



First Word

April 3, 2018

"To live by Faith, to be known by Love, and to be a voice of Hope."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All interested folks are invited for a 25 minute **usher training** and refresher course in the sanctuary after the 11:00 service on the 8th of April. This is primarily targeted for ushers at the 11:00AM service but some of the information may also be useful for the 9:00AM service. We will discuss the written usher guidelines and new additions to those guidelines for security, safety and welcoming comfort of our worshipers and the worship experience. Those interested in ushering, male and female, young and old are welcome to come.

First Presbyterian Church gives a **scholarship** to high school seniors who plan to continue their education and current college students. This year's application is due Tuesday, May 1st. Applications can be picked up in the church office or by contacting David Miller at (919) 776-2977 or drmiller0417@charter.net.

Congratulations to **Harold and Lucille York!** They will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Friday, April 6th.

Circles will meet Monday, April 9:

- Circle 1: will meet in the ladies parlor at 10AM
- Circle 2: will meet in the Hobson classroom at 10AM
- Circle 3: will meet in the library at 10AM
- Circle 4: will meet in the library with Charlene Hicks hosting at 7PM

Annual PW Spring Gathering is April 14, 2018. It is in Carthage this year. If you are interested in going please contact Bunny Paderick at 919-770-3961. We will plan to meet at the church around 8:15 AM.

PW CT will **not meet on Sunday, April 8th and May 13th**. Team members will receive important information for the month, via email, so please be looking for it each month.

Children and youth from 3rd grade through 12th grade are encouraged to **register now for our summer camps!** Contact Jenny with questions or needs. Return your deposit by April 15 in order to secure your spot.

Join us on April 15 as we celebrate **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randy Berndt** before he deploys overseas with the National Guard. We will send him with a special blessing in the 9:00 service, and then gather in the colonnade before Sunday School to personalize our well wishes.



Worship: April 8, 2018

Focal Scripture passage:

John 20: 19-29

Two taxidermists were stopped in front of a show window where an owl was on display. They took it to be a stuffed owl that had been transformed by someone of their own trade. So they began to criticize the mounted owl: the eyes did not look natural. Its wings were not in correct proportion to the head, the feathers were not neatly arranged--and certainly the feet could be improved upon. Just as they were finishing their criticism, the owl in the window turned its head and blinked. You know, it is easier to be critical when you don't have all the facts. Do you have all of the facts needed for your faith? Thomas was called a doubter. He wanted to belong with all of the other disciples--but he was not there in Jesus' visit to the gathering of the fearful disciples on the evening of resurrection. Thomas needed something else. Perhaps you need something else to bolster your faith as well. We don't know what Thomas needed, but upon seeing Jesus, he exclaimed "my Lord and my God"! It is not physical sight and signs that are necessary for faith. You may not see Jesus in the McIver Center or the Sanctuary next Sunday, but that doesn't mean He isn't there! I believe if we are there, He will be there also! Peace be with you!

-Reverend Benton

Farewell to Heather Jopling: Heather is ending her time with us at First Presbyterian on Friday, April 6. She has been an outstanding asset to us in her position as Office Administrator. She has exhibited unique talents in organizational skills, friendliness, and works to accommodate all of the needs of a busy and functioning staff and congregation. Her special talents in graphic design have rendered beautiful bulletin covers and an ever-changing and improving *First Word*. Heather leaves with our sincere blessings and thanksgiving not just for her, but for her husband and children as they move to Florida. They will be near family. Thank you, Heather, for being the hub in the moving, ministering great wheel of First Presbyterian of Sanford.

A Testimony: We were talking in staff recently about how striking a personal testimony can be in growing the faith of another Christian. A “testimony” in Christian life is the account of one’s life journey in knowing Christ. What is your life journey? As a newsletter feature, we are requesting you to share an account of your Christian journey. We would like to have a weekly testimony submitted for the newsletter of approximately 200 words or less. Please submit your writing each Monday by 10:00 AM. Articles will be printed in the order received. Your words may be the encouragement that someone else may be looking for. Share your blessings and your story with others.



April 3:

Genie Morgan

April 5:

Jane Evans

Caroline Harrell

Gracie Harrington

April 6:

Jefferson Phillips

Bill Tatum

OUR PRAYER LIST

AT HOME: Harold York, Tony Quick, Janice Cox, Wilson Proctor.

PARKVIEW: Belva Oelrich, Laura Rosser, Gladys Weaver, Cathelene Wilmot.

OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Jan Morgan (Steve Morgan’s mother), Fran Thomas (Genie Morgan’s mother), Jody Cuevas (Audrey Cuevas’ husband), Tim Smith (Dowe Smith’s son), Blake West (Katrina Johnson’s neighbor), A.J. “Johnny” Jenkins (J.T. Jenkins’ father), Donald Scott (Donna McClune’s brother).



Mission Giving on Sunday:

\$723.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing

\$87.00 for Pennies for Hunger and an abundance of food stuffs for CUOC



If you would like to add information to our First Word or the Sunday Bulletin, please contact Heather in the church office via e-mail by Wednesday by noon.

CALENDAR

Tuesday:

8-2PM: Walking Track

10AM: Bible Study

6PM: Emergency Preparedness Committee

Wednesday:

8-2PM: Walking Track

6/7:30PM: Choir Practices

7PM: Prayer Meeting

Thursday:

8-2PM: Walking Track

Friday:

8-12PM: Walking Track

Sunday:

9AM: Contemporary Service

10AM: Sunday School

11AM: Traditional Service

12PM: Property Committee

5PM: Youth Group