



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST NEWS

Session Report

A Message From Pastor John



Just a few lines, my friend...

We continue to pray for all who were and will be affected by Hurricane Helene. While Lakeland did not get the brunt of this storm, we did have winds strong enough to do damage. We'd like to hear from you if you need help. The best way to let us know is to email [Pastor Zac](#). The church will help if and how we can.

I asked our mission coordinator Nancy Bertram which disaster recovery agency she recommends, and she said Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA enables congregations and mission partners "to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events." I like that they are committed to long-term recovery of communities. You can find out more about them [here](#). To give for relief from Hurricane Helene, click [here](#). Add "Hurricane Helene" in the "Disaster Supported" field.

Related to caring for people, thank you for your responses to the depleted Good Samaritan fund! We have enough to begin helping our own members again. Please keep giving as you are able now and keep this fund in mind for future donations. You are blessing others as you give.

Warmly,
Pastor John

Upcoming Events

[Women's Fall Brunch](#) | Oct. 5 | 11 am | Room A | [Register Here](#)

World Communion Sunday | Oct. 6

Spirit of Service Luncheon | Oct. 11 | 10 am | Room A

[Faithful Fifties Luncheon](#) | Oct. 20 | Noon | Rooms A, B & C | Tickets are \$17 per person

Good Samaritan Offering

In Acts 2, we are shown how the early church helped each other by sharing everything in common. At FPC, we try to embody that through the Good Samaritan Fund. The Good Samaritan Fund provides financial assistance to the members or regular attenders of FPC who have faced unexpected difficulties. We help with everything from groceries and medical bills to rental assistance and car repairs to electric bills and everything in-between. The fund is primarily managed by Pastor Zac and our Good Samaritan team, and we have distributed thousands of dollars' worth of assistance to people in our congregation. Because of some of the economic challenges our country is facing, more people are asking for these resources than ever, and we are HAPPY to help; however, the fund has been depleted more quickly than it has been replenished.

This is not a fund in our regular budget but receives funds from loose cash offerings on the fifth Sunday of the month or through designated offerings. Seeing as few people use cash anymore, there is a need for further donations. Please consider giving something extra to this fund by selecting the "Good Samaritan Fund" on the Giving page of our website or the Church Center app or by writing a check to FPC with "Good Samaritan Fund" in the memo line.

If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out [to us](#).

Organ Rededication Festival

Mark your calendars for Oct. 10-13 when we rededicate our Austin organ. The Festival will include a concert by the Stetson Concert Choir, a solo concert from Jerrick Cavagnaro, and a concert from Tom Ingui. More information is available on our [website](#).

Other News

Church Center App

We have launched a new app which will allow us to communicate with one another better and to love one another better. We hope you will use the QR code on the rotators around the church or on the pew pocket cards in the sanctuary to download the Church Center app.

If you have questions about how to download the app, find a staff member for assistance. We look forward to the ways we will grow through this app.

To download the Church Center mobile app, click [here](#).

New Member Orientation Class

We will be holding a New Member Orientation Class on Sunday, Sept. 29 at noon in the Library. Anyone who has an interest in joining the church is encouraged to attend.

There will also be a New Member Reception on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 9:15-10:15 am in the Library. This event is for those who have shared their desire to join the church at the New Member Orientation and have completed the New Member forms to be received as a member of the church. Please contact [Jo](#) with any questions.

CM Service Opportunities

Our Children's Ministry needs additional volunteers, especially in the nursery area. You do not have to have a child in Children's Ministry in order to serve. If you are interested, contact [Marion](#) to begin the process.



Groups & Classes

For a complete listing of the groups and classes that meet weekly, please see our online [church calendar](#) or the [classes](#) and [groups](#) pages on our website.

Join Us For Worship



In-person Worship

8:15 am & 10:30 am Classic services

8:15 am & 10:30 am in sanctuary

10:30 am modern Vine service in Loudon Hall

INFORMATION

10:30 AM CLASSIC WORSHIP GUIDE

8:15 AM WORSHIP GUIDE

Online Worship

(YouTube, Facebook, website)

8:15 am classic | 10:30 am modern vine

LIVESTREAM LINK

Discipleship Resources

Our church website has an array of [discipleship resources](#) for you. These include, among other things, the churchwide Bible reading plan and a podcast suggestion.

GIVE

Click Those Links

Anytime you see text in blue and underlined, it is a link to further information. Be sure to click those links!



First Presbyterian Church | 175 Lake Hollingsworth | Lakeland, FL 33801 US

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