

Covenant Questions and Promises

To the new members: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you, as a believer in Jesus Christ and as a member of this church, act out your faith in the world, in your work and in your family?

I will.

Do you covenant to be an active member of this church through your life in the world and support of this church?

I do.

To the congregation: As a congregation, will you support these new members with your encouragement and your prayers, as together we seek to call upon and praise God?

We will, God being our help. May God give us all grace to share ministry together that Christ may be glorified in this place.

Charge by the Pastor

Welcoming Prayer

Hymn of Welcome

“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.”

The Ministry of The Church

(Please sign and pass the red friendship book.)

Offering . . . *“Freely we have received, freely let us give.”*

Offertory Anthem

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

Dan Forrest

“Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure.

Through a world that would deceive us, where to sin our hearts are lured.

Ever in his footsteps treading, living here, yet home above, full of faith and hope and love.

Let us do the Father’s bidding, faithful Lord, abide with me, savior, lead, I follow thee.

Let us also die with Jesus, by his cross he conquered death,
Freed us from our souls’ destruction, quickened us with life’s new breath.

Let us mortify, while living, self and pride, and die to sin.

And the grave that shuts us in shall prove the gate to heaven.

Jesus, here I die to thee, there to dwell eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus, he is risen from the dead.

Death is swallowed up in victory, Jesus, thou art now our head.

Living members of thy body, where thou livest, we shall be,

Thou wilt keep us constantly, even so, dear Lord, come quickly, Jesus, here I live to thee.

There to dwell eternally. Let us ever walk with Jesus.”

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.”

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music

“As the Lyre to the Singer”

Steven Rickards

“As the lyre to the singer, as one’s thoughts to spoken word,
As the rose to fragrant odor, so to me is Christ our Lord.

As the mother to the baby, as the traveler to his guide,
As the lake to streaming rainfall, stands the savior by my side.

As the sun to gladdening day spring, as the oil is to the flame,
As the fish is to the water, so to me is his sweet name.

Bound to him and by him holden, as the flute and breath accord,
His for now, for now and his forever, is my soul to Christ the Lord.”

Second Scripture Reading (p. 1399)

1 Corinthians 13

Message

“You Can Be Happy This Year”

Dr. Hood

***Hymn of Dedication No. 403**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Converse

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Sonata #1, Finale”

Felix Mendelssohn

*The congregation is invited to stand, if you are able.

The Church Bell is rung in loving memory of Arthur (1918 – 1996) and Ruby (1924 – 2016) Churchill. Prior to Sunday morning worship, the bell from our original Sanctuary is rung in memory of those in our Memorial Garden. Let us pause to give thanks for all who have gone before us, who rest in the peace of God, thanking God for the Christian witness of their lives.

The **flowers** that beautify the Chancel this morning are given by the Coles family, in loving memory of Vernon Coles, husband, father, and grandpa; and by the Bartholomew family, in loving memory of Marty Baker.

Greeting You

9 a.m.: East Door – Kris Engel. West Door – Mitch Engel.

11 a.m.: East Door – Ray Hackenberg. West Door – Lori Hackenberg.

Our Condolences

are extended to the family of Martha (Marty) Baker, upon her death on January 3, 2019. Plans for a Memorial Service are pending.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have recently lost loved ones.

Gift to

Church Improvement from Marie Claire Ged and Dan Mallett, in loving memory of Mary Ged.

Take Note

Stewardship 2019: Our thanks to members and friends of our congregation who have made their stewardship pledge for 2019. Thus far, we have received 189 pledges, totaling \$754,600. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2019 we encourage you to make it as soon as possible. Estimate of giving cards are available in the pews. You may place these in the offering plate, mail them to the church office or call Christine Davis in the financial office (561-276-6338, ext. 16), and make a verbal pledge by phone. Please note that if you are currently using automated payments through your bank or credit card to make your pledge, we still need a completed pledge card from you. Let us all be faithful to our calling as Disciples of Christ and support the work of Christ's Church.

Capital Campaign pledges reach the goal of \$3.5 million! Exciting news that we achieved this in early July 2018. To be at the final mark is an amazing accomplishment and everyone in our congregation should be proud and thanked as we had a 90 % + participation rate. We now have \$3.5M in pledges, and we are less than \$200,000 away from collecting all of it, as many made a pledge on the three year plan which ends later this year. Our debt on this project is very low, and assuming the pledges come in as planned, we expect to be debt-free again as a church as soon as possible. If you have made a pledge and are able to finish off your fulfillment of such pledge, it will put us at our goal of full collection.

Stop by the **Narthex** and purchase **Doug Hood's new book Nurture Faith: Five Minutes to Strengthen Your Walk with Christ for \$15**. This expanded edition of Heart & Soul: Volume 2 contains 24% new material in a more compact design.

Please be sure to join us **today, Sunday, January 13th at 4 p.m.** in our **Sanctuary** as we **install Rev. Gregory Rapier** as our Associate Pastor. Come and support Rev. Rapier and his wife, Lissette, during this important service in the life of our church.

Next Sunday, January 20th, an art festival is being held on Atlantic Avenue. Please make sure to allow time to travel to church and take either the Linton Blvd. or George Bush bridge to church.

Donations for the **2019 Step-Above-Rummage Sale** may be left at the church from **9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays beginning this Tuesday, January 15th through Saturday, February 2nd**. We hope to receive your contributions of good, CLEAN clothing, costume jewelry, linens, small household items, books, and antiques and collectibles.

Volunteers are needed to sort and price items starting at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 15th. We need both men and women as sales people during the event. Men are needed to set up, especially on Monday, January 14th to move merchandise and set up tables and racks and on Wednesday, February 6th for final setup. Men are also needed on Saturday afternoon, February 9th to disassemble and get ready for church services on Sunday morning. Please use the **Volunteer Form** located in the bulletin and put it in the collection plate or return it to the church office.

The **2019 Step-Above-Rummage Rummage Sale** is **Thursday, February 7th** from **1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** and **Friday, February 8th** and **Saturday, February 9th** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Join us **next Friday, January 25th** for our **Annual Congregational Dinner** at **Benvenuto Restaurant** (1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach). The evening begins at **5:30 p.m.** with a **social hour**, followed by a sit down dinner at **6:30 p.m.** Our speaker is Dr. William Willimon. He is an American theologian and bishop in the United Methodist Church, who served the North Alabama Conference. He is currently Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School. He is former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University and is considered by many as one of America's best-known and most influential preachers. A *Pulpit & Pew* "Research on Pastoral Leadership" survey determined that he was one of the two most frequently read writers by pastors in mainline Protestantism alongside Henri Nouwen. His books have sold over a million copies. He is also Editor-At-Large of *The Christian Century*. Dr. Willimon will be the Distinguished Preacher during worship on Sunday, January 27th.

The cost for the evening is \$30 per person. **Reservations** may be made in the Narthex following the service, on our website under Upcoming Events, or by calling the church office (561-276-6338). All monies are due to the church office on or before the day of the event.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place in the **Sanctuary** immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, February 3rd**.

Dinner and a Movie (and Babysitting on Valentine's Day). This **Valentine's Day, February 14th** from **6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**, as parents go about their dates, we are hosting a children-only event with pizza, games, and a popular children's movie. The cost is \$20 per child, by reservation only. 100% of the profits will go directly toward the Deacons' Scholarship Fund. **Reservations** may be made in the Narthex following the service, on our website under Upcoming Events, or by calling the church office (561-276-6338), ***no later than February 12th***.

Our congregation is made up of members from all over the USA and beyond. Unlike our home town congregation where we grew up, many of us came to Delray Beach as adults. The person sitting on your left or right could be from your home town and you wouldn't know it. **Home Town Sunday, February 17th**, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee, is a day to celebrate our origins and help us connect with each other. Please complete the pull out insert in the bulletin and drop it in the Offering Plate or put it in the basket in the Welcome Center.

Our **Sunday School and Bible Bunch** have been growing steadily. This is exciting! We are **looking for an assistant to help the teachers**. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone who would like to share their love of God with the children of our church. If you are interested, please contact Grace Hood (561-276-6338, ext. 17 or gracehood@firstdelray.com).

Join Doug and Grace Hood and Michael and Page Brown for a **Bible Land Exploration** from **November 13 to November 22, 2019**. This trip to Israel will expand our knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible, and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the "Fifth Gospel". Brochures and registration forms are available on the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

Our Ministry Develops Through



Our Main Church Financial Accounts and Funding

Operating account/Stewardship/Annual Pledge Funds – This is our main account, with the majority of the cash raised from the annual Stewardship Campaign, or annual pledges. These funds are what the church uses every day to pay mission outreach, salaries, power bills, insurance, maintenance, etc. Our annual budget is approximately \$1.45 million and our pledges typically come in lower than this amount. On top of pledges, we get money from plate and special purpose collections on Sundays, gifts directed for specific operating purposes, from weddings and valet parking. We then dip into our “Remembrance Fund” (described below) and our “Endowment Fund” (described below) to fill the gap as needed. Our # 1 goal is to work with our membership to reduce our dependence on these other funds so we can continue to operate and expand our ministries fully. Our annual “Stewardship Campaign” for annual operating pledges runs from November through January each year.

Remembrance Fund – This fund includes unrestricted gifts to the church (wills, trusts, estates), including contributions made in “remembrance” of others. These funds are used in support of the Operating account described above on an as-needed basis as approved by the current Elders who make up Session.

Endowment Fund – This is our long term fund. Historically these funds come from bequests from our congregation (wills, trusts, estates) that restrict the gifts for this purpose. We transfer a portion of these funds each year to help cover our full operating budget as needed, but we never take more than 5 % of the current balance. Many people view bequests as “perpetual pledges” to leave a legacy of continuing ministry.

Capital Campaign – The latest Capital Campaign was a 2016-2018 campaign to upgrade most of the church’s physical facilities – parking, Narthex, bathrooms, Center for Christian Studies Building, etc. A special campaign was put in place to raise \$3.5 million and the project came in on time and on budget with completion in the first half of 2018. A few ancillary capital projects are being included in this account to top off the work needed at our beautiful facility, and we will continue to strive to maintain a small balance here for future capital needs.

Debt – Right now the Church has just \$100,000 of debt. This stems from the 3 year capital campaign project, and is expected to be paid off by the end of 2018 as final pledge payments come in toward the \$3.5 million, which was fully pledged but not yet 100% collected. We are blessed as one of few congregations nationwide to have no meaningful debt and a fully upgraded set of facilities.

For Our Younger Worshippers

Children’s Worship Activities and Bibles are at the **Children’s Table** in the **Covered Patio** for use during worship. Please return the clipboards and Bibles to the table after the service.

Free New Testament Bibles

First Presbyterian Church is a point of distribution of God’s word in the **New Testament** at *no cost* to anyone who would like a copy. If you have not previously picked up a copy in the Narthex, you may do so this morning. If you know of people who would appreciate receiving a copy, please take copies to them. Join with your church in distributing God’s word throughout our communities in Palm Beach County.

Connect with First Presbyterian Church

Please join us in the **Narthex** at **10 a.m.** for a **Coffee Break** and at **noon** for **Fellowship Hour**, our times of fellowship.

Read **Doug Hood's weekly meditation** through our church website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Resources*. Don't forget to subscribe to his meditation so that you do not miss any of the postings.

Following the worship service, feel free to pick up a copy of **Doug Hood's *Heart and Soul, volume 2*** by the west door.

For those interested in taking notes during the worship service, a **Sermon Notes Page** is available by the west door.

Follow us on **Twitter** at @FPCDelrayBeach or **tweet** #FPCDBWORSHIP.

If you are a member of the church and need a **blue** First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach **parking sticker**, please contact Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com or 561-276-6338, ext. 10) or stop by the church office during the week.

Members who would like to receive **email notification of members' deaths and memorial services** should contact Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com). You will only be informed if the family has approved public notification.

If you would like to receive your **Spire Newsletter electronically**, please email Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com), text FPCDELRAYBEACH to 22828 (message and data rates may apply), or complete the online form on our website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Resources*.

Sunday Mornings

Please turn off your **cell phones and electronic devices** during the worship service.

Closed Circuit TV is available for viewing the worship service in the **Quiet Room**.

Children's Worship Activities and Bibles are at the **Children's Tables** in the **Covered Patio** for use during worship. Please return the clipboards and Bibles to the table after the service.

Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices are available from the Deacons.

Nursery Care for children from birth through Kindergarten is available from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the Nursery.

Please join us in the **Narthex** at **10 a.m.** for a **Coffee Break** and at **noon** for **Fellowship Hour**, our times of fellowship.

Sunday Children's Programs

Bible Bunch Sunday School meets after the Children's Time during the **11 a.m. worship service**. Children 3 years old through Kindergarten should follow the class leaders to the **Bible Bunch Room**. The class is led by Alice Barrett and Iva Branscombe.

Sunday School for Children in 1st through 5th grade, meets after the Children's Time during the **11 a.m. worship service**. They are using the *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum. They have access to activities to do at home via online resources with a downloadable e-book for iBooks and Kindle. The class is led by Grace Hood and Liz Landes in the **Sunday School Room**.

Youth Group

Refuge Youth Group is BACK! **This Friday, February 18th** from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, youth are invited to the **Youth Room** for faith, fellowship, and fun. A snack will be provided. Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact Greg Rapier (561-276-6338, ext. 13 or gregrapier@firstdelray.com).

Young Adults

Young Adults (19 through 40's) are invited to go bowling **this Thursday, January 17th** at **6 p.m.** We will be at **Strikes in Boca Raton**. For more information, contact Greg Rapier (561-276-6338, ext. 13 or gregrapier@firstdelray.com).

Weekly Education Program

The **Monday Morning Women's Bible Study** meets **Mondays** at **10 a.m.** in the **Youth Room**. They are using the video study, "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation", by Professor Craig Koester. The Bible has shaped thousands of years of faith, art, and human history. Yet, we rarely engage with the Bible as a collection of unique narratives that were later united into the Old and New Testaments. Dr. Koester transforms these ancient texts into a learning experience that is equal parts educational and entertaining. All women are welcome. For more information, contact Linda Prior (561-276-6338).

The **Women's Discipleship Group** meets on **Thursdays** at **10 a.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. All women are invited to attend the study on Growing to be like Christ, Doing Life Together by Zondervan and Rick Warren.

Monthly Educational Program

The **Monday Women's Book Group** meets on **Monday, February 4th**, at **12:30 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. All women are invited to attend the discussion on The Tall Woman by Wilma Dykeman. Contact Martha Smith (561-276-6338) for more information.

Music

The **Chancel Choir** rehearses on **Sunday** mornings at **10:15 a.m.** to prepare for the worship service and on **Thursday** evenings at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Choir Room**. Don Cannarozzi is available for those who may be a little shy about becoming part of this ministry. You can speak with him after service, or contact Don Cannarozzi (dcannaro@hotmail.com), to set up a time to meet.

Westminster Ringers (for adults and high school youth) is on **Thursdays** in the **Bell Room** from **6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.** Contact Jim Poch (561-276-6338, ext. 24 or jimpoch@firstdelray.com) for more information.

Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship meets on **Thursday** mornings at **8:30 a.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. Bring a friend and enjoy the camaraderie. They are discussing the devotional book Uncommon Life by Tony Dungy. For more information, contact Bruce Gimmy (561-276-6338).

Financial Considerations

There is a very convenient way to **donate online** to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange which is part of the 200+ year old Presbyterian Foundation and transfers your donation promptly. Visit the church website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Give* for more information and a link to our giving page.

On December 18, 2015, the President signed legislation indefinitely extending the **charitable IRA rollover provision** enabling IRA owners ages 70½ or older to make a direct, tax-free transfer to First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach or the charity of their choice. Certain limitations apply so please consult your tax adviser.

Remember the Church When Estate Planning. Our Endowment and Remembrance Funds are two excellent opportunities for your giving consideration, be it your will, stocks, or as a named beneficiary to an insurance policy. This financially wise method of stewardship helps ensure the long-term financial stability of the church and provides a planned means for the church to continue its role in the lives of our members and those to whom we reach out, in our community and beyond. For more information on long-term giving, call the church office (561-276-6338).

Membership

Are you interested in **joining our church**? If so, we would love to see you on **Sunday, February 3rd** in the **Covered Patio immediately following the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. worship service**. In order to join, no reservations or classes are required for those who have been previously baptized.

Invite a family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or business associate to worship with us. Share your faith and love for Christ's Church with others.

Employment Connections Ministry – Career Shepherds

The **Employment Connections Ministry** (employmentconnectionsministry.com) was formed to provide a caring, supportive, and helpful avenue for unemployed/underemployed members of the congregation and the community, as well as for those whose career paths may no longer seem fulfilling to find a more rewarding career or employment opportunity. Seeking new employment can be frightening and reinvention later in life can be daunting; how do you get help? Our ministry assists these individuals to get information and/or career guidance. From our network of Specialty Area Mentors, who share their work expertise, experience, and knowledge, to an assigned Career Shepherd, who walks with you to help identify your strengths and talents, our ministry provides useful tools to assist you in networking and guiding you throughout the process. We invite all church members to join this exciting ministry by lending their expertise and availability to mentor or help for whatever time they may have available. If interested in doing the Lord's work through this ministry, please feel free to contact Richard Story (561-276-6338) or Nancy Fine (561-276-6338, ext. 10 or nancyfine@firstdelray.com) for more information.

Mission Opportunity

We are making **Hygiene Kits** for The Caring Kitchen. If you have unopened travel size items that you would like to donate, please put them in the collection basket in the Narthex.

Church Membership Directory

The **Pictorial Church Membership Directory** is available online for members of the church. There are two ways to access the directory. You may visit our website (www.firstdelray.com) under *Connect* to request a password to access the membership directory to print or save to your computer. Or, you may view the directory by visiting www.instantchurchdirectory.com or downloading the free Instant Church Directory Member's App from the Apple Store, Google Play, or Amazon App Store. In order to gain access to the online directory through Instant Church Directory, you must register your account using the email address on file with the church. For issues with registering through Instant Church Directory, contact Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com or 561-276-6338, ext. 10).

Prayer Ministry Team

The **Prayer Ministry Team** meets on **Wednesdays at 3 p.m.** in the **Youth Room** to pray together for all those who request prayers. This includes concerns, thanksgiving, and praise. Each request is treated with respect, confidentiality, and caring. If a request includes a name and address, a card will be sent to confirm the group is praying for those concerns. You are **invited to join** this prayer ministry team simply by calling Sharon Koch (561-276-6338). She will be happy to provide additional information about this ministry and welcome you to participate.

Prayer Concern Cards are in the pews. If you have a specific prayer concern, please complete a card and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Concerns are forwarded to members of the Prayer Ministry Team and pastoral staff.

Pennies from Heaven

Help First Presbyterian Church support the battle against hunger and poverty at home and away. **Pennies from Heaven** is a simple act of thanksgiving for what we have received and a commitment to share with others. Collect 5 cents per family member per meal each day. At the end of each month, bring your money to church and we will collect your "Pennies from Heaven" during the worship service. All monies collected are donated on a quarterly basis to local food programs as well as to regional and national hunger programs. We collected \$460.86 from the **December Offering**. Since September 2012, we have collected \$36,561.67. Our next collection is on **Sunday, January 27th**.

Partners in Prayer

You are invited to participate in a six-week ministry of prayer called **Partners in Prayer for First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Leaders**. This six-week ministry does *not* require attendance at any meetings. Participants receive a resource packet with the names of six church leaders. Simply, the ministry is a commitment to pray each day for one week for the same person. Each week for six weeks you will pray for a different church leader. At the beginning of each week you will write an encouraging note to that leader indicating that you are praying for him or her. Contact Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com or 561-276-6338, ext. 10) for a resource packet with all the details including sample notes, messages and prayers.

Hospitalization

If you or a family member are **hospitalized**, please notify the church office (561-276-6338). Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will not notify us.

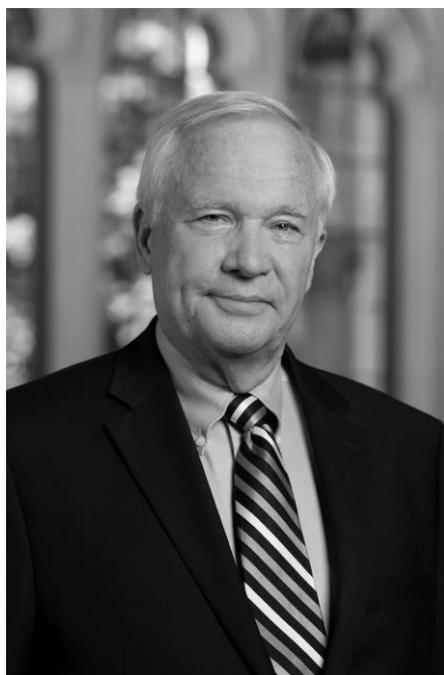
Special Prayer List as of January 8th

Please keep our members and friends in your thoughts and prayers this week.

First Presbyterian Church's Distinguished Preacher Series

Presents

Dr. William Willimon



Sunday, January 27, 2019
preaching at the
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services

He is considered by many as one of America's best-known and influential preachers.

Dr. Willimon is an American theologian and bishop in the United Methodist Church, who served the North Alabama Conference. He is currently the Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School and the former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University. A *Pulpit & Pew* "Research on Pastoral Leadership" survey determined that is was one of the two most frequently read writers by pastors in mainline Protestantism alongside Henri Nouwen. His books have sold over a million copies. He is also Editor-at-Large of *The Christian Century*.

A-STEP-ABOVE-RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEER FORM

WOMEN

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Women: Preferred work area: _____

Thursday, February 7th Sales **Public** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. _____

Friday, February 8th Sales: **Public** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. _____

Saturday, February 9th Sales: **Public** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. _____

**If you have any questions, please call
Marilyn (561-274-0778) or Courtenay (609-577-7557)**



MEN

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Men: Preferred work area: _____

Monday, January 14th Set up tables and racks 9 a.m. _____

Monday, February 4th Move merchandise & set up Courtyard 9 a.m. _____

Thursday, February 7th Sales **Public** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. _____

Friday, February 8th Sales: **Public** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. _____

Saturday, February 9th Sales: **Public** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. _____

Saturday, February 9th Clear Courtyard & dismantle Covered Patio 1 p.m. _____

Wednesday, February 13th Dismantle tables & racks in Fellowship Hall 9 a.m. _____

If you have any questions, please call Ed (561-317-1318)

N U R T U R E
F A I T H
with
Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

The following meditation was written by Doug Hood's son,
Nathanael Hood, MA, New York University

When We Get God Wrong (Location: Capernaum)

READ: (Matthew 4:12-13 CEB) (Common English Bible)

“Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.”

REFLECT:

Short of the Resurrection, think of Jesus' greatest, most well-known miracles and there's a good chance they happened in Capernaum, a tiny fishing village of about fifteen-hundred people on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was so small and insignificant that its inhabitants never even bothered building a wall—invading armies would pass it by, deeming it too unimportant to occupy; even the Romans ignored it during their ruthless suppression of the Jewish people during the First Jewish–Roman War (AD 66–73). Archaeologists speculate that it was cramped and dirty, with several families living together in the same one-story building with no plumbing or drainage. Yet it was this nowhere village, only about 40 miles away from his traditional home in Nazareth, that became Jesus' de facto base of operations during his three-year ministry. The Gospel of Matthew even refers to it in its ninth chapter as “his own city.”

It was in Capernaum that Jesus found his first four disciples: the fishermen Peter and Andrew and Zebedee's two sons, James and John. (Later, Jesus would recruit Matthew, one of the local tax collectors, as another member of the Twelve.) It was in its little synagogue that Jesus astonished the people with the authority of his teaching and cast out an impure spirit possessing one of the worshippers (Mark 1: 21-27). It was along these dusty streets that Jesus healed the centurion's paralyzed servant (Matthew 8:5-13), an astonishing act of compassion for a gentile living in his country as part of an occupying colonial force. It was in one of these packed, smelly houses that four friends lifted up a mud and thatch roof to lower their lame companion for Jesus' healing (Mark 2: 1-5). It was on these nearby shores of Galilee that Jesus broke five barley loaves and two fish and fed the five thousand, leaving behind twelve baskets of leftovers (John 6:13). And it was on a nearby hillside where Jesus preached the greatest sermon ever known, the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

And yet, it was also the place that Jesus cursed and condemned for its unbelief. “And you, Capernaum,” Jesus raged, “will you be honored by being raised up to heaven? No, you will be thrown down to the place of the dead. After all, if the miracles that were done among you had been done in Sodom, it would still be here today.” (Matthew 11:23) One of the only recorded times in any of the scriptures of Jesus getting angry, and it was towards the city he called home for years. It wasn't that the villagers denied the miraculous things Jesus did—their community was too full of those he'd healed for them to claim that kind of ignorance. Instead, they refused to see these signs and wonders as evidence of Jesus' identity as the Messiah, the Son of God. “Their vision of the kingdom,” Tom Wright writes, “was all about revolution... violence to defeat violence. A holy war against unholy warriors. Love your neighbor, hate your enemy.”¹ He was simply the wrong kind of redeemer.

This Week: January 13th through January 19th

Sunday, January 13th

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Nursery Care – Nursery
9 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
10 a.m.	Coffee Hour – Narthex
10:15 a.m.	Chancel Choir – Choir Room
11 a.m.	Worship Service – Sanctuary
11 a.m.	Bible Bunch Sunday School – Bible Bunch Room
11 a.m.	Sunday School (1 st – 5 th grades) – Sunday School Room
12 p.m.	Fellowship Hour – Narthex
4 p.m.	Rev. Rapier Installation Service – Sanctuary

Monday, January 14th

10 a.m.	Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study – Youth Room
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Tuesday, January 15th

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Drop Off Items for Rummage Sale – Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting – Dr. Hood’s Study
6 p.m.	Trustee Meeting – Meeting Room
7 p.m.	Session Meeting – Conference Room

Wednesday, January 16th

3 p.m.	Prayer Ministry Team – Youth Room
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Thursday, January 17th

8:30 a.m.	Men’s Fellowship – Meeting Room
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Drop Off Items for Rummage Sale – Fellowship Hall
10 a.m.	Women’s Discipleship Group – Meeting Room
6 p.m.	Young Adult Event – Strikes in Boca Raton
6:30 p.m.	Westminster Ringers – Bell Room
7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Friday, January 18th

7 p.m.	Refuge Youth Group – Youth Room
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Saturday, January 19th

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Drop Off Items for Rummage Sale – Fellowship Hall
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