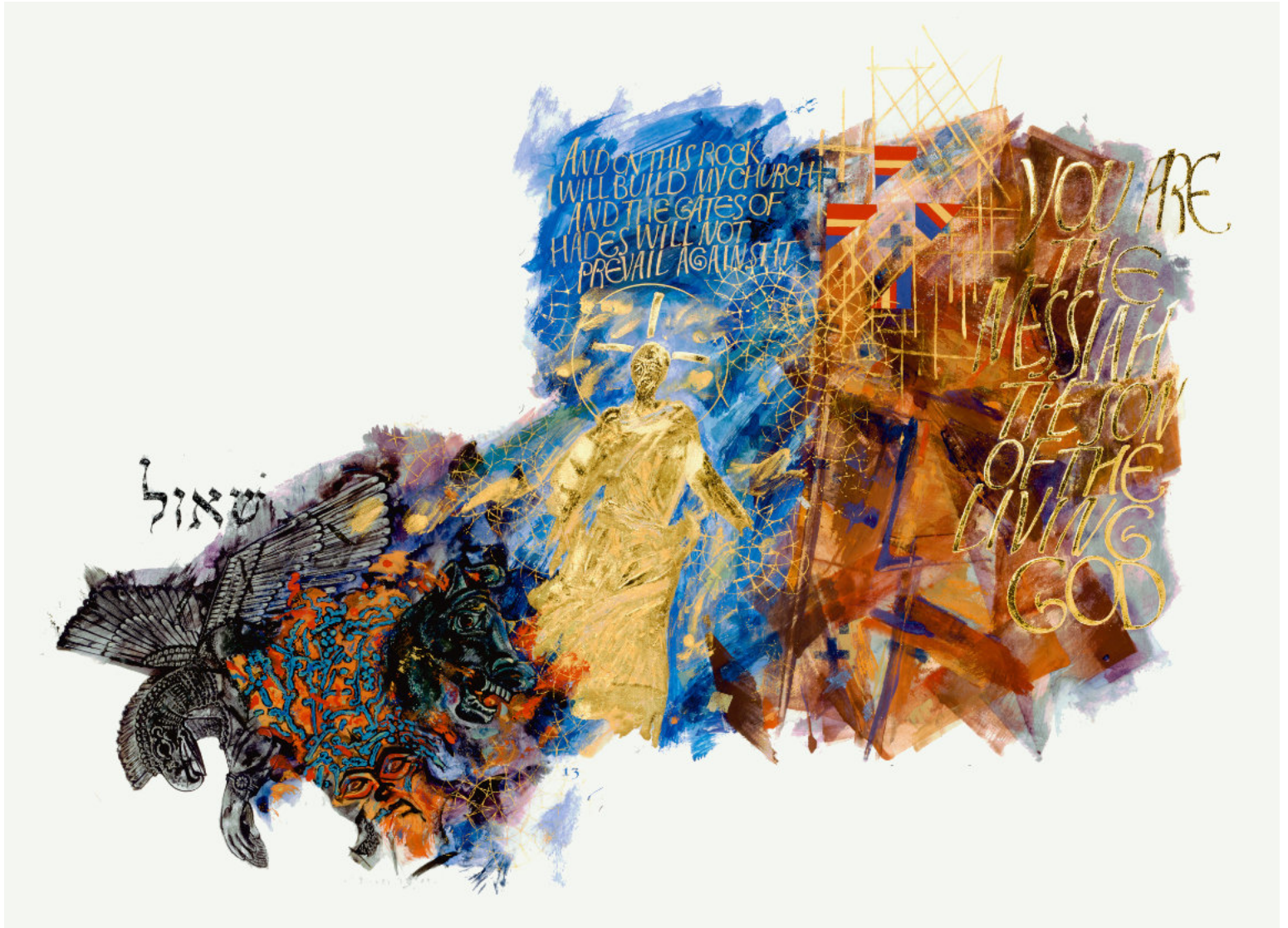




First Presbyterian Church of Naples

*In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God:
we worship, we love, we grow, we serve*



Peter's Confession, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026 | 10 a.m.**

*Let us quiet our hearts, minds, and voices for the beginning of worship.
At this time, please silence all cell phones.*

The Prelude

The Peace May Be Exchanged

DAN LOCKLAIR

THE TIME OF GATHERING

Welcome and Life Together

REV. REX CHILDS

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*Call to Worship (*from Psalm 124*)

Leader: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

People: *Then the flood would have swept us away.*

Leader: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

People: *Then the torrent would have gone over us.*

Leader: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

People: *Then over us would have gone the raging waters.*

Leader: Blessed be the LORD.

People: *Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

All: *Let us worship God!*

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

*Hymn of Praise #267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
3. Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

All: *We call you the Son of the Living God. But we do not trust you to be at work in our world here and now.*

Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

All: *You are the Messiah, who delivers us from death to life. But we doubt your power to transform our lives.*

Leader: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

All: *We profess you are the Christ, the Lord of our lives. But our attention often wanders and our loyalty is tested. Forgive us. Help us not only to proclaim you, but to follow your way of justice and peace.*

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

**Please stand, if able*

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri #580

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen! Amen!

Children's Time

REV. REX CHILDS

The Sacrament of Baptism

REV. REX CHILDS

Declan River Ward

TERESA DOANE, CLERK OF SESSION

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

BETTY PLUM

Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:8-2:10

PEW BIBLE PAGE 43

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites. ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

I can tell the world, yes, about this, I can tell the nations, yes, that I'm blessed. Tell 'em what my Lord has done, Tell 'em that the conqueror has come, and he brought joy to my soul. My Lord done just what he said. Yes he did, Oh Lord, yes he did. He healed the sick and he raised the dead. He lifted me when I was down. He placed my feet on solid ground. And he brought joy that mornin', Hallelujah! Oh Lord, he brought joy that mornin', when he saved me. Joy that mornin' when he blessed me. I'll tell it, how he brought this joy to my soul.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

PEW BIBLE PAGE 798

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Who Do You Say I Am?"

REV. REX CHILDS

*Affirmation of Faith (*adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

***The Doxology**

***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.***

Prayer of Dedication**GOING FORTH*****Hymn of Commitment #547*****Go, My Children, with My Blessing***

AR HYD Y NOS

1. "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
2. "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
3. "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

Charge and Benediction*Benediction Response*****The Lord Bless You and Keep You***

PETER J. LUTKIN

Postlude***Festival Toccata***

PERCY FLETCHER

Dr. Brice Gerlach on the Julia Thompson Smith Memorial Pipe Organ

Florida Gulf Coast University Chamber Choir

The Florida Gulf Coast University Chamber Choir joins us for worship this morning. They are a mixed, auditioned ensemble open to all students regardless of major at FGCU and are under the direction of Dr. Trent Brown. They perform often in our area and have also traveled internationally.

Chancel Flowers:

The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of "all my loved ones," by Joan Gust.

Ushers:

Bill Kearney (head usher), Dave Burgess, Pat and Bob MacMinn, Chuck Mundt, Sarah Nichols, Kathy Norgart, Nick Stewart

Greeters:

Barbara Collins, Pat Collins, Cindy Esler

Hospitality Table:

Sunshine Circle

News & Events

Guests and Visitors – Welcome

We're so glad you've joined us in worship today. After the service, please head over to the Welcome Table in Spencer Hall to say hello, pick up a special welcome gift, and enjoy some light refreshments.

Main Sanctuary Balcony A/C Replacement Project • Ongoing

Please note that A/C work on the main sanctuary balcony is currently underway. The east and west balconies will not be affected. While we do not plan to close the main balcony, it may be uncomfortably warm during the replacement project. We suggest sitting elsewhere in the sanctuary if possible. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience!

Community Blood Drive • Tomorrow: August 24

Our next blood drive, in partnership with the Community Blood Center (an affiliate of NCH), is scheduled for tomorrow, Monday, August 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Sign-ups are still open. Please visit the sign-up podium to reserve your arrival time, or contact Nancy at 417.483.2624 or nwalken@gmail.com. Donors must bring a photo ID, be at least 16 years old (with parental consent), and weigh a minimum of 110 pounds. To ensure a successful donation, please eat a meal before arriving and stay well-hydrated.

August Friday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Fridays during August. Regular Friday hours (8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) will resume on Friday, September 4. Thank you, and we hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Giving Opportunities

Summer Giving

A great big 'Thank You' to all of you who continue to contribute towards your pledge during our slower summer months and to all of you who continue to make non-pledged contributions. While our attendance numbers and committee meetings may slow down a bit during the summer, our expenses often increase and we are grateful for those of you who help us fulfill our financial obligations. Please feel free to reach out to Joan Congine if you have any questions about your contributions.

Planned Giving Committee: The Palms Society

The Palm Tree is a beautiful and most useful tree. Its fruit is the daily food of millions, its sap furnishes an agreeable wine; its fibers at the base of its leaves are woven into ropes and rigging; it supplies valuable timber; its leaves are made into mats, bags, and baskets. From the Bible, we learn, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree" – Psalm 92:12

The Palms Society is a program that allows you to support the church and its mission into the future by including it in your estate planning.

If you would like more information about the Palms Society or to become a member, please contact Amy Manley at 239.272.6821 or Linda Gadkowski at 508.292.5500.

Financial Snapshot through Jul 31, 2026	vs 2025		
	2026	2025	Fav/(Unfav)
Income - Year to date	1,633,983	1,664,376	(30,393)
Expenses - Year to date	1,816,901	1,816,634	(267)
Net Income (shortfall) - Year to date	(182,918)	(152,258)	(30,660)

Weekly Bible Studies

Women's Ministry Bible Study meets each Monday at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. We are currently studying the book of Proverbs. For more information, please contact Janeen McClure at jrmc@airmcclure.com.

HUDDLE: A Men's Bible Discussion Group – All men are invited and encouraged to bring their lunch and gather each Thursday at noon. We are studying the book of John. If you would prefer to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office for the Zoom link.

Children, Youth and Young Adults

For information on any of the following gatherings, please contact Nancy Van Fleet, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, or call 239.262.1311.

Our **Wiggle Room** is designed for parents with children ages 0-18 months. Located on the east side of the Sanctuary, this room is filled with a variety of toys and activities tailored for our youngest children. Parents can comfortably watch the service from inside this room - it's a welcoming space that ensures both parents and children can enjoy their time together.

Childcare is available for children ages 18 months to VPK after our Children's Time. Each Sunday includes a fun and interactive lesson on our scripture of the day, along with prayer opportunities. Parents can pick up their children on the second floor of the Mase Education Building after service.

Kidz Lab is our vibrant Sunday school program for children in grades K through 6. Here, children engage with the same scripture their parents explore during the church service, creating meaningful opportunities for family conversations and reflections afterward. We gather on the 2nd floor of the Mase Education Building, following the Children's Time, and pickup is conveniently located in Spencer Hall after the service.

Family Newsletter Spotlight

Each week, we send out a family newsletter to keep our families informed of the fantastic events and activities happening at FPC Naples for our children and youth. Do you want to be part of the fun? Simply email Nancy Van Fleet to put your name on the mailing list.

Youth Group • Beginning September 9

We will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning September 9, from 4 - 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. This is a fantastic opportunity for youth to connect with friends, grow in their faith, and have fun! This year, we will explore identity, community, and faith through *Who Do You Say I Am?* - a meaningful curriculum designed to help youth reflect on who they are and who God calls them to be. Contact Nancy Van Fleet with any questions.

Young Adult Group • Beginning September 27

Join us on the fourth Sunday of the month, beginning September 27, at noon in the Youth Room or via Zoom as we gather to explore faith, relationships, responsibilities, and self-care - all in the context of our journey with God. Each year, we also host an Unplugged Retreat, a meaningful opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life, connect with God and nature, and renew our spirits alongside one another. Contact Nancy Van Fleet for more information and for the Zoom link (for joining remotely).



**Monday, August 24
8 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

See previous page for full details.

Staff Listing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone: 239.262.1311</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Ministers			
Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor		2027	rexc@fpcnaples.org
Worship & Music			
Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries		2039	briceg@fpcnaples.org
Taylor Irvan, Sound and Video Operator			
Christian Education			
Nancy Van Fleet, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries		2029	nancyv@fpcnaples.org
Lizzy Carter, Nursery Care			
Office			
Debbie Savage, Executive Director		2042	debbies@fpcnaples.org
Joan Congine, Finance Administrator		2041	joanc@fpcnaples.org
Ashley Henning, Administrative & Technical Assistant		2012	ashley.henning@fpcnaples.org
Sandy Knight, Office Assistant/Receptionist		2000	sandyk@fpcnaples.org
Josh Miller, Marketing and Communications Coordinator		2013	joshm@fpcnaples.org
Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership and Caring Ministries		2037	susanp@fpcnaples.org
Facilities			
Jeff Newman, Director of Facilities		2028	jeffn@fpcnaples.org
Eduardo Martinez, Maintenance		2014	eduardom@fpcnaples.org
Nick Zamagni, Custodian		2016	nickz@fpcnaples.org
Preschool			
Delia Buckley, Preschool Director		2009	deliab@fpcnaples.org
Katie Schutt, Preschool Administrative Assistant		2038	katies@fpcnaples.org
Publications			publications@fpcnaples.org

Prayer List

In an effort to keep the prayer list current, names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks, unless we are notified otherwise. If you wish for a name to be included, please contact the church office.

*Michael Bennett	*Nancy Kiningham	Dave Priatko	The U.S. Military
Caldwell Family	*David Koehler	*John Rader	Stephen Ministers/Care
William Camp Jr.	Lorraine Kornek	*Linda Rhodes	Receivers
Jacqueline Davis	Rick Krinitt	Pat and Gary Schneider	FPC Caregivers Support
Suzanne Dozios	Sally Madden	*John Slager	Group
Mike Ellis	Aaron Malstrom	Diana Dryer Stadtmiller	All serving Missionaries
*Linda Grove	Edison Martinez	Chuck Tenley	Central Presbyterian
*Fred Hertel	Mary Matvias	Chris Thomas and Family	Reformed Church, Cuba
Lynn Hertel	Katherine Miller	Valerie and Peter Walters	
Jill and Craig Holbrook	Robert Neusom	Carole Wittemore	*church member
Chuck Hoover	Rita O'Brian		
Saritha and Tom Keenan	Thomas Pieralisi		

Hospital Ministry – If you will be hospitalized or know of someone in the congregation who is, please contact Coordinator for Membership and Caring Ministries, Susan Pratt or the church office.



Scan the QR Code
to visit our website

**250 Sixth Street South
Naples, FL 34102**

239.262.1311
FPCNaples.org

