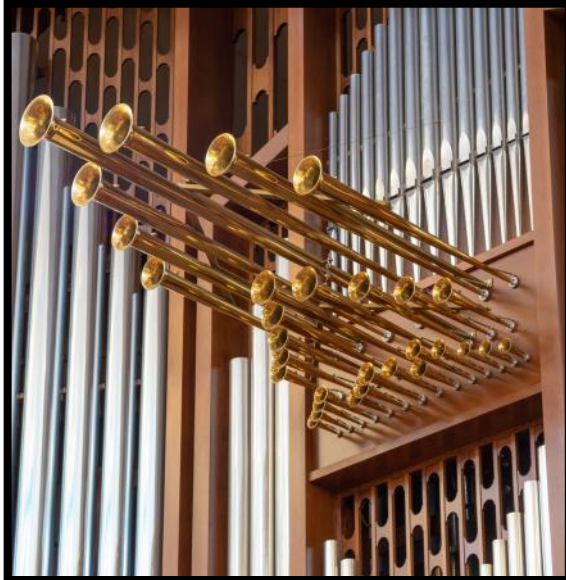


A Season of Music

at First Presbyterian Church of Naples

2025-2026



Events are at the church: 250 6th Street South, Naples — 239.262.1311 — www.fpcnaples.org
Admission, except as listed, is free-will offering.

A Season of Music

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

One of the constants at First Presbyterian Church is quality music. It is my mission to bring the best out of the Chancel Choir each week and to coax beautiful and exciting melodies from the Ruffatti organ and Blütner piano. Our concert series is held to the same standard. This year **A Season of Music** will have some familiar artists and some incredible guests.



We will have two very exciting concerts that are unique to FPCN. J. Mark McVey is a Broadway legend who has sung the part of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* over 3,000 times. He will present an amazing concert, *Broadway and Beyond*. This will be a special event on a Friday night — we hope to fill the church!

Concerts for Community - CircleRock is sponsoring an incredible concert for organ and trumpet featuring acclaimed trumpeter, Charles Lazarus, with renowned organist, David Cherwien. Featured in the genre-jumping performance will be *American Nomad*, a classical/jazz hybrid concerto for trumpet written by Emmy Award-winning composer, Steve Heitzeg.



Naples hometown talent will be featured in concerts by the Voices of Naples, The Florida Gulf Coast University Chamber Choir, and our very own Chancel Choir. As always, I will highlight the Ruffatti organ in my six Lenten organ concerts.

Please mark your calendars today. I trust you will find something that appeals to you and I encourage you to bring a friend. Concerts are a great way to introduce people to our church. Our concerts are free of charge, except where noted. I invite you to help continue the legacy of great music at First Presbyterian Church of Naples. Please consider sending a donation today to **A Season of Music**. If you are interested in underwriting one of our concerts, please contact me at

the church. Through these concerts we will reach out to our community and beckon people into our beautiful church. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Brice Gerlach

Dr. Brice Gerlach
Director of Music Ministries
briceg@fpcnaples.org



Scan or click the QR code to donate to A Season of Music.

Voices of Naples Songs of Peace and Hope

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*

Aaron Powers, *accompanist*

Sunday, November 23, 2025

4 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

To order, call 239.293.0645.

The opening concert will feature the Voices of Naples, a community chorus led by Dr. Brice Gerlach. It is their mission to present the gift of quality choral music to the community that is uplifting to the audience and the singers themselves. They are committed to providing scholarship opportunities to student vocalists and strive to bring the love of choral music to everyone.

The program has been crafted to bring *Peace and Hope* to the listener. Works will include *Let There be Peace on Earth, Dona Nobis Pacem, Abound in Hope*, some country favorites and rousing spirituals. We will also introduce our new accompanist, Aaron Powers, playing variations in duet with Brice based on *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. Get your tickets soon. Order by calling the number above.



Chancel Choir Christmas Concert

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*

Sunday, December 7, 2025

4 p.m.



Experience the hope and joy of rediscovering the miracle and wonder of Christmas as told through beautiful and cherished music of the season. Christmas-time is filled with great traditions and many of them center on the music of the season. Our annual concert showcases the incredible talent of First Presbyterian Church of Naples. The program will feature the soloists and choir singing Christmas favorites as well as an audience sing-a-long of well-known carols accompanied by a professional chamber orchestra. The Chancel Choir will sing several Christmas anthems including *And the Glory of the Lord* by Handel, *My Lord Has Come* by Will Todd, and a beautiful arrangement of *Silent Night* by Dan Forrest.

Sing some of your favorite traditional carols such as *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen* and *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*. Come enjoy a beautiful concert with some of the most traditional and well-loved Christmas songs ever composed.

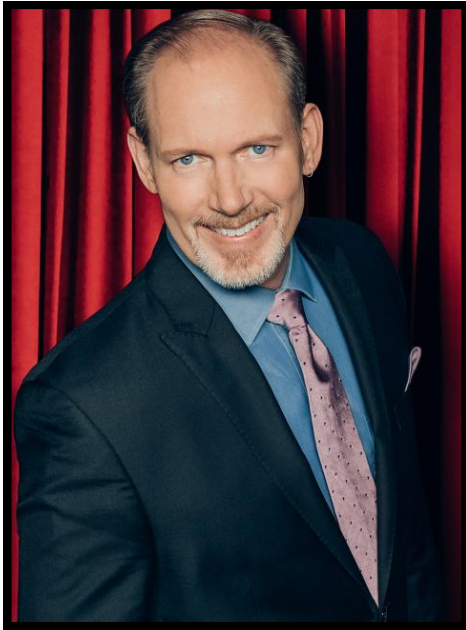
Broadway and Beyond

J. Mark McVey, *tenor*
Brice Gerlach, *piano*

Friday, January 30, 2026

7:30 p.m.

\$35 general seating — \$50 premium seating



This season, we are thrilled to present a special concert event, *Broadway and Beyond* with Broadway Legend and star of *Les Misérables*, J. Mark McVey. This Friday evening concert will include stories and anecdotes of the artist's life woven through a thrilling collection of time honored favorites featuring Sondheim, Bernstein, Rodgers, Styne, Gershwin, and more.

J. Mark McVey made his Broadway debut as Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* after having won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actor while in Washington D.C. The first American to perform Valjean in London's West End, he also reprised the role with the Los Angeles Philharmonic to sold out crowds at the Hollywood Bowl and once again in the 25th Anniversary Tour of *Les Misérables* where he won the Ovation

Award and the Broadway.com Award on his way to eclipsing more than 3,200 performances in the worlds favorite musical, *Les Misérables*. J. Mark McVey made his Carnegie Hall debut with Marvin Hamlisch and continues to perform with numerous symphonies around the country and the world.

This special Friday evening ticketed event is sure to thrill the audience. Please plan on attending and bring your friends! Tickets are available online at www.fpcnaples.org/music or at the church office. General admission tickets are \$35 and VIP tickets are \$50 which include premium seating and the opportunity to meet Mark in person following the concert.

*Get your tickets today for
Broadway and Beyond!*



Charles Lazarus, *trumpet* David Cherwien, *organ* Sunday, February 22, 2026 4 p.m.

Our second special concert is generously sponsored by **Concerts for Community Circle Rock** and features acclaimed Minnesota Orchestra and former Canadian Brass trumpeter, Charles Lazarus, with organist, David Cherwien, for an afternoon of exciting and virtuosic music making.



David Cherwien, former Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, is a nationally known conductor, composer, and organist. Recognized for his contributions to the field of church music and liturgy, he is in demand as a clinician and hymn festival leader across the country. David serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for traditional liturgy and creative, high-quality music.

Trumpeter Charles Lazarus is a multi-faceted performer who has charted a unique course over his career including tenures in several of the best-known brass ensembles in the world, including Canadian Brass, Dallas Brass, Meridian Arts Ensemble, and in the Minnesota Orchestra. As a soloist, composer and bandleader, Lazarus has created four original crossover orchestral shows featuring him as soloist with his jazz ensemble.

At the center of the genre-jumping performance will be *American Nomad*, a classical/jazz hybrid concerto for trumpet written by Emmy Award-winning composer, Steve Heitzeg. The program will include *Let the Bright Seraphim* with soprano, Michele Byrd, as well as selections from Lazarus's latest recording of modern takes on hymns and spirituals along with Cherwien/Lazarus originals and classical favorites.



Be sure to mark your calendar for “American Nomad” performed by these world-class musicians!

Florida Gulf Coast University Chamber Choir

Dr. Trent Brown, *conductor*

Abigail Allison, *accompanist*

Sunday, February 15, 2026

4 p.m.

Southwest Florida is fortunate to have Florida Gulf Coast University as part of our community.

The arts have been enhanced by the infusion of students of the Bower School of Music. The FGCU Chamber Choir is an outstanding choral group at the university and is directed by the talented, Dr. Trent Brown. Many members of the Chamber Choir have been soloists at FPCN and we are excited to have the entire Chamber Choir in concert this season. They are preparing for a performance tour to Croatia, Italy, and Slovenia over their spring break in March. Over a ten-day period the choir will perform multiple concerts and participate in exchanges with local musicians. For many, this will be their first time outside the USA. This concert will help defray the cost of their European tour and help to support these aspiring young musicians.



Voices of Naples Singing for Scholarships

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*

Aaron Powers, *accompanist*

Sunday, March 8, 2026

4 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

To order, call 239.293.0645.



The Voices of Naples will present their annual Singing for Scholarships concert. The afternoon will consist of music by Beethoven, Mark Hayes, Richard Rodgers and Willie Nelson and end with a salute to America.

During this afternoon of choral music, past scholarship winners will perform solos as a way of thanking the community that helped to support their musical education.

When you come to the concert, know that you are helping VON in their mission to support young musicians. Please plan on attending and continuing the gift of music.

Get your tickets today!

Lenten Organ Concerts

Wednesdays, 12 - 12:30 p.m.

February 25, 2026

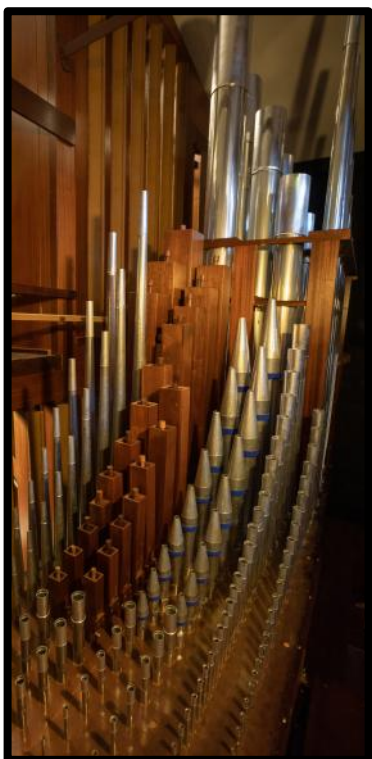
March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

April 1, 2026

The spectacular Ruffatti pipe organ is featured in six Lenten organ recitals offered by our Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Brice Gerlach. In these informal concerts Brice takes the time to explain some of the mechanical workings of the organ and offers some musical insights about the pieces on the program. Each concert opens with a piece that highlights the magnificent horizontal trumpets protruding from the front of the organ case. A work by J.S. Bach is always featured and arrangements of Lenten hymn tunes are presented, allowing for some of the diverse solo stops and softer sounds of the organ to be heard. The concerts will end with a rousing toccata, allowing the audience to hear the full power of the organ.

After the recital, the audience is invited to the console to ask questions and see the beautiful

woodwork and craftsmanship of the Ruffatti. Tours of the pipe chambers are offered each week. These concerts are very popular and we hope that you will attend to one or all of them and bring a friend. Brice is an evangelist for the organ and makes these short concerts educational, exciting and entertaining.



Special Events

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 10 a.m.

With the Saint Andrew's Society of Southwest Florida & The Harp & Thistle Pipe Band.

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27, 2025 at 11 a.m.

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

A service for those seeking comfort during what can be a difficult time of year.

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
at 5 & 7 p.m.

Our Family Service at 5 p.m. is designed for families with young children, but all ages are welcome. The traditional service at 7 p.m. is a Candlelight Service with readings and carols. Special music begins 30 minutes prior to worship.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 12 p.m.

A service to begin the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Includes communion.

Good Friday

Friday, April 3, 2026 at 12 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026

7:30 a.m. Courtyard Service and

8:30 & 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Special music by the Naples Chamber Brass Quintet at the 8:30 and 10:15 a.m. services.

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

250 Sixth Street South

Naples, FL 34102

239.262.1311

www.fpcnaples.org



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