

Sunday Worship
August 12, 2018

We welcome you to worship.

Meditation in Preparation for Worship
“Never despair, but if you do, work on in despair.”
(Edmund Burke)

Prelude “O God, Thou Art the Father” Howard Quilling

Introit Piano Improvisation and Hymn

Welcome

Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship (Psalm 100:2-3) Responsively

Leader: “Serve the Lord with celebration!

Congregation: Come before him with shouts of joy!

Leader: Know that the Lord is God – he made us; we belong to him.

Congregation: We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture.”

***Hymn of Praise No. 563** Lift Every Voice

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

***Opening Prayer**

First Scripture Reading (p. 1048) Ezekiel 34:11-25

Blessing of the Backpacks

Introductory Words Grace Cameron Hood

Presentation of the Backpacks Grace Cameron Hood

Invitation to the Spiritual Leaders Dr. Hood

Congregational Blessing

Powerful God, we join our voices in prayer for these children, youth, and teachers as they start the 2018 – 2019 school year. Each year is a new adventure in learning and growth. Be present in every step and in every movement they make. Open ears and minds to knowledge which will prepare and strengthen them for the journey of life ahead.

Remind these children and young people that you have called them to be your special people. Give them courage to show their faith. Give them wisdom to understand what is truly important. We ask that this school year be filled with opportunities for education as well as enjoyment. We pray for emotional, spiritual, and physical safety for each and every one of your children. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Children 3-years-old through Kindergarten are excused for Bible Bunch (Bible Bunch Rm)
Children in grades 1 through 5 are excused for Sunday School (Sunday School Rm)

Commissioning of New Members

Presentation

Liz Landes, and Lissette Rapier.

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr., Robert Hunter

“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that thou art-thou my best thought,
By day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.”

***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**

Colossians 1:21-23

Once you were alienated from God and you were enemies with him in your minds, which was shown by your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death, to present you before God as a people who are holy, faultless, and without blame. But you need to remain well established and rooted in faith and not shift away from the hope given in the good news that you heard. This message has been preached throughout all creation under heaven. And I, Paul, became a servant of this good news.

Special Music

“My Lord What A Morning”
Dean Peterson

arr., Harry Burleigh

Second Scripture Reading (p. 1305)

John 10:7-17

Message

“Caught in Despair”

Dr. Hood

***Hymn of Dedication No. 538**

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

Sicilian Mariners

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Preludium in G minor”

Nicolaus Bruhns

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

The Church Bell is rung in loving memory of Donald (1917 – 1998) and Doris (1916 – 2012) Rothang. Prior to Sunday morning worship, the bell from our original Sanctuary is rung in memory of those interred 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 Gary Clark, in loving memory of his father Lawrence Clark, and in honor of his mother, Betty Clark.

Notes About Today’s Music

The **first hymn** today was the theme song for the Montreat Youth Conference this year. The theme for the entire week was “Lift Every Voice”. This beloved hymn started as a poem by Floridian James W. Johnson, an African American man who had distinguished careers as educator, lawyer, diplomat, writer and founder of the NAACP. His goal was to bring people with different voices together. As we sing this hymn, we as the Body of Christ, lift up our voices to bring unity to the world.

Greeting You

East Door – Bill and Jane Amme. West Door – Sandi Shine.

Gifts to

Capital Campaign from Randy and Joanne Casement, Martin and Julia Foley, Arthur Gelven, Maria Kim, Arnold and Barbara May, William and Angela Meola, Richard and Rosanna Monaco, Keith and Mira Nolan, Gerard and Roberta Saraceni, Carol Schulman, Marshall and Permelia Truex, and the Wilbert family, in loving memory of Carol Lewis.

Remembrance Fund from Norma Beckman and Tory Gunderson, in loving memory of Jackson and Tanya Anstedt.

Take Note

Capital Campaign pledges reach the goal of \$3.5 million! Exciting news that we recently 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 by January 1, 2019. 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.

The beautiful **Chancel flowers** we enjoy in the Sanctuary, during the worship service, are donated in honor of or memory of loved ones. The donor and the loved ones are remembered in the Sunday bulletin. The cost of two arrangements is \$50. If two families want flower arrangements on the same Sunday, the cost can be shared. The donor may select the recipients for the arrangements or the Deacons can be designated to deliver the flowers to shut-ins. If you would like to order flowers, contact Linda Prior (561-276-6338).

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.

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.

Our Ministry Develops Through



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 for **Fellowship Hour** in the **Narthex**, our time of fellowship, following the worship service.

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*** in the Narthex.

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

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 to Kindergarten is available from **9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** in the **Nursery**.

Please join us for **Fellowship Hour** in the **Narthex**, our time of fellowship, following the worship service.

Sunday Children's Programs

Bible Bunch Sunday School meets after the Children's Time during the **worship service**. Children 3 years old through Kindergarten should follow the class leaders to the **Bible Bunch Room**.

Summer Spectacular Sunday School for Children in grades 1st through 5th is exploring who God is with different workshops during the Sunday School time. Each Sunday is a unique time of fun and faith led by different people in the church. Contact Grace Hood (561-276-6338, ext. 17 or gracehood@firstdelray.com) for more information.

Weekly Education Program

All are invited to the **Thursday Morning Small Group** at **10 a.m.** in the **Meeting Room**. They meet throughout the summer, reviewing Dr. Hood's "Nurture Faith" from the previous Sunday. Come and join them.

Music

The **Chancel Choir** rehearses in the **Choir Room** on **Sunday** mornings at **9:30 a.m.** to prepare for the worship service. If you would like to sing in the choir, you are invited to come and add your voice.

Holly House

Holly House Workshops meet on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** mornings **9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** in the **Holly House** to work on beading, sewing, arts and crafts, floral design and knitting. Come join the camaraderie!

Looking for unique items? Holly House has lovely summer flower arrangements, cork and shell wreaths, and decorations for the coastal home. Stop by the **Holly House** on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from **9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** to see the newest creations. For more information contact Cindy Pemberton (561-276-6338).

Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship meets on **Thursday** mornings at **8:30 a.m.** in the **Conference 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) or Hume Rennick (561-276-6338).

Employment Connections Ministry – Career Shepherds

The **Employment Connections Ministry** is here to help and support unemployed persons and those whose career paths no longer seem fulfilling to find a more rewarding career or employment. Seeking employment can be lonely and sometimes overwhelming. Where to start? What goals to pursue? How to navigate? Career Shepherds are here to work with you on an individual basis to help you identify your strengths and talents, provide useful tools, and assist in guiding you throughout the process. We invite church members to join this exciting ministry by lending their expertise and availability to mentor or help for whatever time possible. Contact Dick Story (561-276-6338) or Nancy Fine (nancyfine@firstdelray.com or 561-276-6338, ext. 10) for more information.

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 (561-276-6338, ext. 10 or nancyfine@firstdelray.com).

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 \$212.01 from the **July Offering**. Since September 2012, we have collected \$34,643.86. Our next collection is on **Sunday, August 26th**.

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.

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).

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.

Membership

Are you interested in **joining our church**? If so, we would love to see you on **Sunday, September 2nd** in the **Covered Patio immediately following the 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.

If you are a **guest visiting us**, we invite you to participate in all of our worship services and activities.

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.

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.

Prayer Ministry Team

The Prayer Ministry Team is taking a summer break. However, prayer requests that come through our worship services or through the church office are still distributed by the church office to the prayer ministry team for individual prayer. 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.

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 August 7th

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

N U R T U R E
FAITH
with
Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr.

The following is a repeat from Dr. Hood's Meditation from August 2017.

Don't Complain!

READ: Exodus 16:2, 8b (Common English Bible)

"The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. 'Who are we? Your complaints aren't against us but against the Lord.'"

REFLECT:

Lowell Russell, formerly Executive Secretary and Director of the National Presbyterian Church and Center, Washington, D.C., once shared a lesson he learned from an attorney – a series of propositions that the attorney had written down on paper and kept with him at all times. There were three: "Never tell anyone how much you have to do. Never speak of your problems, your difficulties. Never talk about your disappointments." In other words, he was saying to himself, "Don't complain!"ⁱ

My friend and mentor, Arthur Caliandro, who followed Norman Vincent Peale as the senior pastor of Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, once shared with me his conviction that every pastor would be wise to preach on forgiveness at least three times a year. Caliandro believed that the single greatest obstacle to obtaining full Christian maturity was our difficulty with forgiveness. Any failure to forgive results in a weight that must be carried – by both the injured and the one who caused the injury. For Caliandro, the greatest burden was carried by the one who failed to forgive. Over time, the accumulation of "transgressions" that remain unforgiven results in stagnation of our spiritual growth. Christian growth isn't possible without the extravagant practice of forgiveness as Christ forgives us.

Perhaps my friend is correct. Yet, I contend that another hindrance to our growth as Christians is our propensity to complain. Here, in the Book of Exodus, the whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. Food was scarce, the days in the desert were hot and the journey through the desert seemed as though it would never end. Life back in Egypt as slaves seemed to present a better quality of life than a trek through the desert! So, the whole Israelite community complained.

Moses and Aaron's response seems to suggest the uselessness of negative thinking and speaking. Yes, the days in the desert were difficult. Discouragement is to be expected. But time and energy "moaning and groaning" provided no relief. So Moses and Aaron deflected the complaints; redirected the complaints made against them to God. It was the exercise of extraordinary leadership. That is because it forced upon the Israelite people the absolute necessity to pay attention to God, to "make their complaint" before God and then "to listen" for how God would respond. It is then that Moses and Aaron fulfilled their primary call to spiritual leadership – beginning the conversation between God's people and God. That is where spiritual growth occurs.

ⁱLowell Russell, "The Hard Rut of Complaining," **Best Sermons, Volume X**. (New York: Trident Press, 1968), 79.

RESPOND:

1. How has this scripture or meditation spoken to you?

2. What insight can you apply to your life this week?

3. What one specific act do you intend to take, an attitude to change, a person to see, or prayer to pray?

PRAY:

Thank you, O Lord, for your abiding presence in my life. Strengthen and support me in those moments I become discouraged and the way becomes difficult. Amen.

This Week: August 12th through August 16th

Sunday, August 12th

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Nursery Care – Nursery
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir – Choir Room
10 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
10 a.m. Bible Bunch Sunday School – Bible Bunch Room
10 a.m. Sunday School (1st – 5th grades) – Sunday School Room
11 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Narthex

Tuesday, August 14th

9:30 a.m. Holly House Workshop – Holly House
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting – Dr. Hood’s Study

Thursday, August 16th

8:30 a.m. Men’s Fellowship – Conference Room
9:30 a.m. Holly House Workshop – Holly House
10 a.m. Thursday Morning Small Group – Meeting Room

