



First News

*Building Faith, Changing Lives,
& Sharing Christ.*

For The Joy of God

Thank God! 2020 is behind us! What a difficult year. While certainly there were many joys and celebrations during 2020, for much of the year there seemed to be a pall stretched out over its reach. There was a dread and darkness to 2020.

2021 offers us some hope for a better day. There are vaccines being distributed across the world. While we still are in a precarious few months, there is light at the end of this long tunnel.

This new year offers us all a hopeful return to at least the new normal. A return to not wearing a mask (at least as often). A return to not having to stay six feet apart all the time. A return to times of communal fellowship such as dining out together. A return to no longer waiting in testing lines. A return to conversations that do not utilize the words "COVID," "infected," or "quarantine." O! How we yearn for this new normal!

As the church, when the new normal returns, we need to be ready to hit the ground running. 2020 was tough on everyone and the church was not excluded. Our worship patterns were radically altered. The ministries of fellowship and hospitality were hit hard. Our access to parishioners was denied, and so pastoral care became challenging. Like small businesses across the world, we worried about our future. Yet, it is not cliché to say that these challenges brought forth opportunities. Our livestream attendance has skyrocketed. Our membership and friends have been supportive financially of the church and our online and electronic giving has experienced a notable increase.

While we as a church have held our own in the midst of this pandemic, it is fair to say that our membership has not grown. Many of our members are scattered in different locations around the country. More of our members, with very good reason, have not returned to worship church in the sanctuary. For all of our members and friends, 2020 was not a year to "invite a friend to church" (except virtually). The membership of First Presbyterian Church did not increase in 2020. Growth is a critical issue for 2021 for our church. We have been called to exciting and meaningful missions. First Presbyterian Church has been called to serve our community, go into the world globally. We have been called to share the good news of Jesus Christ to the world, and to satisfy this calling - we need to *grow*.

Having said that, it is important that we understand the reasons for growth. Our church should not grow just to be bigger and have a bigger budget and have more buildings. The purpose for church growth is to share the love of God in Jesus Christ and to add partners in Christian ministry. Our growth ultimately is about reflecting the light that came into the world of Christmas. Growth for the church is focused on illuminating the world around us. Growth for the church expands the love of God in the world in which we live.

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Ultimately, the most important reason for growth is that it brings God joy. God desires to be in relationship with his children. Just as we wish and desire that our children return the love and affection that we instill upon them, so God celebrates when God's children are in a deep and abiding relationship with their father. God yearns for more and more of his children to know him, to love him, and to share in God's values. It brings Him joy when His children are more loving and just, and celebrate in worship and praise.

Any growth that First Presbyterian Church experiences in membership is first and foremost focused on bringing God joy. We are able to share and mission with each other as we grow together and to learn how God intended the world to live together, as we live together as the true church of Jesus Christ.

For us to experience healthy growth in 2021, we will need your help.

This is what we are asking our congregation to do to realize the vitality and increase in our mission:

- Pray for our church, and its growth and strength and stature, throughout 2021*
- Be full of invitation. We are asking the congregation to be very comfortable with inviting others to join them for worship, mission, or other fellowship activities in the life of our congregation.*
- Join with us as we read through scripture in a year. This is an important focus this year as we seek to know God more fully.*
- Keep a very positive spirit. 2021 will have its own shares of difficulty. As a Christian men and women we need to remind everyone that we will persevere.*

We do celebrate the 2020 is behind us and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We also celebrate the growth and vitality of the church as it has weathered this very difficult storm and has come out on the other side stronger. We ask your help in keeping strong and helping us move forward. We also ask your help in bringing God joy as our church continues to grow in the months and years to come. May God bless you this 2021!

Happy new year and may God bless!

Dr. Tim Womack





Worship, Music, & Arts

PRIMO Teacher Spotlight: Janine Jones



Janine Jones received her Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, and has a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Florida Atlantic University. She completed her Orff-Schulwerk teaching certifications at the Master's level at Memphis State University. Janine is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the Florida Music Educators Association, and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She has been teaching elementary music at Osceola Magnet School for over 20 years where she has been named Teacher of the Year. Because of Janine's hard work, Osceola Magnet School is designated a Florida Music Demonstration School. Her ensembles have twice been featured at the Florida Music Educator's Association professional development conference. She has had numerous students participate in all-state ensembles on flute and voice, and she has also been an All-State Orff

and Choir Adjudicator. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and is currently teaching Virtual and Transitional for SDIRC, teaching music virtually to over 1200 elementary students online during the pandemic. A woman of many hats, Janine also offers her talents with her background in Educational Leadership by taking leadership roles at the school and district level. She serves the Indian River County School District as Coordinator for Elementary Music, and at Osceola Magnet she's the Chair of the School Advisory Council, Magnet School Coordinator, Grade Level Chair, and has helped Osceola Magnet earn a High Impact Grant from the Education Foundation for an Engineering "Fab Lab". On top of all her other responsibilities, she still mentors new teachers in both music and other subject areas! Janine also directs the Children's Choirs here at First Presbyterian Church and has had her own private flute studio for over 25 years.

I have to admit that when Dr. Bertie asked me to put Janine in the PRIMO teacher spotlight this month, I got really excited to have a chance to write about someone who has been a dear friend of mine for the last 16 years. You see, when I was getting my Bachelor's in Music Education in 2004, I was Janine's very first intern! That particular internship was unique as it was "the year of the Hurricanes" in Vero Beach. My 6-week internship with Janine was paused -TWICE!- by the storms, and out of the 6 weeks, I missed nearly 4 due to school closures and power outages. Twice, Janine and I moved her classroom onto the elevated stage area so her equipment wouldn't be ruined when the room inevitably flooded. (This was back when Osceola Magnet was located on the corner of Rte. 60 and 6th Avenue, and the whole campus would flood terribly with each storm!) Janine worked hard to make sure I learned everything I needed and passed my requirements so I could still graduate on time in December. If there's one thing I learned during my internship, it was how to think on my feet in the face of adversity! I am beyond blessed and honored to have been paired up with this amazing lady, and she was the reason I ultimately decided to become an Elementary Music Educator as my chosen career. I'm so proud to call her my friend!

- [Ginger Lagemann](#)



Ginger Lagemann as an intern in Janine's classroom, rushing in between hurricanes to complete all of her requirements to graduate college in 2004.



Discipleship

Stephen Ministry

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

-Galatians 6:2

Your pastors will always be on the front lines of care, providing for the crisis needs of the congregation. But there are so many more needs for care that the "pastors and church staff" cannot meet on their own. We hope to expand the amount of care that our church provides to hurting people and ensure people receive the care they need.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

In this next year, our church hopes to begin a Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is a "proven system for training and organizing people in your congregation to provide quality Christian care to those experiencing life difficulties." More than 13,000 congregations from over 180 denominations have turned to this program to equip congregation members to be well-trained caregivers providing one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. We plan to train a group of volunteers through this program by way of their virtual course until the way is clear and safe for us to attend the national workshop.

Would you be interested in hearing more about becoming a Stephen Minister?
Contact me for more information!

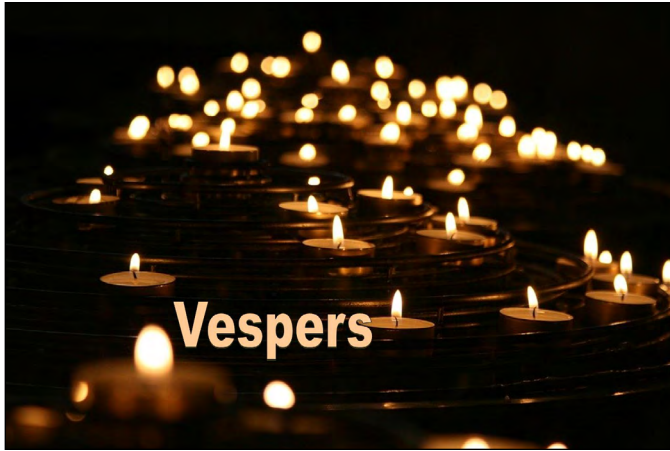
Sincerely,

Dr. Fred Foy Strang

fredfoystrang@firstpresvero.org



Discipleship



VESPERS

Beginning again...

Sunday Evenings
5:30 – 6:00 pm

Join us in the church courtyard for a brief time of worship concluding our Sabbath and preparing ourselves for encountering God in the week ahead.

Vesper services embody both the ancient and future aspects of our connection with Christians across cultures and denominations. You can expect a brief, casual, relaxed, family-friendly, contemplative experience which may include the entry of the lamp of the evening, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world; reading, singing, and chanting the psalms; times in quiet, contemplative prayer and meditation; songs of praise with simple instruments; encouragement from the Word of God; sounding of the concluding evensong bell.

Vespers will be held outside in the covered area
between the chapel and the quiet room.

Face Masks are mandatory at all times.

Social distancing of chairs will be in place,
or bring your own lawn chair.

If little ones want to play quietly, bring a quilt and some toys.

Justice and Honor - an Update

The Justice and Honor Task Force is under the umbrella of the Missions Committee here at First Presbyterian of Vero Beach. Our small committee recently had the joy of participating in two events:

"Shop with a Cop" was sponsored by the Indian River County Sheriff's Dept. and held on Wednesday, December 16th. Underprivileged children, identified by School Resource Officers, were given gift cards and taken shopping by an IRC Sheriff. Our committee was able to make a substantial contribution to this worthy cause.



Also, the "Bicycle Giveaway", was held for the second year in a row. This is sponsored by the IRC Sheriff's Department in conjunction with their partner, Walmart. Two hundred twenty-six bikes were given to needy children in our community. This event was held on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at the Intergenerational Center in Vero. These bicycles provide exercise and a healthier lifestyle for students who are underserved and in need of exercise. Our committee was able to make a contribution to provide many of these bikes.

Most importantly, these two events serve to promote and foster positive relationships between our community and the law enforcement officers who serve in Indian River County.



Presbyterian Women



Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

In recognition of their continued, above and beyond, volunteer service to the church family, the Presbyterian Women presented their highest honor, the Honorary Lifetime Membership (HLM), to Jerry Garrett, Judy Garrett, and Churchill Cooke. Their volunteer, ever present willingness to serve our church family has not gone unrecognized. Our deepest gratitude to these three. CONGRATULATIONS!

The HLM program was established at the national level of the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. Jerry, Judy, and Churchill's names are now registered in Louisville as receiving this honor, along with the previous 42 recipients from our own church that have received the HLM award from the Presbyterian Women's organization.

Election of PW Coordinating Team Officers to serve in 2021

At the December 14, 2020 PW Fellowship Zoom meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for the 2021 PW year. Cecily Strang and Floy Turner as co-moderators, Maggie Fleming as treasurer, Connie Herr as recording secretary and Judith Taylor as corresponding secretary.

Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

Save the date – All are welcome to join Grace Circle on January 11 at 1pm for the Horizons Bible Study and fellowship. Details on how to attend will be sent in a Constant Contact email. The bible study discussion will center on Chapter 3 of "Into the Light...Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." Donated Study guides are in the church office. Please stop by and pick one up. Call Ann Faunce if you have questions at 303-947-7984.

Christmas Tree Lane Update

A huge THANK YOU to all who volunteered and participated in many ways to make Christmas Tree Lane a viable opportunity in such a unique time! Your continued support enabled a net of \$5986.19 for mission distribution to those who are in need in our community and global family.



Presbyterian Women

Profile of a Presbyterian Woman: Joni and Jamie Penza



Meet Joni and Jamie Penza! This wonderful Mother and daughter team have been coming to First Presbyterian Church since Jamie was baptized at age of 3 by Rev. Tom Harris. Joni loved our Church as all were so welcoming and friendly. Robyn Thompson sponsored Joni and became Joni's first friend at the church.

Joni was raised in the Baptist Church in Jacksonville Beach and has many fond memories of those days. She has 2 sisters and the families and their mom gather together at Hilton Head in the summers. Joni who was a good student began working in the afternoons in high school as a teller at Barnett bank. After she graduated, she held various positions at the bank. She met her husband Steve through work and they were married in 1998. They honeymooned in Vero Beach at the Disney Resort and moved here in 2003. Steve has older kids and the youngest, Tyler, at age 9, was raised by Joni and Steve. Joni calls these kids her "Bonus kids" and they keep in close contact.

Jamie as a young child was shy, so Joni started teaching Sunday School with her and loved it! Now Jamie is a sophomore at VBHS. The once shy child has now become very active in our Youth Group. In fact, she was on the Search Committee for our Youth Director, Jacob Strang! Jamie loves Girls Fellowship meetings at Jacob and Shelly Strang's home! Jamie has also served many times as an acolyte and has led the congregation in reading Scripture. Now she is helping in Quest on Wednesday afternoons and Sundays in the nursery. The children love her!

Both Jamie and Joni love their Saturday night family dinners out with husband and dad Steve. Joni enjoys her book club of 9 years and has been an active participant in Vacation Bible School. Carie Robbins says, "Joni is such a joyful and warm person and the children love her teaching Sunday School."

With COVID, Jamie has missed the social times with her friends but she is very happy to back to school at VBHS. She says the kids are responsible, wearing masks and keeping social distance because they want to be in school! She is disappointed there was that there was no Homecoming Dance. Jamie's favorite Bible verse is James 2:8 "...Love your neighbor as yourself.."

Joni has continued to work part time in banking so she could be available to enjoy Jamie's activities. She is always available to help with Christmas Tree Lane and other Church activities. God has always been with her especially during her darkest times when her father passed away in 2001 and later when she suffered a miscarriage. Joni's go to Bible verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Happy Birthday!



- 2- Steven Franek
- 3 - Sharon Donaldson, Reggie Powell
- 4 - Terry Long
- 5 - Todd Dingee, Deborah Winkler
- 7 - Graham Pritchard
- 8 - John Schumann
- 9 - Ana Gatzke, Shirley Hagood
- 10 - Reita Byrket
- 11 - Carol Bradley
- 12 - Frank Pitarresi
- 14 - Jillian Barley, Blanca Capute, Abigail Lagemann
- 15 - Lily Gunter
- 16 - Charles Coxson, Maggie Fleming
- 17 - Bryce Black
- 18 - Barbara Foster, Jan Mooney, Lisa Potochney, Liz Smith, Travis Welsh
- 19 - Elizabeth Thomas, Grace Wagner
- 20 - Edward Abraham, Angelina Diaz, Rob Nelson, Jimmy Peirce, Fred Foy Strang
- 21 - Anne Adams
- 22 - Sue Broadhurst, Avery Gabbard, Eileen Kennedy
- 23 - Tiffany Frazier, Makala Peirce
- 24 - Raleighine Hoppe, Barb Miller
- 25 - Ian Johnson, Ann Lewis, Rosalie Perry
- 27 - Rosalia Allen, Phil LoGiudice
- 28 - Phil Nixon, William Palmer, Merritt Shine
- 29 - Carole Coe, Bill Fish, Nancy Harmon
- 31 - Ralph Foster, Sandy Samson



News and Notes

Ready to join us?

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we welcome our new members during each service. Also, after each service we also encourage those who are moved by the Spirit and wishing to seek membership to join us for a meeting with the Pastors and Elders.

For more information, please contact Deb Alich at 772-999-3644, via email at daalich@comcast.net, or call the church office at 772-562-9088.

Evening Vespers are back!

Sunday Evenings
5:30-6PM

In the Courtyard between the
Chapel and the Offutt Quiet Room

Come join us for discipleship as we prepare our hearts and minds for the week ahead

Call 1-772-206-3548

to hear our latest sermon



Grocery Shopping Assistance Program

This is now a permanent service offered by the Senior Resource Association. All seniors age 60+ in Indian River County are eligible. Senior Resource Association staff will pick up a grocery list, do the shopping, and deliver items all on the same day - with NO delivery fee!

Please call for more information:
(772) 569-0760

Pastries with the Pastor

2nd Sunday of the month,
following the 10am service.
in the E.T. Smith Lounge



A perfect opportunity to acquaint oneself to First Presbyterian, membership, the Presbyterian faith, and the life and activities of the church- and for us to get to know you better. What a joy it is to Welcome those considering membership!

The Year of the Bible

To sign up, please contact
Pastor Michael:

michaelyork@firstpresvero.org
(772) 562-9088 ext. 113



<http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresVero>



@FirstPresVeroBeach



First Presbyterian Church Vero Beach



News and Notes

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor
 Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Fred Foy Strang,
 Min. of Congregational Care
 Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence
 Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music and Arts
 Jacob Strang, Youth Director
 Carie Robbins, Director of Children's Ministries

ELDERS **indicates Elder/Trustee*

Class of 2021

Deb Alich, *Harvard "Bud" Johnson,
 *Carol Marks, Kari Palmer

Class of 2022

*Jerry Garrett, Phil LoGiudice, Bonnie Nolan,
 *Carol Smoyer

Class of 2023

*Allan Bixby, James Ewing, Linda Masterson,
 *Cindy Rogers

Clerk of Session - Connie Herr
 Treasurer - Scott Westermann
 Director of Development - Allan Bixby

Trustees-at-Large

2021 - Melissa Shine

2022 - Bob Satola

2023 - Will Kirk

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2021

Scott Berran, Sue Coffey, Michael Goodfellow,
 Charles Hancock, Jan Satola, Floy Turner

Class of 2022

Mary Bingham, Reita Byrket, Keith Martin,
 Jeff Morgan, Barbara Reed, Richard Thomas

Class of 2023

Lucille Craig, Shirley Douglas, Jenifer Foster,
 Robin Perry, Mimi Rutland, Bob Stuart

Monthly Ministry, Committee, and Talent Team Meetings

Please contact the committee/ministry team leader directly to confirm the status of each meeting regarding the continuation of online-only teleconferences or in-person meetings.

All meetings are subject to change at the discretion of each committee/ministry team, as needed.

Deacons - 1st Tuesday; 4:30pm
 Discipleship - 1st Tuesday; 1pm
 Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday; 12pm
 Finance & Policy - 1st Thursday; 3pm
 Heritage - 4th Thursday; 10am
 Hospitality - 1st Monday; 3pm
 Missions - 2nd Tuesday; 2pm
 Personnel - Tuesday prior to Trustees Mtg; 3:30pm
 PW Team - 1st Monday; 1pm
 Session - 3rd Thursday; 6:50pm
 Trustees - Monday of the week prior to Session; 3pm
 Worship & Music - 1st Thursday; 4pm



Weekly Bible Studies and Prayer Opportunities

Dr. Tim

Tuesdays at 10:30am
 via LiveStream or Facebook

[Click here to join](#)

Pastor Michael

Tuesdays at 7:30pm via Zoom

[Click here to join](#)

Devotional & Prayer

with Dr. Fred Foy

Fridays at 10:00am via Zoom

[Click here to join](#)

First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach

520 Royal Palm Boulevard
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 562-9088

<http://www.FirstPresVero.org>

[Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor](#)

[Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor](#)

Sunday Services

8:30am, 10:00am, and 11:15am

The first Sunday of every month is Communion Sunday. If you would like one of our fellowship cups, please call the church office, and we will see that one gets delivered to you. In addition, you may also procure your own elements.

Each week, as you are able, continue to bring food items to support the work of our Mission Talent Committee. We will make sure that these food offerings go to those in need in our community.

"Meals to Heal": If you know of someone who needs a meal during a difficult time, please come to the church, grab a meal out of the freezer, and deliver it to them. If you are unable to deliver a meal but know of someone in need, please contact the church office and provide the information, and we will make sure the meal is delivered.

January Scriptures and Sermons

January 3, 2021

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor
John 1:1-18
"The Manifestation"

January 17, 2021

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor
Matthew 25:31-46
"What Does Justice Look Like?"

January 10, 2021

Rev. C. Michael York, Associate Pastor
Mark 1:4-11
"Engrafted into Christian Leadership"

January 24, 2021

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor
Matthew 5:17-20
"What Does Honor Look Like?"

January 31, 2021

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor
Mark 1:21-28
"He Made Sense"

"For God Loves a Cheerful Giver"

Our in-person offertory procedures have changed, and we wanted you to know that your offering can also be accepted via mail or in person via the secure dropbox just outside of the church office door.

Did you know that you can also give an offering online?

[Click here to be directed to our secure portal.](#)

Or, use your smartphone for easy mobile giving!
Text "Firstpresvero" to 73256 and follow the prompts!

