

The First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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

# Outreach

April 2026



Participants in the Labyrinth Walk at Naples Botanical Gardens  
Marc Miller, Barb Collins, Virginia Browning, Sarah Miller, Claire MacFarland, Ed Shebert, Diane Pauling, Lora Prochaska

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## FROM THE PULPIT

April 2—Maundy Thursday  
Rev. Rex Childs

April 3—Good Friday  
Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake

April 5—Easter Sunday  
Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake

April 12  
Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake

April 19  
Rev. Dr. Scott Kenefake

April 26  
Rev. Rex Childs

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## Experiencing Holy Week and Easter Through Great Sacred Music



Over the past 40 years, I have worked with several churches with excellent music programs, and I have learned something from each about the importance of great sacred music during Holy Week and Easter.

Holy Week and Easter bring us to the heart of the Christian story: hope, humility, love, betrayal, sorrow, courage, death, and new life. In church, we explore these themes through scripture, prayer, silence, and song. Sacred music provides a unique and powerful way to experience this story.

Many of history's most beautiful classical works are inspired by these holy days and serve a purpose beyond mere background music. They help us connect emotionally and spiritually with the story, offering space for reflection, prayer, grief, and celebration. Sacred music can enrich daily life, whether during prayer, quiet moments, or preparation for Holy Week services. Works such as Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Handel's Messiah, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, and Mozart's Requiem are especially meaningful in this season. Listening to these pieces—by streaming, creating playlists, or selecting favorites for morning or evening—can uplift the spirit and deepen the experience beyond church. Palm Sunday begins with joy but carries an underlying tension. Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna," not as a conqueror but humbly on a donkey. Scholars such as Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan interpret this as a statement supporting a different kind of leadership—one rooted in peace, fairness, and trust in God rather than power. Sacred music reflects both the beauty and gravity of this moment. In Bach's St. Matthew and St. John Passions, profound themes are set against the anticipation of sorrow. Palm Sunday ultimately calls us to humility, even as we hold onto hope amid sorrow.

Following the joyful yet uncertain entry, Maundy Thursday brings us to the upper room. Jesus shares bread and wine with his disciples and, in John's Gospel, washes their feet. Gail R. O'Day notes that this act demonstrates Jesus' command to love one another in genuine, selfless ways. We are called not only to admire Jesus, but to follow his example of love within our communities. Music such as Duruflé's Ubi Caritas embodies the spirit of this night: "Where charity and love are, God is there." For many Protestants, Maundy Thursday is not only a time of remembrance but also a call to action. At Christ's table, we are nourished for lives of service, peace, and kindness.

The narrative intensifies as Maundy Thursday transitions to Good Friday and the cross. Words often fall short in this moment. The church confronts both Jesus' suffering and the world's pain. Bernard Brandon Scott and others caution against reducing the cross to a simple explanation. Many Protestants understand Good Friday not as God desiring violence, but as God entering human violence and bearing it without retaliation. N. T. Wright views the crucifixion as a testament to God's faithfulness, exposing the flaws of worldly powers and revealing God's saving love. Music allows us to remain with this mystery rather than explain it away. Bach's Passions and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater convey both grief and awe, inviting us to stand at the cross and trust in God's presence, even in loneliness and sorrow. The central message: Good Friday calls us to face suffering and trust God, even without full understanding.

After sorrow, Easter morning brings a sense of wonder. The resurrection is the church's central message: death, despair, and violence are not the final word. N. T. Wright describes the resurrection as the beginning of God's new creation, not merely the soul's continuation. Easter affirms that God renews life. Marcus Borg interprets the Easter faith as the experience of Jesus' ongoing presence among believers, rather than as a debate over historical details. Regardless of perspective, Easter promises that God brings life from loss and hope from what seemed ended. Sacred music, such as Bach's Easter Oratorio or Handel's Messiah, expresses this joy. The music acknowledges Holy Week's pain and guides us into praise. The main message: Easter offers new life and hope, and sacred music helps us experience that renewal.

Listening to sacred music during Holy Week and Easter is a spiritual practice that unites these days. Amid the busyness and noise of daily life, this music encourages us to slow down and engage more deeply with the gospel story. Through it, we experience the hope of Palm Sunday, the compassion of Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, and the joy of Easter. The main point: Sacred music enhances the meaning of Holy Week and Easter.

As we move through these holy days, sacred music does more than accompany us; it guides us, inviting us to listen for Jesus' story and God's presence in our lives. From palm branches to the empty tomb, we are drawn into the mystery of God's love. This love meets us in our most difficult moments and leads us toward hope and new life. May we carry this hope beyond these days, allowing it to shape our lives and our world.

Blessings,

Greetings Friends!

It has been very busy so far this year! We are so grateful for your continued financial support, enabling us to provide services and programs for our members as well as the community.

We are showing a profit YTD through the end of February. While our YTD revenue is about \$46k unfavorable from the same time last year, our YTD expenses are \$56k less for the same time last year. During this time of year, activities tend to start slowing down, but expenses remain fairly constant. Your continued support will help us keep our financial position positive through the slower summer months. Since many of you will be heading north, we wish you blessings for safe travels and joyful times with family and friends. We will miss you, but please continue to livestream our services and stay in touch with us.

As always, please reach out to Debbie Savage, Executive Director, or Joan Congine, Finance Administrator, if you have any questions.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NAPLES**

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**February 28, 2026**

	<b>B</b>			<b>A</b>	<b>B - A</b>
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Actuals
	2026	2026	2026	2025	2026 vs. 2025
<b>Income</b>					
Offerings	385,074	383,333	2,300,000	483,141	(98,067)
Preschool	192,000	96,133	576,800	141,349	50,651
Other	11,075	6,663	39,980	9,384	1,691
Budgeted Endowment Transfers*	0	0	400,000	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>588,149</b>	<b>486,130</b>	<b>3,316,780</b>	<b>633,875</b>	<b>(45,725)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>472,607</b>	<b>566,412</b>	<b>3,398,470</b>	<b>528,151</b>	<b>(55,544)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Shortfall)</b>	<b>115,542</b>	<b>(80,282)</b>	<b>(81,690)</b>	<b>105,723</b>	<b>9,819</b>

**Here is an update on our 2026 Generosity Campaign:**

Our Goal is \$1,750,000  
 Results as of 3/31/26 are \$1,446,629  
 We are short by \$303,372

Our Pledging Household Goal is 280  
 Pledging Households to date 215

The campaign remains active. Please consider pledging to support the ongoing operations of First Presbyterian Church of Naples.

Pledge cards are available in the pews or you may pledge securely on our website [www.fpcnaples.org/give](http://www.fpcnaples.org/give).



## Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet weekly as we search for a new Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.

The PNC is currently in the process of identifying, screening, reviewing and interviewing prospective candidates. This is a complicated and long process, as we will ultimately review and evaluate well over 150 candidates.

For more information: [www.fpcnaples.org/pnc](http://www.fpcnaples.org/pnc)

***Your continued prayers for our committee and for our work in discernment are important and appreciated.***

**Cindy Esler  
Jack Marsh  
Marc Miller (Chair)  
Janet Yanushefski**

**Jacque Foust  
Cindy McCarthy  
Dorrit Nelson**



## Faithful Servants Among Us

1 Timothy 3:13 reminds us that those who serve faithfully as deacons gain something far greater than a title—they earn deep respect, grow in confidence, and become bold in their faith in Christ Jesus. Paul's words highlight a powerful truth: it is not the position itself that brings spiritual reward, but the heart of dedicated service behind it. When we look at this year's 32 ordained deacons (listed below), we see this scripture lived out in real and meaningful ways. Their quiet faithfulness, willingness to help, and steadfast commitment to serving others are a true blessing to our church family. We are sincerely grateful for the spirit of service they bring to the First Presbyterian Church of Naples ministry.

### Class of 2026

Carolyn and Michael Bennett  
Barbarann Budd  
Heather Carelock  
Brenda Lilly  
Cindy and Mike McCarthy  
Sarah Miller  
Audrey Smith and Doug Gibbens  
Deb Streamer  
Gary Tincu  
Kathi Webber  
Kitty Wildman

### Class of 2027

Marti Beard  
Pam and Bob Karll  
Sylvia and Jack Marsh  
Melissa McClayton  
Cheryl Myers  
Sharon Newman  
Sarah Nichols  
Kathy Norgart

### Class of 2028

Cindy Esler  
Walter Gadkowski  
Lynda Johnson  
Betty Mangos  
Nancy Walkenhorst  
Stephanie Hayes  
Cari Rieder  
Janet Yanushefski



## CHURCH TOUR

The Deacons invite you to a "Behind the Scenes" church tour on Sunday, April 12 following the service.

We will assemble at the front of the Sanctuary for a 30 minute tour of the campus.

Sign up in Spencer Hall or contact [Sarah Nichols](mailto:sarahnichols@gmail.com) at [sarahnichols@gmail.com](mailto:sarahnichols@gmail.com)

# Deacon Sunday



# Stephen Ministry



Our Church mission statement is familiar to everyone: "In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God: we worship, we love, we grow, we serve." Your Stephen Ministers are devoted to helping to fulfill that mission in ways you might not fully understand.

We are all on our own spiritual journey and experience periods when we feel very close to God and our blessings are easily discernable; however, it is inevitable in every life to feel occasionally distant from God and not to recognize or feel the blessings of God. God surrounds us with his blessings at all times, but it is human nature to be distracted by the challenges of human existence. Those challenges can often cause us to lose our focus on God during times when we most need God. In effect, we allow emotional and spiritual blockages to impede our own spiritual growth.

Stephen Ministers work best with people who are in-between periods of closeness to God and separation from God and who are challenged for various reasons as a result. We form steady, trustworthy relationships with people who need to see more clearly their own connection with God by talking freely with their Stephen Ministers who are always willing to listen reflectively without judgment or agenda to help our care receivers refocus on the peace only God can give them.

Stephen Ministers are not counselors, therapists, psychologists, social workers, pastors or other professionals who require licenses, degrees or years of advanced study. While Stephen Ministers do receive extensive training in Christian care giving, we do not presume to deal with things like severe depression or despair, suicidal tendencies, mental health issues, complete lack of faith or other matters requiring professional intervention.

If you, or someone you care about, is going through an in-between period with issues that impede your enjoyment of God's Grace in your life, we strongly urge you to consider contacting Stephen Ministry for someone who will be there to listen reflectively without judgment or agenda as long as you want as you work to restore the spiritual peace and comfort found only in God's Grace. You can contact Stephen Ministry through Pastor Scott, Pastor Rex, the church office, Stephen Ministry contact forms in the pew Friendship Pads or a Stephen Leader (Saralene Oldham or David Witman). We will be pleased to arrange a time to discuss this with you in person and at your convenience.

Additionally, if you are looking for a meaningful way to help people who are experiencing difficult times, we are always interested in getting new Stephen Ministers. The next training program will begin in January of 2027. Please let us know if you would like to learn more.

## **STEPHEN MINISTERS SERVING FPCN**

Tom Clark  
Linda Ferrario  
Walter Gadkowski  
Shirley Hagerson  
Jack Marsh  
Janeen McClure  
Saralene Oldham  
Karen Parker  
Gary Root



### MISSION TOUR

Please join us as we tour Youth Haven on Monday, April 13 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. See all that Youth Haven can offer for safe shelter and other support services for abused and homeless children and teens ages 6-18. The church bus will leave at 10 a.m. and return at noon. Sign up in Spencer Hall. If you have any questions please call, text or email, Molly Singerling. 703.795.7870, [Molly.Singerling@gmail.com](mailto:Molly.Singerling@gmail.com).



**Thank you to the 100 volunteers that helped to pack 40,176 meals! Many thankful hands made light work!**





## FEED THE 5000

On the first Sunday of the month, ushers will have a list available as you leave the sanctuary. Food donations will be collected at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street church entrance on the second Sunday of the month, April 12. If you prefer, monetary donations may be made online at [www.fpcnaples.org/give](http://www.fpcnaples.org/give). Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please indicate "Feed the 5,000" for the fund, or in the memo.

Suggested items include:

Coffee  
Sugar  
Dried beans  
Rice  
Chips  
Crackers

Pasta & sauce  
Canned tuna, chicken  
Oatmeal  
Cereal  
Peanut butter/jelly  
Condiments

Macaroni & cheese  
Instant mashed potatoes  
Canned soup  
Canned vegetables  
Canned fruit



For the past 18 months we have been working with Habitat of Collier County at the Majestic Place site in south Naples. The 110 homes at that site are almost complete and we are now moving to a new site in northwest Naples, Las Palmas, located off of Collier Boulevard just north of Immokalee Road.

Our first work day at this site will be on Thursday, April 9, and we expect to continue working there in the fall when we restart in November. We typically have work days leaving from the church on the second Thursday of each month, November through April. You can sign up for work days in Spencer Hall, or get more information by contacting Dick Hillebrand at [rhilleb1955@gmail.com](mailto:rhilleb1955@gmail.com) or 330.715.7700.



March work crew (L-R) Dick Hillebrand, Susan Neal, Sharon Short, Chris Rasmussen, Doug Borland, Ken Short



**Sharman Pfaus  
Executive Assistant**

Sharman was raised in a small rural community of Chelsea, Michigan, located about 25 miles west of Ann Arbor. Having been raised on a farm, she helped with feeding the cattle, pigs, chickens, rabbits and harvesting wheat, potatoes and corn.

During her high school years, Sharman would ride the bus, getting off at the church stop. It was then she began her church work of creating the Sunday bulletins and typing the newsletter. Back in those days, you used stencils on a typewriter with a mimeograph machine used to make copies. I'm sure kids these days wouldn't know what that is. Because money was tight, Sharman would take on babysitting and housecleaning jobs during the summer months and after school to help with expenses.

Shortly after graduation in 1975, Sharman went to work in the records department of Eastern Michigan University for a year prior to being married. From that marriage came four beautiful daughters and 5 granddaughters.

She enjoyed being a stay-at-home mother until her youngest went to school at which time she worked for a dentist and then an ophthalmologist. Soon after, her church began their search for an Administrator and, having volunteered in several capacities as a Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent and Youth Group Leader, she was thrilled to get the job! During this time, Sharman continued working as youth leader with her home being the gathering place for youth from around the State of Michigan. It was not unheard of



to have 20-30 kids overnight at her home on any given weekend. Sharman was heavily involved in organizing and taking the youth to Regional, State and National events, leading leader groups and organizing events. Her role as Administrator offered her the opportunity to co-lead with the pastor, two trips to Israel and another to Germany and Switzerland, each with 40-80 travelers. Four years after accepting the position, an opening presented itself for a

Church Administrator at Naples United Church of Christ. Sharman flew down for a long weekend, fell in love with Naples, interviewed for the job and was accepted. It was a difficult time for her young daughter who

was a junior in high school and tied with her best friend for being valedictorian of her class. But she has since admitted it was the "best move we could have made."

Sharman joined First Presbyterian Church of Naples as the Assistant to the Office Manager in 2004. Six months later, she was moved to Church Office Manager, a role she held until 2008 when she left to work as Executive Office Manager for The Immokalee Foundation. It was during this time that she pursued her certifications with Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) and the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM). She has also been a member of SHRM Naples (formerly HR Collier) since 2003. In 2010, the position of Pastoral Assistant became available again at First Presbyterian Church of Naples and when the (then) pastor reached out, she was invited to return as his assistant, ultimately becoming the Executive Office Manager. Last July, Sharman requested being moved to a part-time status as a stepping-stone to retirement and to assist with the transition of a new Finance Administrator (Joan Congine) and the new Executive Director (Debbie Savage). Semi-retirement has provided Sharman opportunities to spend time with her grandchildren, serving as the treasurer to the Drama Boosters at Aubrey Rogers High School, volunteering for the Naples Festival of Trees and Christmas Market, and ushering at The Naples Players (TNP). She looks forward to more time attending her grandchildren's events, reading, travelling, and pursuing other activities. Sharman says she "has loved working at FPCN and has made so many friends. The congregation is amazing in its support of the staff, and they have always embraced me with love and kindness. I am grateful."



## Marching Forward!



March was a joyful and busy month in our preschool, as always! Here in Naples, we are already enjoying the beauty of spring, with warm sunshine,

blooming flowers, and plenty of time to play and learn outdoors. The children have loved observing God's creation all around them, from bright flowers to busy little creatures, reminding us of His wonderful handiwork. Spring Break gave everyone a chance to rest and recharge, and we were so happy to welcome the children back, ready for more learning, laughter, and time together.

One of the highlights of the month was our St. Patrick's Day celebration. The classrooms and hallways were filled with green as the children enjoyed festive crafts, fun activities, and a little bit of playful excitement with the addition of our own Mr. Nick, the leprechaun.



*Mrs. Kennedy's VPK classroom turned into a zoo when they read, "Put Me in the Zoo," by Dr. Seuss! One of our goals when preparing children for kindergarten includes fostering a love of reading.*

We also celebrated a love of reading with our Scholastic Book Fair, which brought together a mighty group of creative and dedicated mothers and teachers who decorated, arranged, and sold many books to help us stock our own library shelves!

## Looking Ahead to April

As we move into April, we are excited for all that is ahead. We will begin preparing our hearts for Easter, helping the children understand the story of Jesus' love in ways that are meaningful at their level. Through songs, stories, and special activities, we will celebrate the joy and hope of the season.

We are also looking forward to even more outdoor time as our beautiful Naples weather continues. The children will enjoy exploring, playing, and discovering the wonders of spring firsthand,

including caterpillars and butterflies on the playground. In the classroom, we will continue building important skills through play, creativity, and guided learning.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our preschool ministry. It is a joy and a privilege to be part of these children's lives as they grow in faith, learning, and love!



*Mrs. Casagrande's VPK class had a special and engaging literacy experience when they read the book, "The Mitten," by Jan Brett, and counted how many children could fit under a blanket together. As it turns out, they squeezed in quite a few just like in the book when the animals squeezed together to stay warm!*

We also had some very special visitors this month from Collier County 4H extension. The children were delighted to spend time with ducklings and chicks, learning about new life in such a hands-on and memorable way. Their excitement and gentle care for these tiny creatures was truly heartwarming to see.



*Ms. Andrea's class, along with the rest of the preschool, participated in a visit with the local Naples Police Department. The officers brought so many vehicles, including the SWAT truck and even the new swamp buggy! This is an example of the many ways we are able to connect with our local community.*

## Exciting Times Ahead for Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries!

### Greetings, everyone!

It's hard to believe that we are in April already, and as the spring blooms around us, we are all eagerly looking forward to our end-of-year activities. As we look back at last month, we had wonderful times during our weekly Coffee Hour. One of our highlights was capturing the joy of our little friend, Owen, as he sat on Jesus' lap, reminding us of the innocence and joy of our faith (see photo below).



We also had a delightful Ice Cream Social to mark the beginning of our Spring Break with our preschool! During this event, we handed out a faith-at-home resource that included an ice cream prayer along with a gratitude practice to put on our

refrigerator. Also, we were thrilled to hand out over 50 Sacred Seasons boxes—a beautiful faith formation resource designed to help parents equip themselves as the primary faith formers for their children. As I write this, I'm preparing to present on behalf of our



church at the Fourth Soil Parenting Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. I'll be discussing best practices for church-sponsored faith formation at home, a topic I'm passionate about and one that inspires our work here at FPC Naples.



Looking ahead, we look forward to Easter and our Annual Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:15 service. After Easter, we will kick off our fundraising for Montreat from April 12th, 19th, and 26th. Your support means the world to us! In May, we'll also



celebrate our Milestone Graduation on May 3 during our GenWE service. If you have children, youth, or young adults who you would like to be recognized, please let us know!

Finally, we're gearing up for Vacation Bible School and would love your help! If you can volunteer your time, it would be an incredible blessing for our children.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community, and we can't wait to celebrate these milestones together!

Blessings to you all!

*Nancy*

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

Cokesbury Kids

# SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

FIND  
YOUR  
STRENGTH  
IN GOD



**June 22–26, 2026 9 a.m. to noon**  
**SNOW GAMES | SNACKS | ART & CRAFTS**

Gear up for an unforgettable winter sports extravaganza with Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS 2026! With hands-on activities, laughter, and life lessons rooted in solid faith, this VBS empowers children to trust God, share love, and discover they can face any challenge with God by their side!

**FOR KIDS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN TO 5TH GRADE**  
**\$25 PER CHILD\***

**More Information:**  
[Ashley.Henning@fpcnaples.org](mailto:Ashley.Henning@fpcnaples.org)

\*Scholarships available

## Adult Sunday School: *Preparing the Way*



Every Sunday, we meet at 9 a.m. in the Chapel to discuss the New Testament Bible reading on which that day's sermon is based.

Rev. Rex Childs facilitates these insightful sessions which are designed to give a preview and better understanding of the sermon passage.

Please let Rev. Rex Childs know if you wish to receive advance email notification of which passages will be discussed, or you can obtain the readings from our Thursday e-blast.

## Women's Ministry Bible Study



All women are invited to join us for a weekly Bible Study, held on Mondays at 1 p.m. in the Parlor.

We look to covenant with each other week by week as we delve into God's word. For more information contact Janeen McClure, [jrmc@airmccclure.com](mailto:jrmc@airmccclure.com)

# HUDDLE

## A Men's Bible Discussion Group

All men are invited and encouraged to gather with us each Thursday at noon.

We are studying the book of Nehemiah. Bring a Bible and your lunch!

If unable to attend in person, please join the meeting via Zoom.

Please contact the church office for the Zoom link to the meeting.

## Wednesday Morning Men: Faith and Fellowship

We gather on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8 a.m. with coffee and pastry in the Youth Room.

April 1 presenter: Sted Garber

April 15 presenter: Tim Stover

For more information please contact group leader, Bill Kearney 239.207.6557.



Thank you to all who participated in Women's Sunday on March 8. The church was full of color with quilts hanging from the balconies and prayer shawls on the ends of pews. So far 48 quilts have been given to families in Immokalee. With word that more units are to be built, we will continue to work on quilts in the coming year. We have finished over 90 quilts but will still need at least another 150 for these deserving families. This is really a blessing!

**Sew and Sews** continue to meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in April. Please join us between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Bring lunch or stay as long as you can. We need help sewing, tying, and ironing.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** - if you knit or crochet, this ministry is for you. There are patterns and yarn available and you can work from home or join us at Sew and Sews.

**Stamp Ministry** - Remember to save your stamps. These stamps have purchased over a million dollars worth of Spanish Sunday School materials in this country and South and Central America since its inception in 1972. There is a mailbox in Spencer Hall for their collection.



**Missions** - This past year Naples Presbyterian Women has given over \$13,000 to missions in Collier County. Our Birthday Offering in March has supported the Women and Children's Crisis Shelter in Findley, Ohio and the Haywood Christian Ministry Rural Food Assistance Project in Waynesville, North Carolina.

Our last Gathering of this Season is Wednesday, April 1 following the organ concert. We will install officers for next year.

We welcome all women of the church to join us for fellowship, study and the work of our hands.



Please join us on  
Sunday, April 26  
during the service,  
for a farewell to our long time employee,  
Sharman Pfaus

*Sharman will retire at the end of June,  
but we would like to celebrate her dedication to  
First Presbyterian Church of Naples  
prior to the departure of many of our  
FPCN friends.*

*Join us in Spencer Hall, following the service, for  
a reception to thank her for her many years of  
faithfulness, hard work and dedication.  
She is an angel among us!*

## CONGRATULATIONS!



As many know, stage managers are the organizational heartbeat of a production—coordinating rehearsals, keeping cast and crew on track, calling cues during performances, and ensuring every technical and artistic element comes together seamlessly. It's a role that requires leadership, precision, communication, and grace under pressure, and Taylor Irvan excelled in all of it.

We're excited to recognize our talented Audio and Visual Technician, Taylor Irvan, for her outstanding achievement at the recent state competition. Taylor competed against 56 high school students from across Florida for her exceptional work as Stage Manager for Aubrey Rogers High School's production of *Sister Act*. Her hard work, professionalism, and creativity shone brightly—earning her an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the entire state!

Please join us in congratulating Taylor on this remarkable accomplishment. Way to go, Taylor—keep up the amazing work!

## Graduation Milestone Sunday

On Sunday, May 3 we will celebrate students graduating from VPK, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, College or Grad School.

If you have a child or grandchild that will be here on Sunday, May 3, we would like to recognize them in the service.

Please e-mail Ashley Henning or Nancy Van Fleet with their information.

## Thank You

*Dear FPCN Friends:*

*Chuck and I want to thank so many of you for your kind words, remembrances, and well wishes as we prepared to leave Naples and hence FPCN to live nearer our children in California. We were overwhelmed and will never forget our 10 years worshipping with you.*

*Although the church is currently in a period of transition, we are excited for its future. We will continue to follow its next steps from afar. We welcome hearing from any of you. Our e-mail and cell numbers remain unchanged. Our new address appears below.*

*Blessings, love and peace to all.*

*Best,*

*Roni Haggart  
202.997.0051  
vhaggart@gmail.com*

*Chuck Work  
202.957.4083  
charles.r.work@gmail.com*

*Address:*

*3357 Streamside Circle #104K  
Pleasanton, CA 94588*



*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you for all the lovely cards, gifts and the celebration for my retirement.*

*It has truly been an honor to work for First Presbyterian Church for 27 years. The friends I've made and the life-lessons I've learned have been a true blessing.*

*I have been busy since I left the office and some days I wonder how I ever had time to work! My garden is thriving, the butterflies are plentiful in gracing my yard and Bill and I are enjoying working together on projects around the house and in the yard!*

*Thank you for all the wonderful memories that will stay with me for a lifetime.*

*Kathleen Law*



*A note of thanks to all the women who participated in the recent study of "Luke in the Land." It has been a joy to come together to study God's word and forge new friendships.*

*Our next study will begin in the fall, so please watch for the sign-up details then.*

*We welcome everyone to join us! For information, e-mail fpcwomen2017@gmail.com*



**April 1**  
Cathy Batcher  
Edie Smallwood

**April 2**  
Doug Johnson  
Jeanie Weigel

**April 3**  
Bill Colville  
Judy Herb  
Colleen Waterhouse

**April 4**  
Mary Armstrong  
Bob Eoff

**April 5**  
Muffy Autera

**April 6**  
Cris Crider  
Greg Georgieff  
Patty Rutzler  
Sturgis Wetherington

**April 7**  
Tom Decker

**April 8**  
Marty Huddloff  
Les Kasten  
Sue Robertson  
Susan Wetherington

**April 10**  
Barbara Laswell  
Liz Psota

**April 11**  
Sue Kirby  
Ruth Klementik

**April 12**  
Lucy Koll  
Ron Malstrom

**April 14**  
Tom Gahagan  
Susan McComsey  
Linda Moreno  
Donna Tincu  
Joan Wilson

**April 15**  
Bonita Krauss

**April 16**  
Scott Kenefake

**April 17**  
Mary Gahagan  
Lynda Johnson

**April 18**  
Sheila Johnson  
Carolyn Lee

**April 19**  
Rusty Batcher  
Mike Hulsen  
Kim Wilmore

**April 20**  
Bud Elliot  
Alison Lovingood

**April 21**  
Steve Magennis

**April 22**  
Pat Collins  
Cari Rieder

**April 23**  
Jerry Lanz

**April 24**  
Ken Osborn  
David Witman

**April 26**  
Carolyn Mollers

**April 27**  
Keith Gahagan

**April 28**  
Patrick Fraley

**April 30**  
Tom Benson  
Lela Holbert

### *In Sympathy*

*Deborah "Deb" Warren*  
January 27, 2026

*Harry "Bud" Crowl*  
March 9, 2026

*Nina Howard*  
March 15, 2026

## SEEKERS AND JOINERS CLASS

**Do you want to know more about our faith,  
this friendly congregation  
and how to become a member  
of our church?**

**We want to encourage you  
in your journey of faith.**

A Seekers and Joiners class will be held in the Parlor on **Sunday, April 19** following worship.

Information packets are available at the Welcome Table, the church exits and at the Seekers and Joiners class.

Contact Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership and Caring Ministries to register.

First Presbyterian Church of Naples  
250 Sixth Street South  
Naples, FL 34102  
[www.fpcnaples.org](http://www.fpcnaples.org)  
239.262.1311



***The Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
will be held on Sunday, April 19 following the 10 a.m. worship service.***

***The purpose of the meeting is to receive the 2025 Annual Report and  
elect the Nominating Committee.***

***At-Large Nominees:***

***Dave Burgess, Saralene Oldham, Karen Parker, Jane Rogers***

***Session Representatives:***

***Linda Gadkowski (chair), Scott Macdonough***

***Deacon Representative:***

***Sarah Nichols***