



MAY 2022

ISSUE 22-5

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.”

AT A GLANCE

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Leadership

JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE ON THE CHURCH: WHY IS MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

From Pastor Mackay

A couple months ago, I shared that preaching through 1 Timothy has spurred some reading and thinking about ecclesiology, or the doctrine of the church. I have one more concept from a good book I'd like to share.

You will occasionally hear discussions that the church (the visible, earthly church) should be "just like" the one we read about in the New Testament. There are certainly perspectives of this that are true. We should be rooted in the Bible, focused on and growing in Jesus, and have a desire to reach the ends of the earth with the Gospel, just like the church did in the New Testament. One thing we don't see explicitly in the New Testament is a formal system of church membership, at least not like the one we use today. So, we might ask, should we take vows and keep a roll?

In his helpful book, *The Local Church*, Edward Klink summarizes four Biblical pictures of the church to support the concept of formal church membership. I'd like to share them with you to encourage you to continue your own thinking about the importance and "givenness" of life in the church for the people of Jesus. The four pictures are: Christ's bride, the Father's children, Christ's body, and Christ's ambassadors.

God speaks often of his people as his bride (see Hosea 2:18-19, Jer. 2:2). That picture is further clarified by God's revelation and explanation that the groom of his people (the church), is Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2). Jesus explains the institution of marriage between man and wife as a sacred covenantal union that establishes and maintains the horizontal connection between them. Likewise, "the local church is where the vertical connection to God is established and maintained for the Christian." As Christians are joined with the risen Christ, so Christians are joined with his body, the church.

We've talked a great deal together about the church as the Father's family. Once again, from the very beginning, God speaks of his people as a family (Gen. 12:3). In Christ, that concept is expanded and explained in terms of being the children of God (Gal. 3:29), adopted in Him (Rom. 8:15-16). Jesus' redeemed love has transformed his people from slaves to sons (Gal 4:7). Jesus describes his people as his family (Matthew 12:48-49).

Spiritual gifts were given to the church for God's people to do ministry to one another (Eph. 4:12). The different parts of Christ's body are irreplaceable. As such, Christians are bonded to do ministry together. (Rom 12:4)

Finally, as Christ's ambassadors, we are called to testify to God's grace in Christ to a watching world. When outsiders enter into the church, they are confronted by the reality of God's presence among his people (1 Cor 14: 24-25). By the Spirit, this leads them to repentance, faith, and salvation!

I hope you see that this sense of belonging to the people of God is completely inseparable from the concept of belonging to God himself. The Bible is foreign to the idea that we come to Jesus, but can then join ourselves to his people if and when we choose. Being in Jesus means being in his people. It means being married to them, being part of the family, being part of the body serving in different ways, and being part of the group that is an outpost of Heaven on earth.

These concepts make a strong argument for "formal" church membership. In fact, it almost seems like we don't take membership seriously enough. If these deep spiritual truths are real of each one of us, shouldn't we strive to reflect that accurately in our life together? Indeed, church membership is an administrative tool used to signify and shepherd these deep spiritual realities. It is critical to be part of a church, because God has made us part of Jesus.

In Him,
Mackay ■



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

- The Session continued a study of *The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Witmer.
- Needs of the congregation were shared, and a time of prayer was held for the people and ministries of our church.
- The Session approved revisions to the Job Description for the Associate Minister of Family Discipleship, and heard a report on the progress of the Search Committee.
- Stewardship and Finance reported from their April 12 meeting. Giving at that time was reported at 26% of the budget (through 25% of the year), with expenses at 19% of the budget. The operating fund continues at a higher-than-normal level.
- Committees reported on their various areas of work.
- Pulpit supply was approved while Pastor Mackay is on study leave and vacation: June 12 Chris Tibbetts; June 19 - Rob Quam. ■

PRAYER FOCUS

MAY 1 - Widows/Widowers

MAY 8 - Mother's Day

MAY 15 - Refugees/Bridge Europe

MAY 22 - Graduates

MAY 29 - Memorial Day

Associate Pastor Search

Associate Pastor for Family Discipleship Search Update

The Search Committee has revised the APFD job description, and continues to advertise the position online and through other channels. ■



Discipleship

ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

Weekly Schedule

6:00 - Supper in Fellowship Hall
6:30 - Celebration of Community / Dismissal of Students
6:30-7:30 - Children's Program / Youth Program
6:45 - Program (See Below)
7:25 - Conclusion

Program Rotation

1st Wednesday - Potluck and Family Fellowship
2nd Wednesday - Breakout Night
3rd Wednesday - Hymn Sing and Prayer Meeting
4th Wednesday - Bible Study
5th Wednesday - Rock on Wednesday will NOT meet on 5th Wednesdays.

Upcoming...

Our Final Rock on Wednesday of the 2021-2022 season is May 25.

Thank you for making the inaugural season of "Rock on Wednesday" a joy!



You Are Invited! **Camp Joy Florida** **Support & Info Cookout**

Where: Lake Aurora Christian Camp
237 Golden Bough Rd.
Lake Wales, FL 33898

When: Friday May 13th



Time: 6:30 pm

Cost: Free

Contact Dave Munro to sign up
(863) 202-5547

Camp Joy is a Christian Co-Ed camp serving those with special needs. We have been in Florida for over ten years now and look forward to a strong future. We invite you to a FREE cookout so you can learn all about us. We need prayer warriors, workers, counselors and all the support we can get.

See you there!!!

Music Ministry

DID YOU KNOW? FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR RIEGER ORGAN

From Vince Treadway

We are blessed with a wonderful organ to help lead the congregation in singing and to accompany the choirs, instrumentalists and soloists in worship and in concert! I thought it would be fun to share some perhaps little-known facts about our organ that might help you understand and appreciate it more. It was built by the Rieger Organ company which is located in Austria; a company that began in 1845. It was a gift to the church from Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Updike, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Updike and Mr. and Mrs. Horace F. Herndon. We are so grateful to these generous families for giving such a wonderful gift! I would also like to add that in 2018 several other families gave money to add 9 additional electronic stops to make the organ more versatile and expand the repertoire that was possible to play on it.

Here are some of the “fun” facts:

-The organ is actually “four” organs that are put together, including the Pedal,

-Positiv, Hauptwerk (Great) and Swell. The stops of the four different divisions can be played separately or in combination with any or all of the other divisions.

-It has four manuals (keyboards); three played by hands and one by feet.

-It has two expression pedals to control volume.

-The organ has 32 stops. If the organ were to be replaced at today’s market value, you can estimate approximately \$25,000 per stop, plus the cost of the casework, shipping, installation, and voicing. Our organ would probably cost approximately a million dollars to replace.

-It has 1,472 pipes that are made of various materials including: tin, lead, brass, wood and zinc. The different materials produce different tone qualities.

-The pipes in the Façade (front screen) are actually a mix of polished tin and lead.

-The sound from the electronic stops is produced by six different speakers located in six different locations on the organ case.

-You may have noticed that the color of the keys of the manuals are reversed from a piano; the “white keys” are black (made of ebony wood) and the black keys are white (made of bone). The reason for this is that wood and bone absorb perspiration from fingers, and so they do not get slippery.

-The original organ is completely mechanical except for the blower, which is located under the floor of the choir. The electronic stops that were added are controlled by magnetic contacts that were added under the keys of the manuals.

-There is one “percussion” stop on the organ; a Zimbelstern, which is 8 bells on a wheel that turns and as it turns the bells are struck by a stationary clapper.

-The pedals are played by using both heels and toes, and special organ shoes help facilitate that by having slippery leather on the sole, a stiff body, and a heel that is the same thickness as the black keys are high so the organist does not have to move their foot much to go from white to black keys.

-The electronic stops were added by the Walker Technical Company in 2018, and much time and care was taken to “voice” the electronic stops to complement the sounds of the original pipework.

-The organ is tuned once a year, and usually takes an entire morning to complete. Fortunately our sanctuary is kept at a stable temperature and humidity, and the organ is so well built that it does not require more frequent tunings.

I would be very happy to share even more information about the organ if you are interested and give you a personal “tour” of the organ! Just contact me here at the church and we’ll set up a time. I am so thankful for this wonderful instrument, and for the privilege of using it to glorify God! ■

Family Ministry

Opportunities abound for all ages to learn from God's Word!
Contact a pastor, elder, or a teacher below for more information!

YOUTH MINISTRY (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL)

Sunday Worship - 9:30am Sunday

Sunday School

Following Morning Worship in the Game Room
Teachers - Mike and Julia Berkau
Study of Philippians will conclude on
May 8th

Sunday Night House Group - 5:00pm

Middle and High School are welcome!

May 22 - Stewart and Michelle Hurst home

Wednesday Nights 6:30-7:30pm

*On some Wednesdays, our youth will remain with their church family for the Rock on Wednesday program.
Stay tuned to church announcements*

Children's Ministry

Sunday Worship - 9:30am

Sunday School

Following Morning Worship in the children's department.
4 yrs-Kindergarten teacher - Patti Falk.
1st through 5th grade teachers - Lynne Shear and Katie Lippert

Wednesday Nights - 6:30-7:30pm

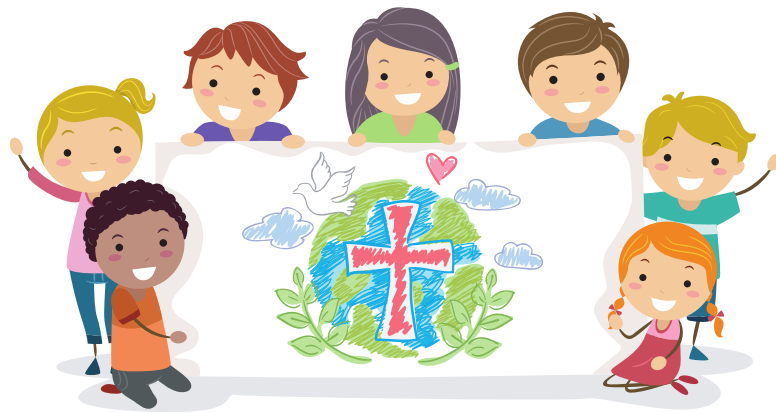
Second Wednesday teachers- Cindy Nelson & Caroline Swanson
Fourth Wednesday teacher- Rachel Smith & Caroline Swanson

*On some Wednesdays, our children will remain with their church family for the Rock on Wednesday program.
Stay tuned to church announcements.*

FPCLW Kids

MONTHLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS



May 2022

Hello dear FPCLW Families!

God continues to work in the Sunday School ministry of First Presbyterian and we are happy to be a part of what He is doing in the lives of these precious children. This month we are looking forward to a special Family Fun Day on May 22! We will have pizza and games in the FPC gym immediately following Sunday School. Please feel free to bring a side or dessert if you would like! You can also donate \$5 towards the cost of the pizza, but it is not required. We're looking forward to spending some special time in fellowship together.

Sunday School Activities to look forward to

5/1 - Focusing on "godliness with contentment is great gain" for our Bible lesson, we will make a special gift for our mothers!

5/8 - Mother's Day! Learning about contentment in the truth, we will have the opportunity to celebrate our mothers by making them a special flower arrangement.

5/15 - Jesus is the glory of God made known! We will focus on the names of Jesus in the Bible and do a painting project.

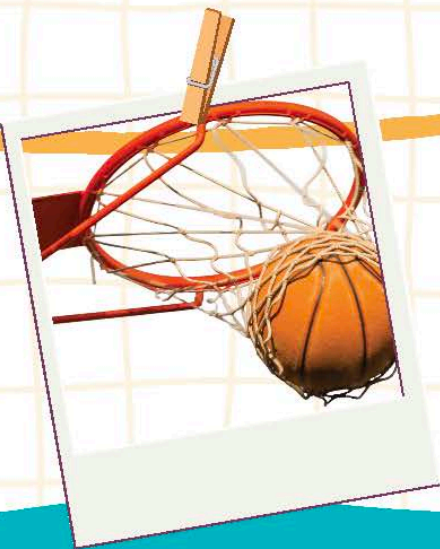
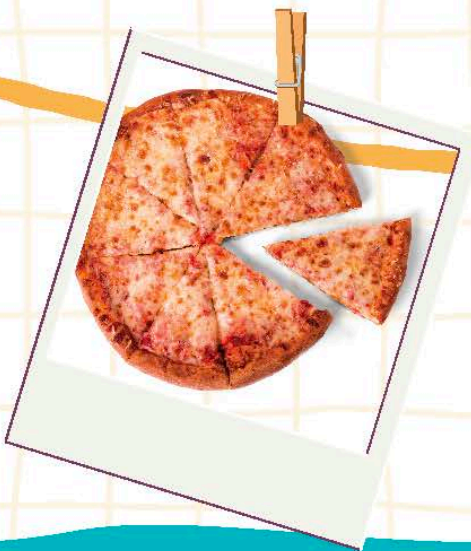
5/22 - We are looking forward to Christ's return and heaven! We will make a bracelet to remind us of the beauty waiting for us there.

5/29 - As we begin a new sermon series on Life Together, we will also begin an assemblage art project that will take a few weeks to finish but will be an example of how every part and person matter!

\$5
Per Family

MAY
22

FAMILY FUN DAY



PIZZA, GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP

Come and enjoy family fun time with your FPCLW family!

**Right after Sunday School in the FPCLW gym
RSVP by May 15 on the church website**

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

May 3, Gracie Berkau
May 3, Gracie Rawlings
May 3, Charles Schmidt
May 5, Parker Matteson
May 6, Luke Cain
May 6, Liz Sebring
May 8, Trish Kohl
May 8, Aaron Nelson
May 10, Dale Bourdette
May 10, Tatum Lewis
May 13, Jackie Jones
May 15, Gene Glentzer
May 18, Kandi Lamb
May 19, Milo Miller
May 19, Ruth Gilman
May 19, Thomas Mullins
May 21, Beth Buhrman
May 21, Ilyssa Harrington
May 23, Cody Moyer
May 23, Chuck Clegg
May 27, Major John Benner
May 27, Ronald Horn
May 29, Donna Marie Richert
May 30, LaLa Ingram
May 30, Diana Schmidt
May 31, Venada Peeples

ANNIVERSARIES

May 2, Michelle & Stewart Hurst
May 4, Rachel & Mackay Smith
May 10, Lynn & Randy Shear
May 16, Libby & Michael Matteson
May 16, Debra & Thomas Mullins
May 24, Liz & Todd Sebring





First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales
 16 N 3rd St, Lake Wales, FL 33853
 Phone: 863.676.0711
 fpclw.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2022

Frank Hunt III
 John Matteson
 Vince Treadway

2024

Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Andy Hunt

2023

Scott Crews
 Doug Pace
 David Falk

2025

Tony Woods

DEACONS

2022

Bea Meeker
 Aaron Nelson
 Mary Youmans
 Laura Hunt

2024

Leah Gibson
 Dan Miller
 Randy Shear

2023

Susan Coyne
 Bob Hulen
 Michael Matteson
 Karla Campbell

Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: Frank Hunt III
Chairman of Deacons: Aaron Nelson
Deacon Secretary: Susan Coyne
Chm. of the Congregation: Jim Weaver
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt