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AUGUST 2021

ISSUE 21-8

# The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

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# Leadership

## NEW SERMON SERIES MALACHI: FAITH IN FOGGY DAYS

**From Pastor Mackay**

Greetings Church Family,

The session and staff are eager to press forward in ministry as another school year dawns and our schedule of events picks up. You have been much in our prayers, and we look forward to seeing what the Lord continues to do among us! This issue will cover a great deal; looking back on our summer activity and looking ahead to the coming months.

I have profiled our next sermon series: a journey through the prophecy of Malachi. In the other sections, read carefully to discover some of the opportunities for you and your family to grow together. Above all, we look forward to another year of prayerful praise and service to the God who has saved us in Jesus. May he be glorified in all we do!

In Christ,  
Mackay

In 538 B.C., the exiled people of Israel received glorious news. It's the same news that has brought cause of celebration to countless refugees, soldiers, and travelers (and a few kids at summer camp, too): You can go home! King Cyrus of Persia had decreed that the people of God could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. They went with safe passage, and with the encouraging words of Haggai and Zechariah ringing in their ears. Rebuild! Worship! God is faithful!

Yet, by the time Malachi arrived on the scene (475-450 BC), all of Israel's initial excitement had waned; their faith was under test. Judea (a Persian province) was a small, insignificant part of a vast empire. There was no glimmer of Israelite independence, much less a Davidic king on the throne. Further, the people dealt with the dread twins of drought and hunger. Perhaps worst of all, a temple had been built, but it fell far short of *the* temple of Solomon. The structure itself paled in comparison to the lavishness of its predecessor. Further, there were no longer any special manifestations of God's presence. Even the Holy of Holies was empty of the visible glory

of God. The Israelites seemed stranded in the doldrums of unfulfilled expectations, disappointment, confusion, and disillusionment.

This disappointment led down all the paths that it can still lead us today. What happens when we don't get what we expect from God? First, we question his character. Does God really love us? Do his promises still stand? Next, as we question God our worship becomes lackluster and formalized. We content ourselves with a dead religion, seeing no point in passionately pursuing a God who seems not to deliver. We may dress up and show up, but that's about it. In and among such mediocrity, we shouldn't be surprised to find creeping sin. It may not be outright apostasy or a total abandonment of God, but here and there our obedience falters. We think more of ourselves than of God. We indulge ourselves in the pleasures of the world and forsake godly priorities. Israel showed all this malaise which is so often characteristic of our own discipleship.

Into this foggy morass comes Malachi, sent by God to awaken and to give hope. Through him, we find God's final words to his Old Testament people. Malachi reminds of the character and nature of God. God has not changed. His righteousness and justice will prevail.

**Continues on page 3...**



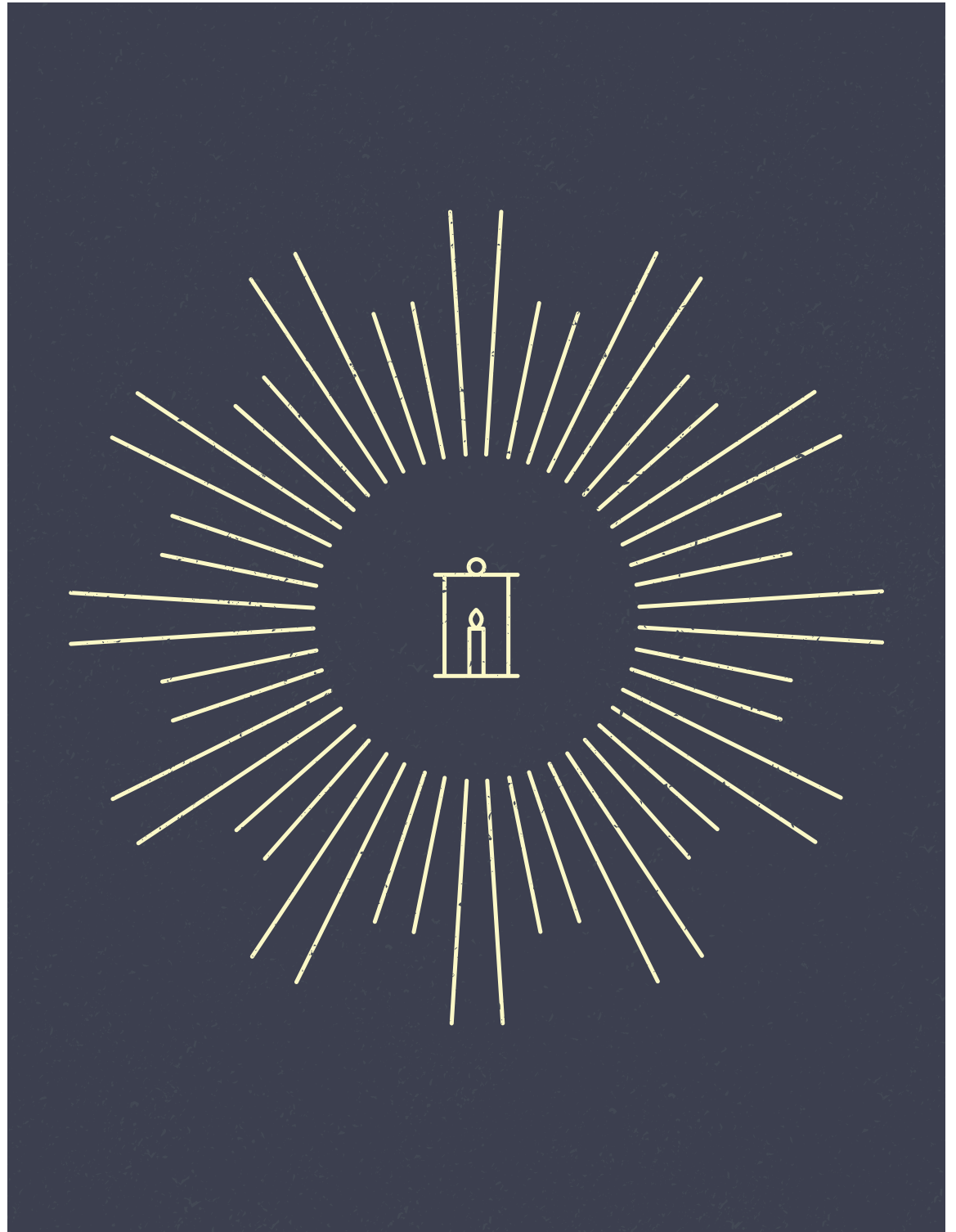
MALACHI

## Continued from page 2...

He reminds them of the Judgment of God. God, the Lord of Hosts, will never forsake those who cling to him in obedience, and his wrath will come to all those who forsake him in sin. Finally, Malachi reminds them of God's covenant love. Israel's lackluster loyalty belies the God whose has chosen them as his precious bride, and will, by his own might, bring his final salvation to completion in their midst.

It is on this note that Malachi (and the Old Testament) conclude: do not despair, but look for the work of God to continue. Specifically, Malachi proclaims, look for the coming of a truer and better Elijah. He will be the precursor to a new era of revelation, an era of untold blessing.

The "minor" prophets (so-called because of their length, not their significance), are often a neglected part of God's Word. Pray that God would use Malachi's message to awaken our own passions for the Living God, and to worship and serve him! ■



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are highlights from the meeting on July 27.

- Prayer was given for the needs of our congregation and the ministries of our church.

## PRAYER FOCUS

**AUGUST 1** - Pastoral Search Committee

**AUGUST 8** - School Start

**AUGUST 15** - Faithful City Church ARP,  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

**AUGUST 22** - Discipleship Ministries

**AUGUST 29** - Musical Ensembles

•Stewardship and Finance reported that as of July 13, our income for the year is at 48% of the budget, and expenses are at 45% of the budget.

•The Discipleship committee presented their plan for the upcoming season, and it was approved.

•The Session approved the recommended Senior Pastor job description presented by the Pastor Search Committee.

# Discipleship

## Discipleship Sunday August 22nd

Join us for a combined small group meeting for all ages in the fellowship hall. Coffee, juice, donuts, and fruit will be served. Come and kick off a new season of discipleship together with reports and announcements from our discipleship, children's, youth, and music ministries!

**NEW FOR 2021**

## ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS

**Begins September 1**

The Discipleship Committee is excited to introduce ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS, our new Wednesday discipleship program. Along with our traditional supper, each month will feature a rotation of programs. No matter the main program, there will be ministry events for all ages.

### Weekly Schedule

6:00 - Supper in Fellowship Hall  
6:30 - Children's & Youth Program  
6:45 - Main Program (see below)  
7:30 - Pick Up Children in Child. Dept  
8:00 - Pick Up Youth in FLC

### Program Rotation

#### 1st Wednesday - Potluck and Fellowship

On these nights, the church will provide a "main" dish and dessert. You and your family bring a side dish to share. After our shared meal, we will enjoy an evening of fellowship together.

#### 2nd Wednesday - Breakout Night

Second Wednesdays will feature both a main class and breakout groups. A breakout group might form to study church history or good Christian literature, for example. A list of breakout groups for this fall will be published later this month!

#### 3rd Wednesday - Hymn Sing and Prayer Meeting

#### 4th Wednesday - Bible Study

#### 5th Wednesday - Rock on Wednesday will NOT meet on 5th Wednesdays.

Fall 2021 dates off: Sept 29, Nov 10 and 24, Dec 22 and 29

## SMALL GROUPS

### Looking for a place to begin?

Check out The Hub, a new adult class beginning August 29 in the Recreation Room (Children's Dept.).

This class will enjoy brunch and sermon discussion led by an elder or a pastor.

Talk with Pastor Mackay if you are looking for more direction for exploring any of our current small groups! We have a place for you!

# Missions & Outreach

WORK CAMP BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY FPCLW!



# Music Ministry

## MUSICAL OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2021

### From Vince Treadway

As you all know, 2020 threw us all out of our regular programs and patterns and prevented regular rehearsals for choirs and musicians for quite some time. Fortunately, the excellent musicians who were able to participate in music made it possible to have music for worship services without any breaks! We enjoyed a great variety in worship music since the COVID pandemic began, and now we look forward to this fall to begin a more normal pattern of rehearsals and performances for our musicians.

Below is the line-up of musical opportunities beginning Wednesday, September 1. If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument with a group and would like new camaraderie with brothers and sisters in Christ, please come and join us! All of the musical opportunities are open to all, whether you are a member of FPC or not. We seek to make our musical offerings multi-generational, so they are open to a broader age span. The children's programs are free, and we welcome children from the community to join us.

Chancel Choir is renamed "Large Vocal Ensemble" and will be rehearsing on a schedule of three consecutive Wednesday rehearsals followed by a Sunday performance and then off. It is open to students in middle school and high school and adults; rehearsal and performance dates will be announced in the Sunday worship bulletin.

Musical Beginnings — babies and toddlers to 3 years old with Rachel Smith, Wednesdays from 4 - 4:45 pm; room TBD beginning September 1. Contact Rachel Smith at rachsmith04@gmail.com to register.

Covenant Kids — children 4-6 years old with Vince Treadway, Wednesdays from 4 - 4:45 pm in the Handbell Room beginning September 1.

King's Singers — children 7-14 years old with Vince Treadway, Wednesdays from 5 - 6 pm in the Choir Room beginning September 1.

Youth Ensemble — middle and high school students, Sundays immediately following small groups; two rehearsals and performance - rehearsal and performance dates will be announced in the Sunday worship bulletin.

Handbell Choir — middle school, high school, and adults, Mondays 5 - 6 pm; schedule TBD (must be able to read music).

Small Vocal Ensemble — auditioned singers who are interested in more challenging repertoire; schedule TBD. Please contact Vince Treadway at vince@fpclw.org to audition for this ensemble.

Soloists, Duets, Trios, Quartets - those who sing and play instruments and would like to provide worship music as soloists or in an ensemble, please contact Vince Treadway.

If interested in joining any of the above musical groups or for more information about the music ministries of FPC, please contact Vince Treadway at vince@fpclw.org. ■

# High School & Middle School

## HORIZON & QUEST

From Shane Miller

Horizon Group



Quest Group



The Lord worked mightily to strengthen our students' faith in Christ during Quest and Horizon.

Thanks for your prayers!



# Children's Ministry

LIFE TOGETHER TO GLORIFY GOD

From Kelly Harrington

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. -Romans 15:5-7

This morning (as I write this), I am looking forward to the last day of Vacation Bible Music Camp. Today, our students will perform the mini-musical, Heroes of the Faith, which they have been preparing for throughout the week of music camp. The music and children's department hallways have been alive with the work of the church this week, and it has been a time of great joy for all of us! Our students and leaders have enjoyed an enriching time of fellowship, discipleship, and service together in church. What a blessing it has been to work and learn alongside one another for the week of Vacation Bible Music Camp. We, once again, have experienced unity through the work of the Holy Spirit so "that together...with one voice" we might glorify God. I hope the snapshots on this page give you a sense of the happiness we shared during the last week of July.

I look forward with a great hope for more to come! We will continue with our Summer Sunday School Camp-In on Sunday mornings through most of August for children in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade! On August 22 we will participate in our church-wide discipleship Sunday and celebrate the promotions of our kindergarten and fifth grade students! On August 29, we will begin our fall Sunday School classes with chapel time, additional classes, and a discipleship class for adults (parents, grandparents, college students, etc.) in the children's department! On Wednesday, September 1, Ekklesia Kidz will begin again with new games, lessons, and small groups for our students! There is much to do and much opportunity for you to learn and grow with us in children's ministry. Please consider how the Lord might be calling you to be a part of our children's ministry in his church, and come experience the blessings he has for you there!

Kindly, Kelly ■









## MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

# Church Family

### BIRTHDAYS

July 1, Trent Jackson  
July 1, Keaton Kohl  
July 1, Kevin Kohl  
July 2, Marguerite Bacon  
July 2, John Beck  
July 2, Pat Frankenburger  
July 2, Sasha Friend  
July 5, Tami Estes  
July 5, Maggie Clare Hixenbaugh  
July 6, Whitney Brewer  
July 6, Tom Galloway  
July 7, Chip Carter  
July 7, Caroline Swanson  
July 8, Bob Brookes  
July 8, Doug Pace  
July 10, Troy Hershberger  
July 10, Becky Jahna  
July 13, Bob Meeker  
July 13, Nikki Sealey  
July 16, Joshua Roe  
July 16, Julia Roe  
July 17, Cash Cockrell  
July 17, Alison Freeland  
July 17, Maya Hershberger  
July 17, Faith Treadway  
July 20, Chuck Loveless  
July 21, Jack Brandies  
July 21, James Ebel  
July 23, Wanda Bryan  
July 24, Dick Bailey  
July 25, David Kennedy Nelson  
July 25, June Ullman  
July 28, David Nelson  
July 29, Carol Bourdette  
July 29, Charlie Henry  
July 31, Dawn McCollum

August 2, Tom Freeland  
August 2, Dottie Bailey  
August 3, Steve Sorensen  
August 7, Michael Kahler  
August 7, Shelly DiNunzio  
August 8, Anne Stuart  
August 9, Ann Story  
August 10, Amy Crews  
August 10, Tom Kohl  
August 10, Kathryn Bielawa  
August 12, Rory Brewer  
August 12, Terry Mann  
August 12, Jack Moyer  
August 12, Reed Moyer  
August 13, Margo McCollum  
August 15, Ellis Hunt Jr.  
August 15, Kaitlyn Bice  
August 15, Matthew Dupuis  
August 17, Kathy Gibson  
August 17, Abigail Roe  
August 22, Aralyn Behr  
August 22, Dan Miller  
August 23, Shay Hixenbaugh  
August 24, Nancy Ayers  
August 24, Bob Hulen  
August 26, Teresa Behr  
August 27, Dave Falk  
August 28, Alli Violette  
August 28, Linda Reeves  
August 29, Hayes Seay  
August 29, Ryan Paros  
August 29, Virginia Okie  
August 30, Cindy Nelson

### ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, Jeff & Maria Herman  
July 5, Colby & Emma Pike  
July 11, John & Laureen Beck  
July 13, Jim & Diana Smith  
July 20, John & Rachel Miller  
July 22, John & Luciana Abele  
July 24, Julia & Michael Berkau  
July 29, Bob & Lynne Hulen  
July 29, Carl & Joyce McCollum

August 2, Vince & Faith Treadway  
August 8, Rob & Dawn McCollum  
August 9, Jake & Ashley Cockrell  
August 10, Richard & Jennifer Fugate  
August 18, Chuck & Lori Loveless  
August 18, Milo & Ruth Miller  
August 20, Jim & Kay Weaver  
August 22, Jack & Janice Brandies  
August 23, Harry & Irene Nelson  
August 25, Charles & Diana Schmidt  
August 27, Julie & Jimmy Seay  
August 29, Dave & Patty Falk  
August 29, James & Susan Ebel





First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales  
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## CHURCH OFFICERS

### ELDERS

#### 2021

Mike Berkau  
 Paul Benner  
 Pat Frankenburger

#### 2023

Scott Crews  
 Doug Pace

#### 2022

Frank Hunt III  
 John Matteson  
 Vince Treadway

#### 2024

Daniel Hunt  
 David Nelson  
 Andy Hunt

### DEACONS

#### 2021

David Caldwell  
 Michael Kahler  
 Carl McCollum  
 Tony Thomas

#### 2023

Susan Coyne  
 Bob Hulen  
 Michael Matteson  
 Karla Campbell

#### 2022

Bea Meeker  
 Aaron Nelson  
 Mary Youmans  
 Laura Hunt

**Moderator:** Rev. Mackay Smith  
**Clerk of Session:** Doug Pace  
**Chairman of Deacons:** Bob Hulen  
**Deacon Secretary:** Susan Coyne  
**Chm. of the Congregation:** Josh Behr  
**Treasurer:** Michelle Hurst (2020-2021)  
**Asst. Treasurer:** Daniel Hunt (2020-2021)