



First Presbyterian Church
310 Plantation Road, Perry Florida



March 2020 Newsletter



SERVICE OF INSTALLATION of the Presbytery of St. Augustine Celebrating the Installation of The Rev. Natasha Sudderth-Davis Pastor

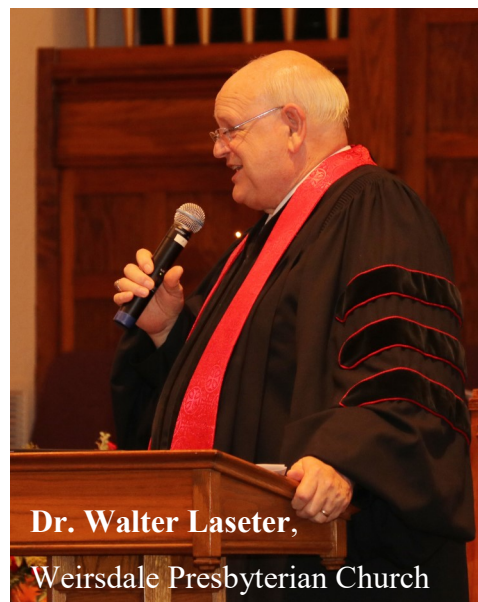
Office Hours:

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Dr. Walter Laseter,
Weirsdale Presbyterian Church



The Rev. Joe Albright,
Geneva Presbyterian Church,



Thank you to each and everyone who made this installation possible.
Glory to God!

Special thanks to those who volunteered to assist with the reception.

Special thanks to the Members of the Commission:

Edd Norris, Moderator of the Presbytery of St. Augustine , **The Rev. Joe Albright**, Geneva Presbyterian Church, **Dr. Walter Laseter**, Weirsdale Presbyterian Church, **Margie Addison**, Branford Presbyterian Church, **The Rev. Rhonda Link-Cummings**, Area Two Coordinator, **Mary Beth Neely**, Fort King Presbyterian Church, **The Rev. Alan Cummings**, Silver Springs Shores, **Bob Bell**, First Presbyterian Church of Perry, **The Rev. Don McGarity**, Area One Coordinator

Special thanks to the Participants of the Service:

Leah Metzger, Pianist, Soloist, **Bob Bell**, Organist , **The Rev. Dr. Ed Albright**, Letter to Congregation **Evalyn Sudderth**, Directing Choir, **Choral Volunteers**, **Ushers**, Bob Helberg, Angela Wilson, Betty Culbreath, Janece Campbell, Nancy Bell, Babbs Radcliff, Bobby Harper, and Rufus McMullen

Keep your eyes open for more pictures on our church website www.firstpresperry.org



Words from the Pastor

We often use abundance to measure our lives. We consider a life well lived by wealth and career, full days and family, freedom and health. Most of us know abundance as the only way of life and who could blame us. If given the chance who wouldn't choose the table spread with white linen and overflowing with wonderful food? We also surround ourselves with collected memories and snapshots of our journey with those who walk beside us. We need to see and be reassured every day that we live abundant lives.

The loss of abundance can be a powerful teacher. Hospital waiting rooms, oncology wards, the ashes of disaster and war, sickness and disease, leave us naked and trembling. Thankfully, most of us do not have to face these things daily. During lent the way we should walk should be different. During lent, we are called to faithfully choose loss.

There are two ways to walk as we live our lives. One way is towards life and the other way is towards death. Every year Lent reminds us that we are dust and ash. We are given the choice of life and death, and the right direction to walk during this time is toward....death. We cringe at the very thought, but there is more for us to consider than our own mortality. It is a powerful thing to choose death, but the result is not final. We must wrap our minds around the act of burying a part of ourselves—our securities and our abundance, for a short time. In this act we become the suffering, the sick, the poor, and the stranger.

This sounds like a lofty result from such a small sacrifice. We are asked to take on or give up one something during Lent- in some ways it can be looked at like fasting. Yet whatever we choose to take up for Lent, or set aside, it all seems rather trivial compared to the cross. When we are asked to choose life or death, we are not stripped of our clothing, made to strain under the heavy load of a cross, and die for the sins of the entire world. That has already been done by God. We are simply asked to remember and choose our path carefully.

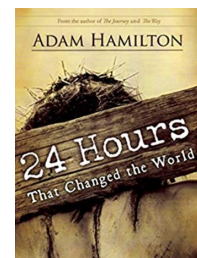
As Jesus walked to the cross, he must have looked so small and fragile, broken and alone, certainly not powerful. But for a short time, let us walk alongside him with our hands unclenched and open to the world. Let us fall in step with our small burdens and little sacrifices. For a short time we will suffer and set our place alongside the suffering.

We must turn and look into the places we fear; places that remind us even more than the ashes that will soon be on our foreheads that we are dust, and to dust we will return.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Natasha Sudderth-Davis

Join the Lenten Bible Study
Wednesdays at 12 noon or Wednesday at 7 pm
Facilitated by Pastor Natasha





FPC Youth News

March
2020

First Presbyterian Youth Are
Headed to Montreat Youth Conference!

Save the Date

July 25th - Aug 1st



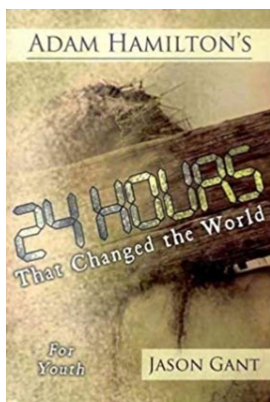
Our Mission:

Encountering God through relationships, renewal, recreation, & rest.

We seek to cultivate an abiding faith in Jesus Christ through personal and congregational spiritual renewal. To live into our mission, we attempt to nurture and preserve relationships, demonstrate intentional hospitality, care for the natural treasure that is Montreat, and foster a safe place for spiritual development. While we are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we also readily welcome groups and individuals outside the Presbyterian church to experience Montreat. All are welcome here.

Youth Conference

Montreat Youth Conference (MYC) is a unique gathering of high school aged youth from all around the country. Designed for entering freshmen through graduated seniors, participants learn about and celebrate the love of Jesus Christ through small group study, worship, and recreation. The theme changes, but the values are the same: sharing God's love and hope, providing opportunities for faith growth and development, and equipping and empowering young people for Christian discipleship in the Church and world.



Group Study for Youth

All youth are welcome to participate in the Lenten Bible Study facilitated by Shona Widdon. The group meets every Wednesday evening after the Fellowship Dinner at 7pm.

Youth Schedule

6-7:00 pm at FPC

Parents are welcome.

March 8

Movie Night 6-8

March 15

No Youth Group

March 29

Scavenger Hunt

REGISTRATION

EXTENTION

FOR MONTREAT

April 5th

Last Day to sign up
for Montreat

Coming
Soon!



Examine your Heart



Meu Coracao, My Heart

“Create in me a clean heart oh God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” Sometimes we must empty and clean out all of the mire out of our hearts and lives for God’s renewal. We must muster the courage to take an honest look at our own hearts. Much like the tree our hearts are misshapen, rough, and sometimes hollow. One’s spirit can be bruised and broken cause by external forces and internal choices. Yet like our own hearts, the misshapeness of the tree yields to openness; there is still beauty in the rough edges; in the hollow shadows God’s light penetrates and shines through.

Like the tiny light in the hollow of this tree, God reminds us that even in our hollow places there is “God-residue” left. There is always enough left in order to give God praise. There is enough light to be fully restored into joy. The God-residue or light that resides within us reminds us of God’s faithfulness, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and unfailing love. It is when we have cleaned up and cleaned out our hearts that we are able to connect with the light of God that dwells within us.” -- Olusola Tribble

FOR SELF-EXAMINATION AND PERSONAL REFLECTION DURING LENT

Friends in Christ, every year before the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community. We thus begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

People are invited to prayerfully and honestly examine themselves:

- Am I, by consistent attendance at worship, a witness to others of the worthiness of the God I follow? Or am I, by my sporadic attendance, suggesting that God is worth serving sometimes, but not others?
- How has my sense of interconnectedness in corporate worship grown of late, and how can I move ahead in appreciating the needs and contributions of others in the congregation?
- What progress am I making in sharing gladly what I have with others, particularly the stranger and poor?
- What attitudes do I convey to those who irritate me? How can awareness of my own need of God’s grace enable me to be more gracious to them?

- Am I as charitable and thoughtful to family members as to others? Or do I “take it out” on my family when life gets hectic?
- When I hear someone being unjustly maligned, do I speak up to correct the record, or am I a silent accomplice?
- How can I more effectively and consistently support programs and legislation that help the disadvantaged?
- In devotional acts of prayer and reading, am I increasing my attention span and discovering new ways of listening rather than talking, or giving thanks rather than complaining?
- In addition to intercessory prayer, what habits can I develop that allow me to be more responsive to the sick, the distressed, the bereaved, particularly when their needs require immediate action? Can I make space in my life to allow for unanticipated opportunities to minister to others?

SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD

- Pride, self-satisfaction, self-righteousness, hard-heartedness
- Worship: more performance than true devotion
- Controlled by fear and anxiety rather than by faith
- Holding back our money in fear of not having enough in the future
- Too little time spent one-on-one with my Lord
- Neglect of prayer, the Word, spiritual direction
- Idolatry—gaining meaning from things instead of from God
- Hypocrisy, inauthenticity
- Joyless labor in God’s house instead of joyful work by God’s side
- Allowing the world to change us instead of our changing the world
- Not giving God first consideration in all decisions
- Slowness to acknowledge and confess my sins...

SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER

- Lack of love for each other; little true connection between us; Demanding total agreement; allowing others to be demonized for holding different opinions
- Judgmental spirit, lack of grace, rigidity, being overly demanding
- Talking more than listening
- Gossiping
- Complaining
- Not taking in what the other is saying and weighing it in Holy Spirit and instead reacting immediately against it
- Leaders not bringing prophetic challenges to people ...

SINS AGAINST OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

- Lack of sacrificial service to the poor and oppressed
- Separating ourselves from the world so that we don’t see social problems that keep people oppressed and captive
- Weak engagement with those who set social policies
- Lack of passion for those who don’t know Jesus; failure to build bridges of relationships through service
- Failure to call others to live in accord with God’s sovereign rule as characterized by love and justice and shalom for all
- Lack of vision for the church in our city/region
- Weakness in intercessory prayer for others and our ministries
- Lack of equal respect for all cultures, and between each
- Consumer mentality, allowing our possessions to own us instead of investing in Kingdom work

Laziness—“Let someone else do it.”

- Failure to live as good stewards of the earth and all God has provided for us to share with one another
- Acceptance of and acquiescence to social sins that enslave and hurt others—pornography, slave labor practices, domestic violence, genocide, war, limiting access to food, housing, healthcare, etc.
- Refusing to blow the whistle on social and personal sin so that others may know God’s love for all...

Pride—putting self in the place of god as the center and objective of our life. Pride is the refusal to recognize our status as creatures, dependent upon God.

Irreverence—deliberate neglect of God’s worship, or contentment with a perfunctory participation in it. Manifest as cynicism toward the holy or as use of Christianity for personal advantage

Sentimentality—satisfaction with pious feelings and beautiful ceremony without striving for personal holiness

Distrust—refusal to recognize God’s wisdom and love. Undue worry, anxiety, scrupulosity, or perfectionism. Attempts to gain or keep control of our life in various ways

Disobedience—rejection of God’s known will. The refusal to learn God’s nature through scripture. Breaking confidence by irresponsibility, treachery, and unnecessary disappointment of others. Breaking legal or moral contracts.

Impenitence—Refusal to search out and face up to our sins, or to confess them before God. Self-justification by believing our sins to be insignificant, natural, or inevitable; by refusing to apologize; by being unwilling to forgive ourselves.

Vanity—Failure to credit God and others for their part in our lives. Boasting, exaggeration, ostentatious behavior, undue concern over “things”

Arrogance—Being overbearing, argumentative, opinionated, obstinate

Resentment—Rejection of talents, abilities, or opportunities God and others give us. Rebellion, hatred of God or human beings. Cynicism.

Envy—Dissatisfaction with our place in God’s order of creation. Manifests itself in jealousy, malice, and contempt for others or others’ things

Covetousness—the refusal to respect the integrity of other creatures, expressed in the accumulation of material things to prove self-worth, the use of others to personal advantage, or in the quest for status and power at the expense of others

Avarice—manifested in inordinate ambition or domination of others. The waste of natural resources or personal possessions. Extravagance or living beyond our means. Manifest in undue protection of our things. Stinginess, which can deprive others of life and thus kill them.

Gluttony—overindulgence of natural appetites for food and drink, and by inordinate quest for pleasure or comfort. Manifest in intemperance and lack of discipline

Lust—misuse of sex through seeing others as objects for our own pleasure without regard for their desires. Includes unchastity, immodesty, adultery, prudery.

Sloth—the refusal to respond to opportunities for growth, service, or sacrifice. Laziness in spiritual, mental, or physical duties. Neglect of family. Indifference to injustice or the world’s suffering. Neglecting the outcast or person in need.

Questions drawn from resources for Lent, PC(USA) and L. Stookey (adapted).

Citations: Meu Coracao, my heart; from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.; Blessing the Dust, Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons



FPC Prayer List

Loisell Coleman	Hattie Adams	Betty Lou Hendry	John Ricketson	Judy Neal
Fanette Chesser	Elvena Johnson	Ben Sunderland	Kendall Horne	
Rhonda Brooks	Shirley Erwin	Beverly Radcliff	Chuck Davis	

THROUGH THE PRAYER CHAIN, members of First Presbyterian are given the opportunity to turn to God in supplication for others. You may start a prayer request by contacting Margaret Poppell at perryfpcprayers@yahoo.com.

224TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 14TH — 20TH, 2020



Stated Clerk invites Presbyterians to 180 days of prayer, leading up to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

In making this announcement, the Stated Clerk emphasizes that “daily prayer leading up to our denomination’s biennial assembly is a reminder that General Assembly belongs to God, and not to us.”

This cycle of prayer “reminds commissioners who are being called by their presbyteries that they will be making significant decisions about the future of our denomination. It also reminds us that members of congregations, as well as our ecumenical and interfaith partners attending the assembly, will be praying with and for us as we meet.”

In this call to prayer, all members of the church, from children through senior adults, are invited to consider our church’s past, evaluate its present, and plot a prayerful course into God’s future. Nelson adds that “this cycle of prayer will invite the Holy Spirit’s continued reign over our church, providing strength to make sometimes difficult decisions that are necessary at this particular time — calling the church to do 21st century ministry.”

The Stated Clerk believes that the 224th General Assembly (2020) will be one to watch as a denomination. He urges those attending — commissioners and visitors alike — to “look out from themselves and see the need of every church on every corner.” He encourages commissioners not to come just to cast votes, but to make a difference in the city of Baltimore.

Nelson invites all Presbyterians, whether commissioners to General Assembly or not, to join in this intentional cycle of prayer. “As we discuss the big issues that face us as a church, may our conversation be undergirded with prayer. I pray that we will do more than just vote, but that we will come with open hearts, open to God’s spirit possibly changing our minds about the issues we consider.”

Nelson concludes, “I hope that this General Assembly will be a time when we can come together not with a mindset of winning or losing, but with a realization that our decisions should be our discernment of what God wants us to do. I pray that every commissioner leaving the assembly believes that every decision may not have been what ‘I’ want, but that every decision will be what God wants.”

Please be in prayer for the commissioners who will be representing St. Augustine Presbytery at General Assembly. Those attending will be Sandra Hedrick, stated clerk of the Presbytery, Joe Medearis, Emma Cottrell, Cedrick Grant and Bob Bell.

Thank you from Light House Children's Home

Dear Pastor and Friends,



It is apparent that there is trouble everywhere we look, whether it is politics or our favorite sport or in our school system. Young 6th graders bringing guns to school, fights in big name eateries and all the way down to the elected officials we voted for. So where is truth, where is the peace that passeth all understanding? At the Lighthouse, we teach those truths. We teach them in our school. We teach in our dorm and the answers all come from the Blessed Book.

From all of us at the Lighthouse, we thank you for letting us teach our young ladies what the real meaning of truth and peace is all about in a new life walking with God. May your holiday season be blest and thank you so much for sharing with us to allow us to keep teaching from the precious Book.

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00.

Sincerely,

Bro. Billy Hudson, President

Girls and Staff

If you have a note, announcement, or picture etc. to put in the **April Newsletter** please have your detailed info given to the office by way of email by **Wednesday, March 18, 2020**.

Email to: office@firstpresperry.org

Thank
You!



Presbyterian Mission
**Mission Engagement
& Support**

Dear Fellow Partners in God's Mission;

Please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support of Presbyterian Mission personnel. Your contribution changes people's lives for the sake of the gospel around the world. On November 15, 2019, we received \$2,000.00 for D507566 Cindy Corell.

Yours in Christ,

Sy Hughes

Mission Engagement Advisor



Installed and Ordained Elders

Stan Whiddon, Janece Campbell, Heather Speas, and Brenda Wilson.

Improved Access Security at First Presbyterian Church

Fobs, key pads, and new keys/locks are coming to the First Presbyterian Church. This is to improve safety and security for our members and guests and for our very important “charges”, the children at Rooms To Grow.

In the past, we have had some unexpected “visitors” in our church. Also, some doors have not properly locked when people exit. Professional lock technicians are correcting known hardware issues. These projects will help reduce such issues.

We request everyone’s cooperation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Chuck Eckel. If you notice an issue with a door, please report it. We seek to improve security but not impede anyone’s need to worship and serve God’s church and community.

The FPC key system, in place for 24 years, will be replaced with restricted cylinder locks in the main building and the Sanctuary. The new keys can only be duplicated by our contracted locksmith. New keys will be issued to those needing them to unlock doors for Worship, Wednesday night Fellowship, and other events.

For others, needing entrance to the facility for individual work and service, fobs will be issued. Fobs have been assigned individually by Chuck Eckel and he has begun passing them out. The fobs will open the north and south doors at the end of the long central hall. They will also open the north door into the Fellowship Hall and the east door outside the Choir Room. The fobs are held near a key pad at the door and will open the door for 7 seconds to permit individual entry, after which the door will relock. In addition, each fob holder has been assigned a personal PIN that may be used instead of the fob. However, most users will find using the fob is much more convenient.

In addition, a network of security cameras has been implemented. The cameras are always recording and can be viewed in the office and by ushers. If an incident occurs, recordings are available to help investigators.

Finally, an access control system has been installed in the church office. Staff and office volunteers have been trained on the system. It allows them to view and talk to visitors at the outside office door and determine whether to admit them or not. Our church helps many in the community, but must do so with consideration for everyone’s safety.

Again, Chuck will be happy to receive any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Chuck Eckel



First Presbyterian Church of Perry

March Calendar 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 11am Communion Sunday Session Ordination and installation	2	3	4 Lenten Study Noon & 7 pm Dinner 5:45 Choir 7pm	5	6	7
8 Spring Forward Worship 11am CFTC 2pm	9	10	11 Lenten Study Noon & 7 pm Dinner 5:45 Choir 7pm	12	13	14
15 Worship 11am Session meeting Following Wor- ship	16 Session Meeting	17	18 Lenten Study Noon & 7 pm April Newslet- ter Deadline	19	20	21
22 Worship 11am	23	24	25 Lenten Study Noon & 7 pm Dinner 5:45 Choir 7pm	26	27	28
29 Worship 11am	30	31				

March Birthdays

Dave Fraser—March 2
 Shona Whiddon— March 3
 Ron Poppell— March 6
 Joanie MacNeill— March 13
 Ashley Biddy— March 14
 Janece Campbell— March 16
 Mandy Cornelius— March 16
 Carrie Albritton— March 18
 Sheena Jenkins— March 19
 Bob Lutz— March 19
 Alan Jenkins— March 20
 Harley Smith — March 24
 Vaughan Early — March 27

March Anniversaries

Alex & Kristie Lutz— March 6
 Steve & Jennifer Caruso— March 25

Lenten Study

Wednesdays at Noon and 7pm
 (Youth) Wednesdays at 7pm

Wednesday Supper Schedule

March 4— Potluck Team
 March 11— AJ & Sandy Hilgendorf/Youth Team
 March 18—No Supper
 March 25— Jeanne & Warren Hilgendorf Team