



MAY 2023

ISSUE 23-5

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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Milestone Celebrations

Leadership

MEET OUR NEW CHURCH STAFF

From Pastor Mackay

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
-Colossians 3:16*

What a joy it is for me to celebrate two new members of our church staff with you!

Kim Duncan has been with us for a while as Nursery Attendant, but she now brings her many years of early childhood education experience to the position of Nursery Coordinator. As a parent, I can attest to her passion for creating an environment of Christ-centered care and love for our littlest worshippers. It is a gift from God to know that His Word is being communicated to even the youngest among us.

Walker Kirkpatrick comes on board this month as Director of Student Ministry. As Rachel and I have gotten to know Walker and Tori during their interview process, we are so grateful for their love for the Lord and for each other. Walker enters this position having grown up in the ARP (Tori has as well), and sharing our commitments to the centrality of the Bible and the offer of the Gospel of Jesus. Walker also brings a determination to engage our families with students as well as the broader church congregation. No matter your “age and stage,” I am confident that God will bless you and your family through his ministry.

As you read the information below, I would ask that you take time today and in the days ahead to pray for these servants and their families. Thank God that they are following his call to serve the church of Jesus, and pray that he would mold them for more and more effectiveness. Pray that God would bless Walker and Tori in their final weeks of engagement, and that he would be glorified by their wedding (June 3!), and by a long marriage of service to him.

Finally, I would encourage you to remember that the greatest gift to any church staff is a congregation eager to serve one another; counting other as more significant than

themselves (Philippians 2:3). While we hire staff to organize and lead our ministry, each one of us are “ministers” as we live and serve Jesus each day. To God be the Glory!

Blessings In Jesus,
Mackay

MEET KIM DUNCAN Nursery Coordinator



Hi! My name is Kim Duncan and I am a native Floridian. I am married, have four children and 12 grandchildren.

I have worked for the past 44 years in Early Childhood. I have an AS degree in Early Childhood and Program Management. God has called me to work with children and it has been my life's passion. I consider it a great privilege to work with the children at First Presbyterian Church.

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MEET WALKER KIRKPATRICK and TORI SEVERANCE (soon to be Kirkpatrick!) **Director of Student Ministry**

On May 16, we welcome Walker for his first day of service to First Presbyterian Church as Director of Student Ministry. The Session has prayerfully hired Walker to encourage the Christian growth of our families, focussing on ministry to middle and high school students.

Walker is a native of Rock Hill, SC, and a son of the Ebenezer ARP church. He has graduated Anderson University this spring, and is prayerfully looking to begin seminary in the years ahead. Walker joins us with ministry experience on the Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) leadership team at AU, leading student ministry as an intern, and serving for many years as a counselor at Camp Bonclarken.

Walker's fiancée, Tori, grew up in Lake Placid, and has also graduated AU this year.

Please pray for Walker as he begins ministry among us. Walker will initially be living in our Mission House, and Tori will join him after their wedding on June 3. ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday (usually). The following are highlights from the meeting in April 24.

- Barbara Mesh was received into church membership by letter of transfer.
- Randall and Pam Savage were received into church membership by reaffirmation of faith.
- The session continues pursuing its goal of beginning an intentional shepherding ministry in fall of 2023 through shepherding groups.
- A time of prayer was offered to God for many of our congregation.
- The Session extended an offer for the position of Director of Student Ministry to Mr. Walker Kirkpatrick.
- The Associate Minister for Family Discipleship search committee reported that Mr. Myers McKinney would visit FPCLW for a candidate visit April 28-30.
- Elder chairmen reported on the work of their various committees. ■

PRAYER FOCUS

MAY 7 - Elders and Deacons

MAY 14 - Mather's Day

MAY 21 - Graduates

MAY 28 - Memorial Day

Discipleship

ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall

May 3 - Potluck and Fellowship

May 10 - Breakout Night

May 17 - Prayer Meeting and Hymn Sing

May 24 - Proverbs Bible Study led by Pastor Mackay

Break for Summer

Want to help?

Contact Scott Crews

(Discipleship Committee chair)

if you'd like to help with...

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





Music Ministry

SPIRITUALS AND GOSPEL SONGS

From Vince Treadway

Many people love Spirituals, and examples that come to mind are *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*, *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord*, and *Lord, I Want to Be A Christian*. There is an interesting difference between Spirituals, in that some were born out of slavery and therefore reflect the emotional pathos that is found in persecution and pain. These Spirituals were known as “Black Spirituals” and depend more heavily on the “meaning” of the music that the very simple lyrics are coupled with to express the profound emotional power than on the power of the lyrics. Black Spirituals tend to be Scriptural, contain strong heaven-centered themes and appeal to the Savior for comfort and peace. Some Black Spirituals include: *Go Down, Moses*, *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*, *Were You There, My Lord*, *What a Mourning*, *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* and *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*.

Other spirituals can be designated as “White Spirituals,” which bear some resemblance to Black Spirituals, however they came primarily from white settlers in the south, particularly the Appalachians. The texts were sometimes revised from English sources (Watts, Wesley, Toplady, Newton). Like Black Spirituals, White Spirituals rely heavily on the “meaning” of the music to carry them. Much of the music is similar to folk music from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and England. They sometimes used shape-notes to help non-readers determine what pitch to sing, similar to the solfeggio system (do, re, mi, fa, etc.) used in Europe. They often had a refrain and used much repetition of words. Some examples of “White Spirituals” include: *What Wondrous Love Is This*; *Let Us Break Bread Together*; *I Know That My Redeemer Lives—Glory Hallelujah!*; and *Come Away to the Skies*.

Gospel Songs have similarities to both Black and White Spirituals, but tend to have more repetitiveness and are much more likely to be atonement-based, with many references to the

suffering of a sinner. Often gospel songs were written and used in camp-meetings, with evangelists like D. L. Moody and Ira Sankey. They were intentionally easy to sing with catchy tunes to attract non-believers. The music was repetitive, unchanging, and uncomplicated. Some examples of Gospel Songs are: *To God Be the Glory*, *Praise Him! Praise Him!*; *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*; *I Am Thine, O Lord*, *I Have Heard Thy Voice*; *I Am So Glad That Our Father in Heaven*; *The Light of the World Is Jesus*; *Dare to Be A Daniel*; and *Wonderful Words of Life*. We are blessed to have such wonderful variety in our songs of praise and worship!■



Children's Ministry

SAVE - THE - DATE

Israel in Egypt by G.F. Handel

Come and see our King's Singers perform this year's musical!

May 7 @ 11am

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Cardboard Regatta and Lake Day at Nelson Home

Sunday, May 21st

4:30-7:00pm

Join us at David and Cindy Nelson's home for an evening of fellowship, a homemade cardboard boat race, and a devotional from Walker.

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

Church Family

BIRTHDAYS

May 3, Gracie Berkau
May 3, Fox Rawlings
May 3, Charles Schmidt
May 5, Parker Matteson
May 6, Luke Cain
May 8, Trish Kohl
May 8, Aaron Nelson
May 10, Dale Bourdette
May 10, Tatum Lewis
May 13, Becky Steverson
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 23, Chuck Clegg
May 27, Major John Benner
May 27, Ronald Horn
May 27, Chris Bachman
May 29, Donna Marie Richert
May 30, LaLa Ingram
May 30, Diana Schmidt
May 31, Venada Peeples

ANNIVERSARIES

Michelle & Stewart Hurst, May 2
Rachel & Mackay Smith, May 4
Libby & Michael Matteson, May 16
Debra & Tom Mullins, May 16





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 fpclw.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2023

Scott Crews
 Doug Pace
 David Falk

2025

Tony Woods
 Jim Underwood

2024

Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Andy Hunt

2026

Stewart Hurst
 Ed Lamb
 Jimmy Seay

DEACONS

2023

Susan Coyne
 Bob Hulen
 Michael Matteson
 Karla Campbell

2025

June Ullman
 Cindy Turner

2024

Leah Gibson
 Dan Miller

Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith

Clerk of Session: David Nelson

Chairman of Deacons: Karla Campbell

Deacon Secretary: Lea Gibson

Chm. of the Congregation: Jim Weaver

Treasurer: Michelle Hurst

Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt