


Lent Bugle

Volume 53
Issue 1



*For I will restore health
to you, and your wounds
I will heal, says the Lord . . .
Jeremiah 30:17*

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mark Hults, Senior Pastor

3* Ways to Join Us for Sunday Worship!

1 Worship In-Person
at 11:00 a.m. in the
Sanctuary

2 Livestream at 11:00
a.m. on YouTube and at
1stpc.org

3 Watch Sunday services
at 9:00 a.m. on Cox
Channel 11

**Worship videos are available anytime on the church YouTube page*

LOVE

from Mark Hults

Hello First Presbyterian Church Family,

I hope this finds you happy and hopeful. On March 5, we begin the season of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday. The crescendo of Ash Wednesday is our evening worship service which begins at 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. This is a short but very powerful service. It lasts less than an hour, but I think gives some of the most moving imagery we experience as Christians. The service concludes by celebrating the Imposition of Ashes and then Communion, grasping both our humanity and Christ's promise to us. Those of you attending the service will approach me, or someone else that is also imposing ashes, and as I am putting the ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand, I will say, "From dust we have come, and to dust we shall return." Then you will look at me and say, "In life and in death, I belong to God!" This will set us up for a good launch, moving toward the most holy day on the Christian calendar, Easter, celebrated at both 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in our sanctuary on April 20.

Lent begins forty days prior to Easter, not including Sundays. It remembers Jesus' forty days in the wilderness as a preparation for his ministry. During this time, it is the tradition of the church to prepare for what Jesus is calling us toward, his death and resurrection. We live in a world of chaos and tension. The church contrasts this reality by celebrating the most unselfish act in the history of the world. Driven by love, Jesus laid down his life for his creation. Let's

use our time this Lenten season to process what it means to love like this and to be driven by love to act.

It is helpful to compare those things that frustrate us and drive us apart with what Jesus did. No matter what we are dealing with, tension with family or friends, trouble with our career or education, health concerns, or any number of other challenges, nothing compares with the case Jesus could make against us. Yet he acted in love. Love, shown by us the way Christ demonstrated it, will lead us to Jesus and back toward each other. It will walk us into difficult conversations, difficult opportunities to be forgiven and to forgive, and finally freedom, all by following Jesus and leading with love. Jesus doesn't invite us into an easy space. Many run from it, but he doesn't invite us anywhere that he isn't willing to go himself. Use this gift of Lent to follow Jesus to where he is leading us.

Looking forward to a time to be led by love,



To contact Pastor Mark, email pastor@lstpc.org.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!



This sermon series highlights aspects of our worship as seen in familiar hymns and scripture: Join us for worship at 8:30 or 11 a.m. The introit/introduction each week strives to communicate the main message of the sermon series through a refrain, the word of the day, and a short passage from the scripture reading.

In January, we heard Scott Stuart preach about the biblical theme of 'grace,' and also much about John Newton, the 18th century English sea captain who wrote the hymn 'Amazing Grace'.

In our Archive, the church has a 1st edition copy of *Cardiophonia or the Utterance of the Heart* by John Newton. The inside cover of the book is inscribed "W.H.McCormack Library 1854." McCormack was pastor of our church at its founding in 1860. Presumably, this book belonged to him.

- The Archive Committee

YOUNG ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY AND YOUTH CONNECTION

from Fred Lundy

Welcome to 2025! By now you are well on your way into this New Year and I hope everything is going well!

Just a reminder – as your kids and as our middle and high school youth participate in activities this academic year, we would appreciate you letting us know so we can attend and cheer them on. So as games, competitions, presentations, shows, or anything else comes up, please let us know the details in hopes we can make it.

It is a blessing to be able to join with y'all when we can – even if just for a little bit. Thanks in advance for giving us the opportunity to do so!

YOUNG ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY | YA&FM (*First Pres's ministry for marrieds and singles, with or without kids in grad school, roughly those age 25-ish to 50-ish*): We meet in a variety of ways each month – the main thing to know is to reach out to me if you want to know more about any one of these or to be added to our text list to receive specifics.



- Men's Breakfast – typically on the first Thursdays of the month from 7 a.m.-11 a.m. at Bagel Bakery
- Men's Bible Study – typically on the second Thursdays of the month from 5:30 a.m.-7 a.m. at Starbucks on the corner of 53rd and 43rd
- Midweek Monthly Bible Study – typically on the third Wednesday of the month in the evening at Fresh Kitchen in front of the Oaks Mall
- Women's Gatherings – typically monthly or every other month

As we are in the Spring of the year, we are planning on having a few special things planned for this group of folks:

- Watching some UF Baseball on the Berm behind 3rd Base (typically during March and April)
- Various get-togethers around town

YOUTH CONNECTION | YC (*First Pres's ministry for Middle and High Schoolers, for 6th – 12th graders*): The main thing to know is to reach out to me if you want to know more about any one of these or to be added to our text list to receive specifics:



- We usually meet twice a month, after the Sanctuary Corporate Worship Service until 2:30 p.m. for a lunch, fellowship, Bible Study, and to play some games – grab a lunch from College Café in the Serving Room then join us in the Youth Room, Christian Education Building # 211.
- We meet throughout the month for things like FrYAY! Breakfasts, Ice Cream, and other gatherings.

As we are in the Spring of the Year, we have a few special things planned for this group that we would love you to join us at:

- Super Bowl Viewing party – Sunday , February 9, 2025 – 6 p.m. at the Dowling Residence. Bring your favorite appetizer to share!
- Youth Sunday – Sunday, February 23, 2025 – the Youth Connection middle and high school students lead both morning worship services

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, February 14 & 15, 2025 - Carr Family Farm Camping and Picnic Returns!



This February 2025, First Pres will be returning to Carr Family Farm! There are two ways you can participate; (1) Friday evening campers are welcome to spend the night. Details on this to come. (2) Joining the campers for the Saturday all church family picnic. If you are interested in signing up for camping and want more details feel free to contact Holli Best 352-246-1590.

To contact Fred Lundy,
email youngadult@1stpc.org.



COLLEGE MINISTRY UPDATE

from Scott Stuart

Greetings all! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year. As the new semester is underway, I recently met with my students to plan what we want this semester to look like. As ideas were coming in, we focused on three tiers for this school year:

- The Content of God's Word
- Fellowship
- Service

While each of these categories has a lot to say, I want to draw our attention to "Service" due to the sensitivity of time. This February 9 our college students are going to head up our annual "SOUPer Bowl." If you have never been apart of this event, here are a few important things to know.

- This fundraiser is a global event which has existed for 35 years with a heart to end hunger
- Our proceeds will go to Gainesville Community Ministries
- Most importantly... WE NEED YOUR SOUP!!!

Below you will find all the details to help make this happen. This is one of the most beloved events we do as a church every year. With this in mind, I hope you will make time to bring a soup, bring a friend, and bring your appetite. And don't forget to bring a canned good to help fill GCM's food pantry!

Call or email me if you have any questions regarding this years SOUPer Bowl.

Blessings to you all!!!



To contact Scott Stuart, email college@1stpc.org.



CALLING ALL COOKS!

College Trajectory is looking for a few good cooks to make a crock pot of soup on Sunday, February 9. We will once again be hosting Souper Bowl of Caring in Gordon Hall immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. As a church, we raise funds for Gainesville Community Ministries, who feeds the hungry, and 100% of the profit will go to the agency. Our students hope to serve over 30 types of soup and in return collect many donations. If you are interested in making a crockpot of soup, please contact Scott Stuart, college@1stpc.org or (352) 378-1527, by Thursday, February 6.

If cooking isn't your thing, that's OK! Our church has lots of good cooks, so please plan on eating lunch with us

and bringing a donation for the food pantry at GCM. If you cannot stay, our students will be accepting donations after church. Just look for the people with the big soup pots. Checks are accepted: please write "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo line.

HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS



We want to honor you in worship in April. If you are graduating from high school, please let us know your plans for after graduation. Those of you that are graduating from college, please let us know what your degree is in as well as your post-graduation plans. Email communications@1stpc.org or call the church office at (325) 378-1527.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Application forms for the Kirkpatrick family, J. Wayne Reitz, John R. Greenman, William K. "Bill" Robertson, Ruth Maren, Charles and Mary Ross, Howard and Emily Patton, and Hank and Margaret Weech 2025-2026 scholarships are available in the church office or by email at business@1stpc.org. Submit the application, transcripts, and two letters of recommendation. Applications are due by Tuesday, March 18.





February

Special Events Only. Regular Weekly Ministries and Committee Meetings NOT Listed.

**Sundays
in Feb**

8:30 a.m. **Worship** in the Chapel
9:30 a.m. **Adult Sunday School**
- **Gordon Hoover** in Room 213 and
- **Multiply** in Room 201
10 a.m. **Chancel Choir** in the Sanctuary
10:45 a.m. **Nursery** in Room 204
11 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary



Dr. Laura Ellis, organ
Part of the 1stpc Music Lunch Series
12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Souper Bowl Sunday
Tackle Hunger in Gainesville
Gordon Hall 12 - 1 p.m.



Dr. Colleen Cole Buecher, voice
Part of the 1stpc Music Lunch Series
12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Church Office and Preschool Closed
Presidents' Day



Dr. David Smith, jazz trombone
Part of the 1stpc Music Lunch Series
12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Celtic Landscapes
8 p.m. Immersive concert in the sanctuary
with images and live music



Youth Sunday
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship
led by Youth Connection students



Ruth Lewis, harpsichord
Part of the 1stpc Music Lunch Series
12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary



March



Transfiguration of the Lord
Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship



Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins
LOGOS Dinner at 5:45 p.m. and Worship
led by our Cherub & Junior Choirs
at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

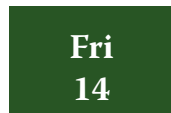


First Sunday in Lent
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship

Daylight Saving Time Begins
*Don't forget to spring forward one hour on
this First Sunday in Lent!*



The Concordia Choir of Moorhead, MN
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Concert for a Cause: GCM
NO LOGOS



Summer Bugle Deadline

Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.
Colossians 4:5-6

Sun
16

Second Sunday in Lent
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship

Wed
16

LOGOS Holy Week Break

Mon-Fri
17-21

Spring Break
No Preschool, LOGOS, Handbells, or
Chancel Choir this week

Thurs
17

Maundy Thursday Worship
John 13:1-17; 31b-35
6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Tues
18

College Scholarship Applications Due
Submit to the church office

Fri
18

Good Friday Worship
The Seven Last Words of Christ
led by College Trajectory, Senior Choir,
and a Good Friday ensemble
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sun
23

Third Sunday in Lent
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship

Sat
19

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m.

Sat
30

Fourth Sunday in Lent
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship



Easter Sunday Worship
Mark 16:1-8
8:30 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary
with Holy Communion,
Choir, Brass, & Percussion



April

Wed
23

LOGOS Talent Show



Love in Action:
Responding to God's Mission for Us
Join us for this celebratory service of
worship at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Thurs
24

Choirs Celebration
More details to come

Chancel Choir
7:15 p.m. Final Rehearsal

Easter Lily Orders are Due

Wed
9

Handbell Concert
7 p.m. at Oak Hammock



**College Graduation
and Scholarship Sunday**
11 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary

Sun
13

Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship



LOGOS Year-End Celebration
in Gordon Hall

Extra yarn or cotton fabric? Consider donating it to North Florida Sewing Center for their local and global ministries. Contact Carol Israel at ceisrael@cox.net.



The next Bugle is our Summer Bugle which will mail in May.

THE CONCERT SERIES



This spring, we have many concert offerings. *The Lunch Series*: On Tuesdays in February at 12:15 p.m., we will have 25-minute concerts with guest musicians, Dr. Laura Ellis (organ), Dr. Colleen Cole Buecher (voice), Dr. David Smith (jazz trombone), and Ruth Lewis (harpsichord). Concerts are in the sanctuary followed by a shared lunch. Bring your own or purchase one here for \$5.

On Friday, February 21 at 8 p.m., we will have a concert *Celtic Landscapes*. Join us for an immersive experience with images from Ireland and Great Britain and live music of the harp, bagpipes, strings, handbells, and voices.

And in March, on Wednesday 12, we welcome back *The Concordia Choir of Moorhead, MN* under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton for a Concert for a Cause. From the music of J. S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, the 72-voice a cappella choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Dr. Culloton is the fourth director in the choir's 100-year history. In 2009, he was a featured conductor in "Never Stop Singing," a documentary about the history of choral music in Minnesota. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit Gainesville Community Ministry.



Also in April, two of our handbell ensembles will give a pops concert on Wednesday, April 9 at Oak Hammock at 7 p.m.

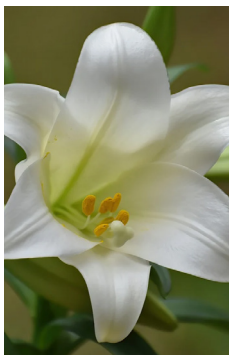
Visit www.1stpcmusic.org to find out more.



COVER ART

In January, we partnered with Dance Alive National Ballet and Anew Gainesville for a concert to highlight human trafficking. Through dance, testimony, and music we experienced the tragedy and pain of so many but also saw the road to hope.

EASTER LILIES



If you would like to contribute to the Easter decor in the Sanctuary, we invite you to fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. A donation of \$15 for each lily is appreciated. You may take your lily home after the 11 a.m. Easter Service. The deadline for orders is Sunday, April 6.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

MONTREAT 2025

On Saturday, June 14, children, youth, and adults from our church will board a charter bus to travel to Montreat, North Carolina for the 2025 Worship and Music Conference. The theme of this year's conference is *Clothed in Love*.

Montreat offers conferees opportunities to explore vital inter-generational worship experiences and ways to enrich the liturgical life of the local church.



Please become a Noteworthy Sponsor. In April, you may visit the Noteworthy Sponsor table in Gordon Hall after worship, place a check in the offering plate with the memo "Montreat Noteworthy Sponsor," or mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

JOIN THE SONG

February is still a great time to join a choir at First Presbyterian Church! There are choirs and handbell groups for a variety of ages. Please contact Mitch with questions or to find the right group for you.

To contact Mitch Rorick, email music@1stpc.org.



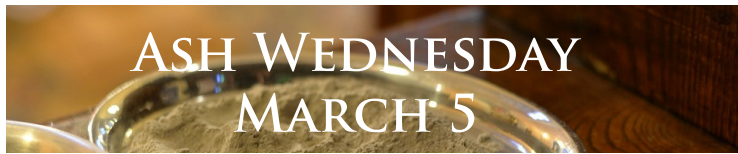
The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." 2 Chronicles 5:13



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LOGOS

Gather on Wednesdays from 3:30-6:45 p.m. for LOGOS, an inter-generational ministry for children and youth ages 3 through high school. LOGOS includes worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and fellowship for children and youth with \$5 family time dinner at 6 p.m. Email Bev Vloedman, dvloedman@aol.com, with questions or to RSVP for dinner.



The entire congregation is invited to join LOGOS for Family Dinner on Ash Wednesday. Please note that dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. immediately before the 6:30 p.m. worship service. The cost is \$5 per person/\$3 per preschool-aged child. Contact Bev Vloedman at dvloedman@aol.com to RSVP.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Every Sunday, there are bouquets of flowers that decorate the chancel for the Worship services. These flowers are available for members of the congregation to purchase in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Dates are on a first come, first served basis and the cost is \$30. Contact

Jenny Chamberlain through the church office or at communications@1stpc.org to sign-up.

Available Sundays

March 9	April 13
March 30	April 27
	May 18

LOVE IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

The fourth *Love in Action* service will be held on April 6 during Sunday morning worship. As in previous years, there will be short scenes with volunteer actors. The few rehearsals will be held on some Sundays after church, starting very soon. **The program needs: 1 boy (age between 8 and 11), 3 women, and 4 men**

If you are interested in participating, please contact Vi Asmuth, bobviasm@aol.com.

MULTIPLY SUNDAY CLASS

Meet upstairs in room 201 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:30 a.m. as we finish our study of Genesis and then continue with the lent devotional.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Feel left out of Bible Study? Join a lunch hour ZOOM Bible study sponsored by Presbyterian Women for 9 consecutive Wednesdays, beginning March 5 from 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. Our topic will be *Who is Jesus?* by Judy Yates Siker which looks closely at the life of Jesus through the four Gospels. (Men are welcome to join the group.) Leave contact info at the church office (352) 378-1527 to receive a ZOOM link.

GORDON HOOVER

Meet in the Church Library at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Enter through the Mary Gate or the sanctuary. All are welcome! Email Perry Foote with questions at palbertfoote@gmail.com.

February 2	John 19	Tim Schubert
February 9	John 20	Ross Teigan
February 16	John 21	Don McGarity
February 23	The Names of Jesus	Marilyn Mott

In March, Gordon Hoover will begin the study of the epistles of John, beginning with 1 John on March 2 and teacher Perry Foote.

*... so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:11*





YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements will be sent upon request. Please contact Trudy Bonerba through the church office or at business@1stpc.org and specify if you prefer email or regular mail.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT FROM LOCAL MISSIONS

The Local Missions Committee is thankful to God for direction and to the congregation for actively participating in our initiatives this past year. The commitment and thoughtfulness of our committee members is critical to best allocate our resources to impact downtown Gainesville.

Our committee supports several local ministries on the front lines in meeting needs. Over the year our congregation donated more than 1,600 pounds of canned goods and other food items and over 400 pounds of clothing and school supplies to **Gainesville Community Ministries** (GCM). We appreciate the support of LOGOS and the Souper Bowl of Caring in that effort! The contributions helped GCM distribute 71 backpacks for back to school and to bless 104 clients and their families with the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner (turkeys donated through the Joy FM).

We partner with **Family Promise** to provide food and shelter for working families. In 2024, we hosted a family of three. Thanks to our college students who covered the overnights, especially since the air conditioning was not working! The congregation provided food and hosting, and a shout out to the youth for setting up the rooms for our guests. These may well be the last families staying at FPC since Family Promise has acquired a new facility, *Promise House*, which is being renovated for transitional housing. Churches can still deliver food and meet families during host weeks, starting in Spring 2025. Money is needed to support the renovations.

We held our annual *Hope for the Holidays* drive in December 2024, completing the wish list for nine families from Family Promise and **St. Francis House**. We thank all who participated, including committee members who decorated the tree, coordinated tags for each gift, and distributed the gifts to the agencies.

We were pleased to partner with new ministries in 2024. Scott Stuart and his college students distributed water filters in Panama through the organization **Filter of Hope**. The filters provide clean drinking water and serve as an illustration of the Gospel that students shared with villagers. This fall Local Missions used our budget for Filter of Hope to purchase filters for hurricane relief in North Carolina.

Scott Stuart also introduced our committee to the local organization **Made for More**, which reaches out to boys in several Alachua County middle schools. According to their website, *“Made for More is a faith-based non-profit organization that mentors and inspires student athletes. We accomplish this through teachings, mentorship, workshops, camps, exposure trips, and international and local community involvement.”*

Under Mitch Rorick’s leadership FPC presented three concerts that benefited these local and global ministries: \$1,795 for water filters, \$2,222 for Family Promise, and \$1,700 went to the ministry Made for More.

Financially we received generous donations from our congregation in the fiscal year 23–24. Offerings from Christmas eve, Easter, and our concerts as well as designated funds provided \$35,973 above our budgeted \$8,300 to distribute to our partner ministries.

Looking ahead, we seek more opportunities for our congregation to be personally involved in ministry. We welcome new members on the Local Missions Committee, especially college students and young adults. As a downtown church our goal is to impact those around us with the hope of the Gospel. We believe that *“meeting human needs”* is a very tangible way to make First Presbyterian visible and relevant to our community, and to share that faith that can transform lives.

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

David Shaver
Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos
Zenaida Zapanta Rinonos

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

John Dunlap, October 23, 2024
Elizabeth McKenzie, October 23, 2024
Chuck Olson, November 14, 2024
Joe Gilkey, December 5, 2024
John Bonerba, December 18, 2024
Mary Fosser, January 15, 2025

BIRTHS

Gregory Hager, November 19, 2024

First Presbyterian Church
106 South West Third Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 378-1527
Return Service Requested

Lent Bugle

2025

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

CHANGE THE GAME

The Souper Bowl of Caring

More than 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”* Since that day, almost \$200 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money, and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. **Join us on Sunday, February 9** as we collect cans of soup for Gainesville Community Ministry and serve a variety of soups from crock pots (for a donation) in Gordon Memorial Hall following the 11 a.m. worship service. Feel free to taste all of them and come back for more. As long as there is soup in the crock pots, you are welcome to eat. If you can’t stay, our students will accept donations in the Narthex and Gordon Hall. Just look for the people with the big soup pots. Checks are accepted, write “Souper Bowl of Caring” on the memo line. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

Every dollar donated goes to
Gainesville Community Ministry
our 2025 Souper Bowl of Caring Charity of choice.

tackletohunger.org