



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PERRY, FLORIDA

MARCH 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am Communion Acolyte Training	2	3 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship Mtg 5 pm Worship Mtg 6 pm	4 Prayer Mtg 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ NO Potluck, Supper Team 3 Choir 7 pm	5 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am Acolyte Training	9 Craft & Fellowship 1:00 pm Mission Outreach meeting 3:30 pm	10 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am Admin meeting 4 pm	11 Prayer Mtg 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Supper Team 2 Choir 7 pm	12 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am	13	14 Ultreya & Lunch @ Noon
15 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am Acolyte Training	16	17 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10 am Session Mtg 5:30 pm	18 Prayer meeting 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am NO Fellowship Supper	19 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	23 Craft & Fellowship 1:00pm	24 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am	25 Prayer meeting 9:30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/ Supper Team 4 Choir 7 pm	26 Heidelberg Catechism 10 am	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am Communion Holy Week Begins	30 FUMC 6:45 am	31 FUMC 6:45 am Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10:00 am	4/1 FUMC 6:45 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm	4/2 FUMC 6:45 am Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm Communion Maundy Thursday	4/3 FUMC 6:45 am Good Friday Service 6 pm Good Friday	4/4 Easter Vigil

It's **One Great Hour of Sharing** time in our Church. This is the single largest Presbyterian USA mission to rebuilding lives and restoring hope to the poorest people world-wide. Each gift we give makes a difference to these people by providing seeds to sustain a community garden, access clean water, tools for building shelters and latrines, and SO much more. Larger gifts can sponsor the purchase of a pig, a pair of goats, or even a pair of rabbits that can alleviate hunger for an entire family for a year or more. If you are interested in supporting these larger gifts, there are brochures in the Church Narthex to show you what and how to sponsor them. OR you can ask Dianna Sandonato or any Mission Committee member to show you.

There are cardboard fish in the pews, and all are encouraged to take a fish home. Feed your fish with change and even dollars. On Palm Sunday, March 29th, the children will be "going fishing" for change filled fish. If the children catch 20 fish, or more, the children will get a prize!

Additionally, there are **One Great Hour of Sharing** envelopes in the pews if you prefer to use. These "fish" will count toward our goal of 20 fish too!

Together we can bring hope and sustainability to those that need it the most. Isn't that what God calls us to do. Jesus said: Whom ever does for the least of my children also does it for Me.

Let's fish for them!

Thank you,

Dianna Sandonato

Mission & Outreach



HAPPENINGS! Izzy, Ashley, and Hunter attended a spiritual retreat for teenagers over the weekend of February 6-8, 2026, in Pensacola, Florida. They were accompanied by Paster John David Bryant, Harriet Bryant, and Joey Ratliff. Super proud of these teenagers for taken steps to deepen their faith and trust in God, their heavenly father!



- Shona Whiddon, March 3
- Ron Poppell, March 6
- Joanie MacNeill, March 13
- Janece Campbell, March 16
- Carrie Albritton, March 18
- Bob Lutz, March 19
- Sheena Jenkins, March 19
- Harley Smith, March 24
- Doris Putnal, March 25
- John David Bryant, March 31

Dear People of God,

As Lent begins, let's consider what the church can learn from the corporate world. Susan Wojcicki, CEO of YouTube, has seen Google's growth from its start in her garage. In 2011, she outlined "[*The Eight Pillars of Innovation*](#)," which prompted me to consider how to foster a similar culture of innovation at First Presbyterian Church.

Have a mission that matters: "Work can be more than a job when it stands for something you care about." This should be the core of the local church. Many churches lack a clear calling, with most mission statements sounding the same. Since God has a mission and a Church to carry it out, in this Lenten season, let's ask ourselves, how are we uniquely expressing what God calls our church to do? Do we focus on what truly matters?

Think big but start small: "No matter how ambitious the plan, you have to begin somewhere." Jesus said, "Whoever can be trusted with little can also be trusted with much ..." [ref]. This principle should influence our congregational culture. Big impact begins small. This Lenten season, ask what small step we can take today to influence our church's future?

Aim for ongoing innovation, not immediate perfection: "Our iterative process teaches us invaluable lessons." Lasting impact takes time; it doesn't happen overnight. Instead of seeking a silver bullet, focus on various improvements. What innovations today will enhance our long-term ministry capacity?

Search for ideas everywhere: "Some of the most innovative ideas at Google come from small groups of Googlers discussing inspiring topics on a break." Good ideas often arise from blending diverse fields to create solutions. Let's connect with other churches and stay updated on impactful organizations. Faithful learning can come our way from anywhere. Ask what's working around you and how to apply these lessons to our church.

Share everything: "Our employees know nearly everything about ongoing matters and decision reasons." In Eric Schmidt's book [*How Google Works*](#), he discusses how open Google has been with its team. They hold weekly Q&A sessions with top executives, where any staff member can ask questions, with the sessions shared widely with few leaks. Sometimes church leaders make future plans behind closed doors, but it might be better to involve everyone at every level, sharing plans and requesting feedback. This is where Session Sharing can be a major positive.

Spark with imagination, fuel with data: "What begins with intuition is fueled by insights." Churches rely on core assumptions shared by leaders, shaping models and communication. But are these assumptions supported by data and reality? Can we test our beliefs? While church leadership is art, we can also apply science.

Be a platform: "... we believe in open technologies. They let anyone develop products on our platforms." Church leaders should view themselves as platforms for growth, not direct providers. Companies like Google, Uber, and Airbnb show that providing a platform can reshape industries without owning products—Google connects seekers to information; Uber offers rides; Airbnb rents space. Churches often see themselves as primary providers of spiritual growth, but perhaps they should focus on facilitating interactions that lead to growth. This raises questions about the church's true role. What might it look like if we saw our church as a strategic platform where 'smart creatives' could try new ideas?

Never fail to fail: "Google is known for YouTube, not Google Video Player." Fail fast, fail often, fail forward. High stakes in our church can cause fear of failure, but avoiding risk can limit impact and opportunity. Failure is part of progress; impactful organizations often have notable failures. What are you doing now that could fail? If you can't think of anything, you're not risking enough.

As we ponder, let's pray:

O God of artistry, inspiration, and enterprise, yours is the Great Imagination. We admit our spirits are often dimmed by fear and limits of our own making. Creator Spirit, breathe upon us. Move in our hearts to find new ways for the Church. Give us the boldness to innovate and follow you into uncharted territory. When stuck in the past, grant us the foresight to build a vibrant future. During this Lent, renew us and empower us to love, serve, and innovate with energy and intelligence. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

(prayer from the PCUSA)

Peace,
JDB+

Notes and Reminders



Lenten Supper & Devotion

In keeping with the penitential season of Lent, Wednesday suppers will be a simple meal of soup, salad and bread. Pastor John David Bryant will lead a short Lenten Devotional during these evenings. Wednesday night suppers during Lent will be February 18th (after

the Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:00 p.m.), February 25th, March 4th, March 11th, and March 25th. Come at 5:45 pm for a time of fellowship and the meal will be served at 6:00 pm.



Holy Week

During Holy Week, First Presbyterian Church will have the following opportunities for worship and fellowship. Please join us as we prepare to celebrate our Risen Savior.



March 29, 2026} Palm Sunday Service @ 11:00 a.m.

March 29, 2026} Palm Sunday Lessons & Hymns @ 6:00 p.m.

April 1, 2026} Wednesday Night Supper & Devotion @ 5:45 p.m.

April 2, 2026} Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:00 p.m.

April 3, 2026} Good Friday Service (Tenebrae) @ 6:00 p.m.



April 5, 2026} EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service & Light Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m.

Easter Morning Service @ 9:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church is joining
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic Lunch @ 10:45 a.m.

