FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PERRY, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am	2 **Congregational Care 10 am** Lunch Bunch Noon **Mission Outreach 3:30 pm**	3 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am **Fellowship Mtg 5 pm** **Worship Mtg 6 pm**	4 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Team 1- Potluck Choir 7pm	5 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am Crafting with Dianna 1 pm	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am **Christmas Choir Practice 2-4 pm**	9	10 **Christian Ed Mtg 9 am** Beach Bible Study 9:30 am **Admin Mtg 5 pm**	11 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Team 2 Choir 7pm ***Veteran's Day***	12 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am **Stewardship Sunday**	16 Lunch Bunch Noon **Finance Mtg 1 pm**	17 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am **Session Mtg 5:30 pm**	18 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Team 3 Choir 7pm	19 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am Crafting with Dianna 1 pm	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Advent Decorating TBC	23 Lunch Bunch Noon	24	25 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am	26 ***Happy Thanksgiving!*** **Church Office Closed**	27 **Church Office Closed**	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am **Christmas Choir Practice**	30 Lunch Bunch Noon	12/1 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am **Fellowship Mtg 5 pm** **Worship Mtg 6 pm**	12/2 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Team 1- Potluck Choir 7pm	12/3	12/4	12/5 **Christmas Choir Practice 9-11am**

SOUP FOR THE SOUL is seeking people to help the needy in our community to have a Thanksgiving meal November 25th from 11:00am to 12:30.

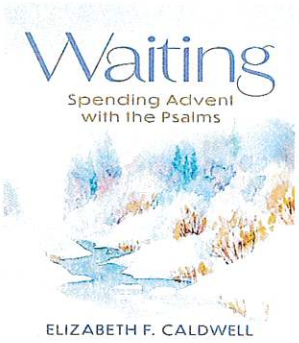
We are looking for volunteers to:

A) Prepare a side dish such as Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Corn, Green Beans, Rolls and Desserts. Bottled Water. Turkey or Ham will be provided.
B) Help with serving from 11:15 to 12:30 or when food runs out.

We are expecting between 50 to 80 people on that day based on last year's attendance. We will have Hot Boxes on hand to keep food warm, or you can bring a crock pot filled with your dish to be plugged in. Sign-up sheets will be available in Church or Wednesday night dinner, or you may call Dianna at 850 284 5677 for more information. Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated. If you prefer to donate towards expenses, that would also be greatly appreciated.

~ God Bless You and Thank You! Dianna Sandonato, Mission & Outreach Moderator

Waiting: Spending Advent with the Psalms Advent Sunday School Study



Advent is a season of waiting, hope, preparation, and anticipation as we look toward the celebration of Christ's birth. But amid the busyness of the holiday season, it can be easy to rush through these weeks without taking time to pause and reflect on the deeper meaning of Advent.

This year, our Advent Sunday School class will explore *Waiting: Spending Advent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell.

Through the beautiful poetry and prayers of the Psalms, we will be invited to slow down, make room for reflection, and discover how God's presence meets us in seasons of waiting. Each week's study will explore a Psalm and reflect on an enduring characteristic of God, helping us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Rather than simply counting down the days until Christmas, this study offers us an opportunity to experience Advent more intentionally through Scripture, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! Whether you are able to attend every week or join us when your schedule allows, we hope you will make time to share this special season with us.

When: November 22nd - December 20th at 9:00 a.m. **Where:** Sojourner Classroom

Come join us as we slow down, embrace the season of waiting, and prepare our hearts for the good news of Christmas!

Hi everyone,

A quick reminder: our Stewardship surveys are still open, and they're easy to complete — even the detailed Long survey takes less than 10 minutes.

You'll find all three surveys on our church website:
https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.firstpresperry.org%2Fsurveys.html&data=05%7C02%7C%7C64c23c0847c8435238ec08df335ca16f%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C639286145064097534%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CHe%2F%2FsX4D8Pi1MVhLvg6b5rXG5jiUaqdZXig9%2FcgH44%3D&reserved=0

Please complete one Time & Talents survey (Short or Long — not both), plus the separate, confidential Treasure survey. Paper copies will be available at church if you'd rather respond on paper.

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasure!

Stan Whiddon, Stewardship Committee Moderator

Dear People of God... At the beginning of the week, an email announced that I am changing calls. First, "*Be anxious for nothing.*" God is sovereign, and things will go well in God's time, especially if you avoid "eating the bread of anxiety." What does it look like to eat the bread of anxiety? It may include replaying past events, imagining worst-case scenarios, expecting bad outcomes, rushing for answers, feeling unsafe despite being safe, struggling to focus, seeking constant reassurance, avoiding people, places, or tasks, trying to control situations, or limiting contact. Second, our last Sunday together will be November 22nd. This timetable is tight and not of my making, but I must honor it. Let's make the most of our time together, trusting that God has everything in hand. Jesus told the disciples, "*I will not leave you orphaned.*" Let's rest in the words of Jesus and leave the bread of anxiety on someone else's table. Peace, JDB+

People of God,

Pastor John David Bryant

October is Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. After severe US weather and the horrors of the Cornel 7, it was a difficult month, especially for women.

In the wake of Cornel 7's utterly evil behavior, I felt inadequate as the lead spiritual director for the Sonshine North Via de Cristo women's retreat—one of two men on a team of about 30 women. I hadn't preached on women's issues until last week. Though I've stood in silent solidarity and faithfully supported gender justice, I'd never spoken about it from the pulpit. There's grace for that—and time to change, starting now.

One challenge of life in the Old South—the Deep South—is navigating ingrained cultural microaggressions that demean women. We often express them without thinking, perpetuating harmful stereotypes. These contradict Jesus' teachings; knowingly expressing them undermines his prayer that "we may all be one."
To be clear, sexist microaggressions are subtle, everyday verbal, behavioral, or environmental slights and assumptions that communicate gender bias.

Let me offer several examples:

- Interrupting and Talking Over: Men speaking over or cutting off women more frequently in meetings or casual conversations.
- Tone Policing: Telling women to "smile more," "calm down," or "not be so emotional" when they express frustration, anger, or strong opinions.
- Credibility Doubts: Questioning a woman's facts, technical knowledge, or expertise while accepting a man's statements without question.
- Diminishing Language: Referring to assertive or leading women as "bossy," "aggressive," or "difficult," while applying positive or neutral labels to men who act the same way.
- Sexist Idioms: Using phrases that equate weakness or negativity with femininity (e.g., telling someone to "stop throwing like a girl").
- Assumption of Subordinate Roles: Automatically expecting women in a workplace or meeting to take notes, clean up, clear dishes, or handle administrative and social-planning tasks.
- Misidentifying Seniority: Assuming a woman in a professional setting is in a lower-ranking position, an assistant, or a service provider rather than a manager, doctor, or executive.
- Exclusion from Informal Networks: Leaving women out of "boys' club" conversations, golf outings, or male social bonding moments where career-relevant information is shared.
- The "Babysitting" Label: Praising fathers as exceptional or heroic for performing basic childcare tasks (like feeding or changing a diaper), while viewing it as a mother's baseline duty.
- Housework as "Helping": Framing a man's contribution to household chores or cooking as "helping" his partner rather than sharing joint responsibilities.
- Shifting the Mental Load: Expecting a female partner to track household schedules, emotional labor, social calendars, and family logistics without sharing the planning burden.
- Unsolicited Commentary on Appearance: Making unprompted remarks about a woman's body, clothing, or attractiveness in settings where it is irrelevant, such as at work.
- Assumptions About Life Choices: Questioning a woman's decision to focus on her career rather than marriage or having children or treating single or childfree women as though their lives are incomplete.

If you're reading this and wondering, "What has gotten into Pr. Bryant," here's the answer: I'm still steamed about the Cornell 7. And I bet I'm not alone.

Whenever a woman shares something so intensely painful, emotionally costly, and terrifyingly difficult to say aloud, something no one should ever need to say, our first response must be trust, not suspicion, and certainly not victim-blaming.

This goes beyond a single incident at Cornell; it reflects a long-standing culture of doubting women and not making a point of addressing sexism. And I find it icky and unacceptable.

Do you suppose our culture gives it a pass because locker room behavior is still seen as "just what boys do?" Each time we vote for leaders who engage in locker room behavior, we give it a pass, we give it a platform, we embolden it, and we reinjure or create victims.

Yet we need to do more than consider our vote. We should also consider and condemn our misplaced focus: women are taught to watch their drinks, travel in groups, worry about their clothing, carry pepper spray, and text when they get home. When my wife went out as a teen, her parents would ask, "Do you have a quarter?" They wanted her to use the pay phone rather than risk encountering a creep.

Discussions about protecting women from men have largely focused on women avoiding harm. This approach is wrong and must change. A more honest approach would insist that the conversation start not with teaching women to carry a quarter and avoid assault, but with teaching men not to assault or abuse, not to ignore others' abuse, and not to minimize its severity.

As Jesus' followers, this is our mission; no big white collar is needed. Just a loving heart committed to the work—and open, honest, risky, vulnerable communication.

And let's remember that no always means no, and that a yes given when one is not of sound mind is an automatic no.

Clergy are strongly cautioned against officiating the marriages of people who aren't of sound mind. For Presbyterians, marriage has sacramental overtones; for the state, it's a legal contract. Someone who is visibly or heavily intoxicated cannot give knowing, voluntary consent. Consent without a sound mind isn't consent—before marriage, after, or ever to sex.

To this end, we pray:

> *God of shelter, grant refuge to those who suffer violence and abuse in unsafe homes. Bring your peace. God of deliverance, free those enslaved and controlled by abusers, and grant them sanctuary. Bring your freedom. God of compassion, defend the abused and the innocents who witness violence. Bring your hope. God of salvation, surround, guide, and heal those who abuse and bully others. Bring your light. God of perfect love, move us toward holiness in our relationships with you, with one another, and with creation. Bring your assurance. God of shelter, peace, deliverance, freedom, compassion, hope, salvation, light, perfect love, and assurance, hear our prayer. Amen.* *(prayer from PCUSA Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday Resources)*

Peace, JDB+

Anniversary Congratulations

Warren & Cheryl Gregory

November 23

Amalia Barrett, Nov 1
Larry Neal, Nov 2
Steve Brown, Nov 3
Cheryl Gregory, Nov 5
Emaley Gentry, Nov 7
Bob Bell, Nov 8
Chris Wilson, Nov 11

Happy Birthday to You,
God Bless You!