



First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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

Outreach

October 2026



Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow (left) and Rev. Rex Childs (right) lead worship from the chancel during Communion Sunday.

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FROM THE PULPIT

October 4 | GenWE World Communion Sunday

Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

October 11

Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

October 18

Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

October 25 | Kirkin' O' the Tartan Reformation Sunday

Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

Outreach Submissions

To allow adequate time for publication development, please email completed articles to publications@fpcnaples.org by the **10th of the month** prior (final cutoff: **15th**). Submissions received after the 15th cannot be included in the upcoming issue.

Articles should arrive proofread; all submissions are subject to edits. Upload high-res photos to fpcnaples.org/uploads.

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Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

As I've expressed in worship and in my weekly email messages, thank you for the welcome you have extended to my family and me. After so much anticipation and

excitement, alongside the work that goes into a move, it is wonderful to begin in ministry here "in the heart of Naples." We are settling into life in Naples and, most importantly, are finding a home at First Presbyterian Church. It is a joy to be among you, and I am excited to become deeply involved in this community and church.

Each Sunday, I feel honored to sit in the chancel beneath that gorgeous cerulean cross and look out at a sanctuary full of people who feel God working in their lives through the worship and ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Over the course of my first month, I have been impressed by your sincere desire to know Jesus Christ more deeply and to extend Christ's welcome to everyone who visits and seeks to find a place at First Presbyterian Church.

At our most recent Discover First Presbyterian, a class for those interested in learning more about Christianity and membership, I was greatly pleased that 17 people were in attendance. It is incredibly meaningful that these people have felt God at work in their lives through the worship and ministries of FPC. As each participant shared what drew them to First Presbyterian Church, it was meaningful to hear the many different reasons people feel drawn to our church. I am excited to amplify these themes as we continue to ask how God might be using First Presbyterian Church to provide more and more glimpses of God's coming kingdom in the world.

Worship is the heart of who we are, and this month we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and All Saints Sunday. On World Communion Sunday, October 4, we will acknowledge that while there are many local

expressions of faith, we are part of the body of Christ that stretches around the globe. As Scripture and liturgy are spoken in different languages, we are reminded that the same Spirit draws us together in worship of the one true God. We are united not by our sameness, but by our common faith in Jesus Christ. Then, on All Saints Sunday, October 11, we will not simply remember, but celebrate those who have gone before us in the faith, whose lives and legacies have shaped us and contributed to our faith.

While serving at St. Giles' Cathedral, Rev. Gilleasbuig Macmillan said on several occasions, "We worship in a building we did not build, we recite creeds we did not write, and we sing hymns we did not compose." Indeed, at First Presbyterian Church, we continue to build on the foundations that have been laid for us. As I begin in ministry with you, and as we get ready to embark upon First Presbyterian Church's 75th Anniversary, I am grateful for the generations before me who have helped make First Presbyterian Church what it is today. I am also excited about what God is doing among and through us today and in years ahead.

Whether we are gathered around the Communion table in our sanctuary acknowledging Christians around the world or standing beside the fountain of our Columbarium remembering those who have come before us, may we remember that we are part of the body of Christ, a great cloud of witnesses.

In Christ,

Dr. Aaron Janklow
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

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



Fall Financial Update

Fall is here, and we are so excited to see you all and show you what we've been up to here at First Presbyterian Church! It is great to see new faces, as well as those returning. Get ready to enjoy our Wednesday night speakers and Fall Festival! Our new Pastor, Aaron, is here, and we are eager for you to meet him and his family if you haven't already.

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

We have a YTD shortfall of \$66k through the end of August. YTD Offerings are unfavorable compared to the same time last year by \$41k. YTD offerings are unfavorable to budget by \$278k, which we straight-line. Total Revenue is unfavorable by \$19k vs. YTD 2025. This is mostly driven by a decrease in Offerings of \$41k, partially offset by favorability of \$12k in Preschool revenue and \$9k favorability in Other Revenue. YTD expenses are favorable to budget by \$218k due to tight expense control and the straight-line expense budget. YTD Expenses are about \$25k higher than YTD 2025.

Please continue to live stream our services, leave comments, and stay in touch with us. If you can't attend Sunday services, please view our livestream or watch at your convenience on our website, Facebook page, or YouTube channel! 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
August 31, 2026**

	B			A	B - A
	YTD Actuals 2026	YTD Budget 2026	Annual Budget 2026	YTD Actuals 2025	YTD Actuals 2026 vs. 2025
Income					
Offerings	1,254,974	1,533,333	2,300,000	1,295,475	(40,501)
Preschool	391,580	384,533	576,800	378,735	12,845
Other	35,049	26,653	39,980	25,979	9,070
Budgeted Endowment Transfers ¹	300,000	266,667	400,000	300,000	0
Total Income	1,981,603	2,211,187	3,316,780	2,000,189	(18,586)
Total Expenses	2,047,338	2,265,646	3,398,470	2,041,214	6,124
Net Operating Income (Shortfall)	(65,734)	(54,459)	(81,690)	(41,025)	(24,710)

MISSIONS

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

Mission Update: Medical Supplies in Matanzas, Cuba

On Sunday, August 2, a shipment of medications sent from First Presbyterian of Naples arrived at our partner church, Central Presbyterian of Matanzas, Cuba. This is the second shipment this year, and our Naples-based shipping company arranged front-door delivery to the church. Pastor Adriana sent the following text to me on the day the shipment arrived:

"Dear family of faith. We appreciate everything you do for our church. The session has opened the medications today, Sunday, and they have begun to be distributed to those who need it. We appreciate all the investment so that these medicines reach us in Cuba. Many sick people will benefit. May God always multiply your generosity and bless us all."

Ask anyone who has recently visited Cuba, and they will tell you that the need for these important medications is greater than ever. First Presbyterian Church of Naples continues to support our partner church and its mission in Matanzas with commitment and generosity.

With blessings,

Scott Jacobs

Pictured right: Members of Central Presbyterian Church in Matanzas, Cuba, receive, unpack, and sort the shipment of essential medications delivered from First Presbyterian Church of Naples.



Guatemala Mission Trip • December 5–13

Join our December trip to Camotán, Guatemala, to serve alongside the medical team and help deliver Christmas food and gifts to village children. Trip participants and project donations are both needed. Reach Mark Speake after worship, call/text 570.490.3681, or email markspeake58@gmail.com.

Feed the 5,000

October 11, 2026



This month, we are helping to restock the food pantry of **Helps Outreach**. 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, October 11. 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



DEACONS

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

Annual Deacon Brunch

October 11, 2026 | 11 a.m.

Join us on Sunday, October 11, following the 10 a.m. service for a delicious brunch hosted by your church Deacons.

Volunteers are greatly appreciated. Contact Sylvia Marsh at 239.682.1113 to find out how you can help.

Pictured below: Congregants and deacons share food and fellowship around the tables (top, middle); church members enjoy the buffet spread (bottom left); kitchen volunteers prep fresh fruit (bottom right).





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Linda Ferrario, PW Co-Moderator, lindaferriario44@gmail.com
 Martha Waddell-Gill, PW Co-Moderator, mwaddel001@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women Directory



The 2026-2027 Presbyterian Women (PW) Directory will be available in Spencer Hall at the PW Table in October. There is no charge, and we welcome everyone to take a copy whether you are active in PW or not. The directory includes information about activities, events, programs, mission work, and meetings; it also has contact information and lots of pictures (scrapbook-style) of happy faces you will recognize and will surely want to see.

Presbyterian Women would also like to thank the wonderful volunteers who helped serve at the Hospitality table this summer—the Palms Society, our Circles, Karen and Roy Parker, Betty Plum, Barbara Collins, Pat Collins, Saralene Oldham, members of our church staff, Sylvia Marsh, Jan Gammons, and WOW (Women of the Way Bible Study group). The homemade treats were delicious!

PW also continues to support the Stamp Ministry group at Shell Point in Ft. Myers. This organization has contributed millions of dollars to Sunday School programs for 40 different denominations in Spanish-speaking countries through stamp sales. We accept all stamps, old and new. Postmarked stamps are OK. Stamps need to be trimmed, leaving a border around them 1/4 to 1/3 inch, but we accept untrimmed stamps, even stamps off the paper. Save your stamps, look for the collection box on the PW Table in Spencer Hall, and join us in this very worthwhile mission work.

Prayer shawls will continue to be knitted, and quilting will resume with Sew & Sews on October 14. See the Sew & Sews article below for details. Anyone is welcome to join in this mission work.

These are wonderful gifts to those in our congregation and friends who need comfort (prayer shawls) and to the new residents of Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (quilts). Both projects remind us that it is “Our Hands, God’s Work.”

The Presbyterian Women’s organization warmly welcomes our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow. We are very happy you are here and look forward to working with you.

Tea and Book Exchange

November 4, 2026 | 10 a.m.



Admission is 3 books that you would like to pass along. Pick one of your favorites to share with your table after a light lunch and tea. There will be plenty of delicious food, and no charge or reservation is required. This is a casual time to meet, share with others, and pick up some recommended books for yourself. We hope you will join us.

Sew & Sews

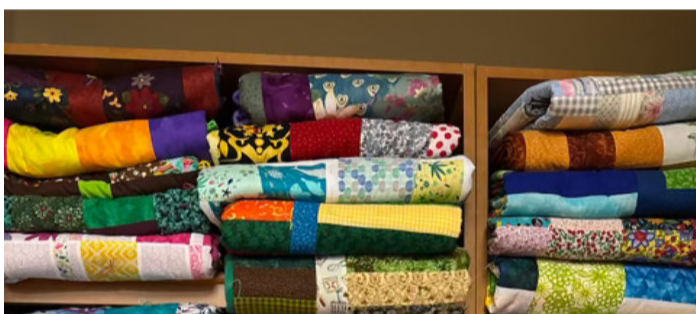
First Presbyterian Church of Naples has a group called Sew & Sews that meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 203. The church sewing fellowship offers fellowship, mental wellness, and charitable outreach. You may say, “That’s not for me; I don’t sew, haven’t sewn in years, or can’t sew at all.” We welcome you to join us. There is plenty you can help with.

Currently, we are making quilts for each family that moves into safe, affordable housing being built through the Immokalee Fair Housing

Continued on next page

Alliance. This means we have committed to making 128 quilts for each of the two phases of this project. If you don't know about this initiative, visit immokaleefairhousing.org/about to learn more about this worthy cause our church and so many others support.

The Sew & Sews transform the traditional craft of sewing into a meaningful ministry that impacts you as a participant and the wider community.



Pictured above: Sew & Sews volunteers assemble quilt tops (top) and stack finished quilts destined for Immokalee families (bottom).

When we gather, it connects older, experienced mentors with younger generations. If you want to learn to sew or brush up on your skills, our ladies can mentor you. We welcome all skill levels, from master sewers to absolute beginners. Our time together provides a relaxed space for meaningful conversation and mutual support. Sewing offers a therapeutic, rhythmic activity that can reduce anxiety, and this group turns a personal hobby into active worship and service.

There are many ways to get involved, regardless of your crafting experience. We have plenty of fabric that needs:

- Sorting by color
- Ironing
- Cutting into simple, usable pieces
- Sewing quilt tops (at church or at home)
- Tying fleece knots to assemble finished quilts

Whether you are an experienced seamstress or have never threaded a needle, there is a place for you. We have sewing machines available at the church, or you can take a pre-cut kit home to sew at your own pace. If you prefer not to sew, tying fleece knots requires no sewing—we will handle the threading while you knot and trim.

Stop by and join us for all or part of our time together. We pack our lunch and break around noontime. You are welcome to just come have lunch with us and hang out. Join us as we steward our God-given creativity to bring beauty into these families' homes.

Our October meeting dates are October 14 and October 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 203.

Jan Witman



STEPHEN MINISTRY

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

The Purpose and Function of Stephen Ministry

is to provide spiritual care to those who are struggling with temporary hardships and challenges in life. At these times, it is not uncommon for us to fail to acknowledge God's presence, even though these are the times when we need God most. We become distracted by these hardships, and the spiritual care given by Stephen Ministers is designed to help people see through these distractions and find the comfort and healing only God can provide.

Regularly engaging in spiritual practices is a wonderful way to focus on God's presence in our lives. On the next page, please find an insightful piece which may help us find the Grace and Peace we are seeking.

David Witman

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Adapted from Today Daily Devotional

Originally published as “How to Make Devotional Time” by Kaitlin Kamp, ReFrame Ministries. The original article can be viewed at todaydevotional.com.

Making time for personal devotions and getting into the habit of daily devotions are perennial challenges for any follower of Jesus. If morning is the time you feel most “with it” and energized—that’s the time to give to God. It’s easy to make personal devotions just another to-do item on your list: “Okay, I gotta read so many chapters of the Bible, pray for at least this long, and write this much in my journal.” However, it’s important to remember that devotions are more about purpose than a specific process. Romans 14:1-9 suggests that the mode of personal devotions is really a matter of conviction. What might work well for one person may not suit another. The point of devotions is not to check-off a list, but to be with God.

Devotions are about inviting God’s presence into your day. You might sit quietly, with a steaming cup of coffee, to watch the sunrise, sharing the experience with God. Perhaps you choose to wake up by reading a spiritually evocative book. If so, ask God to join in and enlighten you. Maybe the quietness of your pre-sunrise household allows you to better heed the Spirit’s leading as you read God’s Word. If you need some structure, a daily devotion from a regular source or sources gets you into God’s Word, helps you reflect on his presence in your day-to-day life, and leads you into prayer. Don’t rush. Let your morning devotions take as long as is needed.

While a habit of daily devotions is good, it’s more important to let God take the lead each and every time. Habits can be so...habitual. We just want to do the same thing again and again, as though we are following an unalterable formula. We lose sight of the purpose: to actually spend time with God. When we ask God to direct our devotions each morning, we give God the lead to set a whole different tone for the day ahead. If you’re anything like me, the issues confronting the day riot through your mind from the first

moment you wake. This “noise” really hinders our ability to put the Lord first. Some sound advice I’ve heard before is to write down the thoughts that are cluttering my mind and lift them in prayer. This way, I surrender the agenda and my mind-space to God. When we let God set the agenda in those moments, his agenda becomes the foundation for the day. Early-morning devotional time lets you get ahead of everything else, and allows you to submit it all to the Lord.

Early-morning devotions give you the chance to turn the whole day over to the Lord. If you’re a morning person, you can give God your best energy. Even if you don’t care much for the morning, acknowledging God first thing, and asking him what he wants to do equips you to deal with the day’s challenges on a more solid footing.

**INTERGENERATIONAL CE**

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

A Wonderful Start to September

September has been a wonderful month as we continue launching our programs and ministries for the year ahead. We began chapel with our preschool children and our weekly Wednesday morning coffee hours with preschool families. These gatherings have already offered meaningful opportunities for connection, conversation, and community. We also began Youth Group and were delighted to welcome many new faces into this special time together. It is an incredible gift to have our children, youth, and young adults in our midst, ministering to us in beautiful and meaningful ways.

We were also grateful to welcome the Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow to our church, and we celebrated a beautiful blessing for Pastor Aaron and his family—his wife, Laurel, and daughters, Lyla and Hannah—presented by Nicholas Stewart:

"Loving God, we thank you for bringing Pastor Aaron, Laurel, Lyla, and Hannah into our church family. Bless the path that has

Continued on next page

brought him here and bless the road that lies ahead. May this church home be filled with welcome, laughter, rest, and peace.

Give Pastor Aaron a listening heart, gentle wisdom, and courage for each new day. Help him to notice the quiet voices, to rejoice with those who rejoice, and walk with those who are hurting. Help us be a faithful church that offers him kindness, patience, prayers, and friendship.

May we grow together in faith, discover your love in one another, and become a place where every child, family, and person knows they belong. Surround Pastor Aaron and his family in your light, guide them in your peace, and let joy meet them along the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

We are excited to share a few staff updates as well. Ashley Henning has transitioned into the role of Administrative and Technology Assistant for the church. While this means she will no longer join us on Sundays, we are thankful for her continued gifts and service in our church office.

Please also join us in welcoming three wonderful new members of our Children's Ministry team:

- Nancy Brooks, "Miss B," joins our Sunday nursery team. Nancy is a Licensed Practical Nurse, formerly owned a dance studio, and served as a Creative Arts and Fitness teacher in Ave Maria, Florida. She brings extensive experience working with children from preschool through high school.
- Lizzy Carter has joined us as our Christian Education Assistant and will also serve in the nursery on Sundays. She is a sophomore at FGCU studying pre-med. She was a part of our youth group and now is a part of our young adult group.
- Emmanuel Giraldo-Castano has joined us as a Kidz Lab Assistant. He is a sophomore at FSW. He was a part of our youth group and now joins us in our young adult group.

We give thanks for the many people God is bringing into our church family and for the

energy, care, and joy they bring. We look forward with gratitude and excitement to all that this new season will hold.

Blessings, peace, and every good,

Nancy Van Fleet

Pictured below: Preschoolers gather on the rug during morning activities; Youth Group shares music and fellowship in the youth room; children and youth join in prayer to launch the new ministry year.





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.

HUDDLE

A Men's Bible Discussion Group

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

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

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

October Dates | 8 a.m.

October 7

October 21

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



PALMS SOCIETY

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



The Next Chapter

**Sundays, October 18, October 25 &
November 1, 2026 | 11:15 a.m.**

This three-part, one-hour series will cover:

- Getting your Finance and Estate Planning in Order, presented by Amy Manley, CFP, and Linda Gadkowski, CFP
- Understanding Senior Living Options, including Hospice by Renee Smith-Gonzales of Lely Palms
- Jenny Reichard, Family Service Counselor for Advanced Planning at Dignity Memorial, for Funeral Planning and services at First Presbyterian Church, by Rev. Dr. Aaron Janklow

These informal sessions will prepare you and your loved ones for caring and sharing. Please sign up at the Palms Society sheet in Spencer Hall.



PRESCHOOL

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

First Presbyterian Preschool October Events & Silent Auction

This October, First Presbyterian Preschool is excited to host several special events, including our annual Silent Auction fundraiser, which will be held during our Fall Festival on October 16. We invite our church family and community to join us in supporting the children and families we serve through this important event.

Our dedicated preschool families have been working hard to secure donations from local businesses throughout our community, helping us build an exciting collection of auction items. We are incredibly grateful for their efforts and the generosity of our community partners. If you own a business, know someone who does, or have connections with a business that may be interested in donating an item, plant, service, or gift certificate, we would love to hear from you. Donating businesses will receive recognition for their support. Please share our contact information or contact Preschool Administrative Assistant Katie Schutt for more details.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will help grow our Angel Fund, which provides tuition assistance to families who would otherwise be unable to afford high-quality early childhood education. These scholarships allow children to experience a nurturing, faith-based learning environment during their most important developmental years.

One of our current priorities is adding additional shade structures to help keep our children safe and comfortable while enjoying outdoor play throughout the year. You can also donate to support these needs.

We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity and support of our church community. Your partnership helps us create joyful learning experiences and ensures that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for investing in our little ones and the future of First Presbyterian Preschool! Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of children and families.

Delia Buckley

Pictured below: A hallway bulletin board celebrates our students: "You are the Heart of our School!"





CARING MINISTRIES

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



Gathering Stories: Sharon Cumming

Sharon was born on July 3, 1933, in Oak Park, Illinois, to Gordon and Alice Moore, and lived in River Forest, IL. It was in the depth of the Depression, when the landscape of economic stability was bleak. River Forest, situated on the Des Plaines River, took on a survival purpose for its residents, and, cooperating with emergency relief funds, unemployed laborers were allowed to plant "Truck Gardens" (vegetable plots) to feed their families. Neighbors became more than just neighbors, and support systems were formed.

As an only child, Sharon's parents divorced when she was three, but she remembers them remaining friends. Despite her mother's hopes, which far outweighed any possibilities of employment, they thrived. She also has fond memories of her mother's love of music and singing, which sparked Sharon's love of music and song at a young age.

In 1946, by some magic in Sharon's young eyes, a lovely lady named Nora Jackson entered their lives. She was active in the local musical and church communities, serving as a director for local choirs and sang with the Chicago Lyric Opera. She brought much joy to Sharon and her

mother. Sharon was surrounded by music as she entered elementary and high school and graduated from Oak Park High School. She was raised in the Episcopal Church and was a strong and joyful singer in the choir and choruses.

Sharon chose to attend Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, a prominent private women's college with a traditional campus life. Students were affectionately known as "Susies" and were held to a strict dress code and formal dinner attire. Sharon studied Retailing but longed to be part of the most notable program: aviation/flying lessons.

Her family could never afford those dreams, and she laughed when she said retailing only set her up to marry a retailer! She loved Stephens College as it "brought out the best in everyone."

Since it was a two-year college, Sharon continued as Assistant to the Hostess of the college, taking tours for prospective students and parents. "It was during this time," Sharon said, "I decided I wanted to fly and was accepted by Eastern Airlines in Miami, where I stayed as a flight attendant, traveling the world for 13 years. The highlight of such a career was learning all the different cultures, the beauty of so many places, and the people I met all over the world." Sharon's face lit up with memories of all she has seen and experienced.

But then, as we continued our conversation, a sadness came over Sharon, and she proceeded to explain that she was also part of the Military Airlift for Germany and Vietnam during the height of the war. They would fly into Saigon with a plane full of young soldiers, where she stood in the doorway, watching these young men go off to war with tears in her eyes. She said they would fly over the fields and see bombs dropping and smoke rising. They would then fuel up in Cam Ranh, a major coastal city in south-central Vietnam, and return with a plane filled with wounded, broken, and tired soldiers, sometimes bringing them to the large military hospital in Yokohama, Japan.

She paused, then started smiling again and said there were times during this period when her heart was full, remembering USO celebrity

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events. One that particularly stands out was held for hospital patients at Clark Field in the Philippines. She started laughing as she remembered Martha Raye entertaining those soldiers- how gracious and beautiful and funny she was, and “oh, how those boys loved her!”

What Sharon witnessed during these times was life-changing, and after her last trip to Vietnam, she and one of her good friends decided it was time to join a church. She chose 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, where she began singing again. At coffee hour following service one Sunday, Sharon “met the most handsome man,” and they were married January 25, 1969. Andrew “Andy” Cumming was Vice President and Director of Personnel for J.C. Penney’s, where he stayed for 38 years. Mr. and Mrs. Penney attended their wedding, which “was a great honor.”



Sharon and Andy lived in NYC for 17 years, which gave them many happy days of cycling through Central Park, dining at wonderful restaurants, and meeting wonderful people and neighbors at United Nations Plaza, while learning a different way of life. Two of these neighbors in their building were Johnny Carson and Truman Capote, a different way of life indeed.

Andy and Sharon traveled extensively, skiing in Switzerland, falling in love with Italy, intrigued by the mystique of Hong Kong, and relishing the people of New Zealand and Australia. After retiring in 1973, they moved to Le Parc in Pelican Bay, where they continued a wonderful, adventurous life in Naples and abroad for the next 23 years.



One of the most important events in Sharon’s life during this time was her active participation in “The Silverliners.” They were former Eastern Airlines flight attendants who raised thousands of dollars each year for “Cancer Care.” Their “biggest thrill” was doing a “Flight to the North Pole” for terminally ill children with cancer at the Fort Myers Airport in 1990. The plane was filled with excited children, who were told to close all of the window shades. The pilot taxied around the airport runways until they stopped. Suddenly, the aircraft was filled with elves (yes, Sharon was an elf), and then Santa and Mrs. Claus boarded. The joy that filled that plane and all of the Silverliners’ hearts was sealed with an unforgettable memory. Perhaps in moments like these, Sharon discovered her love of collecting bears.

Continued on next page

They were now living in Moorings Park and loved every minute, content with their new surroundings and great friends, and their devotion to each other continued until Andy's death on March 1, 2018. Sharon remains grateful to the friends who were by her side at FPC Naples and Moorings Park, who gave her strength. When her days grow long, and she needs a little joy, she wheels herself into her living room and smiles back at the sweet faces of her bears, almost all with names and stories to tell.



"To sum up my life," Sharon says, "My whole life is made up of music, music; wonderful dear friends; people who have been so very kind to me, with God's blessing."

It is God's blessing also that we have the chance to know Sharon. Her presence at the High Tea is such a joy, and it gives her a chance to renew her friendships in the church, which brings her peace. Her eyes sparkle when joy comes her way. Her wonderful memories are strong, her love of neighbors is contagious, and I am sure she knows God will continue to bless her and bless us through her presence.

Susan Pratt

First Presbyterian Soup Ministry

October 7, 2026 | 9 a.m.

Our Caring Ministry enthusiastically embraces the concept of Soup Ministry!

While a traditional soup kitchen feeds people in need of nutritious meals to sustain physical health, a compassion soup ministry touches all of life—staying mindful of God's compassion and extending it to others in tangible ways.

If your heart would like to be part of this ministry, join us once a month for a few hours to chop vegetables and create healing soups. These soups will be available not only to our visitation team, but to all who may need a little extra TLC in their lives.

Our new season is upon us! Join us on Wednesday, October 7 at 9 a.m. in the Spencer Hall Kitchen. Bring your favorite vegetable-based soup recipes and your creative ideas!

Contact Susan Pratt to volunteer or for more information.

Thank you in advance for your interest!

Caregivers and Care Receivers Support Groups

October 11, 2026 | 11:15 a.m.



The *Journey to the Heart* caregivers support group, led by the Alzheimer's Support Network, will meet on Sunday, October 11 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Blessing of the Animals

October 3, 2026 | 10 a.m.



On Saturday, October 3 at 10 a.m. we will host a Blessing of the Animals in the west parking lot. Bring your pet, a picture, or even a stuffie for a special blessing celebrating St. Francis of Assisi and his love for all animals. All are welcome!

Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

October 16, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



On Friday, October 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Naples will open its doors to neighbors, seasonal residents, and local families for our annual Community Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat.

Designed as an evening of warmth and hospitality in the heart of Naples, this gathering

brings together our congregation and downtown neighbors for an evening of fellowship and autumn fun. Admission, dinner, and activities are entirely free and open to everyone!

An Evening of Fellowship and Fun

Our church grounds will be filled with activities and entertainment for children and families:

- **Trunk-or-Treat Walk (5:30 – 6:30 p.m.):** Church members, friends, families, and preschool parents will open their creatively decorated car trunks to distribute safe treats during the first hour of the evening.
- **Meet Our Community Helpers:** Children can explore a real Naples Fire Department truck and meet a friendly Naples Police Department therapy dog, well-known for visiting local schools and community centers.
- **Kids' Play Zone:** Inflatable bounce houses, face painters, and balloon artists will offer nonstop activity on campus.
- **Complimentary Family Dinner:** Fresh pizza, popcorn, chips, and cold drinks will be served inside Spencer Hall.
- **Sweet Treats & Specialty Coffee:** Children can cool off with complimentary shaved ice from the visiting **Kona Ice Truck**. For parents, a visiting specialty coffee food truck will be on-site with handcrafted espresso, iced lattes, and warm beverages available for purchase.

Supporting the Preschool Angel Fund & Campus Needs

This year's festival highlights our very own First Presbyterian Preschool. During the event, attendees can browse and bid at the annual Preschool Silent Auction, featuring an exciting collection of items, services, and gift certificates generously donated by local businesses throughout our community.

Silent auction proceeds directly support the preschool's Angel Fund, which provides vital need-based tuition assistance and early childhood scholarships for local families. In addition, donations are also being welcomed to

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fund current campus improvements, including new playground shade structures. Church members and friends who are unable to attend in person can make a contribution to support these needs online through the church's digital giving page at fpcnaples.org/give.

How You Can Help: Volunteer Opportunities

Welcoming hundreds of neighborhood guests takes a coordinated team effort. We invite you to be part of the warmth and hospitality that makes First Pres special:

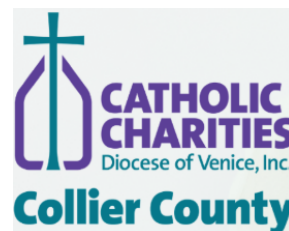
- **Trunk-or-Treat Vehicles:** Bring a decorated car and hand out treats from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (arrive at 5:00 p.m. for parking lot setup). Sign up in Spencer Hall or contact Ashley Henning.
- **Preschool Silent Auction Table:** Help staff and monitor the auction table during the event. Contact Delia Buckley, Preschool Director, to help.
- **Be an Ambassador:** Help us extend a personal welcome! Invite your neighbors, bring your friends and grandchildren, and come ready to greet visiting families with hospitality.

Pictured below and right: Church members, friends, and community neighbors enjoying the 2025 Fall Festival.



Undy Sunday

Sundays, October 18 & 25



Help provide local children in our community with the dignity and comfort of clean, new essentials. On Sundays, October 18 and 25, we are collecting new, unopened socks and underwear to benefit Catholic Charities of Collier County.

- **Sizes Needed:** Children's sizes Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large (ages 5–14).
- **How to Donate:** Bring your donations to church on either Sunday and place them in the collection bins.

Thank you for helping us continue this tradition of caring for children in our community.

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Reformation Sunday, October 25 | 10 a.m.



All are welcome to join us for our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartan worship service. This service will feature the Saint Andrew's Society with the procession of the tartan flags and the Harp and Thistle Pipe Band.

Evenings at First Returns

November 4, 6, 11 & 18, 2026

Save the date: Evenings at First returns this fall! Join us for four select evenings featuring distinguished guest speakers, sacred music, and community fellowship:

- **Wednesday, November 4** | Theologian Douglas Ottati, Professor Emeritus at Davidson College.
- **Friday, November 6** | Organist and composer Aaron David Miller, Director of Music and Organist at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN.
- **Wednesday, November 11** | Author and speaker Brian Plachta, presenting *"The Power of Stillness: How to Quiet the Noise and Hear God's Voice."*
- **Wednesday, November 18** | International bestselling mystery author Jeffery Deaver, presented in partnership with Books on Third. Advance registration for this author presentation is open now via Eventbrite. Visit fpcnaples.org/events for the direct link.

Look for full program details, start times, and announcements coming soon!

A Season of Music

New Season Kicks off November 15

First Presbyterian Church of Naples invites you to experience an inspiring season of sacred choral and instrumental concerts:

Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Voices of Naples: Fall Concert

- Southwest Florida's premier community chorus opens the fall season alongside the Ave Maria University Concert and Chamber Choirs.
- **Admission & Tickets:** \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.
- **Ticketing Details:** Voices of Naples will be handling tickets exclusively; they are **not** available through the church office. Visit voicesofnaples.org to learn more.

Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Annual Christmas Concert: Chancel Choir

- Celebrate the season's joy and wonder with our Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.
- **Admission:** Complimentary admission; a free-will offering will be received to support the sacred music ministry.
- **Fellowship Reception:** A festive community reception with seasonal refreshments will follow immediately in Spencer Hall.

Looking Ahead & 2027 Lineup

Stay tuned for full program details, concert start times, and ticket links coming soon. The series continues into 2027 with guest ensembles, organists, and choral partners!



October 1

Norm Garrity
Deb Streamer
Julie Camp

October 4

Lene Fernstrom

October 6

Jim LeFevre

October 7

Bob Humphrey
Joe Patton
*Nancy Van Fleet
David Lovingood
Mike McCarthy

October 8

Louise Jerome
John Smith
Magge Camuti
Audrey Smith
Janeen McClure

October 9

Fred Witt
Peggy Patrick
*Colleen Kennedy

October 10

Dorothy Gomori
Cindy Emmerson
Judy Ferguson

October 12

Dave McLaughlin
Libby Biehl
Robin Ferrario

October 13

Pat Mans

October 14

Larie Burghardt

October 15

Sandra Nixon
Luke Claremont
Kay Pittman

October 16

Bill Law

October 17

Russ Kempker
Linda Benson
Len Hook

October 18

*Sandy Knight

October 19

Rich Peterson
Rob Waterhouse

October 21

Don Herring

October 24

Masie Razzano

October 25

Jim Bailey

October 26

Jane Woodruff
Linda Gadkowski

October 27

Carm Gilbertsen
*Delia Buckley

October 28

*Ashley Henning

October 29

Gordon Kellam

October 30

Gerald Neff
Nick Linn
Janet Yanushefski

October 31

Claire De Voe
*Nick Zamagni

**staff member*

In Sympathy

Sara Linn

September 14, 2026

Marlys "Marti" Barwick

September 9, 2026

Frederic Michael Bennett

August 29, 2026

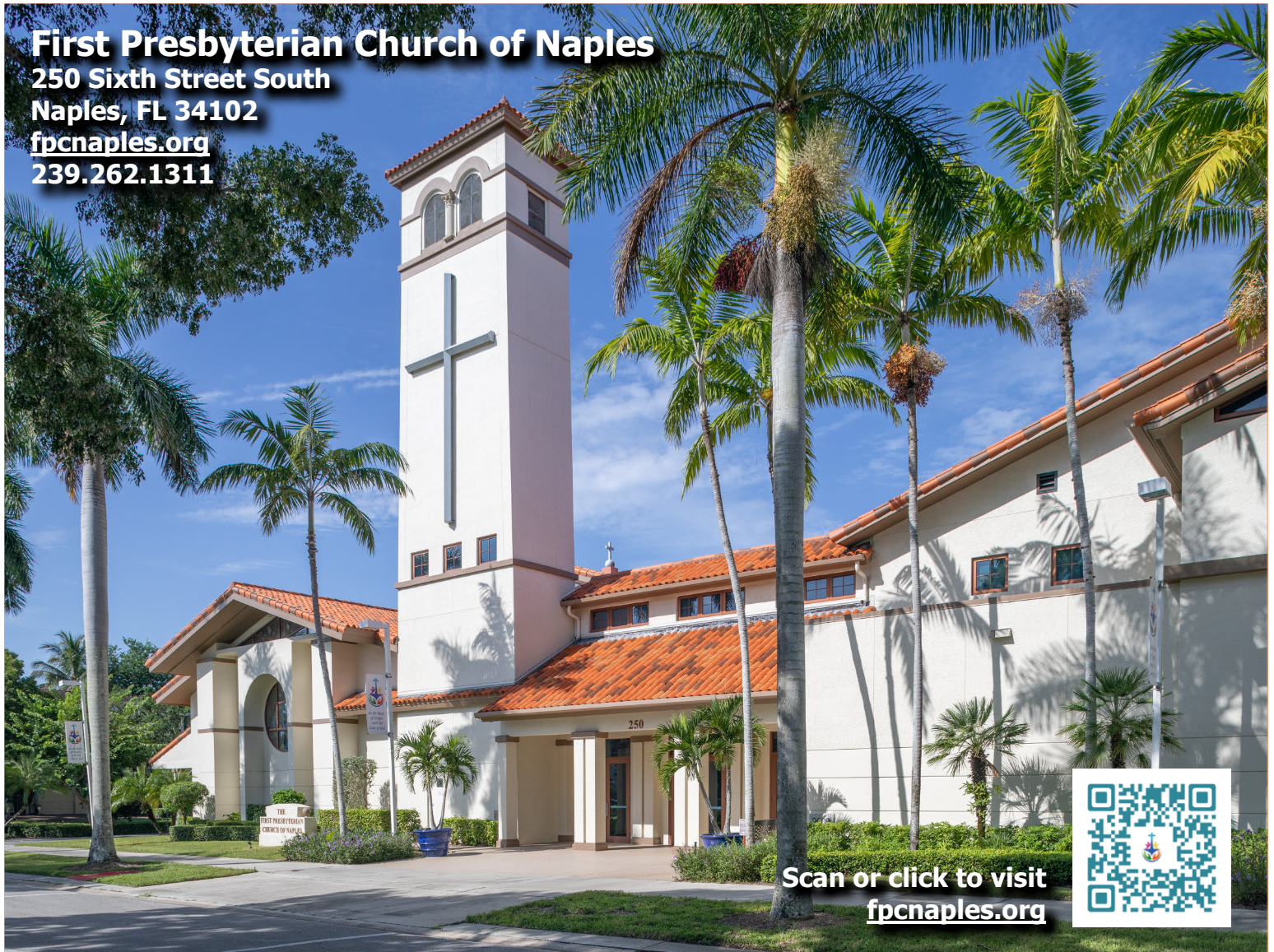
First Presbyterian Church of Naples

250 Sixth Street South

Naples, FL 34102

fpcnaples.org

239.262.1311



Scan or click to visit
fpcnaples.org



Welcome Back, Seasonal Members & Friends! If your mailing address has recently updated as you return to Naples, please let us know at fpc@fpcnaples.org so we can ensure our records are current.



Pictured above: We joyfully welcome our newest members during worship service on September 27.

DISCOVER FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CLASS

October 18, 2026 | 11:15 a.m.

Interested in learning more about our faith, our church family, and what it means to become a member? Join us on Sunday, October 18 immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Pick up an information packet at the Welcome Table or church exits, or contact Susan Pratt, Coordinator of Membership and Caring Ministries, to register.