

ACTS

First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida



TELLING THE STORY

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...”. (Genesis 1:1)
“Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with us all. Amen.”
(Revelation 22:21)

The Lord God comes to us in many ways: through the power of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts; through the hearing of the scriptures, both Old and New; through the proclamation of the Word; through the sharing of the Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord’s Supper. These are some of the ways in which God reveals God’s self to us. We learn about God’s love and grace from beginning to end – through the story.

So many people have come to me saying with deep regret, “Pastor, I never heard the story when I was growing up.” Or “Pastor, I want to know more about God and Jesus, but I don’t know how to do that.” Of course the easy answer is “Read the Bible!” But there is more to it than that. Stories are meant to be read; they are also meant to be told and heard. That is our task as Christians, as the

“Priesthood of All Believers.”

How many of you have taken a good look at the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary? Did you know they tell the story? From beginning to end, the story of God’s love, of the grace of Jesus Christ, and of the communion of the Holy Spirit surrounds those who sit in the pews to worship there. What an amazing gift!

Beginning in June, on the Mid-Week Meditations, I plan to tell the story using the windows as a guide. I hope you will join me as we are reminded of the high points of our Christian heritage and marvel once again about the unbelievable love that created us, redeemed us, and sustains us.

Blessings and Peace,
Sharon

Worship with First Presbyterian ONLINE each Sunday at 10:00 AM

You do not need a personal Facebook account in order to view. Go to **www.firstpresfb.org** on your computer. Click on **“Like us on Facebook.”** It will connect you with the church Facebook page and you can see the worship service. You may also scroll through previous worship services and mid-week Meditations you might have missed.

Please remember to check on one another! During this uncertain time in our lives a phone call, text, email, or card will do wonders for each of us.

Show God’s love.

Share God’s love.

Be God’s love.

VISION STATEMENT: *To be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in the world.*

MISSION STATEMENT: *Guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow as disciples of Jesus and share the love of God with all.*



Notes from Jackie Hails



Several years ago at Christmas, Pastor Sharon gave me a one-year devotional book entitled *Great Songs of Faith*. Each daily devotional is based on a popular hymn with an accompanying Bible verse, and usually tells the history of the hymn's creation. My sister and I enjoy reading about (and singing) these hymns each morning in our devotion time.

One devotional in June is based on the hymn *I Love to Tell the Story*, written by Kate Hankey (1834-1911). The daughter of a prosperous British banker, she started a Bible class for young girls in her neighborhood, then when she was only eighteen, went to London to teach a Bible class for factory girls. When she was in her early thirties, she became seriously ill and was forbidden to teach for a year while on bed rest. During her illness, she wrote two lengthy poems, *Tell Me the Old, Old Story*, and *I Love to Tell the Story*. After recuperating, she returned to

her Bible classes in London and continued teaching for many years.

Even though Kate Hankey was homebound and unable to teach the Bible, God still used her time of convalescence to minister to others through the writing of these inspirational hymns that still speak to our hearts today. I challenge each of us to use this time at home to grow in our relationship with the Lord through prayer and Bible study. And, of course, keep SINGING those precious hymns!

*I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory--
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.*

Hope to see you soon!
Love to all,
Jackie

GIVING ELECTRONICALLY TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1. Visit the church website at www.firstpresfwb.org.**
- 2. Click on the [Give Now] button.**
- 3. Click on the Create Profile button.**

Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your contributions — a one-time gift or recurring payment.

This is your account that you control completely. You can log in to stop/start/make changes anytime.

Financial Statement

APRIL '20 YEAR to DATE

INCOME:	
Offerings.....	\$14,144.8367,207.60
Other/Misc.....	150.00 450.05
TOTAL INCOME	14,294.8367,657.65
EXPENSES:	
Clergy Compensation.....	\$7,428.4626,613.94
Worship	001,101.47
Christian Education	00 326.66
Witness/Outreach.....	941.662,266.64
Admin. & Finance	10,217.8545,055.75
Property	2,279.647,951.35
Fellowship	15.00 330.30
Loan Interest Expense.....	299.561,221.68
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	21,182.1784,867.79
Excess Income/Expense	-6,887.34 -17,210.14
Transfer fm Investment	5,000.0015,000.00

10 WAYS TO PRAISE

MAKE A LITTLE ROOM IN YOUR DAY TO PRAISE GOD — BY YOURSELF OR WITH YOUR FAMILY. THESE PRAYERS CELEBRATE GOD'S CHARACTER.

1 THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYER
"I praise and honor You, Father, because You are a God who loves to answer prayer and who begins to answer before I pray."
Isaiah 65:24

6 THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."
2 Corinthians 1:3

2 A FORGIVING GOD
"I want to bless You with praise, Father, because You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love."
Nehemiah 9:17

7 A GIVING GOD
"All praise and honor be Yours, O God, because You are a generous God, who did not even stop short of giving Your own Son."
John 3:16

3 GOD, MY PEACE
"I praise You with all my heart, Lord, because You are my Jehovah-Shalom (The Lord Our Peace) who will soon crush Satan under my feet."
Romans 16:20

8 GOD, MY SHEPHERD
"I bless Your name and praise You as my Jehovah-Rohi (The Lord is My Shepherd) who will shepherd me and guide me in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake."
Psalm 23:1-3

4 A PROVIDER GOD
"I praise You today, Lord, as my Jehovah-Jireh (The Lord Will Provide) who makes all grace abound in me and generously provides all I need."
2 Corinthians 9:8

9 KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS
"All honor and praise be to You, my God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light."
1 Timothy 6:15

5 THE GOD WHO HEALS
"Father, I praise You because You are the Lord who heals me."
Exodus 15:26

10 THE GOD OF MIRACLES
"Lord I praise You because You are the God who performs miracles; You display Your power among the peoples."
Psalm 77:14

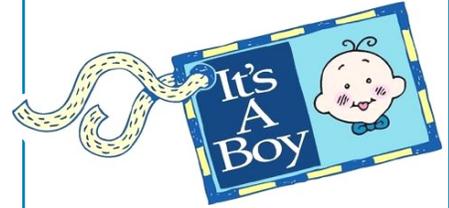
"At its meeting on May 21, 2020 the Session decided to keep the church closed to in-person worship until August. We will continue to livestream the Sunday morning service as we have been doing. The Mid-Week Meditations will also continue. The decision was made to give more time to evaluate the changing information coming from the medical and scientific community regarding the health and safety of our church members and friends. It will also provide time for the session to be sure the church buildings are appropriately ready for use. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Sharon at 850-218-2788 or revsharon1@gmail.com."



Abigail Nicks 5
 Ryan Bohnsack..... 7
 Jennie Langham 9
 Lillian Goodwyn 12
 Fred Pryor 17
 Dottie Eubanks 18
 Denise Richardson 19
 Paul Singleton 21
 Elizabeth Noffsinger .. 23
 Rachael Hamilton 28

Koltun & Rachael Hamilton
 June 06
 Barbara Blackburn/Bob Stevenson
 June 16
 Harry & Joyce Boyd
 June 23
 David & Elizabeth Noffsinger
 June 26
 Rob & Patti Bohnsack
 June 27
 Dick & Pat Hansen
 June 30

*Congratulations to
 Howard and Jennifer
 Brown on the birth of
 Cort William Brown*



*Born May 15, 2020
 5:35 pm
 8 lbs. 14 oz.*

*Proud grandparents are
 Cort and Theresa Nicks.*



NAME THAT "TIME"!

The "time" I refer to is the Mid-Week Meditation I have been posting on the church website and on Facebook. I plan to continue this even after the pandemic crisis is over. I have found it means a lot to me, and I hope you are enjoying it as well.

It would be nice to have a name that reflects the purpose of sharing our faith, studying scripture, and thinking together about how God is working in our daily lives.

So...I am offering a friendly contest to all who wish to participate to submit a name or names for the meditation time. The name should not include my name because I am hoping others will be bringing some of the meditations. And the "winning" name will receive a lovely gift from me! Get you creative juices flowing and send me your ideas via email: revsharon1@gmail.com.

Pastor Sharon

JUNE 2020

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Ft. Walton Bch, FL 32548
Return service requested.

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