

September Bugle

A. Quinn Jones Alachua Elementary Alachua eSchool Volume 48
Archer Elementary Brentwood School Issue 9
Carolyn Beatrice Parker Elementary Chiles Elementary

Christian Life Academy Digital Academy Duval Elementary
First Presbyterian Preschool Glen Springs Elementary

Hidden Oak Elementary High Springs Elementary Idylwild Elementary
Irby Elementary Lake Forest Elementary Littlewood Elementary
Meadowbrook Elementary Metcalfe Elementary
Millhopper Montessori Newberry Elementary Norton Elementary

Oak Hall PK Yonge Developmental Research School
Prairie View Academy Queen of Peace Rawlings Elementary

Shell Elementary Stephen Foster Elementary Sydney Lanier
Talbot Elementary Terwilliger Elementary Wiles Elementary
Williams Elementary Fort Clarke Middle School

Hawthorne Middle School High Springs Middle School
Howard Bishop Middle School Kanapaha Middle School
Lincoln Middle School Mebane Middle School

Oak View Middle School Westwood Middle School Buchholz High School
Eastside High School Gainesville High School Hawthorne High School

Newberry High School PAM @ Loften Santa Fe High School
Santa Fe College St. Leo University University of Florida

***And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according
to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19***

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mark Hults, Senior Pastor

Digital Ways to Join Us for Worship!

- 1 Worship Videos on [YouTube](#) the day of the service
- 2 Audio Livestream Sundays at 10:55 a.m. on 1stpc.org
- 3 Sunday services on Cox Channel 11 at 9:00 a.m.

LIFE TOGETHER

from Mark Hults

Hello First Presbyterian Church,

It is great to think of you as I write. I miss you and have missed getting to know you more. Richard Lamb's book, *The Pursuit of God in the Company of Friends*, focuses on helping people avoid the dangers of living the Christian life in isolation. So often, the demands of life trick us into believing we don't have enough time for others. The Kingdom that Jesus initiated was one where no one was isolated or alone. A disappointing consequence of this pandemic is those of you that have done the best jobs of creating friendships and support networks to sustain your faith have often suffered greatly when you can't access them the way you did. The restrictions this pandemic has created for even healthy people, let alone those that have a condition that might increase one's vulnerability, have pulled many of us away from the relationships we depend upon.

Depending on our health and other situations, there are a range of challenges created by COVID-19. The way this virus has altered our lives has been deeply challenging. Recently a group of our youth explained the problem well when they said, "*We don't have anything to look forward to.*" Vacations have been limited or canceled, fewer go to parks or access recreational opportunities, and many of us are uninspired by the restricted opportunities our weekends offer. So what do we do?

I think we need to respond by clinging to grace and moving ourselves to action. We won't respond to the challenges brought on by this virus perfectly. We have to believe in God's grace to carry us through this, as we do for all things. But we also have to press forward. The opportunities we have are limiting, but they don't have the only say. This is the time to find new ways to connect. Many of you have learned to use the internet to connect virtually. Others need to use their phones in ways they may not ever have used them. For the sake of our mental and spiritual health, we have to be active. Phone a friend, an encourager, or someone on the staff of the church. This is the time to tell yourself you aren't going to settle and you are going to find other ways to "Pursue God in the Company of Friends." This isn't what any of us want, but with God's grace, we can be in a better place.

Blessings to you all,



Contact Pastor Mark at pastor@1stpc.org.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Worshipping together in the sanctuary has been postponed until further notice. Please join us Sunday mornings with full-service audio found on the webpage or videos on YouTube. Search "1stpc" on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) or links are sent in the Weekly Invite email late in the week. **For closed captioning on YouTube, hover over the bottom of the video and click on the  sign for auto-generated subtitles.

MEMBER INFORMATION

BIRTHS

Charlotte Hoechsmanns, May 8, 2020
Maverick Hancock, July 31, 2020

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Howard Groger, July 1, 2020
Sylvia Murphy, August 10, 2020

ADULTING . . .

AS LEARNERS THAT HELP OTHERS LEARN . . .

from Fred Lundy

One of the many things I have learned personally as I continue to grow older is how often I am struck and guided by statements that really stand out to me either at certain times in my life or by becoming nuggets of wisdom that I see holding true throughout many years.

I can still remember from my teenage years, "*Organization is the key to efficiency and effectiveness.*"

My kids often hear, "*Do it once and do it well.*"

One of the statements from a few years ago came from a Christian leader who said something to the effect of – "*I wish more pastors and church leaders would speak from a standpoint of 'What they are learning' and less from a standpoint of 'What they are experts in.'*"

Now, while I consider this to be true all the time, I consider it especially truthful during the current time we are living in.

Over the past almost six months, we and the rest of the world have continued to become aware of how little we actually know about every day matters of life. Just think of what your life was like just one year ago this week.

Were you getting ready to send your kids back to school?

Were you finishing up the last of your summer plans or summer vacation?

Were you making sure you had some fresh college colors to make sure you were ready to cheer on Saturdays?

You see, as much as we know and as many decisions as we make, the truth of the matter is we are always called to be learners, growers, maturers, wisdom seekers, and discerners. These words are to be verbs for us – parts of life we are actively involved in and continually praying about and trying to get better at.

We are not experts – *we are followers.*

We are not authorities – *we are servants.*

We are not perfect – *we are forgiven.*

We are not worthy – *we are shown grace.*

We are not blameless – *mercy is poured out on us.*

We are not right – *we are made right through the Cross of Christ.*

Because, ultimately, as Christ-followers we are to be those who continue to become more like Christ each and every day in small ways and big ways because in all ways all the ways matter.

One sentence that has stuck with me for decades comes from the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, Verse 30:

He must become greater;

I must become less.

At the end of the day, for me, this sums up a majority of what it means to be a Christian.

Sin must decrease in my life daily; my flesh, my ways, my nature, my desires – all of that must become less. And whether it is a result of me allowing more of Him being in me or me realizing the Holy Spirit wants to get rid of some really nasty bits that have resided in me for too long, my response must be the simple prayer from above and the action it naturally incites.

Another one my kids also hear a lot is, "*Don't be dumb.*"

My hope is we all hear that one loud and clear so our focus is on being moldable, shapeable, and more obedient to Christ, so that our lives are ones that point less to ourselves and more to Him.



I HAD PLANS!

from Scott Stuart



Lately the verse that I keep going back to again and again is Proverbs 16:9 *“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”* Like many of you I had all these plans for the summer and the beginning of the fall semester. I was going to finish my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), which then was going to set me up to complete my ordination this fall. I was then going to hit the ground running and be ready to welcome students back to campus to start another awesome school year. Simply put, *“I had plans!”*

As time continues to march on, what is becoming more apparent is how incredibly structured we are as humans. I find my mind wandering at times telling myself, *“If COVID did not exist, I would be doing this right now, or I should be preparing*

for XYZ.” I confess before you all as I write this letter, I do not like change very much. I like the structure of order and knowing what is coming; with a hint of variety, you know, the kind of variety that allows UF to play Alabama once every 4 or 5 years. Plainly speaking, I do not like the season I am in.

However, with every passing day, I am reminded it is the Lord who establishes my steps. Sanctification is taking place in my life and while I do not always enjoy it, I am thankful that our God is working in mighty ways beyond my own plans. For example, my ordination has not come to a stop, it has just be re-routed; and as for my students, while many of them are not going back to campus, they are still coming back to Gainesville.

As I am entering the familiar season of fall, I am trying more and more to use the audible to my advantage. Many of you all may know an audible is sometimes called when the quarterback does not like the original plan or formation of his offense. Allowing myself to open to God’s redirection shows me that His hand is at work. Since my CPE was canceled, I have been volunteering with a national prayer line and I must tell you, I am loving it. Getting to listen and pray with people every week who are so desperate for Jesus has been water to my own soul. Yet, as I reflect, this was not “My Plan.” And in regard to my students, they have been coming up with some great ideas as to how they can reach other students around them using social media.

The season I am in is still challenging at times, but I know as long as our Good Shepherd is establishing my steps, I cannot go wrong. My hope and prayer for all of us in this time is to be honest with the Lord wherever you are at, but at the end of the day let us all say, *“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”*

Blessings to you my friends in this season of sanctification, our process of being made holy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Stuart', written in a cursive style.

DONATION DRIVE-THRU

Our next church opportunity to support local missions will be

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

1 - 3 PM

IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT

Watch the September worship guides for more information.



COMMITTEE

SPOTLIGHT:

TRUSTEES

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10

As with any corporation our church is required to have corporate officers. We have five Trustees who serve a three-year term to fill the role of corporate officers. The Trustees meet monthly or quarterly depending upon the need. The Trustees are responsible with the assistance of the Treasurer, Session, and Church staff for overseeing the financial assets of the Church. Duties include making financial investment decisions, assisting with the establishment of financial goals, financial planning, addressing budget shortfalls, and overseeing the student loan and scholarship program. Two recent projects that the Trustees participated in were the COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Loan Program and the parking lot expansion project with Trimark Properties. We welcome your prayers as all churches are facing financial challenges during this difficult time. Questions? Contact Dick Rauber at drauber@me.com.



DEACON REPORT

The Deacons are often referred to as a caring ministry of the church demonstrating compassion in an organized way to show the love and concern of the whole congregation to members that may need extra support. First Presbyterian expresses this care in a variety of ways. Phone calls, visitations, cards/letters, pie and poinsettia delivery, homebound communion, meal delivery, and grocery shopping were just some of the opportunities that the deacons participated in during the 2019-2020 year.

We've added 3 new Deacons this year for a total of 17. Dr. Kling offered a workshop on congregational care in January presenting ideas and methods on caring for church members. We were able to connect officially at least 1,253 times with members of our congregation. Obviously, this coming year will be a little different with pandemic precautions, but we look forward to continuing our compassionate service in creative ways.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP GUIDES - Digital versions of our children's worship guides for you to print and use as you participate in worship during this time of social distancing can be found as links in the Weekly Invite emails from the church office. We encourage your family to discuss thoughts on worship together - even if you don't use the guide.

WEEKLY DOSE OF DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP - All are invited to join this email list as a way to stay/become connected to the ministries of our church. The weekly emails will include a variety of features like encouraging messages, the children/youth/adult ministry opportunities during the week, a weekly devotional, and more. The goal of the Weekly Dose of Digital Discipleship emails is to be a place to refuel and keep our intergenerational church family connected while we are social distancing as an act of loving our neighbors. If you would like to receive these emails, contact Vicki Sumner at children@1stpc.org.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY IN PANDEMIC - Our Christian Education, LOGOS, and Youth Connection Committees recognize the ever-changing season we are in and ask our church family to join us in prayer as we discern where God is leading our children and youth ministries and who our church is called to be in this season. Wherever He leads, we plan to continue to create space for fun, fellowship, and relationships while engaging with Christ's Word.

COLLEGE TRAJECTORY BIBLE STUDY is meeting through Zoom. For more information, please email Scott Stuart at college@1stpc.org.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We are meeting regularly via Zoom. For more information on Young Adult Ministry or specifically on these meetings, please email Fred Lundy at youngadult@1stpc.org.

THE GORDON HOOVER CLASS IS ZOOMING!

They meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome! If you're interested in joining the class, please contact Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com.

GORDON HOOVER CLASS

Everyone is welcome to join us!

September 6	Introduction and 2 Peter 1	Tim Schubert
September 13	2 Peter 2	Jed Keesling
September 20	2 Peter 3	Perry Foote
September 27	Introduction and 1 Timothy 1	

First Presbyterian Church
106 South West Third Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
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Return Service Requested

September Bugle

2020

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit # 302
GAINESVILLE, FL 32601



OPEN ENROLLMENT AT THE PRESCHOOL

The First Presbyterian Preschool offers a year-round program for children three months to five years. Current safety precautions include increased cleaning following strict COVID cleaning procedures, social distancing, temperature/symptoms check, hand sanitizer, and much more. Tours are available by appointment and current tuition pricing can be given out at that time or by phone.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Full and Part-time options available for all age groups

Free VPK 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. / Extended day is available

- Emphasis on school readiness and literacy
- ECO Accredited / Environmentally friendly
- Gold Star School
- Chapel for all age groups
- New playground
- Yoga class
- Sign Language for infants and toddlers
- Computer learning center for VPK

352-376-1818

PRESCHOOL@1STPC.ORG