



SEPTEMBER 2022

ISSUE 22-9

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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Milestone Celebrations

THE DIFFICULTIES OF DIVERSITY

From Pastor Mackay

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

- 1 Cor 12:12-26

One common Biblical metaphor for the church is the body of Christ. Utilizing this picture, Paul addresses the Corinthian Christians regarding their tendency toward division.

A body is, by nature, a unified whole. As soon as we think of any body part separated from the whole, we enter the realm of the uncomfortable.

Such things should not be! A similar unity has been forged by God among the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. The common baptism of a common faith has made an inseparable union among believers.

Yet, within this unity there is diversity. Though a body is one thing, it is also many things. We teach our children they do not just have “a body,” they have ten fingers, ten toes, two ears, etc; each part brilliantly designed by God to do its work. It is the same in the church. No true, living Christian is disconnected from the body, but at the same time all Christians vary in their gifting. This is good, but our sinful hearts are prone to wander and question God’s design. We are prone to two errors.

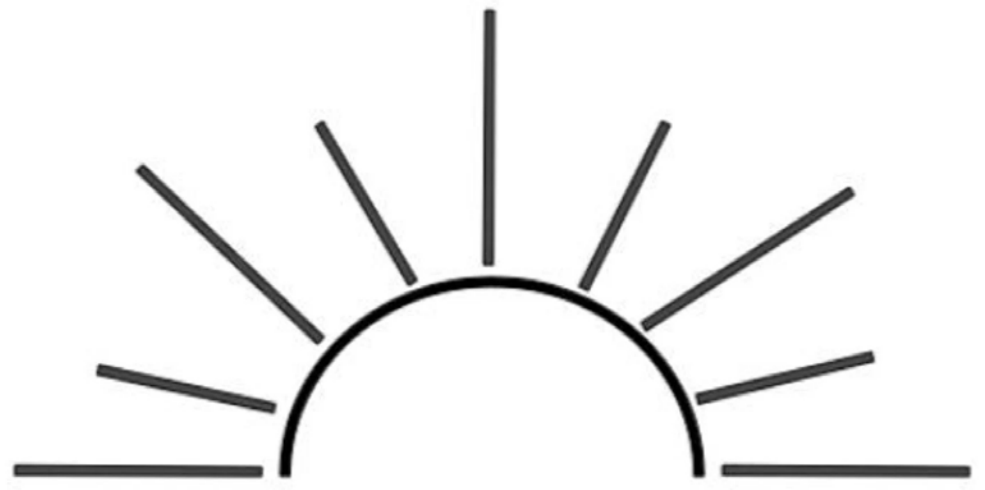
The first is the challenge of **self-doubt**. We are far too enamored with the opinions of others, thus we often tend to play the comparison game. As a foot desiring to be a hand, so we look to the gifts and functions of other Christians and come to a negative conclusion about ourselves. Maybe one of the following thoughts has gone through your head: “She draws groups of people so effortlessly. I’ve never been able to do that.” “He prays so well. I’m going to keep quiet.” “My work at the church during the week is never noticed. I wish I was applauded like that person in front of the crowd on Sundays.” There is a rich heritage of self-doubters in the Bible: Moses, Job, Gideon, even Paul himself. They all struggled with their perceived shortcomings. They wish they were gifted differently.

The second challenge is **self-glory**. We are far too enamored with ourselves, and seek ways to avoid those who are less impressive. Here is another diagnostic thought example: “I’m ready to teach a lesson. I wish she would finish praying, already!” If we are intellectually minded, we assume the church should be full of teachers and learners. We may think more practically minded Christians distract from the pursuit of knowledge. On the other hand, if we tend towards compassion and acts of service, we may view theological precision as so much worthless minutiae. If the eggheads would cool it, we could get on helping people!

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Though they seem different, both of these challenges flow from the same dark place in our heart. We are determining value using worldly metrics, not God's design. How prone we are to determine importance with a self-made ruler. Yet, God has created a unified body. Those parts that often seem to us to be unimportant or secondary are nevertheless vital. You need go no farther than one of our Florida Presbytery meetings in the ARP. It is incredible to see the vast range of strengths and personalities that God has brought together to do Gospel work. The church needs them all! Paul reminds the Corinthians, and mature Christians will agree, that every member of the body is vital to its proper functioning. The more we are tuned-in to that fact, the more we will look to the health of each part, and the stronger the entire body will be. ■



Associate Pastor Search

Associate Pastor for Family Discipleship Search Update

Please pray for the committee as they continue their work! ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are highlights from the meeting in August 23.

- The Session continued a study of *The Shepherd Leader* by Timothy Witmer. The elders have committed to exploring dividing the congregation into "shepherd lists" for better congregational care, and are working toward that goal.
- Needs of the congregation were shared, and a time of prayer was held for the people and ministries of our church.
- Rob Quam, Executive Director of Lake Wales Care Center, and Adell Jahna, Chairman of the LWCC Board, shared LWCC's vision for the use of the apartment building. LWCC interns continue to be housed in the FPC meeting house.
- Stewardship and Finance reported from their August 9 mtg. As of the end of July, YTD giving was \$542,251 against YTD expenses of \$464,146. The Operating Fund balance was \$271,987.
- Discipleship, Youth, and Children's committees highlighted upcoming programming that will begin in September (see below).
- Missions Committee announced a Bridge Europe visit team that will go to the field Oct 4-12. ■

PRAYER FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 4 - Faithful City Church, St. Cloud, MN and church planter Rev. Scott Smith

SEPTEMBER 11 - Lay Leaders and Volunteers

SEPTEMBER 18 - Children and Youth

SEPTEMBER 25 - Persecuted Church

Discipleship

WHO?

Are YOU
a part of a
Small Group?

WHAT?

Adult Small Groups exist for teaching, outreach, fellowship, and service. They are a key component in our discipleship ministry, and a way for you to grow. Speak with an elder or with Mackay to get plugged in.

WHERE?

THE SEEKERS
On Sept. 11 we begin a new season with a study of Galatians. Our focus is enriching our faith through study, service and fellowship. All ages are welcome but we are primarily in the retirement age group. We meet through the double doors off the breezeway.

ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

Join us for our weekly mid-week Discipleship Program

6:00pm - Family Supper

6:30pm - Announcements/Dismissal of Children and Youth on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

6:45pm - Program

7:25pm - Dismissal

Weekly Rotation

1st Wednesdays - **Potluck and Fellowship** (meat and dessert is provided; bring a side dish to share!)

2nd Wednesdays - **Breakout Night** Class options

3rd Wednesdays - **Prayer Meeting and Singing**

4th Wednesdays - **Bible Study**

Rock on Wednesday does not meet on 5th Wednesdays.

Want to help?

Contact David Nelson

(Discipleship Committee chair)

if you'd like to help with...

- Kitchen crew/clean-up
- Children's programming
- Fellowship Night programs



BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, FROM 5-6PM

The Season of Motherhood

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, DISCUSSION, AND SPIRITUAL CARE SPECIFICALLY FOR MOTHERS

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR BABIES TO AGE 6

LOCATED IN THE CLASSROOM OFF THE BREEZEWAY. THERE WILL BE A SIGN :)

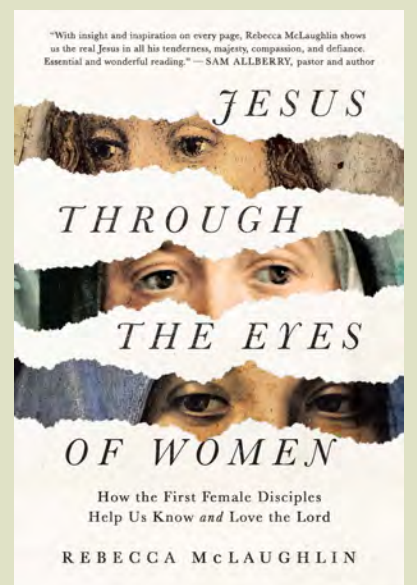
WE WILL USE "WALKING WITH GOD IN THE SEASON OF MOTHERHOOD" BY MELISSA KRUGER TO GUIDE US

ROCK ON WEDNESDAY Women's Bible Study

This Fall we will be working through "Jesus Through the Eyes of Women" by Rebecca McLaughlin.

Please join us every second Wednesday after supper!

Led by Rachel Smith



Missions & Outreach

BRIDGE EUROPE TEAM VISIT

France and Germany
October 4-12

Working in concert with the director of World Witness' Bridge Europe, the Missions Committee and Session have organized a small team from FPC to connect with our missionaries in person next month. Personal touches like these are vital to keep our church informed and invigorated about God's work in this field, and serve as a way to support and encourage our missionaries. As we have not been able to send a team since June 2019, this is a much needed re-connection to those we love and support. Stay tuned for a mission team report soon!

Please pray:

- For God to be glorified and Jesus to be magnified!
- For our missionaries to be encouraged by this expression of our support.
- For our church to continue to support our missionaries financially and in prayer.

- For our team to get a clear picture of God's work through the Bridge Europe team, and to communicate this well to our church.
- For safe travel for our team. ■



Music Ministry

CHOIRS RESTART!

From Vince Treadway

We have a full program for literally all ages for singing and playing instruments for the glory of God! I hope YOU will consider how you might use your musical gifts and join us as we lift our voices and instruments to sing his praise! Below are all of the programs that are available to you and your family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vince Treadway at vince@fpclw.org or on my cell phone at 863-978-7071. All programs begin Wednesday September 7.

Musical Beginnings

Ages 0-3 with Rachel Smith
Wednesdays 4:00-4:45, Room 296; music appreciation for parent and child, movement, rhythm, songs, spiritual songs

Covenant Kids

Ages 4-6 with Vince Treadway
Wednesdays 4:00-4:45, Handbell Room; hymns, songs, and spiritual songs as well as folk music from around the world, beginning music theory and vocal technique, movement, diction, music reading, interviews with "Arnold" the Wolf as well as live musicians demonstrating instruments

King's Singers

Ages 7-14 with Vince Treadway
Wednesdays 5:00-6:00, Choir Room; hymns, songs, spiritual songs, anthems, musical presentation, participation in worship and

concerts, music reading, diction, vocal technique, sight singing, drama

Large Vocal Ensemble

Junior High and High School and Adults
Wednesdays 7:30-9:00, Choir Room; vocal instruction, sight-reading music skills, anthems, hymns, spiritual songs, leading in worship and special services

Small Vocal Ensemble

High School and Adults
Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 Choir Room; auditioned group interested in challenging choral repertoire, often sung a cappella, see Vince Treadway to audition

Handbell Choir

Junior High, High School and Adults
Time TBD, Handbell Room; playing a wide variety of repertoire using handbells and handchimes, learning playing techniques, preparing selections for worship and special services, music reading skills necessary

Vocal Solos, Duets, Trios, Quartets

All ages welcome; rehearsals TBD with Vince Treadway

Instrumental Solos and Ensembles

See Vince Treadway to find out where your musical skills can be used. ■



Family Ministry

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

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

Begins Sept 4th
"Worshipping God"

NEW THIS SEMESTER: Parents, please meet the teacher and sign in students *in the Narthex* following worship. *Children should not head downstairs on their own.* After sign-in, students will head to Sunday school together.

September Teachers

September 4th - Katie Lippert and Becky Steverson
September 11th - Katie Lippert and Becky Steverson
September 18th - Angie Crews and Lynne Hulen
September 25th - Lynne Hulen and Katie Lippert

YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle & High School Sunday Worship

Sundays @ 9:30 am

Sunday School


Begins Sept 11th
"Knowing the God Who Is"

Teachers

Michael and Julia Berkau

Wednesday Nights

2nd and 4th Wednesday of
each month




All Middle & High School Youth and Parents
Please Join Us For

DODGEBALL DINNER & DEVOTIONS

September 11 • 5:00 - 7:30PM
First Presbyterian Church Lake Wales

*Special program presented by
Erskine College



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

Church Family

BIRTHDAYS

September 1, Elaine Rawlings
September 2, David Caldwell
September 3, Maggie Hunt
September 5, Ed Lamar
September 5, Patty Mckeeman
September 8, Kay Klinefelter
September 8, Gerald Lippert
September 8, Ger Lippert
September 9, Golda Carson
September 9, Kathleen Violette
September 10, Donald Krpata
September 10, Jaden Youmans
September 11, Jan Lewis
September 12, Samuel Wunker
September 13, Debbie Pace
September 14, Maija Baynes
September 14, Tim Abele
September 14, Karla Campbell
September 14, Cecilia Smith
September 16, Laura Lynn Berkau
September 16, Dionne Kohl
September 17, Joe Swanson
September 20, Jill Smith
September 21, Kerry Klinefelter
September 22, Edward Lamb
September 24, Colton Bass
September 25, Alice Campbell
September 25, Ron Campbell
September 25, Hailey Hunt
September 27, Lorin Bice
September 27, Vicki Flint
September 28, Von Wilson
September 30, Donna Carter

ANNIVERSARIES

Carol & Dale Bourdette, September 1
Georgianna & Steve Sorensen, September 6
Kathy & Edward Enz, September 12
Alice & Roger Campbell, September 13
Cindy & David Caldwell, September 18
Nancy & Loren Furland, September 20
Jan & Jimmy Kahler, September 22
Cindy & Charlie Henry, September 23
Trish & Tom Kohl, September 23





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