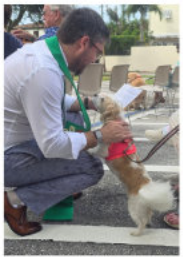
First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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

Outreach

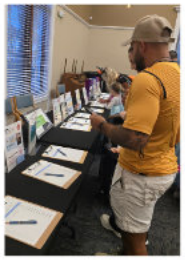
November 2026










Clockwise from top left: *The Chancel Choir; Annual Pet Blessing with Rev. Rex Childs; Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow welcoming new members; Kirkin' o' the Tartan; kitchen team at the Deacon Brunch; Fall Festival fun (Trunk-or-Treat, Preschool Silent Auction, Naples Fire Department visit, and balloon animals); Deacon Brunch buffet; and the FPC Naples Cerulean Cross (center).*

Table of Contents

Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow	3
Finance	4
Stewardship	5
Missions	6
Deacons	8
Worship and Music	11
Presbyterian Women	12
Stephen Ministry	13
Intergenerational CE	15
Preschool	18
Caring Ministries	19
Church News	19
Membership	22

FROM THE PULPIT

November 1
All Saints Sunday | GenWE Sunday
Holy Communion
Rev. Rex Childs

November 8
Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

November 15
Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

November 22
Christ the King | Reign of Christ
Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow's Installation
Rev. Dr. Brewster "Budge" Gere

November 26
Thanksgiving Day Service | 11 a.m.
Rev. Rex Childs

November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Rex Childs

Staff Listing

239.262.1311
Phone Extensions

Minister
Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow, Sr. Pastor & Head of Staff
aaronj@fpcnaples.org 2035

Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor
rexc@fpcnaples.org 2027

Worship & Music
Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries
briceg@fpcnaples.org 2039

Taylor Irvan, Sound and Video Operator

Christian Education
Nancy Van Fleet,
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
nancyv@fpcnaples.org 2029

Nancy Brooks, LPN, Childcare

Lizzy Carter,
Christian Education Assistant
lizzyc@fpcnaples.org 2036

Emmanuel Giraldo-Castano, Kidz Lab Assistant

Office
Debbie Savage, Executive Director
debbies@fpcnaples.org 2042

Joan Congine, Finance Administrator
joanc@fpcnaples.org 2041

Ashley Henning,
Administrative and Technical Assistant
ashley.henning@fpcnaples.org 2012

Sandy Knight, Office Assistant/Receptionist
sandyk@fpcnaples.org 2000

Josh Miller,
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
joshm@fpcnaples.org 2013

Susan Pratt,
Coordinator of Caring Ministry and Membership
susanp@fpcnaples.org 2037

Facilities
Jeff Newman, Director of Facilities
jeffn@fpcnaples.org 2028

Eduardo Martinez, Maintenance
eduardom@fpcnaples.org 2014

Nick Zamagni, Custodian
nickz@fpcnaples.org 2016

Preschool
Delia Buckley, Preschool Director
deliab@fpcnaples.org 2009

Katie Schutt, Preschool Administrative Assistant
katies@fpcnaples.org 2038



Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

As I've shared in worship, I love this publication. There is so much happening at First Presbyterian Church of Naples that it is difficult to capture everything in one place! But we try. If you know someone who might enjoy learning more about what happens within the walls of our beautiful church, please consider sharing a copy of this newsletter with them. My hope is that they will discover what I hope each of us finds here: a love for Jesus Christ, a desire to grow in faith, and a commitment to sharing God's love with others in our community and beyond.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12–13, Paul tells us, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." Similarly, our ministry takes many forms, each sustained by the varied gifts, talents, and dedication of our congregation and staff. Together, we make possible far more than any one of us could accomplish alone. Thank you!

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving later this month, I hope First Presbyterian Church is among the many blessings for which you are grateful. I hope this congregation helps you know and experience the amazing love of Christ through worship, music, intergenerational fellowship, Christian education, service, and so much more. We seek to live out our mission in all these ways, as our mission statement proclaims: *In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God: we worship, we love, we grow, we serve.*

In recent months, we have been blessed with increased worship attendance, new members, expanding mission and outreach, growing children's and youth programs, and meaningful educational and fellowship opportunities for all ages. These are encouraging signs of a congregation actively sharing in God's mission, and I am grateful to everyone whose energy, participation, and generosity make these ministries possible. Thank you!

During this season of thanksgiving, and as we embark on our annual stewardship campaign, *Sharing in God's Mission*, I invite you to reflect on all that First Presbyterian Church means in your life and in the life of our community. Please prayerfully consider how you might help sustain and strengthen the ministry we share. Your financial support is vital to our ministries, and I am deeply grateful for your generosity, your commitment, and your willingness to serve alongside one another.

Together, may we continue sharing in God's mission, trusting that God will use our gifts to worship, love, grow, and serve in the heart of Naples and beyond.

In Christ,



Dr. Aaron Janklow
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

Join us for the Installation of Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

November 22, 2026 | 10 a.m.

Join us and the Peace River Presbytery as we celebrate the installation of Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. We are pleased to welcome guest preacher Rev. Dr. Brewster "Budge" Gere, who has faithfully served congregations across Missouri, Washington, and Michigan.

FINANCE

Ned Camuti, Committee Chair, *nedcamuti@gmail.com* • Joan Congine, Finance Administrator



November Financial Update

October is in our rearview mirror, and we celebrated our Fall Festival, Kirkin' o' the Tartan, and the return of many seasonal members! As we look forward to November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving gratitude, honor those who have served in the U.S. military on Veterans Day, and remember those who have departed on All Saints' Day. We hope you will also join us as we begin our Events at First and Season of Music events!

Here is a summary of our results through the end of September:

We have a YTD shortfall of $68k through September. YTD Offerings are unfavorable compared to the same time last year by $80k. YTD offerings are unfavorable to budget by $388k. Total Revenue is favorable by $37k vs. YTD 2025, due to the Endowment transfer completed this September. Preschool/Other revenue was favorable to 2025 by $16k and favorable to budget by $17k. YTD expenses are favorable to budget by $261k due to tight expense control and the straight-line expense budget. YTD Expenses are about $27k higher than YTD 2025.

A sincere thanks to those of you who have sent in your 2027 Stewardship pledge, either online or by mail! Your pledge helps us plan ahead so we can better serve this church and community.

Please continue to livestream our services, leave comments, and stay in touch. If you can't attend Sunday services, please watch our livestream or catch up on our website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel at your convenience! Don't forget to leave comments - we truly enjoy the feedback.

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

Joan Congine

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NAPLES

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 30, 2026

	B YTD Actuals 2026	YTD Budget 2026	Annual Budget 2026	A YTD Actuals 2025	B - A YTD Actuals 2026 vs. 2025
Income					
Offerings	1,337,237	1,725,000	2,300,000	1,416,428	(79,191)
Preschool	438,565	432,600	576,800	431,870	6,695
Other	37,486	29,985	39,980	28,233	9,253
Budgeted Endowment Transfers	400,000	300,000	400,000	300,000	100,000
Total Income	2,213,288	2,487,585	3,316,780	2,176,531	36,757
Total Expenses	2,280,916	2,541,860	3,398,469	2,253,775	27,142
Net Operating Income (Shortfall)	(67,628)	(54,275)	(81,689)	(77,244)	9,615

STEWARDSHIP

Marc Miller, Committee Chair, *marcmiller2650@gmail.com*
Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

2027 Stewardship Campaign

Commitment Sunday: November 15, 2026

Please join us in supporting First Presbyterian Church of Naples through our annual Stewardship Campaign, "***Sharing in God's Mission***," based on Acts 2:44-47. Pledging allows our church to faithfully plan and budget for the year ahead. As members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, your financial support is vital to help us live into our mission: *In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God, we worship, we love, we grow, we serve*.

In his stewardship sermon, Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow reminded us that giving is a spiritual response to the love of God at work in our lives. Reflecting on Matthew 22, Pastor Aaron noted that while coins bear the emperor's likeness, we bear the image of God. Our financial giving, therefore, is more than a contribution; it is an expression of our gratitude, faith, and devotion to God. Through our financial generosity, we sustain the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, plant seeds for the future, and help offer glimpses of God's kingdom in our community.

During his Minute for Stewardship, Committee Chair Marc Miller reflected on Matthew 6:21: "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be*." Dedicating the first fruits of our labor loosens the grip of financial anxiety, replacing it with gratitude and peace. To sustain our staff, facilities, intergenerational ministries, sacred music, and mission outreach, our goal for 2027 is $1.75 million across 235 pledging households. Our collective commitments give leadership the confidence to budget faithfully and responsibly.

As we look ahead to 2027, please prayerfully consider your commitment and join us in worship on Commitment Sunday, November 15, as we dedicate our pledges. Learn more and pledge at ***fpcnaples.org/stewardship***.







Pictured right: *2027 pledge card (top); pledged dollars in action through VBS (middle) and missions (bottom).*

Commitment Sunday

November 15, 2026

Pledge cards are available in the pews each Sunday and online at ***fpcnaples.org/stewardship***.

Please join us in returning your pledge on or before Commitment Sunday, November 15.

Questions? Contact Marc Miller or Debbie Savage.

MISSIONS

Mark Speake, Committee Chair, *markspeake58@gmail.com*
Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Saturdays, December 5 & 12, 2026

Share the joy of Christmas and make a tangible difference for families across Collier County by serving as a Salvation Army bell ringer this December. FPC Naples will staff the Red Kettle location at the Naples Plaza Publix for two key Saturdays: December 5 and December 12, covering two-hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ringing bells is a fun, rewarding service opportunity for individuals, couples, and families to help us fill the kettle!

To sign up, stop by Spencer Hall on Sunday mornings throughout November to choose your shift in the mission sign-up binder.

Guatemala Mission Trip

December 5 - 13, 2026

The next mission trip to Guatemala will be December 5 through the 13th. If you feel led to join the medical team, you are welcome. We plan to provide Christmas presents and food to all the children in one of the villages on Sunday.

Please prayerfully consider making a financial gift to help make this a reality. You can give through the church website at *fpcnaples.org/give* by selecting "TR Guatemala Missions." As always, thank you for your prayer and financial support of this important mission in Camotán.

To learn more, email Mark Speake at *markspeake58@gmail.com*.

Christmas Joy Drive & Angel Tree

Help bring Christmas joy to children and families served by Misión Peniel in Immokalee! We'll set up our annual Angel Tree in Spencer Hall starting mid-November, decorated with gift tags representing local boys and girls (newborn to age 14).

How to Participate:

1. **Choose a Tag:** Select an Angel Tree tag indicating the child's age and gender. Sign the accompanying log sheet so our mission team can account for every child.
2. **Purchase a Gift:** Buy a new, unwrapped gift that matches the age-group recommendations below.
3. **Return by December 6:** Place your unwrapped donation in the provided gift bag, attach your Angel Tree tag securely, and place it beneath the tree in Spencer Hall by **Sunday, December 6**. We will deliver all gifts to Misión Peniel that week.

Gift Ideas by Age Group:

- **Ages 0–3:** Educational toys, Fisher-Price, LeapFrog, and VTech.
- **Ages 4–7:** Dolls, doll sets, and cars.
- **Ages 8–14:** STEM toys, LEGO sets, collectible surprise toys, science projects, and gift cards.

Tim Stover Visits Our Partner Church in Cuba

On October 2, Tim Stover traveled to Central Presbyterian, our partner church located in Matanzas, Cuba. This was Tim's second trip this year, with the first in April, about 5 months ago. He noted that what has been accomplished in a few short months is remarkable and includes:

1. New solar panels are up and running and have become an integral part of their ministry, providing power for water purification, refrigeration, electrical outlets, new

energy-efficient lighting, and air conditioning in portions of the church.

2. A newly renovated pastor's apartment with new plumbing, electrical, kitchen, and bathroom. This apartment provides housing for Pastor Adriana and accommodations for visiting guests. In what can only be described as exceptional Cuban creativity, much of the furniture was fabricated from shipping pallets.
3. The new electric scooter is charged by the new solar system. It provides transportation for Pastor Adriana and other church members in a city with almost no transportation options.

Tim also participated in the Cuba Partners Network conference held at the seminary in Matanzas. This annual event brought together church members from throughout the United States and Cuba who participate in similar mission partnerships.

Pastor Adriana continues to work tirelessly and remains greatly appreciative of the generosity from the members of First Presbyterian Church of Naples. Tim left knowing that "The visit was extremely encouraging and as a result of our continued partnership with Central Presbyterian of Matanzas, the people of this community suffering from a severe lack of resources can eat hot food, drink clean water, and have a life filled with hope, dignity and the love of Christ."

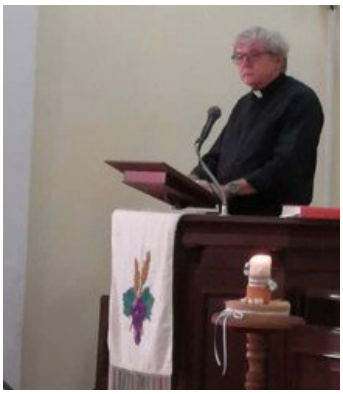
With blessings,

Scott Jacobs & Tim Stover











Pictured right (top to bottom): *Pastor Adriana (second from left) and church elders welcome guests under the new solar-powered A/C unit; the renovated pastor's apartment, furnished with pieces crafted from repurposed shipping pallets; Tim test-drives the new solar-charged electric scooter; Tim shares portions of the Sunday sermon message in Matanzas; new electrical distribution and solar equipment.*

Feed the 5,000

November 8, 2026

This month, we are helping to restock the food pantry of **Youth Haven**. Ushers will have a list available as you leave the sanctuary on the first Sunday of the month. Food donations will be collected at the 6th Street church entrance on the second Sunday of the month, November 8. If you prefer, monetary donations may be made online at ***fpcnaples.org/give*** by selecting "Give Now" and then "Feed 5000". Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with the memo marked "Feed the 5,000" and placed in the collection plate.

Suggested items include:

- Coffee & Sugar
- Dried Beans & Rice
- Chips & Crackers
- Pasta & Sauce
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Oatmeal & Cereal
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Condiments
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit

Mission Partner Spotlight: Lighthouse of Collier

In a recent newsletter, Lighthouse of Collier expressed deep appreciation for FPC Naples' recent $3,000 grant. These funds directly support their Adult Independent Living Program, helping local adults with vision loss learn adaptive skills, safe cooking techniques, and mobility strategies to navigate everyday life with confidence and independence.

DEACONS

Janet Yanushefski, Deacon Moderator, ***janetyanu@gmail.com***
Kathi Webber, Vice Moderator, ***krw2682@gmail.com***

Homebound Communion

Extending Christ's Love Beyond Our Church Walls

One of our Deacons' important responsibilities is to care for the members of each parish and help them stay connected to the life of our church. One meaningful way they fulfill this responsibility is by ensuring that those who cannot attend worship in person can still receive Holy Communion.

Ordained Deacons have the privilege of serving Communion to others. We encourage each of our Deacons to reach out to Homebound members of their parish who may be unable to attend church because of age, illness, limited mobility, transportation difficulties, or other circumstances. Deacons can ask whether they would like to receive Communion in their homes and offer to help arrange a visit.

Why Homebound Communion Matters

Homebound Communion is much more than bringing the elements of Communion to someone's home. It is an opportunity to:

- Build and maintain meaningful personal relationships with parishioners.
- Provide caring, personal contact for those who may be isolated or facing life's challenges.
- Remind members that they remain an important part of our church family, even when they can no longer attend worship or other church activities.
- Identify individuals who may benefit from additional visits, encouragement, or support.
- Answer questions about church life and help members stay informed and connected.
- Give Deacons an opportunity to serve God and others through a practical expression of Christ's love.
- Most importantly, bring the sacrament of Holy Communion to those who might otherwise be

unable to receive it, including on the same Sunday their congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper.

This ministry also complements the caring relationships developed through ministries such as Stephen Ministry, offering personal connection and spiritual encouragement without requiring someone to ask for help or explain the difficulties that prevent them from attending church.

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

The *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (USA), part of our church's constitution, describes the Lord's Supper in beautiful and meaningful terms. It is an expression of *thanksgiving to God, a sign of God's sustaining grace, an invitation into God's covenant, and a remembrance of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection*.

The *Book of Order* emphasizes these important teachings:

1. **Remembering Jesus Christ.** The bread and cup recall Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, his death, and the new covenant established through him.
2. **Receiving God's grace.** The sacrament is not merely a memorial or a human act of remembrance. It is a means through which Christ nourishes believers by the Holy Spirit.
3. **Giving thanks to God.** The congregation expresses gratitude for God's faithfulness, love, and saving work.
4. **Sharing in Christian fellowship.** Communion unites believers with Christ and with the Church throughout the world, including the faithful who have gone before us.
5. **Renewing our commitment.** Those who receive the bread and cup reaffirm their baptismal promises and renew their commitment to love and serve God, one another, and their neighbors.
6. **Looking forward to God's kingdom.** The Lord's Supper offers a foretaste of the heavenly banquet and the hope of Christ's coming kingdom.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) understands the Lord's Supper as both a remembrance of Jesus Christ and a present experience of God's grace through the Holy Spirit. It calls Christians to faith, gratitude, reconciliation, fellowship, and service. This is especially relevant because it addresses celebrating the Lord's Supper in settings such as ministry to the sick.

With this understanding, many of our current and former Deacons volunteer to serve members who cannot attend worship but still want a personal, meaningful experience of receiving the Lord's Supper.

The Homebound Communion Visit

Volunteers bring the Communion elements (blessed during the church service), along with a printed order of service for everyone to follow. The service includes Scripture and the sharing of the bread and cup, providing an opportunity for prayer, worship, and fellowship in the comfort of the recipient's home.

How to Arrange Homebound Communion

Deacons are encouraged to identify parish members who may wish to receive Homebound Communion. However, because circumstances change and some needs may not be apparent, all members and caregivers are also welcome to request a visit directly.

Through this ministry, we help ensure that physical limitations do not prevent members from experiencing the Sacrament, the comfort of worship, and the continuing love and care of their church family.

Anyone wishing to receive Communion at home, either regularly or as needed, should visit ***fpcnaples.org/homebound*** or contact Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership and Caring Ministries, at the church office at 239-262-1311. ***Please make arrangements by the Friday before Communion Sunday.***

Jack Marsh

Chair, Homebound Communion Team
In cooperation with David Witman and Gary Root

Community Blood Drive

November 2, 2026 | 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Our next blood drive, in partnership with the Community Blood Center (an affiliate of NCH), is scheduled for Monday, November 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sign-ups will be open during service on Sunday, November 1. Please visit the sign-up podium to reserve your arrival time, or contact Nancy Walken 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.

Church Tour

November 8, 2026 | ~11:00 a.m.

The Deacons invite you to a “Behind the Scenes” church tour on Sunday, November 8, following service. We will assemble at the front of the Sanctuary for a 30-minute campus tour.

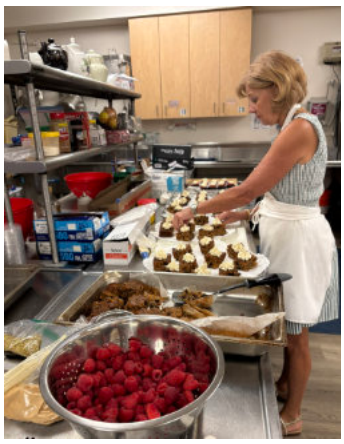
Annual Deacon Brunch: Thank You!

Thank you to our dedicated Deacons and volunteers for making our Annual Deacon Brunch such a wonderful success! Spencer Hall was filled with warm fellowship, delicious food, and joyful connection for members, seasonal returnees, and guests. We deeply appreciate everyone who helped organize, cook, decorate, serve, and clean up.

Pictured right: *From kitchen prep and serving lines to lively table conversations, our church family share fellowship during the brunch on Sunday, October 11.*













WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries

Aaron David Miller, Organ

November 6, 2026 | 7 p.m.



Admission: Free / A freewill offering will be received.

Aaron David Miller is a renowned organ improviser having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the country. Dr. Miller's performances have been heard on Pipe Dreams and numerous television programs. His orchestra works have been performed by such ensembles as the Seattle Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Zurich Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Recent compositions include works for Yale University and a Christmas recording by the Bach Chamber Players of St. Paul, MN. Dr. Miller was one of the featured artists at the National AGO convention held in Houston, TX in 2016. In addition to many performance prizes, Dr. Miller was recipient of the 2004 Hellenikon Idyllion Prize for Composition, Athens, Greece. He is Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. His concert will feature works by Bach, Weaver, Gigout and improvising.

Voices of Naples with Ave Maria University Concert & Chamber Choirs: *Generations of Song*

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*
Dr. Taylor Ferranti, *conductor*
Aaron Powers, *accompanist*

November 15, 2026 | 4 p.m.



Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door.
To order, call 239.293.0645.

Voices of Naples, a community chorus led by Dr. Brice Gerlach will be joined by Ave Maria University's Concert and Chamber Choirs in a concert called *Generations of Song*. The program has been crafted to highlight the mission of Voices of Naples, 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.
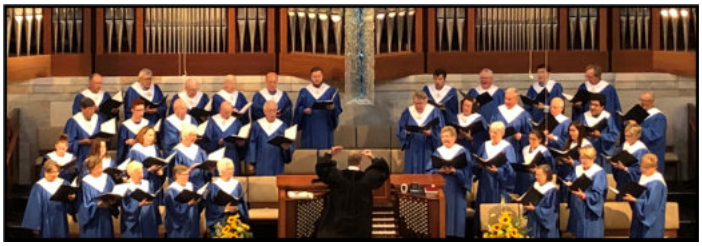
Dr. Gerlach is Artist in Residence at Ave Maria University where he teaches organ, conducting and conducts the Chamber Choir. He works closely with Dr. Taylor Ferranti and is thrilled to have the AMU choirs participate in this concert alongside the Voices of Naples. Each choir will be featured separately as well as combine into one large choir for your listening pleasure.

Works will include *Domine fili unigenite from Vivaldi's Gloria, Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal, He Watching Over Israel, Rutter's For the Beauty of the Earth*, and some popular favorites. Get your tickets soon. Order by calling the number above.

Chancel Choir Christmas Concert

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*

December 6 | 4 p.m.



Admission: Free / A freewill offering will be received.

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 Candlelight Carol by Rutter, Night of Silence by Daniel Kantor, and a beautiful arrangement of Silent Night by Dan Forrest.

Sing some of your favorite traditional carols such as O Come All Ye Faithful, The First Noel and Hark! the Herald Angels Sing. Come enjoy a beautiful concert with some of the most traditional and well-loved Christmas songs ever composed.

2026–2027 Concert Series

A Season of Music

Under the direction of Dr. Brice Gerlach, our 2026–2027 Season of Music features an extraordinary lineup of guest organists, choral collaborations, sacred masterworks, and festive seasonal concerts.

For the full season schedule, program details, and ticket information, pick up a printed brochure in the Sanctuary or Spencer Hall, scan the QR code below, or visit ***fpcnaples.org/music***.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Linda Ferrario, PW Co-Moderator, *lindaferrario44@gmail.com*
Martha Waddell-Gill, PW Co-Moderator, *mwadde001@gmail.com*

Our first Gathering this season will be a Book Exchange and Tea at 12 p.m. **Wednesday, November 4**, in Spencer Hall. There is no charge, but a sign-up sheet is available at the Presbyterian Women (PW) Table in Spencer Hall. If you have books you would like to exchange and take home some new ones, please bring them. Teapots will be at every table, along with lots of delicious food. We hope you will join us and bring a friend.

The national Thank Offering of Presbyterian

Women will be collected at this November Gathering. If you would like to contribute by check, please make it payable to "Presbyterian Women." This donation is forwarded to Louisville, our national headquarters, and beneficiaries are chosen through a grant process. PW is proud to support missions that further family stability, the welfare of women and children, education, and health concerns.

Bible Study books have been ordered for this coming season. Whether you are a member of a Circle does not matter. Everyone is invited. All Circles meet in the Church Parlor. Books will be $10 at the PW table in Spencer Hall.

The 2026–2027 Presbyterian Women (PW) / Horizons Bible study is titled *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*.

- Grace Circle – 9:30 a.m.
- Sunshine Circle – 11 a.m
- Lydia Circle – 1 p.m.

The PW Directory will be available November 4 and may be found in Spencer Hall. This year's directory contains information about Gatherings, Circles, Bible Study, Mission Work, PW activities such as Sew and Sews, Stamp Ministry, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Everyone is invited to pick one up.

At our first Coordinating Team Meeting on October 7, PW approved purchasing new tablecloths and two new tables for Spencer Hall. The team also approved a $500 gift to the Guatemalan mission project our church supports.

Moderator Linda Ferrario, Cindy Jones, and Betty Mangos represented FPC Naples at the Peace River Presbytery PW Annual Gathering on October 24 in Fort Myers.

Sew & Sews will meet **November 11** in Room 203, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You do not need to be a quilter or seamstress to help. A lot of the work is simply tying and trimming. Presently, Sew and Sews are making a quilt for each resident of the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance. So far, 48 have been distributed to these grateful families. A total of 107 have been completed. Come for all or part of the day. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

The Stamp Ministry is ongoing. Please save your stamps, postmarked or new, trimmed or not. This organization purchases Sunday School materials in Spanish and English. If you want to know more, call Cindy Jones at 239-961-7955.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

David Witman, Co-Coordinator, *dpwitman@hotmail.com*
Saralene Oldham, Co-Coordinator, *osaralene@gmail.com*

A large part of what Stephen Ministers do is form confidential, spiritual relationships with aging people among us. We listen nonjudgmentally to concerns, fears, and uncertainty, as Jesus listened to so many people and comforted them during his all-too-short ministry on Earth. I came across a wonderful online article, entitled *A Christian Perspective on Aging, Roles, and Identity*, by Ron Messner, a Christian Counselor, and I have excerpted parts of it below in the hope that it might awaken awareness of a Christian way of looking at aging. This is only a small portion of the article, and if anyone is interested, I can send you the full seven-page article. In many ways, these are central to Stephen Ministry. If you want the full article, or want to learn more about Stephen Ministry, please email me at ***dpwitman@hotmail.com***.

David Witman

Excerpts from A Christian Perspective on Aging, Roles, and Identity

By Ron Messner, Christian Counselor

A Christian account of aging must hold together two truths: our life as humans is time limited and our time with God is infinite. Our days are limited, and life is fleeting (*Psalm 90*), yet our lives are hidden with Christ in God and destined for glory (*Colossians 3:3-4*). This tension between fragility and promise shapes Christian identity in every season and becomes especially vivid in later years. Consequently, the church is

Continued on next page

called to resist ageism, cultivate intergenerational belonging, and empower older adults to exercise Spirit-enabled gifts that build up the community (*1 Corinthians 12*).

Within a Christian worldview, aging is more than chronology; it is a school of Christlike formation. Scripture repeatedly emphasizes that later life can be a time of deepened faith, increased wisdom, and continued fruitfulness. *Psalm 92:14* affirms that the righteous "*shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing*." This image challenges the assumption that aging depletes spiritual vitality. Rather, dependence on God often intensifies, cultivating patience, gratitude, and hope—virtues that are not accidental byproducts but the fruit of long obedience.

Christian teaching reframes aging as preparation for glory. While *Hebrews 9:27* names life's limited time, *1 Corinthians 15* proclaims bodily resurrection: the perishable will put on the imperishable. The nearness of eternity invites older adults to practice detachment from lesser goods and attachment to the love of God, re-prioritizing prayer, reconciliation, and generosity. In this way, aging becomes a pilgrimage in hope. The "outer self" may diminish, but the inner life can become more full, hospitable, and Christ-like.

Human roles shift across the lifespan. Early and mid-adulthood often center on building households, vocations, and civic responsibilities. Later adulthood frequently entails relinquishing certain roles due to retirement, caregiving needs, or physical limitations. Such transitions can provoke grief and identity questions. Yet Christian discipleship interprets these shifts through vocation: God calls His people in every season, though the forms of service may change.

A key reorientation is the move from productivity to presence. Older adults may mentor rather than manage, intercede rather than "execute," and model faithfulness more than speed. *Titus 2:2–5* envisions older men and women as teachers and examples whose steady character, temperance, soundness in faith, love, and endurance nurture younger believers. Presence, prayer, and wisdom become primary gifts. In a culture that prizes output, the church must celebrate these quieter, essential ministries. Seniors become the pillars that support the church.

Within families, roles can invert as adult children honor and care for parents (*Exodus 20:12*; *Mark 7:9–13*). This sharing witnesses to the gospel's ethic of self-giving love. Far from signaling obsolescence, receiving care can itself be a Christlike vocation, an opportunity to practice humility, gratitude, and trust, thereby edifying caregivers and the wider community. Grandparenting and other senior family roles, become a distinctive ministry of delight, blessing, and spiritual teaching (*Proverbs 17:6*), weaving biblical memory and family identity across generations.

A faithful theology of aging must also reckon with suffering: chronic illness, cognitive decline, bereavement, loneliness, and economic vulnerability. Scripture gives language for lament (e.g., *Psalms 6, 13, 42*), encouraging believers to bring grief and fear honestly before God. Jesus' ministry dignifies the frail and marginalized, and His church is called to embrace the same compassion through presence, prayer, sacraments, and practical care (*James 1:27*). Consequently, the community must resist pressures based on usefulness that marginalize the elderly or equate worth with independence.

For most people there is a strong ethic of independence. We see it in toddlers when they first say, "I do it!". This serves us well in most roles in life and is therefore hard to relinquish when we need the assistance of others or even the assistance of devices. It is helpful if we can reflect on the value we brought to others when we were younger and more capable. It may prepare us to become the recipients of assistance. It is also important to have open conversations with our care givers (children or others) about the challenge of needing assistance and to remember the blessing we felt when we were able to assist others. For many people it is helpful to recognize the blessing that

others can receive when we need them and give them the opportunity to be the giver.

There is no easy way to lose abilities, independence, loved ones, financial independence, etc. It is natural to want to challenge God, and Scripture is clear that God is able to accept our "lament". Grief is meant to be expressed. It is also helpful to share it. There are often people around us who are ready to listen and share the grief, but we are reluctant to appear needy, so we resist it. As we go through the process of grieving, we need to accept that hurt is sometimes intense. We also need to accept that God is a master healer. He will meet us in our loss, but he will also bring relief in time. Time doesn't remove the loss, but it allows us to be reflective, and as we reflect, we can appreciate the blessing we had in that relationship or exercising the gifts God gave us. We need to acknowledge that life is finite and if we had joy in relationships and serving it is natural in this fallen world that we will love this blessing. Being open with others can be helpful in moving to a place of contemplation and appreciation for the blessings we had.

Ultimately, aging is not a slow eclipse of meaning but a pilgrimage toward glory. The outer self may waste away, yet the inner self is renewed day by day (*2 Corinthians 4:16*). In this light, the people of God can embrace aging with courage, dignity, and joy—bearing fruit in old age, commending God's works to the next generation, and awaiting the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

INTERGENERATIONAL CE

Teresa Doane, Committee Chair, *twdoane@hotmail.com*
Nancy Van Fleet, Dir. Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Practicing Community Together

This past month has brought new opportunities to gather, connect, and grow in faith. We launched our GenWE service, hosted Parents' Night Out, and held our amazing Fall Festival/ Trunk or Treat, organized by Ashley Henning, while continuing to keep community at the heart of what we do.

As you may know, we are participating in the Raising Faithful Kids Project, a grant-supported initiative through Vibrant Faith. This project invites us to reimagine the connection between worship at church and faith at home. Research continues to affirm that parents are the primary influencers of their children's faith, while churches play a vital role in modeling and reinforcing a life centered on Jesus. When churches and families work together, we can create shared experiences that help children and parents encounter and practice faith throughout the week.

One way we're helping equip parents as faith formers is through our Sacred Seasons boxes. More than 50 families signed up for our fall offering, lovingly put together and inspired by Lizzy Carter (our Assistant for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries). The boxes offer families a way to make space for faith at home. Another round will be available at the beginning of Advent, so if you know a family—or have grandchildren—who might enjoy one, please sign up for an Advent box.

Our youth group continues to grow, too. Twice a month, 24 young people join us for *Who Do You Say I Am?*, a curriculum exploring identity, community, and faith. It's inspiring to see youth raise their hands to pray and discover a safe place to ask questions about faith.

Through each of these gatherings and resources, we're grateful for the chance to nurture faith together—at church, at home, and in the community we share.

Our theme this past month was "community". Community isn't something we achieve once; it's something we practice again and again. We continue to invite you to look around for someone you don't know well. Ask their name. Ask, "What's one thing you love about God?" Take time to engage with our children and families.

The church is one of the few places where up to five generations can gather under one roof. We may often be separated by age, but we have an

Continued on next page

opportunity to build relationships across generations. Above all, we want our children to know they matter, belong, and are cared for. As a congregation, we can do that work together.

If you have questions about our grant work or family ministries, please reach out. I thank God every day for this congregation and for the gift of being together in this moment, for such a time as this.

Blessings, peace, and every good,

Nancy Van Fleet

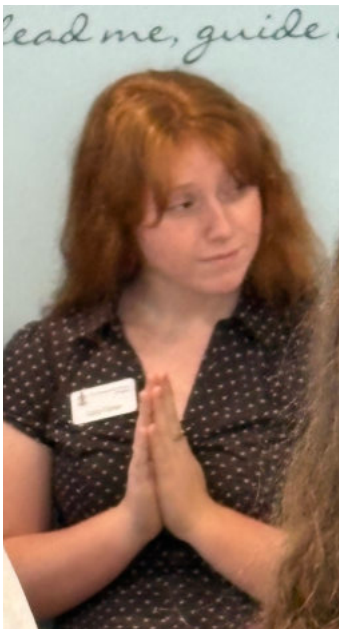
Pictured: *Practicing community across generations—moments of worship, prayer, and fellowship from our new GenWE service, Youth Group gatherings, Sunday morning connections, and evenings of fun at Parents' Night Out.*















Coffee with Katherine: *Parenting in Real Life*

November 18, 2026 | 9 - 10 a.m.

Join licensed professional school counselor Katherine Walters in Spencer Hall from 9 to 10 a.m. for practical tools to raise capable kids and create calmer homes. This session covers "Big feelings, tough moments"—focusing on emotional regulation, meltdowns, frustration, and behavior.

Faith Formation & Groups

Women's Ministry Bible Study
Mondays | 1 p.m. | Parlor

All women are invited to join us weekly as we covenant together and delve into God's Word. For more information, email Janeen McClure at *jrmc@airmcclure.com*.

Adult Sunday School: *Preparing the Way*
Sundays | 9 a.m. | Chapel

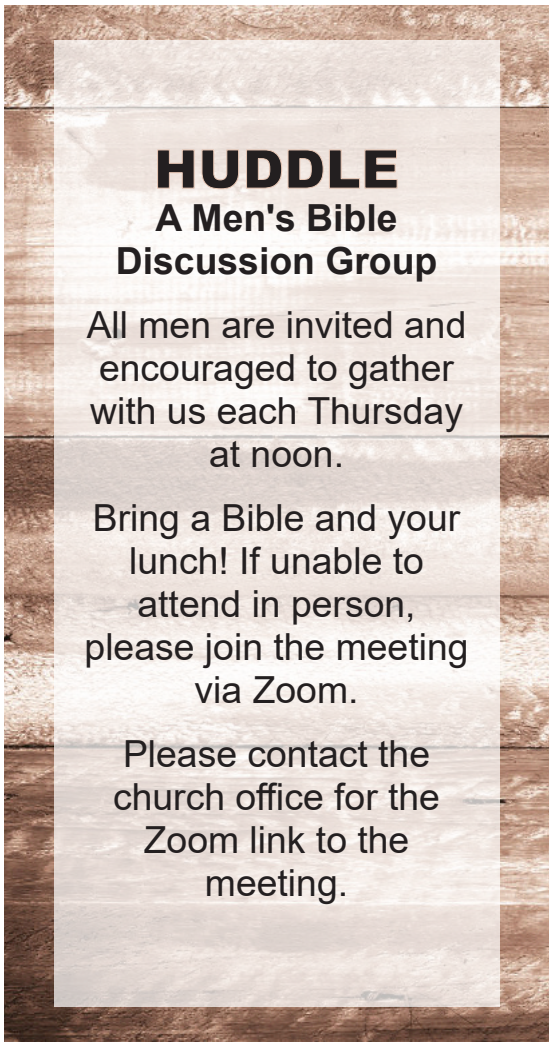
Join Rev. Rex Childs each Sunday to explore the New Testament reading for that morning's sermon. To receive an advance email notification of which passages will be discussed, contact Rev. Childs directly, or check our Thursday e-blast.

Youth Group
2nd & 4th Wednesdays | 4 – 5:30 p.m. | 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
4th Sunday of the Month | 12 p.m. | Youth Room & Zoom

Join us 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.



Wednesday Morning Men: Faith and Fellowship

Gather with us for coffee, pastries, and fellowship on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the Youth Room.

November Dates | 8 a.m.

November 4

November 18

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

Evenings at First

- **Wednesday, November 4**
  Dinner: 5 p.m. ($20) • Presentation: 6 p.m.
  Theologian Douglas F. Ottati, Craig Family Distinguished Professor of Reformed Theology and Justice emeritus at Davidson College and author of eight books, presents "*We Belong to the God of Grace*." The presentation is free and open to all; **reservation is required for dinner only**.
- **Friday, November 6 (7 p.m.)**
  Organist & Composer Aaron David Miller, presented jointly with *A Season of Music* (freewill offering; no dinner). For full details, see page 11 under "Worship & Music".
- **Wednesday, November 11**
  Dinner: 5 p.m. ($20) • Presentation: 6 p.m.
  Author, speaker, and spiritual director Brian Plachta presents "*The Power of Stillness: How to Quiet the Noise and Hear God's Voice*," exploring practical tools to quiet daily distractions and experience God's presence. The presentation is free and open to all; **reservation is required for dinner only**.
- **Wednesday, November 18**
  International bestselling mystery author Jeffery Deaver, presented in partnership with Books on Third. Program and registration details will be announced soon.

Reservations & Details: Presentations on November 4 and 11 are free and open to all; advance reservation is required strictly for the 5:00 p.m. dinners. Dinners are $20 per person, payable by cash or check at the door. November 6 concert RSVPs are optional but appreciated. Reserve online at ***fpcnaples.org/events*** (preferred) or scan the QR code below, sign up in Spencer Hall, or call the church office.

PRESCHOOL

Teresa Doane, Preschool Committee Chair, *twdoane@hotmail.com*
Delia Buckley, Preschool Director

The children and staff of First Presbyterian Preschool are excited to celebrate the season of gratitude with our annual Family Thanksgiving Lunch on **Friday, November 20**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Spencer Hall.

This special gathering gives our preschool families an opportunity to share a meal together, reflect on God's many blessings, and celebrate the joy of community. Throughout the month, our children will be learning about thankfulness, kindness, and caring for others as they prepare for this meaningful event.

We are also deeply grateful for the incredible support shown during our recent Fall Festival. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, donated items, attended the event, and participated in our Silent Auction. In addition, thank you to everyone who dined out for our California Pizza Kitchen spirit night, which raised $339.69 for our Preschool Angel Fund! Your generosity helps provide tuition assistance and support for families in our preschool community, reflecting Christ's love in a tangible way. We are blessed to be part of such a caring and giving church family.

Thank you for helping us nurture young hearts and minds as we grow and learn with joy!

> *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." – Psalm 107:1*

Delia Buckley

Pictured: *Rev. Rex Childs and attendees browse and place bids during the Fall Festival Silent Auction in support of our Preschool Angel Fund.*



CARING MINISTRIES

Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Caring Ministry and Membership
Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow, Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

Caregivers and Care Receivers Support Groups

November 8, 2026 | 11:15 a.m.

The *Journey to the Heart* caregivers support group, led by the Alzheimer's Support Network, will meet on Sunday, November 8 in the Parlor after the service.

Our loved ones will gather for the *Circle of Grace* care receivers support group in the Chapel, led by Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership and Caring Ministries. Lunch will be provided in the chapel beginning at 11:15 a.m.

For more information, contact Susan Pratt.

F. Michael Bennett Memorial Service

November 7, 2026 | 11 a.m.



A memorial service and celebration of the life of F. Michael Bennett will be held on Saturday, November 7 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

A reception will follow in Spencer Hall.

CHURCH NEWS

Poinsettia Dedications



Honor or remember a loved one this Christmas season through our annual Poinsettia Dedications. Your contributions help adorn our Sanctuary and Chancel with vibrant poinsettias throughout Advent and Christmas Eve.

Dedications will open later this month at ***fpcnaples.org***. Stay tuned for updates in the Sunday bulletin and our weekly e-blast.

Hanging of the Greens

November 30, 2026 | 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join us on Monday, November 30 at 9 a.m. to make our Sanctuary, Narthex, and outdoors beautiful!

You can sit and fluff bows, fluff the Christmas tree, hang garland inside or outside, and do many other fun things.

Contact Director of Facilities Jeff Newman if you can help or look for the sign-up sheet in Spencer Hall later this month. Many hands make light work!

Interested in Playing Bridge?

Are you interested in playing social bridge with church friends and fellow members?

A sign-up sheet and brief interest survey are available in Spencer Hall through Sunday, November 8. Please stop by to indicate your availability and playing preferences. Organizers Lela Holbert and Karen Parker will reach out to all respondents the week of November 9.

Blessing of the Pets

On Saturday, October 3, more than ten canine companions and their families gathered at FPC Naples for our outdoor Blessing of the Pets service. Rev. Rex Childs shared scripture, offered prayers of thanksgiving, and gave individual blessings to each four-legged member of our church family.








Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat

A passing shower didn't dampen spirits on Friday, October 16, as church and preschool families gathered for our annual Fall Festival. Attendees enjoyed creatively themed trunks, visits with the Naples Fire and Police departments, and an evening of food, fellowship, and silent auction bidding.













MEMBERSHIP

Chris Horsman, Membership Chair, *cmhorsman@gmail.com* • Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership/Congregational Care

Please Welcome Our Newest Members | September 2026



Mary Ann Bohannon



Cynthia Collins



Sonia and Scott Dudas



Beth and Jim Fitzgerald



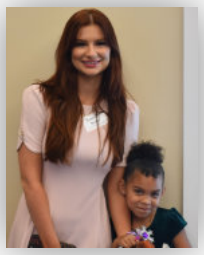
Chuck and Sherrill Hoover



Blakely, Brooke, Cole, and Jason Mitchell



Julia Rice



Kennedy Rieder and Vivian Nunn



Molly Singerling



Julia Van Fleet



Heidi and Johnny Varsames



November 1
*Jeff Newman

November 3
Carol Ellis

November 4
Scott Macdonough
Web Barron
Robin Garber, Jr.

November 6
Michele Hunt

November 8
Pam Walker
Carol Georgieff
Nancy Jordan

November 9
Polly Huston
Elizabeth Harrington
Robert Price

November 10
Lois Miller
Judy Meyniel

November 11
Ken Martin
Kim Shoellhorn Garnick
Sally Melcher

November 12
Marilyn Holt
Bill McClayton
Mary Lou Garrity

November 13
Pat Stevens
Christine Voncanon

November 14
Berne Barton

November 16
Bob Strohaver

November 18
Pat Gerding
Ed Miller
Kitty Wildman

November 19
Jack Myers
Bob Rath

November 21
Barb Davis
Dorie Tichenor
Joan Norris

November 22
Sherry Hoffman

November 23
Jane Rogers
Toni Price
Jimene Rinehart
*Rex Childs

November 24
Wendy Simpson
Brenda Brode

November 26
Kristin Fox

November 27
Doug Gibbens
Marie Brodmerkel

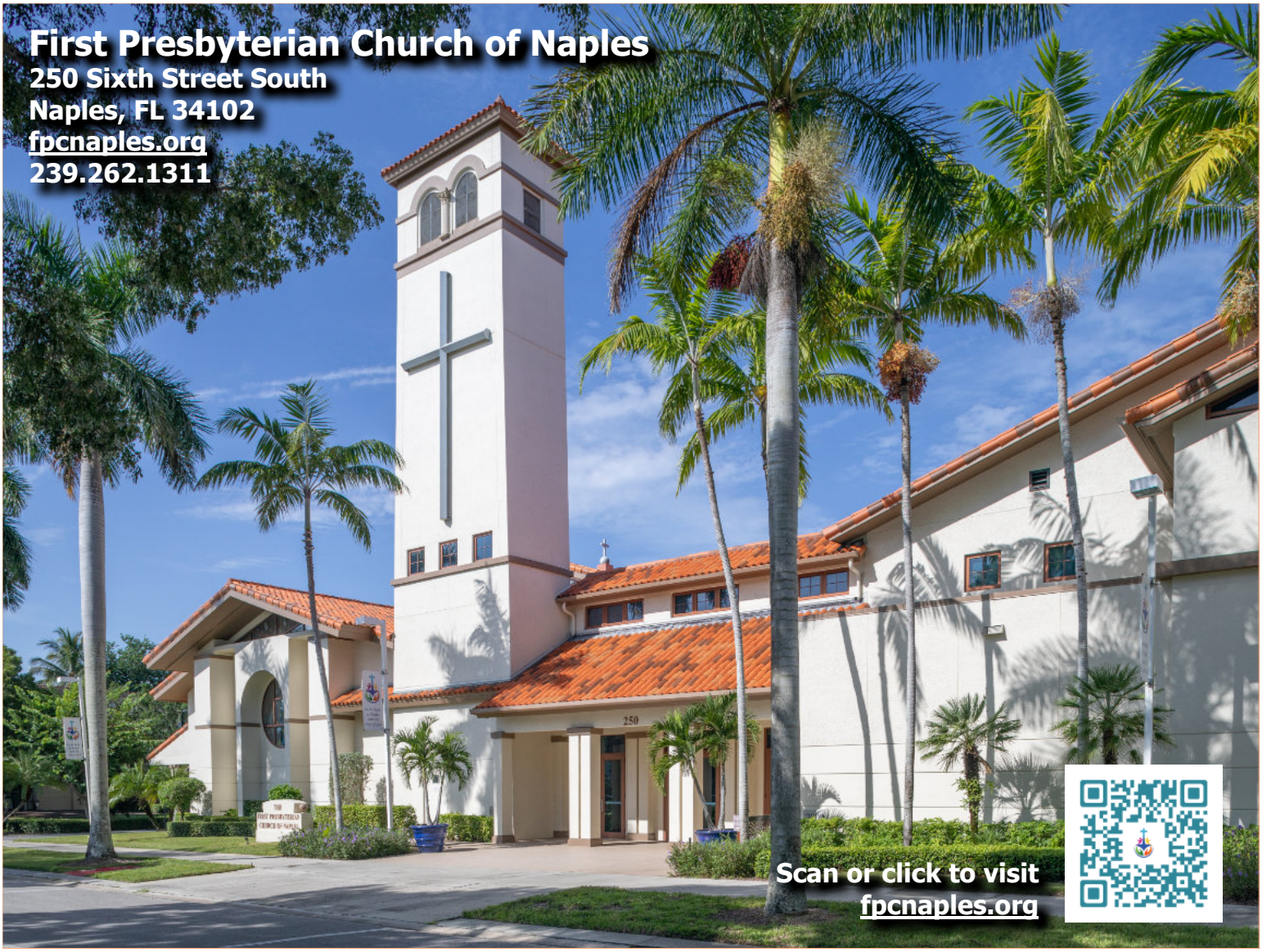
November 28
Eloise Ingram

November 29
Marti Beard
Eve Jehle

November 30
Harold Stuckey
CJ Cartwright

staff member




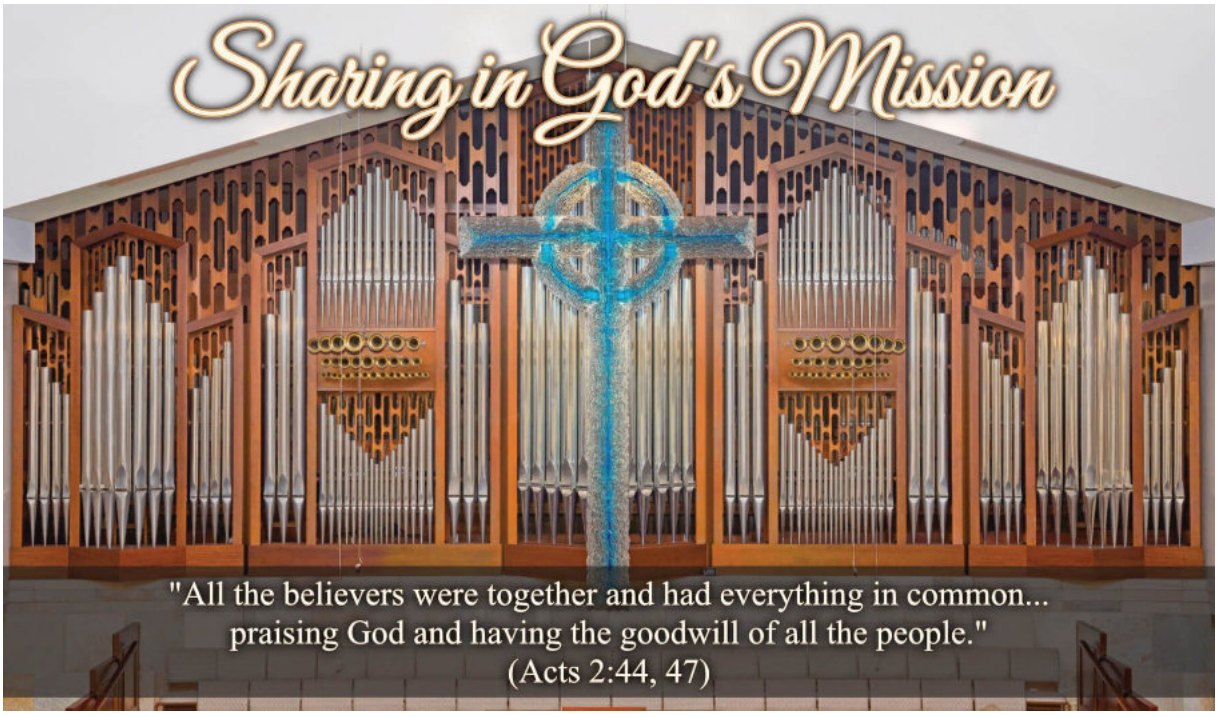
Commitment Sunday is Sunday, November 15 | Join us in worship as we dedicate our 2027 pledges! Bring your completed pledge card to the service or submit online at ***fpcnaples.org/stewardship***.

