

Lent Bugle

Volume 54
Issue 1



*Seek the Lord while he may
be found, call upon him
while he is near . . .*

Isaiah 55:6

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

EASTER

from Mark Hults

Hello First Presbyterian Church Family,

I have a friend who is a very talented pastor and preacher who thinks that Christmas and Easter are the two most difficult times to preach all year. He doesn't believe that because he thinks the stories make for a hard sermon, he thinks this because it was only a year ago that he was preaching the same story. How do you feel about Easter and Christmas? Do you enjoy being reminded of the same story, or do you prefer something you have heard about less often?

It probably depends on how you are wired and what your experiences are, but I imagine Christmas and Easter fatigue are a real thing. If you have or could have this kind of experience, what can you do to engage this Easter in a powerful way? I have a few ideas. Consider reading all four Easter stories during the Lenten Season. Ask yourself, why did one author include the details they included. Why did another author do it differently? What do the different details make you consider during the season. You can also read a devotional. Again this year, some of the staff team and I are reading, *Ever Approaching Dawn, A Lenten Devotional for the Season of Easter*. You can get it here: <https://store.christianitytoday.com/products/ever-approaching-dawn-easter-season-devotional-2026>,

for \$9. Sitting down with a good cup of coffee and reading someone else's perspective on Easter is a great way to apply this story in new ways.

One of my favorite experiences is to talk with a friend, or a group of friends, about your lives and how the Easter story impacts you. Sitting down together, talking while you watch the kids at the park, or connecting on a phone or video call can open up all kinds of new possibilities. Figure out what you think might make this Easter even more special for you and give it a shot. Oh, and please share with me or someone else on the staff team about what you are doing. We love to hear these stories.

Have a very special Easter,



To contact Pastor Mark,
email pastor@1stpc.org.

You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." That word is the good news that was announced to you.

1 Peter 1:23-25



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 to receive your statement by email or regular mail.

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

Esther Kim
Jason Park

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Barbara Hendrick-Doyle, November 3, 2025
James Lowry, November 10, 2025
Bruce Hoffman, November 19, 2025
Samuel Holloway, January 15, 2026
Will Olinger, January 15, 2026
Howard Lingg, January 24, 2026
Bruce Curry, January 26, 2026

MAKING DISCIPLES

from Fred Lundy

I hope your Thanksgiving-Advent-Christmas-New Year were all significantly great and provided times of significant gratefulness!

So here we are, another New Year when opportunities abound!

As I was thinking of this time of year, when the ministry of The Savior seems to get compacted into about four months of our calendar from Advent (which starts late November) through to Lent (which ends on Easter Sunday in early April); I was thinking how He both came to be “God with us” and also called us to be those who “go and make disciples of all nations.”

Disciple “(which come from the Latin *discipulus*, “learner”) is one who follows and learns from another as a pupil.” And discipleship “(from the Latin *discipulus*, “pupil” and NT Greek terms *mathētēs* “one who learns” and *akolouthein* “to follow after”) is broadly, a term for the Christian life, with different Christian traditions and groups stressing particular aspects of Christian living.” [1]

So I thought it important to remind our church of the opportunities we have to do just that:

YOUTH:

- LOGOS Youth Bible Study for Middle and High Schoolers - Wednesday nights from 4:15-5:00 p.m. in the Youth Room (Room #211) – studying the Gospel of John.

YOUNG ADULT AND FAMILY MINISTRY:

- Men’s Bible Study – studying the end of the Old Testament through the minor prophets.
- Young Professionals Bible Study – reading through the Gospel of Luke.

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

- Gordon Hoover – focus on a book-by-book study of the Bible.
- Multiply Class – we will resume our study of the Gospel of Luke then spend the Sundays in Lent looking at the Seven Words of Christ from the Cross.

If you want to know more about any of these opportunities above to be and help Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, please contact me at – youngadult@1stpc.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

- Circle 5 – the first Tuesday of the month. Dinner at 6 p.m. Bible Study at 7 p.m. Email Beverly Vloedman at dvloedman@aol.com.
- Chocolate Lovers – the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Email Betsy Berry at betsypwberry@gmail.com.



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

FRED

[1] McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, Second Edition: Revised and Expanded (p. 89). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

COLLEGE MINISTRY UPDATE

from Jonathon Haney

I have been delighted by all of the encouragement I have received since I began my journey here at First Presbyterian this year. Every week I have received welcome letters, kind words, and offers of assistance which I never take for granted. I really can't overstate how grateful I am to begin my career in ministry with such a welcoming church community, and I hope to be able to serve you all to the best of my ability. With that said, here are a few updates for what we have planned this semester.

- The weekly bible study is off to a strong start as we begin our dive into the Gospel of Matthew. Last week was our big overview of the Gospel, while this upcoming week we'll be starting on chapter 1. For any students interested in attending, it should be a great jumping on point. A delicious dinner is provided every week by our very own Susannah Peddie. Hope to see you there!
- This semester we will begin a weekly breakfast at Pascal's every Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. I'm looking forward to having this time for fellowship and deep discussion with all of our students. If you have any questions on God or the Bible on the mind lately or just want to chat over a great cup of coffee, be sure to drop by!
- I am so grateful to all of you who have volunteered to help out with the College Café this semester. We've still got some weeks open, so feel free to reach out to me. It's a great way to serve the students while showing off your culinary skills!
- Our first fellowship activity of the semester was this past Thursday, a hike through Sweetwater Wetlands Preserve. We've got plans for more hikes and other regular fellowship opportunities. Many of these are planned no more than a week or so in advance, so be

sure to reach out to me if you want to be kept in the loop about what's going on this semester.

- Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up on February 8. The college students and the youth are going to be working together to serve some delicious soups to all of you before the big game. This is one of my favorite Sundays of the year, and I hope that all of you can make it.
- We are currently working on putting together an adopt-a-college student program for interested students to get connected with local members and families for meals, support, and mentorship. Things are still in the planning phases right now, but if you are interested in signing up either as a student or volunteer host please reach out!

Finally, I wanted to extend a special thank you to Susannah Peddie for her tremendous support in volunteering her time and energy to this ministry as well for serving as a stellar mentor to all of our students. Susannah is a true blessing to this ministry, and frankly Trajectory would not be the same without her. I know I speak for the students as well when I say, thank you Susannah!

As an aside, our email system has been on the fritz lately, so feel free to contact me through the church office if you've sent an email and I haven't yet gotten back to you.

God Bless!



To contact Jonathon Haney,
email college@1stpc.org.



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 2026-2027 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 Friday, March 27.



February

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



Tues 3



Sun 8

Ruth Lewis, harpsichord
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.



Tues 10



Sun 15

Gainesville Brass Quintet

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

Hymn Festival featuring Robert A. Hobby
4 p.m. From Generation to Generation:
Hymns for Life's Journey
*Concert for a Cause: Helping Hands Clinic
and Made for More*



Mon
16

Church Office and Preschool Closed
Presidents' Day



Tues 17

Edward White Jazz Trio

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



Wed 18

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

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

Sun
22



Tues 24

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

**Dr. Lauren Hodges, viola
with Alan Clark, piano**

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



Fri 27

**Charles Lazarus, trumpet
and David Cherwien, organ**

1stpc Concert Series
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



March

Sun
1

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

Sun
8

Third 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!*

Fri
13

Summer Bugle Deadline

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the
mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual
worship.*

Romans 12:1

Sun
15

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

Mon-Fri
16-20

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

Sun
22

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

Fri
27

College Scholarship Applications Due
Submit to the church office

Sun
29

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



April

Wed
1

LOGOS Holy Week Break

Thurs
2

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

Fri
3

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



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.

Sat
4



Children's Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m.

Wed
15

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



Gainesville Master Chorale
1stpc Concert Series
4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Wed
22

LOGOS Talent Show

Thurs
23

Handbell & Choir Party
More details to come



Chancel Choir
7:15 p.m. Final Rehearsal

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



LOGOS Year-End Celebration
in Gordon Hall



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, Ruth Lewis (harpsichord),

the Gainesville Brass Quintet, the Edward White Jazz Trio, and Lauren Hodges (viola). Concerts are in the sanctuary followed by a shared lunch. Bring your own or purchase one here for \$5.

On Sunday, February 15 at 4 p.m., we will host a hymn Festival with Robert A. Hobby - From Generation to Generation: Hymns for Life's Journey. His compositions appear in print with a number of publishers, including in our *Glory to God* Hymnal. He has led hymn festivals all over the United States, as well as in Montreat. The son of a minister, he has a real heart for people and a deep spirituality.



Also in February, on Friday the 27th, we hold our annual organ concert. This year it includes trumpet as we welcome two prestigious musicians and composers, Charles Lazarus (trumpet) and David Cherwien (organ). This concert includes original works and classical favorites.

In April, we have two concert opportunities. Our handbell ensembles will give a concert on Wednesday, April 15 at The Village at 7 p.m. And the Gainesville Master Chorale with Dr. Will Kesling, conductor, will give a Concert for a Cause on Sunday, April 19 at 4 p.m. A free-will donation will be accepted for Family Promise of Gainesville.

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



COVER ART

In November, the Gainesville Community Band gave a Veterans Day Concert for a Cause followed by a spaghetti dinner. The community always enjoys this patriotic concert, and the tables were full for good food and fellowship.

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 \$17 for each lily is appreciated. You may take your lily home after the 11 a.m. Easter Service. The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 22.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

MONTREAT 2026

On Saturday, June 20, children, youth, and adults from our church will board a charter bus to travel to Montreat, North Carolina for the 2026 Worship and Music Conference. The theme of this year's conference is *Who'll Be a Witness?*

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.



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Colossians 3:16



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. PLEASE RSVP to Bev Vloedman at dvloedman@aol.com by Sunday, February 8.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



Do you appreciate getting to know the congregation after worship on Sunday while also enjoying a sweet treat? If so, please consider donating cookies for fellowship time. Sign up on the whiteboard in Gordon Hall on Sundays or contact Carol Israel at ceisrael@cox.net.

MULTIPLY SUNDAY CLASS

All adults are invited to room 201 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:45 a.m. for our current study of the book of Luke and our upcoming focus on Lent.

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 1	Mark 13	Perry Foote
February 8	Mark 14	Ross Teigen
February 15	Mark 15	Ross Teigen
February 22	Mark 16	Elizabeth Bolton
March 1	Romans Intro & Chapter 1	Perry Foote

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 \$40. Contact Jenny Chamberlain through the church office or at communications@1stpc.org to sign-up.

Available Sundays - March 8 and April 26

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
March 29

Matthew 21:1-11
8:30 a.m. Chapel
11 a.m. Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday
April 2

John 13:1-17, 31b-36
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Holy Communion

Good Friday
April 3

The Seven Last Words of Christ
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Easter Sunday
April 5

Matthew 28:1-10
8:30 and 11 a.m.
in the Sanctuary
Holy Communion

Nursery is available and starts 15 minutes before worship.
Worshiping at home? The services will be streamed on the church YouTube channel.

LOCAL MISSIONS UPDATE

The Local Missions Committee thanks the congregation for your support of our local ministries this past year. Your contributions made a difference in our community!

Here are some opportunities to serve in 2026:

1. We are looking for new members on our committee! We meet monthly seeking to best support our local ministries and to provide new ways for our congregation to get involved in service. You may contact Jane Smith, jysmith@outlook.com, or the church office for more information.
2. Provide canned goods to fill the food pantry at Gainesville Community Ministry. Drop them off in the bins in Gordon Hall and the church narthex, or bring to the church office. Clothing donations are also welcome. You may also contribute funds through the church by designating GCM.
3. Family Promise helps working families find stable housing. From the current newsletter:

"If you're looking for a way to start the year with purpose, I invite you to consider supporting Family Promise of Gainesville. Your generosity helps keep families housed, children stable, and hope alive in our community. Please, stand with us. Donate. Volunteer your time. Share our mission. We cannot do this work without you."

You may donate gift cards (groceries, gas, etc.) and money in the offering or at the church office.

Renovations are continuing on the Promise House, which will shelter up to six families as they wait for more permanent housing. Watch for opportunities for our church to be involved.

4. St. Francis House provides shelter and support for women and children in need. It also serves as a cold night shelter for the city of Gainesville. Our committee provides dinner on the fourth Monday of each month and we would welcome your participation!

You may contribute through the church by designating St. Francis House, or you can find Amazon and Target wishlists on the "Ways to give/donate" section of their website - <https://stfrancishousegnv.com/>.

Thank you for sharing the message of Jesus and the mission of our church "to meet human needs."

*Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.*
Psalm 96:2-3



February 2026

Instead of meeting together as a group, we are encouraging you to participate in the FPC Music & Lunch series each Tuesday of February. It is at 12:15 PM and lunch is \$5. Each week there will be a different 25-minute concert. You will find further information in this Bugle and February worship guides. Enjoy one event or go to all!

Friday, 13 March 2026

We're hoping to have an outing to Paynes Prairie and will keep you updated.

Friday, 10 April 2026

We're hoping to have an outing to the Cade Museum and will keep you updated.

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

Lent Bugle

2026

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 8** 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 11 a.m. worship. 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 Souper Bowl Sunday.

Every dollar donated goes to
Gainesville Community Ministry
our 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring Charity of choice.

