

CHAPEL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Chapel Sunday School Class which meets in the Chapel behind the sanctuary has begun a new series on the book of Genesis. Here is a description of this new series:

“Genesis sets the context for all of life. Why are we here? Who are we? What is our purpose? This discussion-based class for all age groups will examine the major themes and people in Genesis. We will seek to understand what God communicated to us as context for understanding the world, His plan, His love for His children, and the beginnings of the plan of redemption. While we won’t shy away from hard questions about “how” God did things, we will focus on “why”. The class is taught by Matt Teplicek, Jay Trumbull and Dave Smith.

Sunday School classes for adults, youth and children are a great way to get deeper into the truth of God’s word and to connect to God’s people in fellowship beyond the Sunday Morning worship service. For more information on our Sunday School Classes, descriptions and locations see our church website: firstprespc.org

First Presbyterian Church, PCA
100 E 7th Street
Panama City, FL 32401

First Presbyterian

Church Communique

February 2018

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD’S SUPPER

Our next monthly Lord’s Supper celebration will be during the Sunday morning worship service on February 4th. As a help to prayerfully prepare for the Lord’s Supper this month we’ve included Question and Answer 171 and 172 in Westminster Confession Larger Catechism on the Lord’s Supper.

Q. 171. How do we prepare to receive the Lord’s supper?

Preparation for the Lord’s supper involves careful examination: of the condition of our life in Christ; of our sins and failings; of whether we truly and to what degree know God, believe in him, and have repented, and of whether we love God and our fellow believers. We should have a charitable attitude toward everyone, including forgiveness of those who have wronged us. We must also assess how much we desire Christ and whether we are living in newness of obedience. Finally we must renew the practice of these graces in us by serious meditation and fervent prayer.

Q. 172. Should those who have doubts about their being in Christ or about whether they are ready to take communion come to the Lord’s supper anyway?

Those who have doubts about their position in Christ or about their readiness to take communion may nonetheless have a valid interest in Christ, even though they are not yet assured of being in him. In God’s view, if such people are aware of and grieved by their lack of assurance, sincerely want to be found in Christ, and want to get away from sinning, and (since promises are involved in the sacrament, and it has been established to aid even weak and doubting Christians) if people in that condition are truly sorry for their lack of faith and work hard to resolve their doubts, they may and ought to come to the Lord’s supper, so that their faith may be further strengthened.

BEREAVEMENT TEAM UPDATE

Since 1997 our church has provided a wonderful ministry through the Bereavement Teams which operates under the oversight of the Women in the Church (WIC) ministry. In a previous Church Communicate we let the congregation know that the Women in the Church ministry was looking for a President of its organization. No President has yet been forthcoming and as a result the future of the Bereavement Teams were in question. However, the Bereavement Team Leaders recently convened and decided to continue their ministry and service in the church for which we are very thankful!

What do Bereavement Teams do? When a church member has a death in their family a Bereavement Team will provide food for the family on the day of the funeral, following the service. Food can either be delivered to the home of a family member, or if more space is needed, the church social hall may be used. The Bereavement Teams can provide food for up to 30 people.

This wonderful ministry takes place through the volunteer service of church members. Our Bereavement Team leadership is in place, however, we do need to add members to each team. Each team member provides a side dish when their team is called upon. When the Social Hall is used team members help serve the food and clean up afterwards. Although this is a ministry overseen by the Women in the Church, men can certainly be on teams too if they are willing and able to cook. If you are interested in serving on a Bereavement Team or for more information please call Bereavement Team Coordinator Maxine Colmery at 785-4850.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 2	Samuel Whedon	Feb. 20	H.J. Clampit
Feb. 7	Dax Halvorson	Feb. 20	Sandy Simons
Feb. 10	Phyllis Stone	Feb. 22	Larry White
Feb. 11	Virginia Whitehorn	Feb. 24	Brenda Baesel
Feb. 12	Susan Aldridge	Feb. 24	Carter Johnson
Feb. 13	Betty Lowery	Feb. 24	Donald Skerratt
Feb. 13	Rick Young	Feb. 25	Gavin Schneider
Feb. 18	Howard Fiser		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 5th	Ron & Jenny Groom
February 15th	Les & Terri Martin
February 21	John & Tatjana Christensen

****Please call the church office to update birthday & anniversary information****

LEAP WEEK Short-Term Summer Missions Trip

Pastor Ron Brown will lead people from our church on a short-term missions trip to London July 1st -10th, to participate in Serge ministry's church planting work in London's South Asian communities. LEAP stands for London Evangelism And Prayer week. LEAP week is a time to leap out of your comfort zone and into a different world, a time to engage in prayer and ministry to London's Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs. The trip date is scheduled for July 1st - 10th (this includes all travel time) and the cost will be approximately \$2,000 per person. If you are interested please sign up using the tear off portion of Sunday's bulletin and drop it in the offering plate or contact Pastor Brown for more information. We need commitments by March 1st.

AT HOME PRAYERS

Most of you know about the at-home prayer program which we have had for the past nine years. This is how it works. Near the first of each month the pastor sends out a prayer letter and a list of about four requests for prayer. Those who volunteer to serve on the Prayer Team agree to include the four petitions in their regular prayers each day. That can be done in a brief moment or as each one desires. The team has no meetings. The names of those serving are not published.

The prayer requests do not include the sick and Honor-roll who are especially remembered in the Tuesday morning and Wednesday night prayer times. The Prayer Team addresses the programs, the worship, and the work of the church.

No announcements are made during the year about the work of this group. Members of the congregation can volunteer to participate at any time but the invitation to join is sent out only in the month of February. Those serving can continue by signing up again each year. Some have withdrawn during the year due to sickness or for other reasons and that is not a problem.

You may sign-up by completing the form below and returning it to the church office or placing it in Sunday's offering plate. Sign-up forms will also be available in the vestibule through the end of this month. Much has happened in the church during the years of this prayer ministry. Pray that God will continue to bless through many prayers.

Yes, I would like to serve with the prayer ministry, receiving the monthly letters and prayer requests to be sent out during the year 2018.

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____