

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

ACTS

those
who wait
for the
Lord shall
renew their
strength,
they shall
mount up
with wings
like
eagles,
they shall
run and
not be
weary, they
shall walk
and not
faint.





FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR JOHN

While community is a buzzword, it remains an elusive experience. We all hunger to belong, but community is not built in meetings and events. Rather, community is nurtured in mutual service and interdependence, in significant interaction and vulnerability, in shared stories and common purpose.

My grandfather used to remind me that you could learn something from anyone, if you are willing to listen and be present. Now, not all lessons are created equal, but I've learned to never discount the value of what a person brings to the table. There is something the couple who has been married for 60 years can teach you about commitment that you cannot learn in a book. A parent who cares for their sick children will teach you more about unconditional love than a conference. And the list goes on: faithfulness from the member who has been attending the same church for 75 years, perseverance from one who has been battling a chronic illness, or joy from a child painting on a canvas. You can't experience these in a classroom.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to study with some amazing people, both teachers and students. I've been a part of some wonderful courses, conferences, and retreats. As a pastor, it is so tempting to equate these experiences with becoming an expert at life. But the truth is, many "experts" have watched churches die in their presence. Experts won't save the church.

Here is what I believe God is reminding me about life and learning:

*There comes a time when I need to put the books down and let members of the church teach me, and watch God get to work. I have to show up, not just on Sundays, but the rest of the week as well.

*Don't get so caught up in knowledge, career advancements, or being in control, that I forget to be present to those around me, especially my church family. Not only to learn, but to grow, surrender to, and experience this beautiful gift called church community.

*Don't overlook people because they don't fit the mold of success or have authority, or it's inconvenient to my schedule, or I'm not called to a particular ministry.

There are amazing people who pass by us daily. Don't miss the lessons they have to share because they don't have the title, haven't written a book, or don't add some preconceived idea of what you think adds value to your life. Build relationships with those around you and let God's Spirit form and teach you through those interactions. We are all called to surrender and love one another.

In the process, you might be surprised how much you have to give in return.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Presbyterian Women

DATE to REMEMBER:

Birthday Luncheon
Tuesday, August 18
11:30 am

Dirty Labor Day

*September is the beginning of our new Bible study
"United Through Christ."*

We have two circles that meet in the morning or the afternoon. Find one that fits your schedule and join us:

- ◆ Joy Circle —1st Tuesday, 9:45 am
- ◆ Fellowship —1st Thursday, 2:00 pm



BIBLE STUDY

SEASON FIVE—THE CHOSEN

Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 pm

MG Moran's Sunday School Room

Kim Moran will lead the Bible Study using the videos of The Chosen series. You may have heard of the series; it is about the life of Christ as told from the disciples' point of view. Dallas Jenkins is the producer of the series. His father, Jerry Jenkins, was co-author with Tim LeHaye on the Left Behind Book Series. Light refreshments will be available.



CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 28, 2026



Notes from Vicki Wissel

Choir is returning from summer break starting August 2nd. New voices and instrumentalists are always welcome to join our music ministry.

Contact Vicki Wissel at music@firstpresfwb.org for more information.

RESPECT THE PAST - EMBRACE THE FUTURE

A Digital Outreach Initiative

Goal: \$25,000

Help us expand our ministry beyond our walls through high quality digital communication and social media outreach.

Your support will help us:

- Share Christ's message with a wider audience
- Reach younger generations
- Promote worship and ministries
- Strengthen communication with members
- Create excellent, professional content

Your gift strengthens our witness.

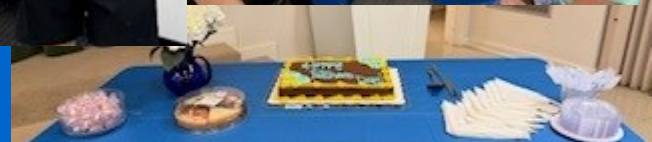
Your generosity shapes our future.

Give today and help us reach our community with hope.

FATHER'S DAY

June 21, 2026

"The Day the Women Served the Fathers!"





HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 10, 2026

"The Day the Men Served the Mothers!"





August Birthdays

Jeanie Caughman 01
Sue Petersen..... 17
Sarah Scoggins 18
Krisha Brister 22
Beth Crawley..... 24

God Bless You

on your special day!

Did you know the Presbyterian Women collect pop tabs and send them to Ronald McDonald Charities? Mayrelizbeth is the PW Super Saver Coordinator. Please help us save tabs, it's an ongoing collection. Bring them to the Narthex or church office.

Pray for our church officers as they serve God as leaders in this church; that God will guide and bless them in their service.

CLASS OF 2026

BARBARA BLACKBURN, STEVE CAHOON,
MG MORAN

CLASS OF 2027

KIM MORAN, MARLENE NAYLOR, FRAN
GOODALL

CLASS OF 2028

MARK BURSON, MARY NELL STRINGER,
VICKI WISSEL

The Officer Nominating Committee is presently praying and seeking elders for the Class of 2029.

September Birthdays



Kyla Brister04
Sharron Land.....10
Carol Bair.....20
Steve Cahoon22
Helen Edwards27
John Stringer.....29
Jett Brister.....30



August Anniversaries

William & Lila Mendel
August 30

September Anniversaries

John & Ann Cahoon
September 17

The Witness & Outreach Committee received a "thank you" note from A Bed 4 Me regarding a donation of \$250.00. The bed system provided includes a mobile, durable, all steel bed frame, a plush mattress and bedding. Part of their process is asking the children their interests and allowing them to design how their bed space will look. It gives them some ownership to their new sleep space.

Financial Statement

June 2026 YEAR to DATE

INCOME:

Offerings	\$17,110.32	89,820.86
Other.....	6,522.22	34,833.26
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,632.54	124,654.12

EXPENSES:

Clergy Compensation.....	\$2,759.62	19,058.34
Worship	150.00	2,438.34
Christian Education	0.00	56.95
Witness/Outreach.....	0.00	5,155.61
Admin. & Finance.....	7,268.42	47,440.72
Property	7,121.12	21,302.95
Discipleship	389.04	1,915.59

TOTAL EXPENSES	17,688.20	97,368.50
Excess Income/Expense	\$ 5,944.34	27,285.62
Transfer fm Investment Acct.....	0.00	0.00

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026

First Presbyterian Church
134 Beal Parkway S.W.
Fort Walton Beach, FL

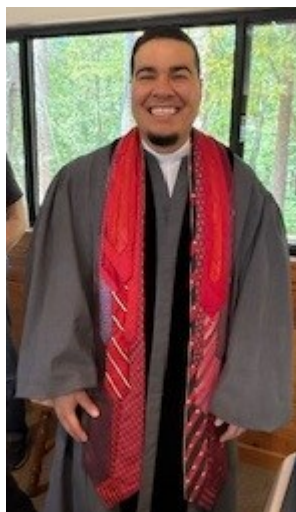


PHONE: 850-243-3732
FAX: 850-243-3402
www.firstpresfwb.org

Rev. Dr. John Stringer, Pastor
junctarheel@msn.com

Lorilee Corbett, Office
Administrator
office@firstpresfwb.org

Vicki Wissell, Director of Music
music@firstpresfwb.org



May 16, 2026

Rev. Mario Bolivar—New Equipping
Presbyter installed at Presbytery of
Florida Stated Meeting—Dogwood
Acres. Pastor John, Mary Nell
Stringer (elder) and Lorilee Corbett
(Administrator) attended.

Look what's happening!

Rummage Sale



**Coming
this
October**

"Stuff" has a way of piling up before we know it! Now is the time to clean out all that "stuff" and bring it to the church rummage sale. Proceeds will benefit local causes. Plan to come and shop!

The Church has received a thank you note from One Hopeful Place regarding the donation made in Yvonne Franklin's name.

Witness & Outreach has also received a thank you note from Sharing & Caring for continuous donations received from the church.

VISION STATEMENT:

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

*God is able to provide you with every
blessing in abundance, so that by always
having enough of everything, you may
share abundantly in every good work."*
Corinthians 9:8