

Palm City Presbyterian Church

# NEWSLETTER



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## One Morning in a Diner

by David C. Mauldin

So, I'm having breakfast with a friend who is a pastor. I'm sitting in a booth at a greasy spoon diner. It's the kind of place where they serve you burnt toast even if you ask for untoasted white bread. Only, my friend isn't there. He's late. Only, I don't know he's late because my nose is buried in a book. The book is called *Simply Trinity*, by Matthew Barrett. I'm contemplating the importance of divine simplicity for understanding the eternal relations of origin among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit when a guy interrupts me. He says, "What'cha readin', my boy?"

I look up. Standing beside the table is a man about five foot eight, brown hair, neat beard. His hair is cut funny: bald on top but a thick circle around his head, like a monk's tonsure. He's wearing brown pants and a casual green button-down shirt. He looks to be in his thirties. I am struck by the irony of a guy young enough to technically be my son calling me "boy." But I let it pass. What catches my attention is his eyes, which are bright blue. They sparkle in an unusual way.

"It's a book of theology," I answer. "*Simply Trinity*. It's about the Trinity."

"So I see. So I see," he tells me. I should mention he speaks with an Irish brogue. "It warms my heart to see a person reading such a book. It's a fine topic. None better. Say, you wouldn't be a pastor, would ya'?"

"As a matter of fact, I am."

*Continued on page 2*

“Then ya’ must be the very person I was sent to find.”

“Pastor Leroy sent you?”

“Pastor Leroy? ... No, I don’t know him. I was sent by ... someone else. I’m Maewyn Succat. My friends call me Pat.”

Now, you’ve probably figured out already who this guy was—or was pretending to be. But I’m in the slow class and still had no clue. I reply, “I’m David Mauldin, senior pastor at Palm City Presbyterian Church.”

“Then you’re the very one I’ve been sent to find! I have a message for you. For your church.”

At this point, I’m beginning to think he’s a little off, so I ask him, “Do I know you?”

He answers, “You’ve surely heard of me, but it’s the first time we’ve met. I’m Patrick. Patrick of Ireland.”

“As in Saint Patrick? The fifth-century missionary who brought Christianity to the Irish?”

“Well,” he tells me, “all who belong to the Lord are saints, but yes, that’s me.”

“If you are Saint Patrick, what are you doing here? And why do you speak English? Why do you speak with an Irish brogue? Wasn’t Patrick from Roman Britain? Shouldn’t you speak Gaelic or Latin?”

“My native tongue was Common Brittonic, though I spoke Latin as well—and some Old Irish. I’ve been sent by the Lord to give you a message, and the Lord accommodates his message to those to whom he sends it. Thus, I speak English. As for the brogue, it’s because you have no idea what a fifth-century Briton sounded like.”

I must admit he’s right about that. Naturally, I have my doubts about the guy, but as readers of the *PCPC Newsletter* know, I’ve previously met St. Valentine, a third-century Christian martyr, and Santa Claus—that is Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century Christian bishop. So I try to keep an open mind.

“OK, Patrick ...” I begin.

“Please, call me Pat!”

“OK ... Pat. If you are Patrick of Ireland, what have you been sent to tell me?”

A beaming smile breaks across his face, and he plops down in the booth across from me. “Well, before I can give you the message, I have to tell you a story!”

Here is the story he told me:

“As you may know, I was born into a wealthy Christian family in Roman Britain. I grew up in the church and learned the basics, but I never took my faith seriously. That changed when I was 16 years old. That’s when Irish pirates raided the coast and took me captive. It was a terrifying experience. I, along with some others, was taken to Ireland and sold as a slave. The chieftain who bought me was a hard, brutal man. He decorated his keep with the skulls of his enemies. I was sent into the hills to tend his sheep. I’d never felt so alone. I’d never been away from home by myself before. Now, I was in a strange place, among unfriendly people I did not know, who worshipped strange gods. I did not know their language or customs. I had never imagined such cold and hunger. My cloak wasn’t warm enough, and I never had enough to eat. I was isolated and lonely. It was a hard life. I dreamed of escape. Six long years I waited until I felt I could not stand it any longer. That was when God sent me a dream of a ship, and I fled to the coast. I found the ship and begged the captain to take me home. He finally agreed. But once landed on my native shore, I nearly starved before I found my way home.

“I was not the same when I arrived as I had been when I left. My time in Ireland had driven me into the arms of God. From the moment I was taken, I began to pray with a depth and fervor you can’t imagine. I put my trust in the Lord. And he was with me. Every day. Every step.

“When I finally got home, I knew what I wanted to do with my life—study to become a priest. I went to the continent for training, became a monk, and then a priest. And then God sent me a vision. It was like the vision Paul had in Acts 16 of a man from Macedonia begging Paul to bring them the gospel. Only, in my vision, the man was Irish. God was calling me to take the gospel to Ireland.

"I thought, 'Lord, they are brutes! They are godless pagans!' And I heard God say, 'That's why they need the gospel.' And suddenly, I felt in my heart a love for the Irish. Despite how they had treated me. Despite their wicked ways. I found forgiveness and love. So, I went.

“You know the rest of the story—or near enough. I traveled around, preaching the gospel. I gathered converts and built a team. We would go to a village, preach, baptize, form a church, and train leaders. I baptized thousands of people and ordained hundreds of priests. I also pushed to establish good and honest governance. I sought to abolish slavery. And I tried to protect the weak of society.”

“That’s an amazing story,” I tell him. “I knew some of it. It’s a powerful testament to the truth of the gospel, the way you went back to serve the people who had enslaved you.”

“And that’s what I’m here to tell you about. That’s the message. You see, there are people in the world who hate you. They despise your faith. They condemn your values as wicked. They see Christianity as part of the problem. They want to destroy the church. They want to replace Christian values with their own. They come in many different forms. Some are mildly hostile. A few violently, so. Some hold to another religion. Others reject all religions. But here is the thing: You must love

them. You must love them because God does. They need the gospel. You will be tempted to hate them back. You may see them as the enemy and want nothing to do with them. But though they may be enemies, Jesus teaches us to love our enemies.”

“That’s asking a lot,” I tell him.

“Indeed, it is!” he shouts. “No one knows that better than I, but I’m not the one asking. The Lord is, and come to think of it, he knows that better than I. No one ever loved his enemies as Jesus did!”

“It must have taken courage to return to Ireland,” I admit.

“It did, and it didn’t,” he answers. “Yes, it took courage, but when God calls, he gives you what you need. Do you think you understand?”

“Yes,” I tell him. “Thank you. I will share your message.”

“Good! Then, I’ll be goin’.”

“One last thing,” I stop him as he stands. “About the snakes. Did you really drive all the snakes out of Ireland?”

He smiles. “That I did! Every last one!”

“But,” I counter, “I thought snakes were not indigenous to Ireland?”

“True. That’s very true. And that’s what made the job so easy!”

And with a twinkle in his eye and a mischievous grin, he turns and walks away. About a minute later, Pastor Leroy finally arrives. “Who was that guy you were talking to?” he asks me. “He looked odd.”

“Oh, him? That was Pat. Just a guy I know.”



# ECO National Gathering Recap

by Pastor Bryan Wenger

Jean and I would like to say thank you for your warm welcome to the PCPC family over these last five and a half weeks. We look forward to getting to know each of you better in the days ahead, as we serve alongside one another and seek to be “sharing life together as Christ transforms us by His Truth” each day that God gives us.

Jean and I had the privilege of attending the ECO National Gathering in Atlanta in early February, along with Ron Bartnick and Lee England. We joined over 1,700 others from the 420 ECO congregations and two dozen church plants for a time of worship, teaching, fellowship, and encouragement.



From left to right: Ron Bartnick, Lee England, and Pastor Bryan at the ECO National Gathering

Here is our challenge and encouragement from the ECO leadership for the days ahead in 2026 — to be reminded that God is at work...calling His people to deeper faith, courageous leadership, and a renewed trust in Jesus. This year’s theme was taken from the book of Ruth: “CALLED” *And who knows but that you have come to our royal position for such a time as this?* Esther 4:14 (NIV). In a world marked by uncertainty, rapid change, and growing challenge, the words spoken to Esther echo with renewed clarity. She was called to step forward at a decisive moment in history. She was grounded in her identity, strengthened by courage, and obedient to God’s sovereign purpose. As leaders in our ECO churches, we find ourselves in a similar moment. We are navigating complex cultural realities, shepherding communities through uncertainty, and discerning flourishing next steps for the sake of the gospel. May it be so!

## FOOD DRIVE

Help support our mission partners March 22 - April 13!

*The Refuge Ranch*

LAHIA

GOOD SAMARITAN  
MINISTRIES

THE SALVATION  
ARMY

Dunklin  
Memorial Church

OUR  
COMMUNITY  
TABLE

- Nutri-Grain breakfast bars
- Variety of soft nutritional bars
- Fruit-filled Pop Tarts
- Pop-top cans of baked beans, Campbell’s Chunky soup, sausages, Chef Boyardee
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meat, such as chicken & tuna
- Rice (brown or white) & pasta
- Sugar & flour
- Cereal, granola, & oatmeal
- Hamburger Helper
- Instant potatoes
- Black olives
- Salad dressings
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Boxed mac-n-cheese
- Pancake mix & syrup
- Coffee & creamer
- Dried beans
- Gatorades & juice
- Napkins
- Paper plates

Items can be brought to the church office during business hours or left in the donation bins at Sunday services.



# Stewardship Reflections: A Look in the Mirror and "The Guy in the Glass"

by PCPC's Stewardship Team

In January, Pastor David's sermons focused on reflections and meditation, and taking time to step back, assess where we are, and ask God for guidance as we live our daily lives. In 1934, Dale Wimbrow wrote a poem titled "The Guy in the Glass" in which he asks the reader to consider their life and their choices. The poem has stood the test of time and has been the basis for various stories and ministries. There is a very popular song with a similar title ("Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson).

The opening stanza of Wimbrow's original poem says:

*When you get all you want in your struggle for pelf,\*  
And the world makes you King for a day,  
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that guy has to say.*

\* The word *pelf* in the first line means "wealth."

God has given us the gifts of our time, our treasures, and our talents. These are not only incredible gifts but also resources we can use to serve God and make a difference in the lives of so many others.

So, as we set aside time to meditate, reflect, and look at that "guy (or gal) in the glass," perhaps we should ask these questions:

**Am I spending my time in ways that honor God?**

*Do I set aside enough time for prayer?*

**Am I using my gifts to serve others and build His kingdom?**

*Is my focus on myself, or on how I can make a difference with others?*

**Am I stewarding my resources with generosity and trust?**

*Do I give generously and with joy?*

**Am I prioritizing my relationship with God and trusting he will meet my needs?**

*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:19*

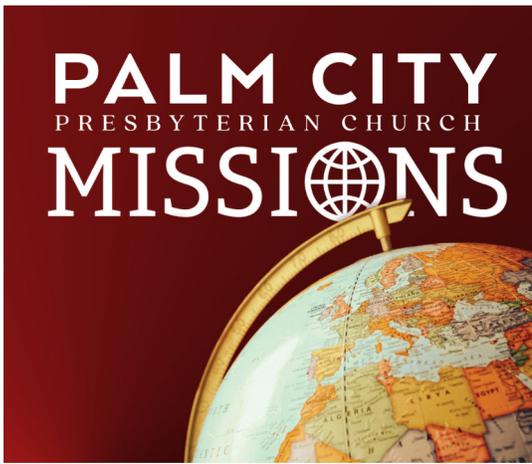
God promises to provide for all believers' real needs (spiritual, emotional, physical) from His abundant "riches in glory" through their relationship with Christ Jesus. The true reward of faithful giving is trust and contentment, not a blank check for material wealth.

To quote again from that famous poem:

*He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear up to the end,  
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the guy in the glass is your friend.*



Read the questions again. Do your actions reflect the faith you hold dear? Are you striving for God's glory, or simply chasing the world's praise? The greatest test comes not when others are watching, but when it's just you and the mirror—have you stayed true to your deepest values? Let your reflection be a testament: a faith-filled life, rooted in generosity, integrity, and love. When you look in the glass, may you see the image of someone who lives with purpose and is making a difference for God and for others—that "friend" is you, content living out your faith.



PCPC member Wanda Rosello (center) with representatives from Place of Hope

## Philippines Ministry Update

by Susan Hastings, PCPC Liaison

Pastor Jeefrey Arrogonte, a missionary we support in Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines, recently shared God’s love with students at a local senior high school in celebration of Valentine’s Day. Their government is very strict about sharing the gospel in schools, so Pastor Jeefrey praises God for the opportunity to speak with students every Friday. He is also able to meet with the school principal and parents several times each year.



The funding through PCPC enables him to travel to different areas to share the gospel, especially with unreached people who have never heard about Jesus. He oversees a feeding and outreach ministry, including a youth summer camp, a children’s ministry, a family camp, and evangelism programs. He was also able to complete church renovations and construction projects with support from our church. Last year, with the help

of an additional Kordick Fund gift, he purchased a lot and built a new church.

He and his family demonstrate that, through prayer and dedication, God grants you what you need. He extends gratitude for all that PCPC does to allow him to teach about the Kingdom of God.

## Human Trafficking Awareness

by Wanda Rosello, PCPC Liaison



On January 27, PCPC hosted a presentation on human trafficking awareness. The three presenters (pictured left to right) were Charles Bender,

CEO of Place of Hope, and Major Ruben Romero and Detective Brian Broughton from the Martin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO).

Representatives from the MCSO shared how human trafficking affects our community and what is being done to prevent it. Additionally, Mr. Bender explained how those rescued are treated when they come to Place of Hope. Because they have been isolated during their captivity, survivors are comforted by staying with other residents in one of their apartments. They also receive important services, such as counseling, case management, and prevention education, to help them heal and transition.



## Refuge Ranch Upcoming Events

by Wanda Rosello

You're invited to join us for two special events by The Refuge Ranch.

On **Saturday, March 14**, a **graduation ceremony** will be held for a woman completing her year-long residency program. It will be held at Dunklin Memorial Church in Okeechobee at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch. Carpooling will take place at 10:15 a.m. from PCPC.

On **Tuesday, April 14**, please **join us for lunch** at The Refuge Ranch in Okeechobee at 12:00 p.m. It's a wonderful time to learn about this impactful ministry and meet women whose lives have been transformed. Carpooling will take place from PCPC at 11:30 a.m.

For both events, please feel free to bring a dish to share. For more information and to RSVP, please contact me at [rosellow1@gmail.com](mailto:rosellow1@gmail.com).



## Blessing Bags

As an ongoing ministry, PCPC collects items for homeless men and women. The

items are sorted into a convenient bag that also includes a list of

local ministries offering meals and other resources. To join in, see the list on our website's Missions page. Please provide travel/hotel sizes for any hygiene items that you donate. Please bring the donations to the church office during business hours. Shown in the photo above, committee member Kim Johnson (left) recently delivered 50 blessing bags, assembled by Jane Shubert, to The Salvation Army in Stuart.

## Place of Hope Volunteer Day

by Wanda Rosello

Several folks from our congregation showed up at the Place of Hope Bender Family Campus on Cove Road to move their Shade Tree Family Outreach Program from its temporary location to the Compassion Center. They gave up five hours of their Saturday, moving shelving and putting bins of donated items back onto the metal racks in the new warehouse.

These items are for those who will be moving into the apartments sometime in March. Women and children leaving abusive situations, youth who have aged out of the foster system, and human trafficking survivors will benefit from the items donated by our congregation and others in the community.

There are many volunteer opportunities at Place of Hope, including helping to sort donations. To get involved, please email [denisew@placeofhope.com](mailto:denisew@placeofhope.com).



# Beyond Volunteering

by Katie C. Bradshaw, Deacon

As a new deacon at PCPC, I was surprised to learn just how many activities the deacons are involved with. I also discovered how many other volunteer organizations and ministries, both within and supported by the church, work together. For example, alongside our specific duties—like assisting with Communion, offering extended Communion to the homebound, organizing the library, welcoming new members, providing prayer support, visiting those in the hospital, etc.—some of us also help the Mission Committee.

In addition to working with missions outside the immediate area, the Mission Committee selects one of its local missions each month to work with specifically in a “hands-on” capacity. They also ask other members of the church to join them on these monthly projects, including individuals who already volunteer, such as deacons and shepherds, and those who don't regularly volunteer. When I learned about these additional volunteering opportunities and the various people who take part in these events, it really brought home the sense that our church is like a family. When we have needs that have to be met and people who can meet them, it's only natural for the two to come together and the issue to be resolved. Jesus taught this to his Apostles, and they taught it not only to the early church but to today's church through God's Word.

“Beloved, let us love one another” (1 John 4:7). In this verse, John speaks to the church as a family. He starts by calling them “beloved,” leaving no doubt that they are a spiritual family deeply cherished by God, not strangers who just happened to show up. He then instructs them to love one another. It is not a hint or a suggestion—it is a call to action. The question then becomes: how do we demonstrate this love?

Paul, in his letter to the church in Philippi, helps to answer that. “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). Paul's letter gave practical instructions to a real church. They dealt with real personalities, tensions, and pressures inside and outside of the church. This verse was

applicable to churchgoers in Paul's time and remains applicable today. It motivates us to treat others with compassion and empathy. It encourages us to build a sense of community, understanding, and solidarity by focusing not only on what benefits us individually but also on the needs and concerns of others.

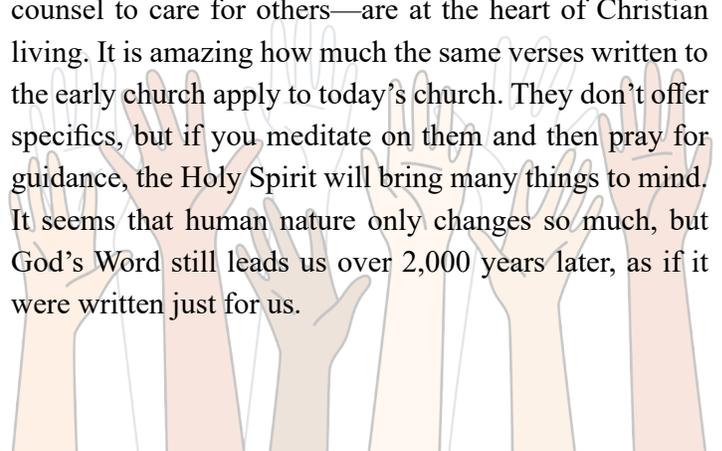
It is not necessary to formally commit to a group of volunteers to consider the needs of others. When you see someone sitting alone in church, especially if it occurs consistently, you can introduce yourself and sit next to them. (If you are uncomfortable doing this, imagine how difficult it must be for the new attendees!) Praying for others is primarily between you and God, yet it is very important to the individuals being prayed for, as well.

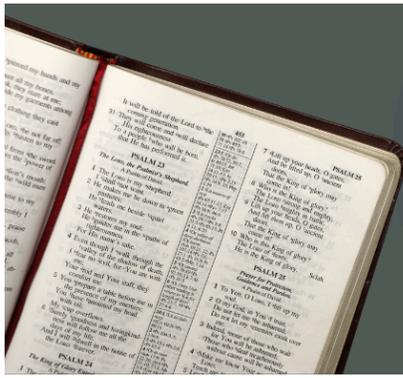
Who knows? Once you try this informal volunteering for a while, perhaps you will be ready to try volunteering within the church. There are several volunteer positions that do not require weekly commitments and can accommodate a busy work/family schedule.

As you spend more time developing relationships with other churchgoers, it can enhance your own Christian walk. The Lord will lead, providing that we open our hearts to Him and look to the interests of others, as well as ourselves, when it comes to being believers and attending church.

## **Those two short verses— John's call to love and Paul's counsel to care for others—are at the heart of Christian living.**

Those two short verses—John's call to love and Paul's counsel to care for others—are at the heart of Christian living. It is amazing how much the same verses written to the early church apply to today's church. They don't offer specifics, but if you meditate on them and then pray for guidance, the Holy Spirit will bring many things to mind. It seems that human nature only changes so much, but God's Word still leads us over 2,000 years later, as if it were written just for us.

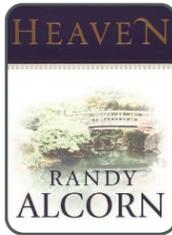




# BIBLE STUDY

## Groups & Classes

**SUN**  
**9:30 AM**



### Adult Sunday School

In March, this co-ed class, facilitated by Mike Jones ([mjonesas@comcast.net](mailto:mjonesas@comcast.net)), will conclude the series *Dust to Glory: An Overview of the Bible*. On March 22, the group will begin a new study of *Heaven*, a comprehensive guide to everything the Bible says about our eternal home. Learn more on our website. All are welcome in the library every Sunday.

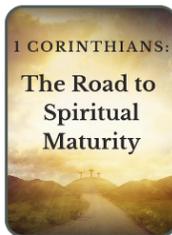
**WED**  
**10:00 AM**



### Women's Bible Study

This group is studying *Luke: Good News of Great Joy*, by Lydia Brownback. This class explores the life and ministry of Christ. Pointing to Jesus as the promised King of kings, Brownback shows how his earthly ministry is good news for all, especially the downtrodden, the hurting, and the outsider. Please contact Cathy Coco ([cococat17@aol.com](mailto:cococat17@aol.com)) with any questions. The study is held in the library.

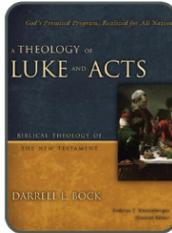
**WED**  
**6:00 PM**



### 1 Corinthians: The Road to Spiritual Maturity

The Christians in Corinth had a problem: spiritual immaturity. The culture around them did not make it easy. In this class, we will study Paul's first letter to them, focusing on growth in our faith as we explore this rewarding letter. Join Pastor David and Elder John Nelson for this insightful class on the book of 1 Corinthians. It will be held weekly through April 29 in Langill Hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Each class will feature teaching, followed by small group discussion. See our [website](#) for more details, the class plan, and recordings.

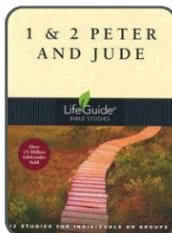
**THURS**  
**7:00 AM**



### Men's Bible Study

Join us for an hour of fellowship, study, and discussion in Langill Hall. A light breakfast and coffee is served. Our current study is focused on the books of Luke and Acts. We're looking at who Jesus was, what he did, why he came, and our role in his plan. The video series, featuring New Testament scholar Darrell Bock, PhD., helps bring the meaning of Luke's gospel into our current daily lives. New members are always welcome!

**THURS**  
**9:30 AM**



### Women's Bible Study

This group is studying *Angels: Finding Hope in God Who Reigns Over Heaven and Earth*. On March 19, they will begin a new series by LifeGuide on the books of 1 & 2 Peter and Jude. Study guides are available in the church office for purchase. Please contact Sallie Snyder with questions at [salliedsnnyder@gmail.com](mailto:salliedsnnyder@gmail.com). See our website's Adult Ministries page for updates. This class meets in Langill Hall.



# Next Generation Ministry

by Director Jessica Waltersdorff

*Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38 (CSB)*

For many of us, when we think back to our childhood church experience, we don’t first remember the lessons or the crafts—we remember the faces. The same warm, steady smiles that greeted us each week. The familiar voices that learned our names. The adults who noticed when we were absent and celebrated when we were there. Those loving faces helped us feel known, safe, and deeply cared for.

What stands out most now is not just their kindness, but their consistency. They showed up, week after week, to share the love of Christ in quiet, faithful ways. In doing so, they embodied one of our core values: *we show up*. Their presence wasn’t flashy, but it was powerful. And through it, many of us experienced the steady, life-shaping love of Jesus.

Now it’s your turn. The next generation is forming memories right now. They are noticing who is there. They are learning what faith looks like by watching us. Will they remember our faces? Will they know, through our presence, that they are seen, valued, and loved?

Let’s be the church that shows up, not just occasionally, but consistently. Let’s offer our time, our smiles, our steady presence. Whether in a Sunday school classroom, a small group, or a pew, your presence matters more than you know. Show up for the next generation and trust the Lord to use your faithfulness in ways that will echo for years to come.



## MomCo

MomCo is in full swing and there's a seat waiting just for you! Whether motherhood feels joyful, exhausting, or a little of both, MomCo is a space

to connect with other moms, grow in faith, and find encouragement for the journey. Come as you are—we’re better together.

We started the year being reminded that “God’s got us” no matter what storm may be raging around us. We can find refuge and strength in his love. This month, we invite a panel of experts to answer questions, share insights, and present solid biblical principles we can use to guide our children as they tackle life’s challenges and learn practical skills to grow in independence.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday each month from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Dinner and childcare are provided.

### Upcoming Meetups:

- March 10: Building Resourcefulness in Kids
- April 11: Playdate!
- April 21: Rest & Renewal
- May 12: A Blessing for Moms



## Abide Kids on Sundays in March

Our **preschool unit**, *What a Mess*, introduces Messy Mabel, a playful pig who can’t stay out of the mud! After she splatters mud over our Bible story pictures, kids help clean them to reveal what’s underneath—learning that no mess is too big for Jesus to wipe away.

Our **elementary unit**, *Say What?*, features hilariously hard-to-understand Bible readings that challenge kids to decipher the message, leading them to powerful encounters with Jesus and the surprising, challenging commands He gives.

Our **preteen ministry** series, *Scripted*, is a four-week focus on outreach, highlighting people in Scripture who shared their experiences with Jesus and encouraging students to share their own stories to glorify God and draw others to Him.

## Upcoming Events



### Family Easter Celebration:

**Saturday, March 28, 1:00–3:00 p.m.**

Invite friends and join us from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for a special Easter celebration at PCPC. This free event will feature fun activities, outdoor games, refreshments, and more. All ages are welcome! It will be fun and meaningful for the whole family. **If you are available to volunteer for this event, please reach out to Rebecca Stephens through the church office.**



### Vacation Bible School: June 8-12

VBS is right around the corner, and as always, this is an all-hands-on-deck week at PCPC. This year's theme is *Rainforest Falls*, where kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. It will be a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in faith!

## VBS Volunteers Needed!

We already have more than 60 children registered, with more signing up every day! Last year, the Lord entrusted us with 180 children! That is 180 young hearts hearing the gospel, building friendships, and experiencing the love of Christ in tangible ways. For VBS to be a safe, joyful, and spiritually meaningful experience for every child, **we need 100 volunteers** serving as crew leaders, station leaders, snack organizers, and behind-the-scenes support. At this point, fewer than 10 have signed up. VBS is not just a children's event—it is a church-wide mission field. This is one of the clearest opportunities we have all year to "show up" for the next generation and for families in our community. Whether you can serve all week or help in a specific role, your presence matters more than you realize. Let's come together as a church family and prayerfully step forward.

# LEGO & LUNCH



*Thank you to all who attended and assisted with this fun family event on February 8. See more photos on our social media pages!*



by Lauren Gragg

## Quietly and Steadily Giving Hope to All

Faith doesn't stay contained within the walls of our church. It moves quietly and steadily into the community through people who choose to show up with compassion, generosity, and a willingness to serve. House of Hope is one of the places where that kind of faith becomes visible.

On February 18, 2026, a small crowd gathered at House of Hope to dedicate a plaque in memory of Jim Schuster, a man whose steady presence shaped their mission in ways that will be felt for years to come. Jim volunteered, served on the board, and gave generously—always with a quiet humility that kept the focus on the people he hoped to help, not on himself.

His wife, Ann, stood at the ceremony surrounded by familiar faces: House of Hope leaders, sisters from the Halpatiokee chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Pastor David, who opened the gathering in prayer. It was a simple moment, but a meaningful one: a community recognizing a life lived in service.

Jim embodied our value of **Humility: We know “it’s not about me.”** He lived that truth not in grand gestures, but in the steady offering of his time, talent, and treasure for God’s mission in the world. And that spirit continues through Ann, whose own generosity and involvement reflect a faithful commitment to both

our church and the wider community.

Stories like theirs remind us of what our mission looks like when it takes on flesh and bone, when discipleship becomes action, when clarity becomes purpose, when presence becomes love, and when humility becomes a way of life.

## Next Generation Discipleship

We are committed to making Jesus our highest priority and inviting others to do the same, and we are seeing that commitment take root in powerful ways through our Next Generation Ministry.

These examples of discipleship were shared by Jessica Waltersdorff, our director of Next Generation Ministry.

When the Kolacz family moved to the area, they visited several churches, hoping to find a place where both parents and children could grow in their faith.

What ultimately drew them to our church wasn't a program, a building, or a list of activities. It was something beautifully simple. After attending Abide Kids, their daughters didn't come home talking about crafts or games; they came home excited to share what they had learned about Jesus. In that moment, the Kolacz family knew they had found what they were looking for: a church where Jesus is the priority.

God is using our children's ministry to plant seeds of faith that stretch far beyond Sunday mornings. These seeds are shaping families, strengthening homes, and nurturing a genuine love for Him in the next generation.

Last year, Jessica received an email from Kelly Riccardo explaining that her granddaughter, Addy, wanted to make sure we knew why she would be absent from her Abide Kids class (first visiting her grandfather, then spending time with cousins in Miami), but that she would be back on November 23rd.

When a six-year-old makes sure her church knows

where she is and that she's coming back, it's easy to feel the significance. It means she feels seen. It means she feels valued. It means she belongs.

This is **discipleship**. It's more than learning about Jesus; it's finding a place where **"We put Jesus first."** It's building relationships rooted in His love. It's creating a foundation of faith that can carry a child through every season of life.

*We're collecting celebration stories! How have you seen God at work at PCPC? To share a story that exemplifies our values and mission, please email it to [vision@palmcitypres.org](mailto:vision@palmcitypres.org). For more information, please visit the Our Mission page on our website (found under the About Us tab).*

## So I Am Suddenly a ... Sunday School Teacher

by Mike Jones

Life has many unexpected twists and turns. So it is with my personal faith journey. Growing up in a large Christian family, the kids were "expected" to attend church and participate in youth programs like the children's choir, Sunday school, and Cub Scouts. Fond memories included vacation Bible school, where we were required to memorize the names of the books of the Bible in between the fun parts. I recall the pride I felt when I saw my dad serve as an usher on Sunday mornings. And the local minister became a father figure to me—someone I looked up to and admired greatly. But I still did not know how I was to spend the rest of life.

Fast forward to my leaving for college, never to return "home." I remained uncertain what I would do for a living so I attended law school to stall. I never anticipated marrying a pretty girl from Florida, but I did. Our marriage led to our son and a career path I could never have planned. During my working years, the demands of the job, frequent travel, and selfish hobbies became a huge distraction from family and church. Like the time my law partner surprised me on a Monday morning by informing me I was going to conduct my first jury trial that day—I could never have imagined the different jobs and homes in different locations God would provide.



As I eased into retirement, my wife and I became more active in church and Bible study. We are so happy (and fortunate) we discovered a new church home at PCPC.

### **It has been a privilege to lead discussions with my new- found friends, whom I now consider family.**

Not long afterwards, I found myself thrust into a new role as adult Sunday school leader without warning and little formal training. Guided by the Holy Spirit, I knew this was something I needed to do even though I was unprepared to teach Scripture. I realized that all I need to know is what I learned in Sunday school as a child. It has been a privilege to lead discussions with my new-found friends, whom I now consider family. Teaching has provided me another unexpected opportunity to grow in my own faith, learn from others, and get closer to God. "You call me Teacher ... and you are right, for so I am." John 13:13 (ESV)

# Sermons in March

by Pastor David Mauldin

Throughout March, we continue in the Holy Season of Lent. Our sermon series for Lent is *The Emotional Life of Jesus*. I will preach from passages that show us Jesus expressing emotion. The goal of the series is to know Jesus better and love him more.

**March 1:** Luke 10:21-24, “Joy”

**March 8:** Mark 6:30-44, “Compassion”

**March 15:** Mark 10:17-22, “Love”

**March 22:** John 11:28-37, “Deeply Moved, Greatly Troubled”

**March 29:** Mark 14:32-42, “Distressed, Troubled, Sorrowful”

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# The Ministry of the Prayer Warrior

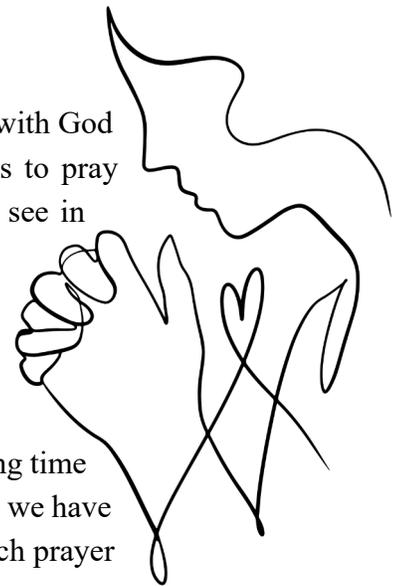
by Polly Forestier

Prayer is a responsibility of every Christian. Prayer is entering into a relationship with God so we can discover His will and pray for it to come to pass. The Bible tells us to pray “without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). It was a priority in Jesus’ life, as we see in Matthew 26 and other chapters of God’s Word.

At PCPC, volunteers commit to praying on a certain day each week for concerns submitted through contact cards found in our sanctuary and the Huizenga Family Life Center lobby.

The PCPC chapel is often used as a peaceful place to spend time in prayer. Spending time with Jesus first helps us prepare our hearts and seek His will for the prayer requests we have received, so we can then boldly bring them before the Lord. The length of time each prayer warrior commits to prayer depends on how many request cards are turned in.

If you are interested in joining PCPC’s team of prayer warriors, please call the church office for more information.

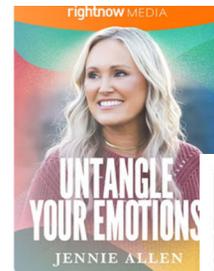
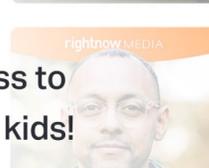
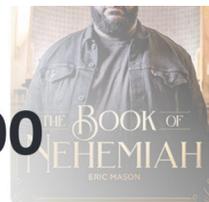


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Every person at our church has free access to biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids!



# Grandmothers and Others: Continuing to Serve Our Community



by Larry Jones

I feel very honored to be a part of Grandmothers and Others, even though I am the only “other.” Our group was started around 1995 at PCPC by Grace Bailey and has been going strong ever since. We make children’s clothing that is given out through organizations in Martin County, including 4Cs, Care Net, Gertrude Walden Child Care Center, and Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in Pahokee. In addition to clothing, we have made other items. During the COVID pandemic, we made over 500 masks for Cleveland Clinic. We’ve also made small pillows, dolls, and blankets for underprivileged children in our area. Seeing the impact and being a part of this group over the years has been inspiring and fulfilling! We always welcome additional tailors and seamstresses. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me through the church office. **Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m. in the sewing room of our church, located near the library.**

## HERE I AM: *A Lenten Journey of Obedience*

Looking for a Lenten devotional? Follow along with ECO each day for encouraging and thoughtful messages designed to strengthen your faith this season. Scan the code below or visit [eco-pres.org/lent/](http://eco-pres.org/lent/) to access the devotionals. A convenient, downloadable PDF is also offered on the website.



## New Members Class

Our February membership class had a record number of attendees! Please extend a warm welcome to our newest covenant partners as they are introduced in the coming weeks. If you would like to learn more about PCPC, watch for the next class coming up this spring. Details will be posted to our website soon.



# Youth Ministry Update

by David Amerson, Youth & Young



Adult Ministry Specialist

We're currently moving through a series called *Scripted*, focusing on living and sharing the gospel. The engagement has been incredible—the kids are actively taking notes, leading in prayer, reading the Word aloud, and memorizing core concepts from the Old Testament, James 1, and Matthew 13. It's been awesome to see them praying for each other and inviting their friends!

## Attendance & Growth

- Our Wednesday afternoon middle school group is averaging 37 kids and is still growing.
- We have a solid core of high schoolers who attend our Sunday evening group of 12–15, with five regular newcomers.
- Our Thrive young adult group is growing organically. We are moving toward a "fusion" model where members bring their talents to the church as doers of the Word. Currently, these young adults are volunteering directly with our youth while we build our numbers.
- Our junior pickleball league is off to a great start! We have 18 players and another coach, Tad Sacheck, has joined our team. Games begin this month, and we are looking for two referees. No

prior refereeing experience is required—just a basic understanding of pickleball. We'll provide all the training you need.

## Coming Up



## Student Life Mission Camp: June 1-5, 2026

Mission Camp offers the best of both worlds—the energy and spiritual depth of camp paired with meaningful service in local communities. Students will experience dynamic worship, intentional discipleship, and solid biblical teaching, while also spending part of each day serving alongside trusted ministry partners. It's an opportunity to grow closer to Christ and put faith into action in tangible ways. All project logistics are taken care of. Students simply come ready to serve, learn, and have fun together. Space is limited; learn more and sign up on our website!

## Volunteer Needs

With our numbers expanding, I'm looking for active church members or young adults who want to join our ministry and use their talents—specifically for leading small groups, setting up dinner, leading worship, or just sitting down to be a regular face.





## “Jesus First” in Action

As the new school year kicked off, the mid-week Middle School Hang Out and Bible Study quickly became the place students wanted to be. Led by David Amerson, the room buzzed with energy and laughter, and something deeper stirring beneath it all: a growing excitement for God’s Word.



David had a simple but powerful way of drawing students in. As he moved around the room, he would suddenly call out, “What’s our Bible verse?” Instantly, voices rose in unison. By the third week, he added a prize wheel and Bible questions—if a student answered correctly, they spun the wheel and won a prize. It was a fun and creative way to get students involved.

After the lesson wrapped up, six or seven students lingered around him, eager to keep going. What began as a game turned into something richer. As students wrestled with answers that were sometimes confident, and sometimes guessing, David guided them with patience, hints, and encouragement.

Real learning was happening. But even more, real connection was forming.

It was a living picture of our value of Discipleship: “We put Jesus first.” David wasn’t just teaching Scripture; he was modeling what it looks like to make Jesus the highest priority and inviting students to do the same.

The group stayed an extra 15 to 20 minutes, not because it was required, but because they genuinely wanted to remain in a room filled with smiles, laughter, and the joy of discovering Scripture together.

David is faithfully investing in the middle school youth of our church, creating a space where students aren’t just learning about Jesus; they’re experiencing the joy of knowing Him. And in that joyful space, he is quietly challenging them to put Jesus first in their own lives.

And they are responding.

– Jennifer Osborne, Children's Ministry Specialist

Palm City Presbyterian Church

**THRIVE**  
TWENTIES & THIRTIES

Young Adults Group  
Saturdays @ 5:00 p.m.

If you're looking to grow in faith and find genuine connections, come and join us. We meet in Langill Hall for dinner, fellowship, worship, and Bible study. Young families are welcome—childcare is available.

# Women's Ministry Update

by Kelly Raiford

## **Ministry Breakfast: Saturday, March 7**

We have a ministry meeting and continental breakfast coming up on March 7 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in Langill Hall. Join us in fellowship and discussion of upcoming events. We will recap past events, determine a new date for a Bunco event, and begin planning for fall events, such as Painting with a Twist, a Christmas event, and possible retreat.

The Galentine's Bunco event previously scheduled for February 20 was tabled for further discussion. If you are interested in organizing a future Bunco event, please join us on March 7. If you are unable to make it, but still interested, please let me know.

## **Aspire Women's Conference: Saturday, April 25**

Currently, there has been no expressed interest in the Aspire women's event on Saturday, April 25. This 3-hour conference will be at Harbor Church in Ft. Pierce. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with the event starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be a dynamic guest speaker, Allison Allen; comedy by Michelle Miller; and a time of worship led by Kendall Hill. General admission tickets are \$30.00 (plus fee). Refreshments will be available for purchase during the event. Full information is available online by scanning the code below or by calling (480) 812-1100.

This would be a great evening to invite a friend or two to come with you! If you purchased a ticket, please let me know so that we can coordinate to be together. If you haven't but would like to, please purchase your ticket directly from the event host and then email me at [kwraiford0109@gmail.com](mailto:kwraiford0109@gmail.com) to let me know you are attending so we can try to sit together. Tickets are limited! I need to know who will be going by March 20. If we have received no attendees by that date, we will drop this event from our fellowship calendar.



## **Spring Tea: Saturday, April 4**

Don't miss the Spring Tea coming up on April 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Langill Hall. Find details on the next page or on our website's Upcoming Events page. Please RSVP online or by calling the church.



**Saturday, April 4**  
**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Join us in Langill Hall as we celebrate Easter and extend a warm welcome to Jean Wenger, the wife of Pastor Bryan. We invite you to wear your favorite Easter bonnet and enjoy a festive afternoon filled with lovely refreshments and an inspiring message from our guest speaker. There is no cost to attend. **Please RSVP on our website or by calling the church.**



## **Aspire Women's Event: Saturday, April 25**

PCPC's Women's Ministry is gathering for a fun and encouraging event! You're invited to this special 3-hour conference at Harbor Church in Ft. Pierce featuring dynamic speaker and author Allison Allen, comedy by Michelle Miller, and music by Kendall Hill.

Visit our website to learn more and purchase tickets. Following your ticket purchase, please email Kelly Raiford ([kwraiford0109@gmail.com](mailto:kwraiford0109@gmail.com)) so that we can plan to arrive and sit together.

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## **Widows Club**

by Marlene Boobar

In February, 24 widows met for a Valentine's lunch at The Catch in Sewall's Point. We were given a separate room, and as you can see by the smiling faces, all enjoyed the food and fellowship. The group gets together monthly for either a breakfast, lunch, or dinner. All widows are invited to join us! Additionally, we often have other special events open for anyone to attend. To be placed on our email list, please send your contact information to me at [marleneboobar@hotmail.com](mailto:marleneboobar@hotmail.com).



**This month, we'll gather for lunch at PCPC on Friday, March 20, at 12:00 p.m. in Langill Hall.** It's a great opportunity to connect with friends and make new acquaintances. Please email me to RSVP.



## Changing One Life at a Time ... Mine

by Tom Lytle

Growing up in a small town south of Detroit, Michigan, each Sunday we would hear Mom say, “C’mon...we are going to church.” Little did I know that several decades later, these same words would take me on a path that would change my life.

Probably like so many others of our generation, when Mom was in charge, we did what we were told, and going to church was one of them.

When on my own, church became secondary. I believed in God and Jesus, but I was too busy with work, travel, the Army Reserves, and everything else along the way. During my career in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, we moved 17 times and lived all over the country. When we tried a church, the message was far from inspiring: you are sinners, rotten people, and we need your money.

In 2005, we decided to move to Florida. My parents lived in Stuart, and we had visited them multiple times, so Stuart seemed like a great place to be. They were getting on in years, and as the oldest son, I was blessed to be in a position to be able to help them.

As my mom told me how proud she was of us and what we had accomplished (or what God had in mind for us), I told her that there was a “hole in my heart.” Something was missing.



Then I heard those words again. She said, “C’mon...we are going to church.” It was Palm City Presbyterian. They had tried every church in town and liked PCPC the best.

I attended for a couple of weeks and liked what I heard and saw. Still a little skeptical based on other church experiences, I met with Pastor Dick and told him my story. He said, “Give it a try.” I did, and that was it.

**Following Jesus has changed my outlook, changed how I treat others, taught me not to worry, and has given me eternal optimism and hope for the future.**

Since then, I have served as an usher, an elder for six years, a liturgist for 10 years (I think over 200 times), led the Finance Committee for six years, been on

various planning and visioning committees, and I am now leading our men's Bible study each Thursday morning. I guess you can say I am "ALL IN!"

Thanks to God and the path he has led me on, my wife and I have a network of wonderful friends who we would never have met had it not been for church, and we have the opportunity to learn and grow in our faith.

But most importantly, knowing God and following Jesus has changed my life—changed my outlook, changed how I treat others, taught me not to worry, and has given me an eternal optimism and hope for the future. Can't ask for more than that.

As the Holy Spirit works in each of us, I hope I can say to someone, "C'mon...we are going to church."

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The poster features a dark blue background with a glowing cross in the center. Below the cross, the words "GOOD FRIDAY" are written in a white, spaced-out font, and "Cantata Service" is written in a white, cursive font. The bottom half of the poster has a tan background with the date and time in a bold, black font.

**Friday, April 3**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Our annual Good Friday Cantata will be held in the sanctuary. The concert, directed by Reva Rogers and Dr. Anita Caswell, will feature *From Silence to Song*, a cantata designed to present Christ's redemptive grace and victory over death. There is no cost to attend. All are welcome—this program is open to the community.



The poster has a dark background with a white piano keyboard graphic at the bottom. The title and date are in a white, serif font. The description is in a white, sans-serif font. A circular inset photo shows a woman in a blue dress playing a piano.

**Sounds of Serendipity**  
**Sunday, May 3**  
**4:00 p.m.**

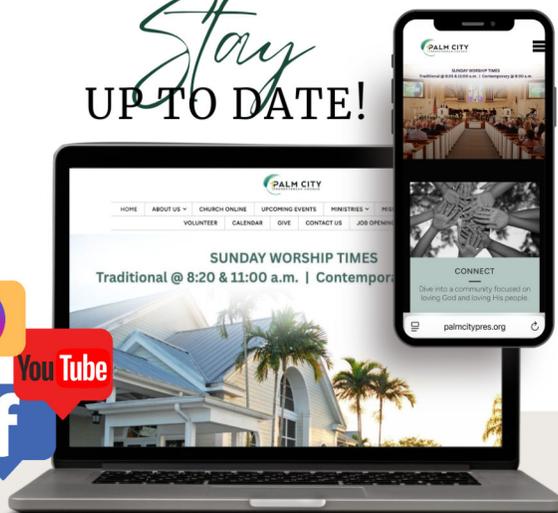
Save the date for an afternoon of enchanting melodies with acclaimed Canadian pianist **Dr. Rosalyn Soo Mauldin** as she takes us on an exhilarating musical journey! You'll hear a surprising range of musical delights, including classical masterpieces, catchy tunes of pop and ragtime, soulful notes of tango, patriotic melodies, and familiar favorites from Broadway and movies. This free event is open to the community and will be held in our sanctuary.

# March

## 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Traditional services at 8:20 &amp; 11:00 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Contemporary service at 9:30 a.m.</b></p> <hr/> <p>MBS - Men's Bible Study WBS - Women's Bible Study CBS - Community Bible Study</p>						
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Abide Kids 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 6:00 p - HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>5:15 p - Walk Aerobics</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00 a - Caregiver Support 12:00 p - GriefShare 4:00 p - Deacons Meeting</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 a - WBS 4:30 p - MS Youth Group 5:15 p - Walk Aerobics 6:00 p - Spiritual Maturity Class</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:30 a - Women's Ministry Breakfast 5:00 p - Thrive Young Adult Group</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Abide Kids 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 6:00 p - HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>4:00 p - Junior Pickleball Practice 5:15 p - Walk Aerobics</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12:00 p - GriefShare</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 a - WBS 4:30 p - MS Youth Group 5:15 p - Walk Aerobics 6:00 p - Spiritual Maturity Class</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>5:00 p - Thrive Young Adult Group</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Abide Kids 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School 6:00 p - HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>5:15 p - Walk Aerobics</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00 a - Caregiver Support 12:00 p - GriefShare 6:00 p - MomCo</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:00 a - WBS 5:15 p - Walk Aerobics 6:00 p - Spiritual Maturity Class</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 10:30 a - Grandmothers &amp; Others 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 12:00 p - Widows Club Lunch</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>11:00 a - Memorial Service for Ron Morrow</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:20 a - Children's Church 9:30 a - Abide Kids 9:30 a - Adult Sunday School</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>4:00 p - Junior Pickleball Practice 5:15 p - Walk Aerobics</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12:00 p - GriefShare</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:00 a - WBS 4:30 p - MS Youth Group 5:15 p - Walk Aerobics 6:00 p - Spiritual Maturity Class 7:00 p - Session</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>7:00 a - MBS 9:30 a - WBS 5:30 p - Bell Choir 6:30 p - CBS 7:00 p - Choir</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>1:00 p - Family Easter Celebration 5:00 p - Thrive Young Adult Group</p>

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If you have an article for the next newsletter, please email it to our editors at [newsletter@palmcitypres.org](mailto:newsletter@palmcitypres.org) by the deadline listed on the calendar page. Please write "Newsletter Submission" in the subject line and attach any photos you'd like to include.



*Sharing life together*

as Christ transforms us by His Truth



*Sharing life together as Christ transforms us by His Truth*

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772-286-9958 | [www.palmcitypres.org](http://www.palmcitypres.org)

## SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

### Traditional Services

8:20 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

### Contemporary Service

9:30 a.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center

Our worship services are livestreamed on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on YouTube and our website.



## HOLY WEEK

### SERVICE TIMES

#### Maundy Thursday – April 2

Contemporary Communion service @ 7:00 p.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center

#### Good Friday – April 3

Cantata service @ 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary  
featuring choir pieces created to help us reflect on Christ's redemptive grace

#### Easter Sunday – April 5

Traditional services @ 8:20 & 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary  
Contemporary service @ 9:30 a.m. in the Huizenga Family Life Center