


ACTS

First Presbyterian Church, Ft Walton Beach, Florida



Let the
beauty
of nature
remind you
of the
Goodness of God.

Dear Church of the Presbyterian Family,

It's here! Spring, that time of renewal, of growing life, when the silence of winter is pierced aloud by the songs of robins, sparrows, and songbirds. When the first shoots of daffodils and other beautiful plants emerge from the hard ground. When all that is brown sheds its winter coat and bursts forth into living color.

Kurt Oelschlager wrote a poem called "Mud Time," in which he writes one of the verses:

mud dries,
the earth heals, and
with the arrival of spring,
rooted in the mud,
the grass turns green,
roadside weeds and shrubs come alive,
trees leaf out,
nature takes its course.

He is right—"Spring is rooted in the mud." It has been, at times, a difficult winter with the passing of our long-time members, Jean Clemons and Helen Seagrave. We've had our share of mud—the kind that sticks to you, that makes you slip and fall sometimes, that makes you wonder if spring will ever come.

But this is also the season of renewal of our faith as we have celebrated Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We rejoice in, celebrate, and dance over, that which arrives in mud, in darkness. We sing over the stone that was rolled aside to release the body that defeated death.

This is the eternal season that resides in us who have come to believe, who have experienced the resurrection, and who stand as witnesses to the risen Christ. We know He lives because He lives in us.

The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians: "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the sharing of His sufferings by becoming like him in His death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection of the dead."

Now that we are born of the Spirit, love and truth burns in our hearts and sets our lives aflame with the passion for knowing Christ and for making Christ known.

So as we wait for the mud to give way to gardens, as we wait for the earth to heal itself from a long winter, may the Son warm our days, set our lives ablaze with passion for the life given to us so that we would bring this message out into the world: "He is Risen....He is Risen Indeed."

We glory in Christ alone, and we enjoy his presence forever.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John



Notes from Jackie Hails



Man of Sorrows, what a name
 For the Son of God who came,
 Ruined sinners to reclaim, Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Having just celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, knowing that He defeated death so that we may have eternal life with Him, my family is comforted, knowing that our brother, husband, father and grandfather is in the presence of his Savior. Even though we are sad and grieving for our loss, we are happy that our brother is resting in the arms of Jesus, his body is whole and we will be reunited with him. Oh, what a wonderful promise we've been given! We're trusting in God's word, leaning on His everlasting arms and praising God that Joe was ready to meet the Lord. This hole in our hearts may never go away and life here won't ever be the same. But if we fix our eyes on Jesus, He will comfort and sustain us. We give God all the glory for this life well lived. May we all continue to serve the Lord every day until He calls us home to live with Him.

Thank you for praying for our family,
 Jackie Hails

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

You do not need a personal Facebook account in order to view worship services. Go to www.firstpresfwb.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.

WANDS FOR WILDLIFE



The **Wands for Wildlife** organization collects used mascara wands to help clean small animals. They say the bristles are so soft and close together that they are perfect for small squiggly animals.

We will collect clean, used wands to donate. Please wash them with soapy water and bring them to church. What a wonderful way to stop them from going to the landfill.



Contact Barbara Blackburn with any questions or comments: 850-243-7269.

Looking for an outreach opportunity? You are welcome to join us in the church kitchen any Wednesday at 12:30 pm
Baking cookies is fun!



Over 70,299 cookies to date!

VISION STATEMENT

To be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow disciples of Jesus and share the love of God with all.

Sharing is caring

The church will be collecting for Sharing & Caring the entire month of April!

Please donate cash or see the list taped to the grocery cart! Items needed include: canned vegetables or fruit, tuna fish, spam, peanut butter, rice, dry beans, soup, cereal, bottled water, sliced American cheese, eggs, jelly, juice—see complete list in Narthex!



2 Cents-a-Meal

"2 Cents-a-meal" is a strategy for raising awareness for the fight against hunger. Contribute a few cents for every meal, this simple act is an expression of thanks for the many blessings we receive.

Sharing/Caring Collection

Collecting the entire month of April for Sharing & Caring who has provided a list of items they need—it will be displayed in the Narthex.

Happy Birthday!



APRIL

Kim Moran4-3
 Samantha Pryor.....4-5
 Nathaniel Moran.....4-7
 Daniel McCurry4-9
 Un O. Mitchell.....4-13
 Jennifer Brown4-14
 Lila Mendel..... 4-15
 John Cahoon.....4-16
 Travis Nicks4-17
 Trinity Nicks.....4-17
 George Goodall 4-22
 Glenn Nicks.....4-30

MAY

Shanna Land.....5-3
 Sharon Schuler.....5-3
 Wyatt Stringer.....5-6
 Brady Pat Genz....5-11
 John Toth.....5-11
 Cort Brown.....5-15



Jamie & Dawn Banks.....April 4
 Steve & Debbie Cahoon.....April 4
 Theresa & Cort Nicks.....April 4
 Eric & Melissa Pryor..... April 12
 Garrett & Penny Carter.....April 14
 Carl & Jeanie Caughman May 8
 George & Fran Goodall May 17
 John & Sharon Schuler May 20
 Mark & Helen Edwards May 22
 Kim & MG Moran May 26



We are still collecting the tabs from aluminum cans. Please contact Barbara Blackburn to turn them in.



The annual Church Rummage Sale will be scheduled in the fall. We are accepting donations NOW. Clean out those cluttered spaces and bring items to the church.



This year's theme is
“TACKY TOURIST”
 Tuesday, May 21
 Time 5:30 pm

APRIL/MAY 2024

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**THANK YOU
FOR FILLING
THE CART FOR
SHARING & CARING
EVERY SUNDAY
IN MARCH**



Grand Total of Value: \$230.00