



JUNE 2022

ISSUE 22-6

# 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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## THE GOD WHO IS

From Pastor Mackay

*In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.*

*-Job 12:10*

Look around you and find an object. Any object will do; big or small, simple or complex. Now begin to answer the question: What had to happen for this object to exist? If you think about it for any time at all, you will find that the answers to that question are almost infinite in number. This tells you that your chosen object is contingent, it is dependent on other things.

Everything in our earthly experience is contingent. Everything with which we interact each day is dependent upon countless causes to exist. For example, the cereal in my morning bowl depends on a farmer growing wheat, a man in the past who started a cereal company, the technology needed to mass-produce the end product, the trucks and drivers to get it to the store, etc. Dependent objects include not just my food, but me as well! Yes, each one of us are dependent on countless states of affairs. We depended on our parents to be born. We depend on food, shelter, and some measure of safety to make it alive through each day. Everything we are familiar with has been caused by something else.

So, what about God? One of God's foundational revelations of his nature shows us that He is independent. He is not dependent on anything. He is caused by nothing, and depends on nothing for his existence to continue.

God reveals this truth about himself in two ways in his revelation to Moses in Exodus 3. First, Moses sees a bush that is burning, but the bush is not being consumed. This theophany (a visible appearance of God) taught a lesson. Normal fire depends on its fuel (and oxygen) to exist. Once the fuel is exhausted, the fire goes out. Not so with the fire Moses saw. In fact, its lack of dependence was the very reason Moses turned aside to look at it. (Exod 3:3). The fire taught a lesson: the God whose presence it represented does not depend on anything for his being.

The second revelation of this great truth comes in God giving his covenant name, which in English we transliterate as "Yahweh." This word centers around the Hebrew for the verb "to be," (hence the translation in our Bibles, "I AM") and as such reveals God's independence. God does not say, "I AM the one who was made long ago," or, "I AM the one who awakened in the ancient times." He does not say, "I AM the one who created the world that it might support my existence," or, "I AM the one who needs you to follow me so I can be God." No, God says, "I AM WHO I AM." God himself is being by nature. The Puritan Stephen Charnock writes that God is saying, "I am the only being, the root of all beings..." and, "at the greatest distance from not being... I am that in every moment which I was, and will be in all moments of time; nothing can be added to me, nothing can be subtracted from me." Similarly, Matthew Henry says, "God is what he is and what he always has been, depending on nothing, needing nothing, and answering to no one."

What does this mean for us? First, this means that we should live humbly. God is unaccountable and self-sufficient. He does as he wants, when he wants, and how he wants (see Psalm 115:3). A.W. Tozer writes that this reality "disquiets" us. We are not comfortable with a sovereign who absolutely does not answer to us in any way, shape, or form. Yet, this is the God we serve. Part of our approach to God must be total humility.

Yet, this humility can be full of rapturous joy, for this God who is untouchable by our greatest fears. What do we fear more than the change that is loss? We fear sickness, relationships lost, and ultimately death. Yet, the God who is cannot be affected by such things at all. In fact, God has given us Jesus, who has exercised by obedience to God the very defeat of death itself. In his love and mercy, God has shown us the way of everlasting life. We must hear the call to trust in this independent God, that we might live.

Isn't it wonderful that a God who is so much mightier than us has given us himself so fully? Let us trust him, treasure him, and seek to love Jesus all the more!

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 May.

- 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 Meeting House (330 E. Park Ave.) is now occupied by Care Center interns for the summer.
- Stewardship and Finance reported from their meeting. As of April 30, YTD giving was at \$328,370, which is on pace and slightly ahead of budgeted \$326,388. Expenses remain low (\$236,406), thus the operating fund continues to grow.
- The Session, Trust Committee, and Diaconate are grateful for a generous gift that has established a new trust fund to support the general operating account each year. Members are encouraged to consider this fund in their estate planning.
- The Discipleship Committee invites members to a Brown Bag Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons, beginning June 29. See further information below.
- Pastor Mackay will be away for the following dates this summer: June 6-24: ARP General Synod, Study Leave, and Vacation, July 8-15: Vacation
- Pulpit Supply: June 12 - Chris Tibbetts; June 19, July 10 - Rob Quam. ■

## PRAYER FOCUS

**JUNE 5** - Synod

**JUNE 12** - Juan Carlos Bonilla, Public Worship in Madrid

**JUNE 19** - Father's Day

**JUNE 26** - AP Search Committee

## Associate Pastor Search

### Associate Pastor for Family Discipleship Search Update

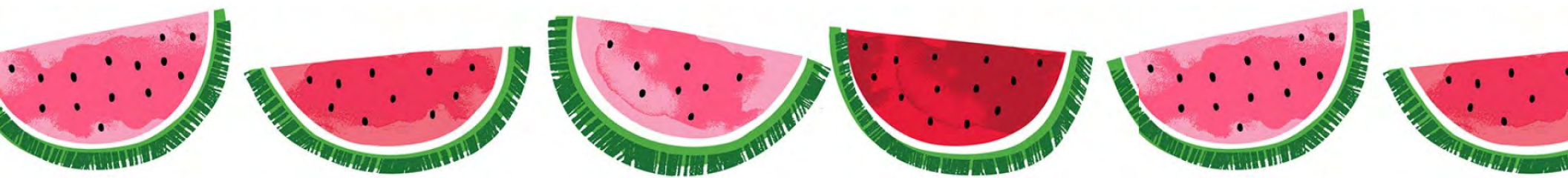
The Search Committee has posted the Job Description on multiple seminary and denominational websites. Continue to pray. ■



# Discipleship

## ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

Thank you for making the inaugural season of "Rock on Wednesday" a joy!  
**See you in the Fall!**



## BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY



"Ladies and Gentlemen,  
This is God's Church."

It is well known that the famous NFL coach Vince Lombardi is said to have begun each season by holding up a ball and saying, "Gentlemen, this is a football." Looking at the basics is good! Building on our "Life Together" sermon series from 1 Corinthians, this four week study will turn to God's Word to see what signs or marks we look for to determine that a group of people is the church of Jesus. How has God guided us? Come and see!

Bring your lunch and join us at 12:00pm to eat together and study God's Word.

This study will meet June 29, July 6, 20, and 27.

Missions &  
Outreach

Small Group  
Food Sign Up  
By June 4

# Baby Shower & Potluck Brunch

Sunday, June 12  
Fellowship Hall - Following Service

LISA CARTER, Guest Speaker  
Learn About CHOICES & Hear Her Testimony

*Celebrate Mothers Who Choose Life*

Bring New Items to Fill a Baby Basket

Crib Blankets & Sheets • Receiving Blankets • Diaper Bags  
Diapers Sizes 0-6 • Hooded Towels • Washcloths • Bibs  
Baby Bottles • Baby Wash, Shampoo, Lotion & Wipes  
Items For BOYS & GIRLS 0-24 months  
Sleepwear, Clothes, Socks & Shoes  
Travel Size Toiletries for Mom • Amazon Gift Cards  
Checks Payable: Lake Wales Care Center

*Joyfully Benefiting*

CHOICES  
Pregnancy  
Care Center

Gifts, accepted  
May 29 - June 12, may be dropped  
off in the Fellowship Hall in front of  
the stage. Gift cards or checks made  
payable to Lake Wales Care Center  
with "Choices" on the memo line  
should be dropped off at the church  
office if given before the shower on  
June 12.

Please call Leah Gibson at  
863-605-1051 if you can help out  
or have any questions.

# Music Ministry

## FINE ARTS CAMP 2022!

From Vince Treadway

We are delighted to offer our summer Fine Arts Camp for students ages 7-14 on July 18-22 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 daily; with a closing program on Friday July 22 from 12:00-12:30 p.m. for students, family, friends, and members of FPC!

This Fine Arts Camp will give the children fun opportunities for study in Bible, Choir, Drama, Art, and an option of either Dance or Handbells! We are limiting the camp to 50 students, and the slots are filling up quickly, so please get your applications in early. You can find the application on our website at [www.fpclw.org](http://www.fpclw.org).

The students will receive excellent instruction from a Biblical perspective on several of the arts, with a particular emphasis on how to use their artistic gifts to glorify God. The theme verse for our Fine Arts Camp is Matthew 5:16, *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* What a wonderful way to encourage our youth to develop their artistic gifts and use them to glorify God! If you know of any child, ages 7-14, who might be interested in and benefit from such an opportunity, please let them know about our Fine Arts Camp and encourage them to attend!

We still need volunteers to help during the day. If you are able to help; a few hours, a day, or the entire week, please let Vince Treadway know when you are available. All volunteers will need to complete our background check and training before volunteering if they have not already done so. Thank you for your consideration and for your prayers that the Lord will bless the children as they learn how to use their gifts for his glory! ■

## Fine Arts Camp

Ages 7-14

July 18-22

from 8:30 to Noon

Closing Program,  
Friday July 22, 12-12:30

Register at [www.fpclw.org](http://www.fpclw.org)  
Spots are filling quickly!

## Matthew 5:16

*In the same way,  
let your light shine  
before others, so  
that they may see your  
good works and give  
glory to your Father  
who is in heaven.*

Interested in volunteering?

Please reach out  
to Vince Treadway

# 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**



Coming next month...

WIFFLEBALL, COOKOUT, AND POOL PARTY  
WITH FROSTPROOF JRP YOUTH



**Rising 6th graders through 12th grade!**

Keep an eye out for further details!

## 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

## MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

June 4, Angie Crews  
June 5, Scott Crews  
June 6, Karen Montgomery  
June 7, David McKeeman  
June 7, Judson Seay  
June 7, Judy Seymour  
June 9, Susannah Rawlings  
June 12, John Matteson  
June 13, Jennylee Bass  
June 13, Charlee DuBois  
June 13, Emil Jahna  
June 14, Cindy Henry  
June 14, Ellis Hunt Sr.  
June 16, Sandra Bryan  
June 16, Israel Mahoney  
June 16, Pearl Oliszewski  
June 17, John Dubois  
June 17, Tony Woods  
June 18, Roberta Cain  
June 18, Matthew Roe  
June 18, Abigail Shear  
June 18, Annabeth Shear  
June 20, Dee Brookes  
June 20, Cindy Caldwell  
June 20, Mia McCollum  
June 21, Loretta Borglund  
June 21, Emma Pike  
June 27, Fran Hanrahan  
June 27, Anita Maxwell  
June 28, Daniel Hunt  
June 30, Rhett Nelson  
June 30, Chelsea Smith

### ANNIVERSARIES

Gail & Pat Frankenburger, June 2  
Patty & David McKeeman, June 4  
Tami & Gary Estes, June 6  
Roberta & Luke Cain, June 8  
Jill & Scott Smith, June 14  
Susan & Ed Lamar, June 19  
Dee & Bob Brookes, June 26  
Debbie & Doug Pace, June 26







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  
 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