

March 2021

The Lighthouse

WORSHIP - FELLOWSHIP - MISSION

These words have been on the front of our worship bulletin for quite a long time now. Here is what it means and why it is there...

If someone asks what First Presbyterian is about, I want you to be able to give a simple answer – a simple answer that not only describes our *purpose*, but also describes our *process*. Why do we exist, and how are we carrying out our reason for existing?

The answer is: **worship, fellowship, and mission.**

The Purpose of Worship

As a church, we exist to glorify God. The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Worship on Sunday is the primary way we do worship and glorify God. It is where we express to the Lord how much we love him and learn how to love him (and others) better.

The Purpose of Fellowship

As a church, we are an expression of the body of Christ. The Bible clearly states that as members of the body, we are dependent on one another for growth. Each part has a gift upon which the other parts depend, and vice versa (1 Corinthians 12). Ephesians 4 tells us that the proper exercises of gifts in the body equips the body, builds the body, unifies the body, and protects the body. First Presbyterian Church exists to be a healthy body so that individual members of it can be strengthened and grow.

The Purpose of Mission

First Presbyterian also exists for mission. We share the Gospel with others. We seek to demonstrate the love of Christ. We equip our members to use their gifts in the church and in the world for the cause of Christ. We support missionaries and organizations who are part of the mission of Christ. We seek to make disciples as Christ commanded (Matthew 28).



The Process of Discipleship

Not only is worship, fellowship, and mission our purpose; this is also our process of discipleship. The first step in becoming a disciple is to love the Lord which comes when you respond to his great love demonstrated in the Gospel. We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). Worship is the act of ascribing worth to something. Nothing is more important than God, so the natural place to start as a disciple is Sunday morning worship. It is where you express your love to God and learn to love him better through the means of grace (Word, sacraments, and prayer).

The second step is to move involvement in the church beyond (but not away from) Sunday morning. A disciple needs fellowship with other believers. Throughout the week there are opportunities to be involved in smaller group Bible studies and prayer groups who will encourage you and will give you the opportunity to encourage others in the body of Christ. The fellowship of other Christians keeps you encouraged and accountable.

The third step in the process is to become involved in mission. Mission means you use your God-given gifts to serve, first, the church; then move out beyond the walls of the church to share your faith and gifts with others so that they might become disciples and begin worshipping the Lord, and then begin fellowshipping with other believers, and then begin reaching out to others with the Gospel so that they might come to worship the Lord... (and the cycle goes on!).

This is what First Presbyterian does, and this is what I pray that you do as a disciple of Jesus.

Grace & Peace,

Tim

Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

February 23, 2021



Thank God:

- Thank God for this time in Zihuatanejo. I enjoy my morning walks—up in the hills, along the beach, and around town.
- Thank God that both Talita Cumi (our small orphanage) and Bet Shalom (our home for abandoned seniors) are doing well, with some challenges.
- I have been taking part in a Zihuatanejo children's ministry.
- I have enjoyed the online inductive Bible studies with children. They keep us hopping.
- Thank God for answered prayer for a CHE curriculum editor. Please pray for us during all the transitions.
- Thank God for strong reports from Africa.
- Thank God for keeping us connected through the Internet. With the travel restrictions, we are doing more online training. Pray for the upcoming Global Health and Tropical Medicine course which I will help teach with the Christian Health Service Corps.

Please be praying:

- My mother, Mary Ellen Collinge, is now living at The Friendly Home, a nursing home in Rochester, NY. They are friendly and have been taking excellent care of her, but it is hard to see her health decline. Pray that she will draw close to Christ. And pray for wisdom about when and how to visit her.

Thanks for your prayers! How can I be praying for you?

Dios les bendiga. May the Lord keep on blessing you.

Send donations to :

Global CHE Network, 4702 East Monte Way, Phoenix, AZ 85044.

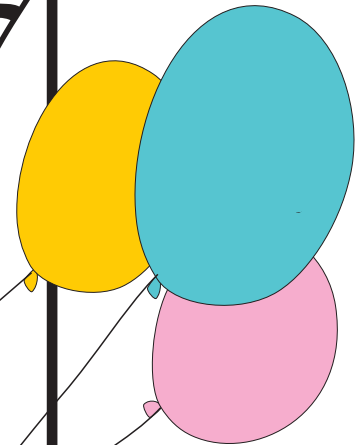
Please designate that they are for my support.

Thanks!



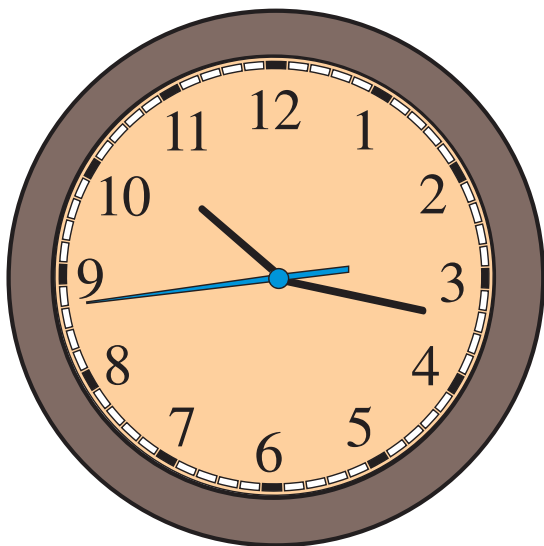
HAPPY BIRTHDAY for MARCH

Eloise Gryder 9th
 Pat Pennell 15th
 Lenny Glidewell 20th
 Gabbie Bowden 24th
 Jim Selig 26th



March 14th

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Dates to Remember for March

- March 3 Circle meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am
- March 6 Men's Breakfast, 8:00am in the fellowship Hall
- March 7 Communion

Set your clocks forward one hour on Sat. night.