



YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FROM
First Presbyterian Church
4437 Clinton Street, Marianna, FL 32446

850-526-2430
fpcmarianna@gmail.com

OCTOBER, 2018

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

DO IT!!

When John the Baptist announced that judgement was imminent, the people asked how they might be spared. He said in effect, "Do the things that show you belong to God. Don't rest on your religious affiliation. If you have two shirts, give one to him who has none. If you have food, share it. Tax collectors, see that you don't collect more than is legal. Soldiers, don't forcibly extract money; be content with your pay." (Luke 3:1-14) Most of Jesus' direct instructions had to do with deeds, not doctrines. He even said that we would be judged by whether we did specific things like visiting prisoners and giving a cup of cold water. He announced that the tax collector, Zaccheus, was "saved" because he pledged to give half his fortune to the poor and repay the people he had cheated in excess of 400%. What we believe will determine what we do. So, doctrine is important. But what we do can betray what we say we believe. Therefore, the word for Christians is "DO IT!"

PRAISE SOMEONE YOU KNOW

*Every week, praise two people you know each day and be quiet about the others. I don't know of a better way to do Christianity than to give affirmations because we live in an infirming world, a world of put-downs, satire, repartee, one-upmanship. Kenneth Erickson, in *The Power of Praise*, says the average child hears nine infirming comments to one affirming comment during the first seven years of life! Parents, peers, professors, coaches and teachers should know that ridicule is not only ridiculous but evil. If I praise two people a day and they follow suit in geometric progression, two million people would hear an encouraging word in three weeks! This is not a pep talk for salespeople. It's a powerful way to change the world. Praise can be real. You don't have to fake it. It's not empty flattery. If you can't find something good to say about somebody, you're not thinking on an average level of intelligence. Uh Oh! Do you realize what I just did? In the name of affirmation, I criticized critics! Satan is alive and well (sick).*

MEND A FENCE

For starters, regularly mend old fences. Get rid of an enemy by making up with him. Shakespeare had it right: To err is human. Anybody can hate, harbor resentment, lick old wounds; but to forgive is divine business. God has to be involved. Where there is making up, there is God. Forgiveness comes in different shapes and sizes. You can even forgive the dead. Fortunately, we can mend most of our fences with people who are present. Families can do it. Church people can do it. Nations can do it.

TITHING

If I could recommend only one “do it”, I would choose one that sounds peculiar: Give away the first ten cents of every dollar you receive to help someone. Tithing is an acid test of our commitment. I love the bumper sticker that says, “IF YOU LOVE JESUS, TITHE, ANYBODY CAN HONK!!” In Christendom, there is a lot more honking than tithing. This is because the God of our age is Mammon. In New York, a visiting Indian Guru saw the people rushing about Grand Central Station and asked his host, “What’s wrong with these people? Is there a devil behind them?” “No,” said the host. “There’s a dollar sign in front of them.” There is only one way to be a Christian with money. Give a proportion of it away. Give it off of the top. Give it regularly.

In West Texas a person was speaking to the congregation about parenting. He began by reading to them in Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. In Malachi 3:6-9 God asks the people: “Do you think, it’s good to rob me? Well, that’s what you are doing!” “How?” you ask. By withholding your tithes! You give me sick animals and bad corn. You find ways to cheat.” The speaker closed the Bible and looked at the people. “If I were serious about being an effective parent, I’d begin by tithing. Because you can’t expect your kids to be honest if you cheat God on a regular basis.”

There was the son of his deceased mother who was going to gather personal effects and close her home. He began to thumb through his mother’s checkbook. After every recorded deposit from Social Security, there was the first check made out to her church in the exact amount of 10 percent of the deposit. Then there were utility, food and medical payments. The son said, “You know, the story of Mom’s values is in her checkbook.” Check stubs, bank accounts, calendars, time pieces speak louder than words.

All of the above “DO ITS” will not help you find God; Nor, will they make God love you more.

Do them because God has already found you. Do them because you will help Him find others. Do them because you have experienced what it is to be: Alive, Free, Forgiven, Hopeful and Loved. Do it because you Love God, Trust God and Believe God can do more with 10% of your income than you can do with 100%. Don’t do it because you ought to — do it because you want to.

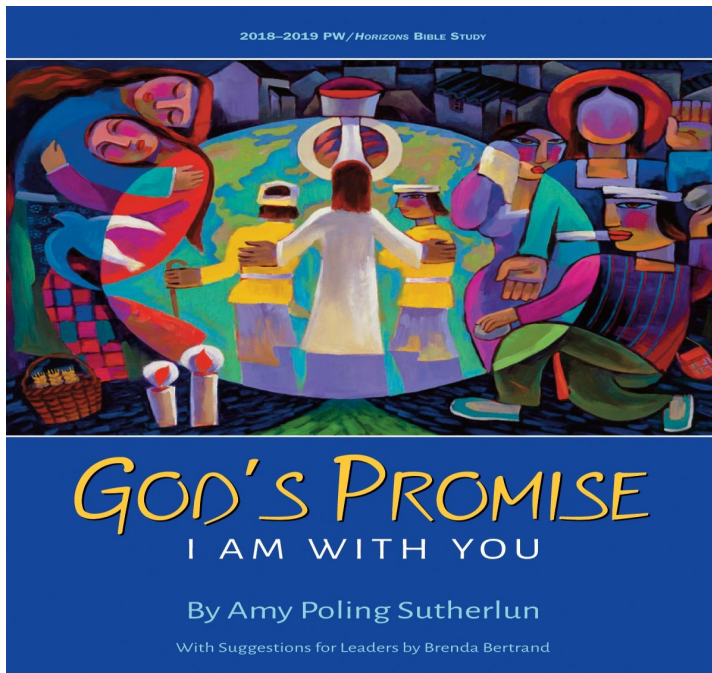
=====

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: As we go into fall, good stewardship becomes an emphasis in our worship calendar. It is a part of our lives that we should practice daily, but sometimes we need a reminder. We need reminders of what good stewardship encompasses; why we should practice it and how we can go about it.

During the next few weeks, we will all be hearing some answers to these questions. There will be a time for each of us to come forward with a pledge card, expressing a financial commitment to this church and the support of God’s work here. There will be a Time and Talent list to allow each of us to offer our God-given time and talents to actively, physically participate in carrying out the missions of our Lord within this church and community.

It is a good time to sit back and reflect on our personal level of stewardship, good stewardship, and get our own answer to the last question — Can we hear that soft whisper? — Luke 19:17

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY — a weekly opportunity here at First Presbyterian Church is that of providing flowers for the Sunday Morning Worship Service. We are in need of volunteers to take care of this during the month of November. Please call Joy Hinton at 850-482-3466 to let her know when you would be able to help.



CIRCLES

Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton
Lesson Planner is Frankie Stewart

Meets 1st Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter
Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.

Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch
Chair is Peggy Peacock
Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets 3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m. in homes

Circle 4: Good News Women
Chair is Linda Wamsley
Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets 2nd Monday at 5 p.m.

Circle 5: The Wildflowers
Chair is Merian Milton
Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 in Homes

Oct 3rd — Amanda Hinson's Home

Nov 9th — *Family Farm Night* at

Lauren Lyons Farm

Dec 8th — *Brunch* — Habitat for

Humanity

Jan 2nd — Rebecca Dilmore's Home

Please note that Kara's Shower is

On Oct 7th 2-4 p.m.

Curriculum for This Season

Circles 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be using the Horizons Bible Study this year: "God's Promise: I Am With You."

The second lesson in this series is "God With Us In Our Uncertainty."

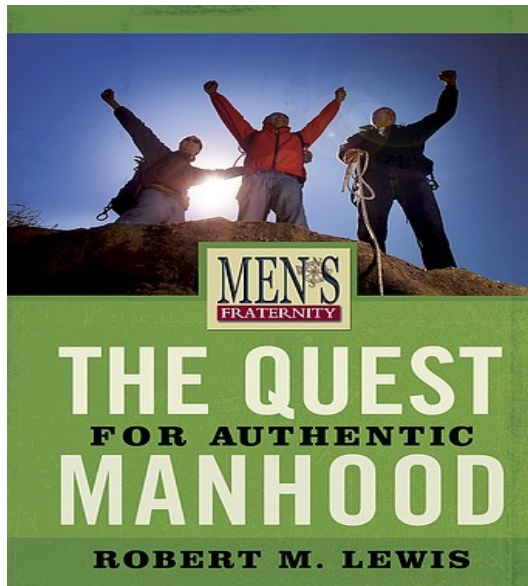
God accompanies the called; it is God's presence in our weakness that equips us for our calling.

Primary Scriptures are: Exodus 3:1-12 and Judges 6:11-27.

The Wildflowers choose their own Bible Study.

Each women's group has its own flavor and mission. Find the group that fits you.

It is not too late to join in.



The Men's Group in our Church
is known as
"GOD'S WARRIORS"

Our Church's Men's Fellowship meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month; usually at 6 p.m. Our second meeting this Fall will be October 10 at the church. We will have a catered meal and ask that each participant contribute \$5 for his meal. Our Bible Study will be "The Quest for Authentic Manhood." We did a couple of these lessons last July and March and had a good discussion.

(www.mensfraternity.com)

All men are invited to come and bring a friend.

Lou Roberts and Barry Stafford are co-moderators of this group.

Roy Turner is treasurer and reminds us that a contribution of \$5 each meeting is encouraged so that we can accomplish our goals of supporting all church functions (fish-fry, rally day, trunk or treat, Christmas gifts for Jackson County orphans).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

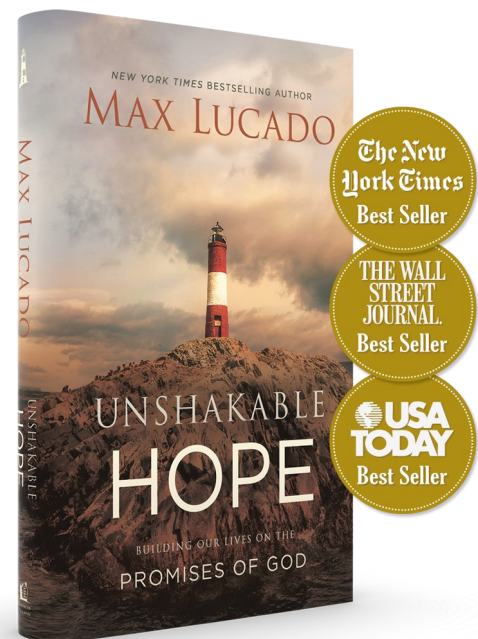
BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Adult Bible Study is usually on the 3rd and 4th weeks of each month.

Easter and Christmas studies sometimes break that pattern.

This October we will meet for dinner at 6 p.m. October 17th will be pizza and salad. October 24th will be a covered dish dinner.

Our study this Fall (until Christmas) will be on "Unshakable HOPE—Building our lives on the promises of God." It will feature the book by Max Lucado and short video sessions with Bible study and discussion. This study will help us stand on the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to His great and precious promises.



WILD WONDERFUL

WEDNESDAY

After School

This has always been a great part of the life and ministry of our church. Like VBS, CE Moderator Mary Lu Andreu has worked hard to have something for everyone. This year we will again offer music with Flora Davis. Recreation, bible lessons, snacks, crafts and gift making are with Aggie Schack and Linda Wamsley. We will be sending out a schedule by email and snail mail soon.

BELL CHOIR

We have started a Bell Choir that practices at 5:45 to 6:45 on Wednesday evenings. At the time of this printing **we still need four more people.**

MONTREAT

Tina Bigale is once again heading up the Montreat experience — luncheons, car washes, keeping those wanting to attend next June's conference connected and participating with worship and mission and the life of the church.

OUR YOUTH

We are blessed to have great leadership with our Youth. Merian Milton has a good group meeting on Sunday at 5:30. Youth from St. Luke's and other friends often attend.

The "Clinton Street Churches" are co-hosting "5th Quarters" after home football games. These events allow high schoolers to gather in a safe place and enjoy pizza, drinks, games, music and a Christian message. They start around 9:30 p.m. 5th Quarter #2: Friday, October 5th at First United Methodist Church. 5th Quarter #3: Friday, October 19th; host to be determined.

The "Big Church Night Out" will be October 7th in Dothan. It features great music and worship and Pastor John's favorite illusionist. We will have a large group attending this and see how being a Christian can be fun. www.bigchurchnightout.com

"Whether it's the church around the corner or a church on the other side of the globe, we all connect to God in different ways. Big Church Night Out is a celebration of the beauty and diversity of the many different ways we worship while uniting behind the one thing that unites us all. It's a night of worship, entertainment, music, prayer, laughter, art, reflection and so much more." This night is for everyone!

BIG CHURCH NIGHT OUT



CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's Confirmation Class participants are: **Ryan Law**

John Lawson

Cooper Milton

Carolena Payne

Cole Payne

Eva Marie Stafford

Leaders are:

**Pastor John, Macky Gortemoller
and John W. Milton**

We meet on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

The parents provide pizza and drinks.

The curriculum we are using is:

'Big God, Big Questions'

Confirmation for a Growing Faith



NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Sunday, October 21st, there will be a Congregational Meeting at noon directly following the Worship Service.

We will elect four new elders plus three at-large members for next year's nominating committee.



KINDRED AT HOME

We want to thank Kindred At Home for their generous donation of 163.4 lbs of food to our Food Pantry.

Three of our church ladies work at Kindred and participated in their annual food drive that resulted in this donation.

Thank you, **Amanda Hinson, Jennifer Stafford and Susan Harris.** We most definitely appreciate your support of our Food Pantry.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2018

1835 Endowment

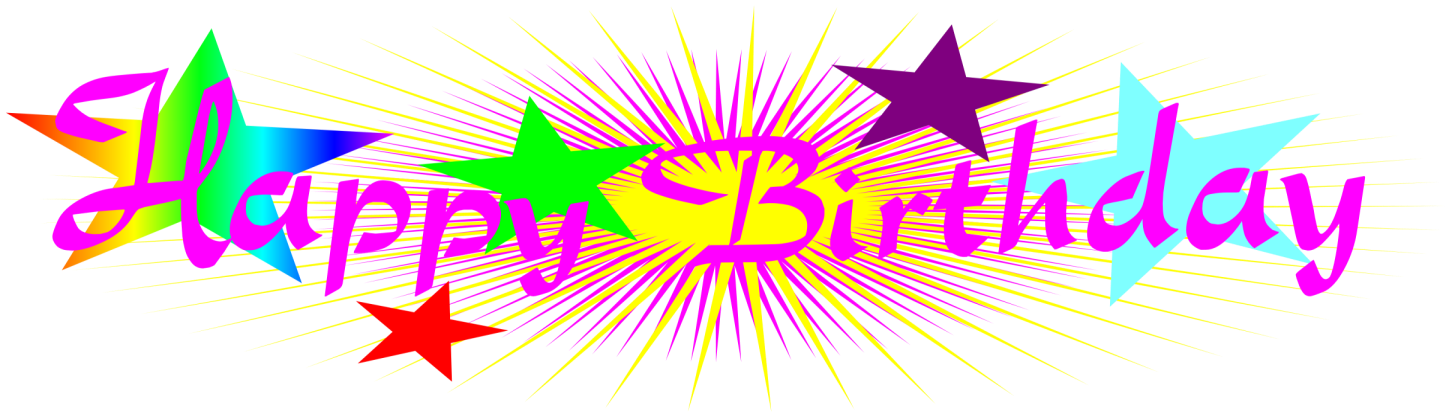
13 Contributions Totaling \$3,110.00

AEH Undesignated Funds

1 Contribution Totaling \$1,092.25

Larry Nelson Memorial

1 Contribution Totaling \$20.00



October 3rd

Kevin Lonsinger

October 4th

Sharon Bannerman

Guy Green

October 8th

Bill Homoney

Ryan Law

October 9th

Carol Homoney

October 11th

Lauren O'Bryan

October 12th

Steve Hutton

October 13th

Alex Lewis Jr.

October 15th

Joe Busby

Hanni Daffin

Sandy Westmoreland

October 16th

Natalee Milton

October 17th

Kenneth Brotten

October 18th

Megan Munsee

October 20th

Betty Pettis

Travis Lawson

October 25th

Jan Howell

October 26th

Ann Barber

Joan Stadskev

October 27th

Zia Leidinger

Mary Bevis Schmidt

Roy Turner

October 28th

Richard Nelson

Danielle Payne

October 29th

Danielle Hester

These are the birthdays that we are currently aware of. If your October birthday is not listed, please contact the Church Office so we can update our list.
