



FIRST NEWS

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

As the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, I am taking a couple of weeks off to travel to Ireland. I always look forward to taking a trip to new places. Yet, I am sometimes anxious about leaving the congregation when we are pastorally understaffed.

The good news is that we have a great staff who works very hard to cover the gaps that we have. Our programmatic and administrative staff have done a yeomans job of stepping up and stepping in where needed. We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful and qualified staff members/team members who are so capable.

The good news is even better in that we do not only have an excellent and capable staff, we have an excellent and capable congregation. There are times when people will say that our church is “staff driven.” While our staff works diligently in service to the church, our congregation also shares the weight of ministry. Our congregation leads in worship, visits those in need, engages in planning, development and strategy, and teaches and preaches.

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On June 23, I preached on Jesus' sending of the 72. He sent them out 2 x 2 to do the work of proclaiming the gospel for the kingdom of heaven has come near. We, as the congregation, represent the 72 as we are called to go out into the world in service. A healthy church is never solely staff driven, it must be congregationally driven by the members of its particular fellowship. When the members are together, 2 x 2 or 4 x 4 or 8 x 8, we do the authentic and faithful work of the church.

All flocks need a Good Shepherd, yet healthy flocks, stay together and work with each other, serve each other, and protect each other when the shepherd is not near. We are the sharers of the Gospel, with our actions and with our words when we must. Whether the shepherd is present or not, the sheep should be watching out for each other.

As the pastor at First Presbyterian Church, I am less anxious when I take time away because I know that the congregation will care for each other and will serve and protect each other. We are blessed that we are a congregationally led and driven church.

May God bless you wherever you serve.

Tim Womack



**11th of
4 July**

Preschool and Elementary Kids

Children's Church Sundays, 10am



July Series Overview

What do you do when you hear your favorite song? Turn it up, of course! While we might love blasting our favorite music, we can also learn how to turn up God's voice in our lives. In this four-week series, kids will follow some key moments in the life of David, the famous musician, poet, and king, and they'll learn about some of the ways David trusted God during some difficult times in his life. Through each story, we'll learn God is with us when we feel weak, God helps us overcome big things, God comforts us when we're afraid, and God helps us live in harmony.

Melbourne Municipal Band

Patriotic Concert

Jul 14, 2024

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Ushers Needed

We are in need of Ushers!

Anyone who is interested in becoming an usher at FPC, please reach out:

Hilary Dobson: hdobson@scotsamerican.com

or

Lee Tiebout: mltiebout8031@gmail.com

Hymn Sing

We will be having a
Pre-Service Hymn Sing at 9:45AM

on

July 14, August 11, September 8, and October 13

Please email jacobcraig@firstpresvero.org to give some suggestions of your favorite hymns! Please send your requests one week before the hymn sing!

FPC Summer Galleries Exhibit

Susan Lavendar and Sheila Lougheed invite you to an opening reception of assorted artworks from our students at Sebastian River Art Club. This group of artists, many just beginning to learn their art skills, have honed their techniques in the creative arts.

As their instructors, we invite you to help celebrate their achievements. Their artwork will be on display from July 1st through September 30th. Opening reception will take place on Sunday July 14th from 1pm to 3pm at First Presbyterian Church in Vero Beach

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



YOUTH MUSIC CALIFORNIA TOUR

by Kaitlin Simmons



As of last week, FPC's very own youth orchestra and choir were touring the bustling cities of California with the intentions of sharing a gift precious to all: music. The tour, also referred to as "Calitournia", lasted from June 17th to June 22nd and included stops in four popular cities: Los Angeles, Malibu, San Diego, and Santa Monica. The students performed four concerts during their stay, most of which were livestreamed on FPC's website.



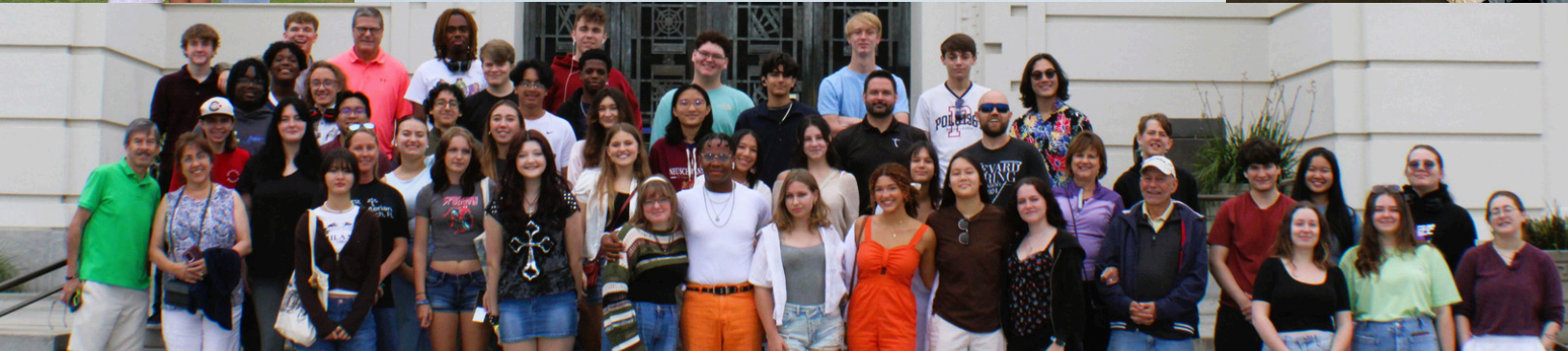
On the first day, our musicians visited the Griffith Observatory, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the local In N Out Burger. Visiting such renowned sites left many of us in awe, and it is safe to say that we will be dreaming of In N Out for the next couple of months. Later, we made a stop at the LA Veteran's Home where we performed an abbreviated concert for our country's heroes. After the performance, the youth were granted social time with the veterans. During this period, I met a veteran who had fought in both World War II and the Korean War. After some engaging conversation with the man, it was clear that his wisdom extended far beyond military experience. His final piece of advice for me was, "do not overcomplicate your life; simply do what makes you happy".



With our first concert finished, we loaded onto the bus and journeyed to Pepperdine University, where our next performance was held the following morning. We played and sang in a chapel that is best described as a masterpiece of architecture. We stood in front of a towering wall of stained glass that dispersed vibrant colors and patterns across the floor as the morning light penetrated it. To celebrate a successful concert, we traveled to Dume Point State Park where we hiked, traversed nature paths, and lazed on the rocky beaches of Malibu. Many students traipsed to the highest point of the reserve while others remained on the shoreline and reveled at the wildlife brought in by the tides.



Later that day, the students were transported by our wonderful bus driver, Gary, to Westminster Presbyterian Church. There, we would perform our third concert. Perhaps it was the excitement of the day's prior events or the hospitality of the Church's patrons, but the concert was particularly joyful and the music filled the entire space. That night we returned to Pepperdine University to rest for tomorrow's events.



Youth Music



Our third full day in California was designated as a day off from performing. We spent this vacation day at the world-renowned San Diego Zoo. Hippos, polar bears, giraffes, and any animal you could imagine could be viewed in a natural setting. Almost every student took the zoo's included bus-ride which provided a narrated tour of the entire zoo grounds. Roaming the zoo's trails left everyone ravenous, so our next stop was a Mongolian Hot Pot restaurant. Students selected their broth of preference along with meats and vegetables, and built their own soups. It was a cheerful bonding experience and a delicious meal.

The next day was as thrilling as the last. We began the day wandering on the Santa Monica Pier and riding the attractions until we were dizzy. Only a few hours later, we prepared to perform our final concert at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. As we sang our last song "Peace I Leave With You", collectively as an orchestra and choir, we already began to feel a twinge of nostalgia for the bustling state, California. This notion was quickly substituted for speculation as our director, Peter, revealed that he had been holding on to a surprise. That evening, we all viewed a spectacle known as "Kooza" put on by the Cirque Du Soleil. We watched performers bicycle on tightropes, flip with six-foot stilts attached to their feet, and soar through the air with aerial silks. To say it was unbelievable would be an understatement. What was even more unbelievable was that the next morning we would be departing from California to return to our beloved Florida cities.

For me, this experience was life changing. It was a blessing to share such meaningful music and messages of hope and love with our fellow Presbyterian Churches. It is incredibly rare to find a group of people this aligned by their passion and dedication to the arts. I have discovered that not only are our youth talented, but they are genuine and thoughtful people. I am inspired by both their skills and their sense of self. This trip has provided me with the opportunity to forge friendships and to immerse myself with the arts, which I strongly value, and for that I will always be grateful. I thank all the members of the church and community who have supported this program and made this trip possible for our youth. I have been a member of this church since I was a baby, and I have known no greater kindness than what has been shown to me at First Presbyterian. As well as this, I extend my gratitude to all the chaperones that accompanied us on this magnificent trip.



PC(USA) pastor brings stories from Ukraine to a US audience

The Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble, executive director of This Child Here, visits the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

This Child Here is an organization that ministers to families impacted by the war in Ukraine.

LOUISVILLE — In a presentation that featured a Zoom conversation with three people on the ground in Ukraine, the Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble, executive director of This Child Here, spoke on the topic “The Lamentations of Ukraine” with clergy and members of churches in Mid-Kentucky Presbytery last week. Gamble and others illustrated ways that This Child Here, a ministry validated by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, works with families, mostly women and children, displaced by the war in Ukraine. Near the end of Gamble’s talk, an app on his smartphone sounded, indicating another Russian



drone attack on Izmail, where This Child Here operates in southwest Ukraine near the Black Sea. Among the warnings the app issues during a drone attack: “Overconfidence is your greatest enemy.”

After three visits to Ukraine, Gamble established This Child Here in 2006. Eighteen years later, “after working with street kids, working in orphanages, training foster families and teaching peacemaking techniques to teens, Ukraine is at war,” he told people gathered for his talk and for lunch at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Louisville, “and we now work with families displaced by this war.”

“Everyone I meet has a story of pain, loss and lament,” Gamble said, citing these passages in the Book of Lamentations: “How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she,” followed later by, “Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets.”

“This is Ukraine,” he said. “Bodies in the dust of the streets.”



The ministry of This Child Here began by, among other services, meeting families in grocery stores and contributing to their needs.

Gamble said This Child Here “just started with what we knew to be the right thing: meeting families at grocery stores, paying for what they needed, gathering a list of names and faces.” Then, “we organized a summer camp at a retreat center near the beaches of Bulgaria. People bonded. We rented buildings and opened centers for sports and creative activity. ... I did not know that so much care could be given without words. I didn’t know there is a therapy of belonging, a therapy of place, a therapy of recreation which could also be worded ‘re-creation,’ and a therapy of lament.”

Participants heard from three people at This Child Here’s facility in Izmail, including Olya Balaban, the ministry’s program manager. A recorded clip showed Balaban and Gamble enduring a drone attack together.

“It’ll take some victories on the battlefield before Ukraine can prevail,” Gamble said of the war now in its 28th month. “Families come to us with their lamentations. Each story I hear is its own howl of pain, often unbearably beautiful in language and honest, brutal in detail. We get the whole searing account of the siege and destruction of Ukraine.” Gamble borrowed from the book “A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scriptures,” written by his friend, Anna Carter Florence.

Mission

Asked how youth served by This Child Here make their plans for the future, Balaban replied, “It’s hard to plan even for today. We try to support mothers and children every day” and plan camps “on the sea every summer.”

It can be difficult, Balaban said, for staff and others to find out what’s going on in other regions of Ukraine. “We get our information from our president [Volodymyr Zelenskyy], from the government and from people who write about it,” Balaban said.



Operating This Child Here since the war began with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, is “our evidence of grace and power,” according to Gamble.

“Surrounding these families and their stories, holding each lightly yet firmly, is a structure I can only define as a healing community of love and trust. It is our life together,” Gamble said, quoting Florence’s book. “It allows the words to pour out without bleeding out.”

“There is a rhythm we enter into each day and week, in our gatherings in Izmail, Ukraine, in our talk, and in our play, by which, with our vessel — namely, the community itself — we gently guide these families toward speech and hope when the wilderness of grief has taken both,” Gamble said, again referencing “A is for Alabaster.”

To donate via PayPal or Debit or check [CLICK HERE](#)

My Mobile phone when in Ukraine: +380 96 021 4952.

for free WhatsApp: +380960214952

WhatsApp, Telegram, and Viber are all free downloads. You talk long as you like for free.

Donations by mail go to:
This Child Here
P.O. Box 2531
Ormond Beach Fl 32175

This Child Here is a validated ministry in the Presbyterian Church and a U.S. 501c3 at work in Ukraine, Believing children deserve a life grounded in justice, dignity, and peace.

Our home office (but not our mailing address) is at:

This Child Here
245 Seaview Ave
Daytona Beach, Fl . 32118

We are: thischildhere.org

We do not believe in
Ourselves until someone
Reveals that deep inside us
Something is valuable,
Worth listening to, worthy
Of our touch, sacred to our touch.
Once we believe in ourselves we can
Risk curiosity, wonder, Spontaneous
Delight, or any experience that reveals
The human spirit.
e.e. cummings

PW News - July 2024

Women of the church, without your generosity and commitment, we could not make this list a possibility. Thank you, again for your continuing financial support.

The Coordinating Committee:

Judith Taylor, Sandy Thiel - Co-moderators

Joanne Smith, Recording Secretary

Shirley Douglas, Treasurer

Nancy Morgan, Corresponding Secretary

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S GIFTS AND DONATIONS SPRING 2024

- *ALZHEIMER & PARKINSON ASSOCIATION, VERO BEACH - \$2,000**
- ***BARNABUS FUND - \$450 (IN MEMORY OF PW MEMBERS WHO DIED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR)**
- **COLUMBIA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - \$1,000**
- ***YOUTH GROUP CALIFORNIA TOUR - \$2500**
- *HOPE FOR FAMILIES - \$2,000**
- *SAFE PLACE - \$1,000**
- *SAMARITAN CENTER - \$1,000**
- *SPACE COAST HONOR FLIGHT - \$2,500**
- **SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC - \$500**
- **THORNWELL HOME - \$1,000**
- TOTAL GIFTS: \$13,950**

- *LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (PW PC(USA))**
- ***FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VERO BEACH FL**





- 1. Jim Armstrong**
- 2. Jill Maroney**
- 3. Savannah Womack**
- 4. Jillian Conway, Oscar Diaz, Ernest Frazier, Cris Gillespie, Shirley Powell**
- 5. Jane Millar, Helen Nugent, Austin Palmer**
- 6. Bob Byrket, Sumner Case, Pat Pritchett, Cheryl Schregardus**
- 7. Gary Carmichael, Paul Johnson**
- 8. Toni Evangelidi, Virginia Gowell**
- 9. Joe Farleigh, Anne Fredlock**
- 10. Carol Barber, Kaitlin Simmons**
- 12. Betty Geller**
- 13. Jennifer Jones, Phil Risinger, Ruth Nowlin Thomas**
- 16. Anne Malsbary**
- 18. Chas Coxson, Paul Dingee**
- 19. Ted Miller**
- 20. Dave Lee, Mitch Palmer**
- 21. Arlene Foote, James Murphy**
- 22. Ruth Anderson,**
- 23. Kathy Davis, Chris Loftus, Kari Palmer**
- 24. Joyce Black**
- 25. Bob Arndt, Anne Burke, Betty Fitzsimmons, Jack Knauss, John Scott
Ken Spencer, Ansley Whigham**
- 26. Andree Asselin, Betty Marsh, Mary Nordstrom**
- 27. Ken Otto**
- 28. Bill Melick, Isabel Power, Melissa Snyder, Mona White**
- 29. Evelyn Bates, Karen Boylan, Sue Coffey, Ann Day, Andrew Gomez, Meredith Hager**
- 30. Andrea Armstrong**
- 31. Sahamara Ewing, Katy Reid, Marge Stevens**

Sunday Worship

July 2024

8:30AM - Mighell Chapel

10AM - Sanctuary

Childcare available at all services

July Sermons

July 7

I Samuel 16: 1-13

Turn it up: You're with me

Communion Sunday

July 14

I Samuel 17: 32-50

Turn it up: You help me

July 21

I Samuel 18: 1-10

Turn it up: You comfort me

July 28

I Samuel 24:16-22

Turn it up: Help us live in harmony

Church Leadership & Staff

Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack, Senior Pastor

Rev. Holly Adams, Minister of Congregational Care

Dr. Sam Rutland, Theologian in Residence

Dr. Jacob Craig, Director of Music & Arts

Peter Mahtani, Associate Director of Music & Arts

Jessica Russell, Director of Christian Education

Ginny Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Pastors

Kimberly Ball, Financial Administrator

Lisa Jeffra, Administrative Assistant

Elders

(*indicates Trustee)

Class of 2024 Rebecca Palmer,

Pat Pritchett*, Brad Smith*, John Toohey

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Susie Nystrom, Bob Satola

Class of 2026 Louise Feroe*, Judy Garrett*,

Jim Gambill*, Ted Miller

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Treasurer - Scott Westermann

Director of Development - Allan Bixby

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Holly LoGiudice*, Bonnie Nolan, Robin Perry,

Beth Pritchett

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Frank Smith

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Connie Derman, Carol Rhodes, Lee Tiebout,

Ashley Wright