



First Presbyterian Church of Perry
 310 Plantation Road Perry, FL 32348
October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am		1	2 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm/Potluck Choir 7 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	7 Crafts 1 pm	8 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10 am Administration Meeting 4:00 pm Worship meeting 6:00 pm	9 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm Choir 7 pm	10 Christian Education Meeting 10:30 am	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	14 Crafts 1 pm Mission /Outreach meeting 3 pm	15 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10 am Session Meeting 5:00 pm	16 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm Choir 7 pm	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	21 Crafts 1 pm	22 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10 am Worship Meeting 6:00 pm	23 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Cong. Care Meeting 4:00 pm Fellowship Supper 5:45 pm Choir 7 pm	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	28 Crafts 1 pm	29 Beach Bible Study 9:30 am FPC Bible Study 10 am	30 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am Fellowship Supper 5:45 Choir 7 pm	31		

Letter from our Pastor

Friends,

God is our helper. The Psalmist urges us, “Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings who cannot save.... Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.” (*Psalm 146*)

Are you ready to cast your vote for President of the United States? In Taylor County, early voting begins in October. Our nation soon discerns its next president along with many other civil leaders. One of Presbyterianism’s fathers, John Calvin, writing on civil government tells us, “...civil authority is a calling, not only holy and lawful before God, but also the most sacred and by far the most honorable of all callings in the whole life of mortal man.” To support this view, Calvin cites: Exodus 22:8; Deuteronomy 1:16, 17; 2 Chronicles 19:6; Psalm 82:1, 6; John 10:35. (see Calvin’s *Institutes 4*, The Magistrate is a Living Law)

As adherents of Calvin's theology, Presbyterians believe that it’s okay for Christians to vote and to participate in our country’s political process as far as our conscience permits. We put faith into action and do things such as vote, attend a peaceful political rally, serve honorably in the military, and hold political office. Calvin calls civic leaders “ordained protectors and vindicators of public innocence, modesty, decency, and tranquility, and ... their sole endeavor should be to provide for the common safety and peace of all.”

This business of discerning civil leaders is a serious business indeed, so serious, in fact, that we should not do it apart from prayer. And mind you, not just the kind of prayer where we talk to God; we must also employ the kind of prayer where we listen to God. For when it comes to such weighty, busy matters as discerning civic leaders, Martin Luther tells us, “If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day.”

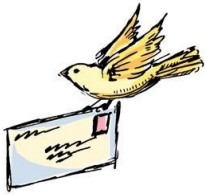
Now, since I am certain we are already deeply in prayer for God to grant leaders that God calls to hold civic office, let’s also comfort ourselves in the knowledge that Jesus, the God of Jacob, is our helper. We are blessed because Jesus, Jacob’s God and Lord, helps us in this life and for eternity. Jesus is more trustworthy than princes, more reliable than politicians, more gracious than electorates, and the generous lover of our souls. Civic leaders, no matter how capable or worthy, are always only human, quite limited in their ability to help.

Yet Jesus is unlimited in capability, and a great deal more than worthy. Wisely place your trust and confidence in Jesus, for Jesus works all things for the good. You are baptized into Jesus Christ, and Jesus will lead you safely through our world’s trials and tumults.

Therefore, we pray: O God of Jacob, keep this world, and our nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves, and a peaceable blessing to all the nations of the earth. Grant us the ability to discern trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and to serve you faithfully in this and every generation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace, JDB+

Notes and Reminders



Sending a special thank you for being her (Patricia Lindsey) church family. It brought her great comfort over the years.

Sincerely,
Peggy Williams

October Anniversaries

Bob & Nancy Bell—October 19

Warren & Jeanne Hilgendorf—October 20

Ron & Margaret Poppell—October 22

October Birthdays

James Blume—October 1

Cole MacNeill—October 1

Jude Smith—October 5

Jude Smith—October 5

Marcy Fletcher—October 8

Christine Lutz—October 16

Dianna Sandonato—October 17

Juanita Ratliff—October 17

Annie Hilgendorf—October 30