



Annual Christmas for Children, December 11th

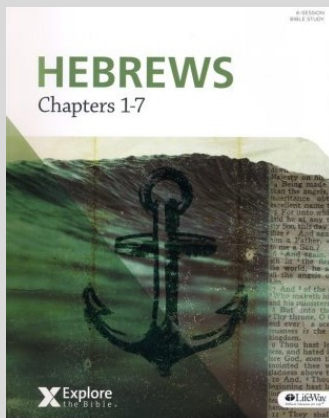
Fill a Tote of Groceries and Provide Christmas Dinner for a Family in Need. More Information to Come in October.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

New Bible study, which will begin Tuesday, October 19th at 10 am

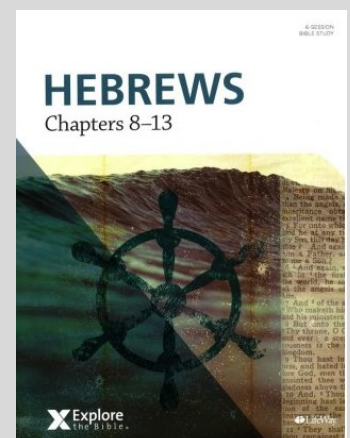
Hebrews Chapters 1-7 followed by Hebrews 8-13

By reservation only, reserve by September 25th



Explore the Bible: Hebrews: Chapters 1-7 is a 6-session group Bible Study, introducing the Book of Hebrews. The book offers encouragement and hope to believers. The context of the original audience indicates that these early followers of Jesus were contemplating abandoning their faith. Perhaps you are too. If life has been tough for you and your circumstances are causing you to lose faith, the Book of Hebrews can give you a fresh perspective on Jesus, providing you with the spiritual refreshment you need.

Explore the Bible: Hebrews: Chapters 8-13 is a 6-session group Bible Study, that explores topics like living each day by faith, growing through hard times, the strength of covenant, and God's desire for life-changing community. The Bible's heroes of the faith were ordinary men and women who trusted God through seemingly impossible situations. If you don't know how things will work out and life's pressures are building up, you also can turn to God. That same faith is possible today.



Congregational Care Committee

Ministry of Care for Our Congregation



The Congregational Care Committee has been busy this summer ministering to our congregation and community through different ministries.

Home Bereavement and Meal Train. This ministry provides Bereavement Meals for Family only.

Take Them A Meal. This ministry is for members unable to prepare meals due to hospitalization, sickness, accidents, birth of babies, etc. on an as needed basis.

Driving Assistance. There are times when folks are not able to drive themselves to get to the Doctor appointments, Therapy sessions, Chemo/radiation, etc. They may need help from this Driving Assistance ministry. There is a group of volunteers ready to assist anyone in need of assistance.

Card Sending Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to let someone know of God's love, they are being prayed for, and to know they have encouragement. Volunteers will be sending cards to shut ins, members with health concerns, missed members, bereavement, and visitors.

Prayer Chain Ministry. Through this ministry prayer requests can be submitted either by attending Thursday morning meetings at 9:30 am or through email or contacting the Church office.

Adopt a Grade Ministry. The Care Committee has joined with other churches to support teachers and students by adopting the 5th grade teachers in the Taylor County school.

There are 9 teachers, 3 of whom are members of our church, that we have adopted. Suggestions of ways to provide this ministry is through Prayer for the teachers, Birthdays, Pay for a meal-1 teacher/month, Dinners for teachers-2 a year, Bags of candy for teachers to give to students for rewards and supplies for classroom. A list will be provided from the teachers. A basket will be set up for donations of these needed items for any member to contribute to.



If you are interested in being a part of the Congregational Care Committee, please contact Marne Helberg or contact the Church office.

FPC responds to request for support from Doctors Memorial Hospital

Pictures & Posts from DMH Facebook Page

Our Covid staff really enjoyed their lunch provided by Mama's Italian Family Restaurant & First Presbyterian Church of Perry, FL.

Thank 🙏🏻 🤒 YOU!

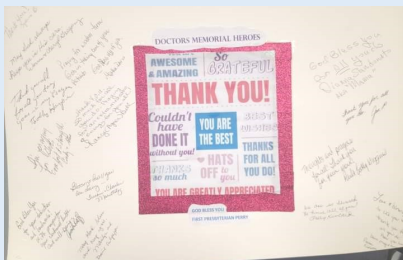
Thanks to First Presbyterian Church of Perry, Florida for supplying (lunch) dinner to our Covid evening staff last night. It was greatly appreciated.



Feeling the love from one of our very own. Kristie & Bobby Harper. Thank you guys!



THANK YOU Marne (and Bob) Helberg for your Very thoughtful goodies. DMH appreciated, very much!



"The current COVID-19 surge is causing a great strain on our healthcare heroes. Help encourage and support our heroes. Provide a meal; provide break room supplies like snacks; balm, hand lotion, etc.; gift cards for restaurants, massage; Cards of encouragement and PRAYER (AND PLENTY OF IT)

Congregational Care

Have a Prayer Need?

Send all prayer requests directly to the prayer chain by sending it to

prayer@firstpresperry.org



Prayer List

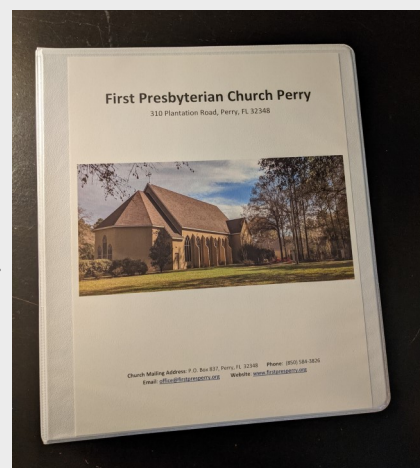
Richard Ziegler
Myrna Archer
James Blume
Eckels family in CA
Raymond Wilson
DMH Staff
Taylor County Teachers & Students
Judy Neal
Our missionary
J.R. Sandonato and staff
Session
Pastor
Alex Lutz and Family
Helberg family
To find Joy in all
Advent Christian Village
Marian Ayash
Ron, friend of Warren Hilgendorf
Lincoln Family

".....Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

FPC Member Information Book

Last year the session distributed member information books to everyone in the narthex after worship (three ring binders).

The binders contain important information about FPC and includes a directory , shepherd lists, committee information and contact email information for committee chairs...and much more. If your household does not have a binder please stop by the church office and pick up a copy. If you are unable to pick it up but need a binder, contact the church office.



Everyone wants to keep up with what is going on at First Presbyterian Church. Send updates, announcements, important events, and dates to office@firstpresperry.org



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



THIS YEAR OUR GOAL IS TO FILL **100 BOXES**

We need your help! We encourage you to participate in our Shoe Box collection this year so we can meet our goal. Over the next few months we will be collecting items concentrating on a different need. In August we collected school supplies. Stay tuned for what we will collect next!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1. Pick up a shoe box or two to fill from: the church narthex, the Sugar Shoppe (Heather Speas) 130 S. Jefferson 843-1389 or call Marne Helberg (371-4244) to make arrangements to get shoe boxes.
2. For those who want to fill a shoe box online, visit our church website.
3. Make a monetary donation, put it in the offering box or mail it to the church office.

Contact Marne Helberg for more information.



Dates to Remember

August 1st, Boxes will be available

Saturday, September 18th work day 10 am -2 pm

Saturday, November 6th shoe box packing 9am

Oct. 17 - Nov. 7th shoe box collection at church and Sugar Shoppe

PLEASE NOTE...

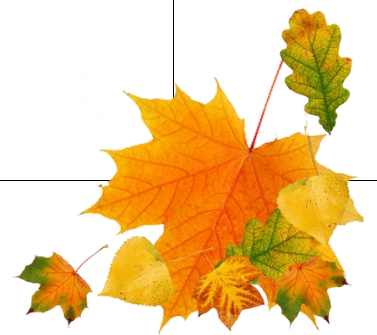
- ALL ITEMS MUST FIT IN A SHOE BOX.
- NO LIQUID, FOOD ITEMS, GLASS OR WAR-RELATED ITEMS ARE ALLOWED.



First Presbyterian Church of Perry

September 2021 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 10am Sunday School 11 am	6 Church Office Closed	7	8	9 Prayer meeting 9:30am	10	11
12 Worship 10am Sunday School 11 am	13 Worship meeting 5 pm	14	15	16 Prayer meeting 9:30am	17	18 OCC work Day 10 am
19 Worship 10am Sunday School 11 am	20	21	22	23 Prayer meeting 9:30am Perry Caregiver Group 10:30 am	24	25
26 Worship 10am Sunday School 11 am	27 Session Meeting 6:00pm	28	29	30 Prayer meeting 9:30am		



September Birthdays

Tom Fletcher—Sept. 1	Steve Caruso—Sept. 2
JoAnn Knowles—Sept. 3	Marla Howard—Sept. 4
Jeff Barrett—Sept. 8	Gretchen Tanner—Sept. 11
Ember Sprigle—Sept. 13	Bob Root—Sept. 14
Brandon Ratliff—Sept. 16	Elvena Johnson—Sept. 17
Loisell Coleman—Sept. 18	Sandra Allen—Sept. 22
Daniel Everett—Sept. 23	Andy Larche—Sept. 24
Lillian Hilgendorf—Sept. 25	Margie Rawls—Sept. 26

September Anniversaries

Dom & Dianna Sandonato—Sept. 1
 Dave & Lynne Fraser—Sept 2
 Al & Faye Wolfkill—Sept. 9