

## The Mentor Who Taught Me How to Suffer

By David C. Mauldin

You have to respect someone who has suffered much but has not been defeated by it. One of my mentors was like that. In fact, he became a mentor to me for that reason. There were other reasons, but this was an important one. Let me tell you about him.

He won my respect when I learned that he gave up his livelihood for the sake of conscience. He had an income from a church, but he became convinced that this church was corrupt. He wanted to honor God, and that meant giving up the money. He might have kept his convictions and the money, but he had too much integrity. You have to respect that. Not all suffering comes upon us from outside. Sometimes we willingly choose it for the sake of what is right. That takes faith and courage.

What he wanted for himself was the quiet, modest life of a scholar. He wanted to read and write, to learn, to teach—out of the public eye. He had no desire for controversy and contention. And yet, he was called by God to become not just a public figure, but a lightning rod of controversy. When a friend asked him to help in a great but difficult work, he jumped in wholeheartedly.

Faithful though he tried to be, his life was not easy. He made many enemies. (Those who contend for truth often do.) He had to flee his home country for political and religious reasons, and he spent the rest of his life as a refugee and immigrant. At one

point he was fired from his job because the people he worked for didn't like the way he did things. He married and had one son, but the boy died in infancy. Later his wife died as well, leaving him alone. As if all this were not enough, he spent years living with chronic pain. Chronic pain causes both physical and spiritual suffering. He was sometimes misunderstood, often vilified, and occasionally blamed for things that were not his fault.

Despite all this, he was a man of deep, passionate faith in Jesus Christ. If he was certain of anything, it was God's fatherly love for those who are in Christ. He turned his penetrating mind to scripture and taught that the key to life is gratitude for the grace God gives us.

He believed that everything that happens to us comes from our Father in heaven. He was right at home with Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (ESV). I find this idea challenging. It comforts me, but I still want to argue with it. Surely bad stuff just happens, and then God works his magic and brings good out of it. My mentor didn't believe anything just happened. He's never been able to explain to my satisfaction how divine sovereignty and human freedom work together. He said it's a mystery. But for him it came down to two alternatives: Either God is in control, or he is not. Either God is my Father in heaven who loves me more than I love my children or he is not. Since the cross proves God's love and the resurrection proves

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# General Announcements

A Note of Thanks! from Pastor David

August 1st marks my first anniversary as your senior pastor. I want to thank you for the welcome and support you have given me. My family and I feel blessed to be part of this community and church family. We are settled into our permanent home in Palm City. (Our house in Mobile sold.) Rosalyn enjoys her teaching at the Conservatory at Palm Beach Atlantic University. The boys are doing well at Hidden Oaks and Bessey Creek.

After a year I am still getting to know people, still learning the ropes, and still excited about what God is doing here. In countless ways I have seen God's grace in the lives of our people. I have been impressed with the way we love one another and the way we worship God.

I see tremendous potential, and I am excited about our future. I hope we will become a more missional church. This means each of us is a missionary every day, wherever we are. One of the best things about my job is seeing believers flourish in their ministry. I want to see all our elders and deacons become confident spiritual leaders. Plus we are always identifying and raising up new leaders. I want to see our youth and children's ministries thrive. Our youth ministry is solid. Our confirmation process was blessed. Our children's ministry is still in transition. (For more on that, see the Children's Ministry Update). I am inspired by growth in our caregiving ministries. Our shepherds do great work, and our innovative deacons respond creatively to the needs of our congregation. Thanks to Valette Porter our grief ministry is strong, and we are starting Stephen Ministry. Our music and teaching have always been strong.

I enjoy my work tremendously, even when it becomes heavy. It is not always easy, but I am thankful to be here. Please continue to pray for me, that I will be a good and faithful pastor, that the Holy Spirit will anoint my preaching and teaching, and that God will guide us all to be the church he wants us to be. Again, thank you.

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In order to have a relationship with someone, we need to spend time with them. I encourage all of you to find the time each day to be by yourself with the Lord, to read His word and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you and to guide you. One of His names is the Helper and He will do just that. In 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV) we read the words, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." There is no substitute for getting into His Word as He is the Word (John 1).

Apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, directs us in Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV), "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." You can't have that peace without spending time with Him.

I believe Palm City Presbyterian is a wonderful church and has been richly blessed by the Lord. We have many members and each member has been given a special gift or gifts by the Holy Spirit. This is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12. That is another reason to spend time with Him; so that the Holy Spirit can help you discover your spiritual gift or gifts. Some church members may think they have nothing to offer to our church body but that isn't true. I encourage each of you to try and find out what talents or gifts the Lord has given you, so that you can contribute to the Body of Christ.

The members of the deacon's prayer team committee desire that Palm City Presbyterian be a "Praying Church." We are all committed to helping members reach that goal. We hope to accomplish that by giving out bookmarkers, having various activities throughout the year pertaining to prayer, and by encouraging members to have an individual prayer time. Please join us in our desire and effort to do the Lord's will and give Him the preeminence.

Lynn Church, Deacon's Prayer Team Committee

A **NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held Sunday, August 26 at 9:45 a.m. in the church library. Attendees will learn about the beliefs and structure of our church and our denomination as well as the benefits and responsibilities of church membership. Please call the church office 772-286-9958 to sign up for the class. Registration is not a requirement, but would be helpful.

**THE DEACON BEREAVEMENT TEAM** of Palm City Presbyterian Church ministers to the families of church members at the time of a loved one's death, and during the season of grieving which follows. Our team coordinates ongoing care, during the first year of the grieving season after a death has occurred.

We provide information, education and a grief support group, along with individual interaction through Stephen Ministry or one-on-one counseling. This support is designed to address the needs of the person who is grieving.

If we can help you or anyone you may know who may be dealing with the loss of a loved one, please feel free to call the church office at 772-286-9958.

**BE IN THE KNOW**

How can you stay up to date with the latest happenings at PCPC? There are several ways!

- Sign up for weekly e-blasts by calling our church office (772-286-9958) or emailing [janet@palmcitypres.org](mailto:janet@palmcitypres.org).
- Read the newsletter. Our newsletter is posted on our website under "Resources." Hard copies are available in the church office, Sanctuary narthex, HFLC lobby and Langill Hall lobby.
- Visit our website: [palmcitypres.org](http://palmcitypres.org).
- Like us on Facebook. On Facebook you will find previews of the upcoming sermon; photo and video coverage of church events/activities; upcoming events, classes, bible studies and VBS; and inspirational posts.



**PCPC Youth**

5.0 ★ · Religious Organization



(the official Facebook page for PCPC Youth Ministry): [fb.me/PCPCYouth](https://fb.me/PCPCYouth)



**Palm City Presbyterian Church**

@PalmCityPresbyterianChurch

(the official Facebook page for PCPC): [fb.me/PalmCityPresbyterianChurch](https://fb.me/PalmCityPresbyterianChurch)



**PCPC Kids**

Presbyterian Church



(the official Facebook page for PCPC Children's Ministry): [fb.me/PCPCKids](https://fb.me/PCPCKids)

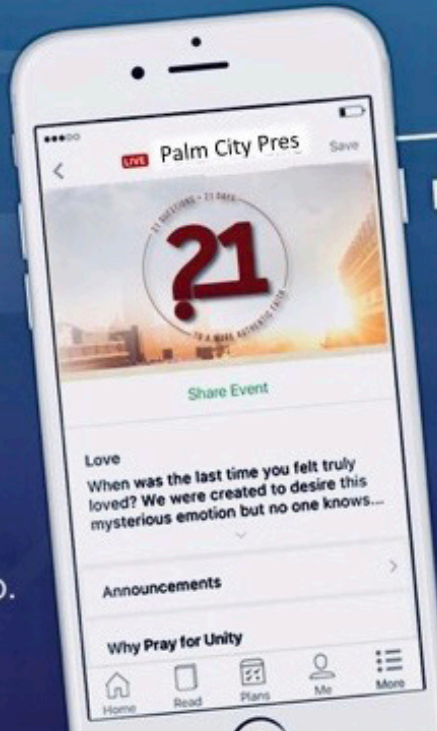
**We're in the Bible App.**

- Follow along
- Take notes
- Reference the Bible



Download the latest version of the Bible App.

[www.bible.com/app](http://www.bible.com/app)



**HOW TO FIND US.**

- 1) Make sure location settings are 'on'
- 2) Click the 'more' tab
- 3) Select 'events' to

**Palm City Presbyterian Church**

# ANGEL OF THE MONTH

by Jason Pridmore

This month's angel flies a little under the radar. In fact, if you're over the age of 20, you may not recognize her. This month's angel serves a multiple of ministries all geared towards our children and youth. You can see her every Sunday serving our preschool students in Sunday school. She also helps with childcare for our PCPC MOPS program and the Thursday evening Community Bible Study. When her college schedule permits, she volunteers as a middle school youth leader. She has attended every youth mission trip over the past 4 years including the recent Puerto Rico summer trip. She volunteers for the annual Gertrude Walden Children's Party and helps pass out food every time PCPC leads the Treasure Coast Food Bank dispersal. She has a genuine Christ-like heart for missions,



for children, and for service (in general). The Angel of the Month for August is Coral Vanderwiele.

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to hide their grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, another family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief, and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.



## GRIEF SHARE®

When: Mondays 6:30pm - 8:00pm beginning 8/6/2018

Where: PCPC Library

Cost: \$15.00 for the workbook, which covers the entire series of 13 weeks

Childcare: No

Registration is not required but preferred. To register, go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or call the church office 772-286-9958.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Update

Sarah Curtis, our former children's ministry director, has left us for her dream job. She will be teaching dance at a magnet school for the arts in St. Lucie County. It's full-time, close to home, and her work schedule will match her children's school schedule. We wish her every blessing in her new endeavors. May her light shine even brighter in her new ministry context.

So what's next for children's ministry at PCPC? We are actively seeking a new children's director. The job description is posted on our church website. If you know a good candidate, please make them aware of the opportunity. The job opening is also posted on our church Facebook page. Please help spread the word by sharing the post.

Meanwhile, we work to improve our ministry with children. Nursery will continue as before. Sunday school will continue. In fact, we want to make it even better. Becky Nicholson, one of our members with significant children's ministry experience will be leading that effort.

We have a vision for what we want our children's ministry to be. We will strive toward it as we continue work and as we look for a children's director. It includes:

- Sunday morning—excellence in learning and care in nursery and Sunday school.

- Weekday program—In the past, we had Awana. We may revive that or try something new. The focus of the weekday program is laying a foundation for faith. We would like to include catechism for older elementary students. This prepares them well for confirmation later. We want to do catechism in a way that involves parents at home.

- Sports program—We have tremendous facilities for a sports program. A sports program provides a point of contact with our community. We want to launch Upward Basketball. We have built part of the leadership team, but we are still looking for key personnel. We would love to have 200 elementary school children playing ball here each week.

- Special events—designed for children and their families.

- MOPS—We have an active Mothers of Preschoolers group that starts again in the fall.

- Summer Drama Camp—This continues to be effective and successful, and we plan to continue it.

We have a vision and goal. We want to love children, protect them, and train them in the way of Jesus Christ.

How can you help?

- Pray—especially pray that God will send us the right director and the volunteers we need.

- Volunteer—if you have the gifts and a love for children, step up and help. What better contribution could you make to God's kingdom than loving and guiding children?

- Invite children and their parents. Share what is happening and our vision.

# YOUTH NEWS, August 2018

-Jason Pridmore

## Summer Mission Trip: Puerto Rico

The summer mission trip to Puerto Rico was a great success. Our team of 13 were able to accomplish a lot more than we had planned. Having gone down simply as servants at the disposal of our hosts (Second Union Church of San Juan) to offer relief from last year's hurricane Maria, we rehabbed a volunteer community library, helped prep the church for VBS, painted & readied camp dorms (that will now be able to house future mission teams), cleared and prepped a local woman's house to finally receive roof repairs, and cleared out and cleaned another woman's house which was water-damaged from the hurricane.



This last particular woman, Alicia, was a 67-year-old, wheelchair-bound woman with polio from the age of 2, who had only gotten electricity back the week before we arrived (10 months after the storm). With no family and a single friend, our youth were a welcomed sight to her and her home. Though we were just able to clear the house down to the cement structure, it is now ready for another team to come in and paint and re-floor her home (projects we would very much like to help fund and possibly finish in the near future).

Met with some hesitancy from our hosts, due to them never hosting a mission team before and with some doubts in the ability of youth to accomplish anything worthwhile, we left them amazed at what our team accomplished and with a unanimous and heartfelt standing invitation to return whenever we wanted and as soon as we could. Puerto Rico left an indelible mark on the hearts of our youth as they did on our hosts and new friends on the island. God was definitely at work in and through our students as He was and is on the island of Puerto Rico.

Until next time, Puerto Rico...



For more information regarding ongoing and upcoming youth events and activities:

 [fb.me/PCPCYouth](https://fb.me/PCPCYouth)

 [@pcpc\\_youth](https://www.instagram.com/pcpc_youth)

Enter this number  
81010 ?

Text this message  
@pcpcyo ?



To connect with Jason or to receive parenting resources and youth updates via email, please contact him directly.

Email: [Jason@palmcitypres.org](mailto:Jason@palmcitypres.org)

Call or Text: 714-809-5065

## Camp Surf: August 1-5, 2018

This first of what I hope to be an annual retreat for our youth will be held in Cocoa Beach. More than a surfing trip, “Camp Surf” is geared towards developing our students’ spiritual lives—readying some of our key youth for leadership positions and planning/prepping for the new year of youth ministry at PCPC.

This year’s theme, “Called,” will take our students through 5 sessions looking at what it means to be called by God, and how that “call” plays out in the lives of our students daily through school, home, and life in their “worlds.”

Yes, there will be fun, surfing, 9-square, and more, but we will also be focusing on connecting with God and seeing how each of us individually is called into mission with Jesus and with PCPC.

## Welcome Back To Youth Group!

We are welcoming our students back to our weekly youth group meetings.

This year our high school youth will begin meeting Sunday nights 6:00p-8:00p starting August 19.

Our middle school youth will begin meeting Wednesdays 5:30p-7:00p in the Huizenga Family Life Center beginning August 22.

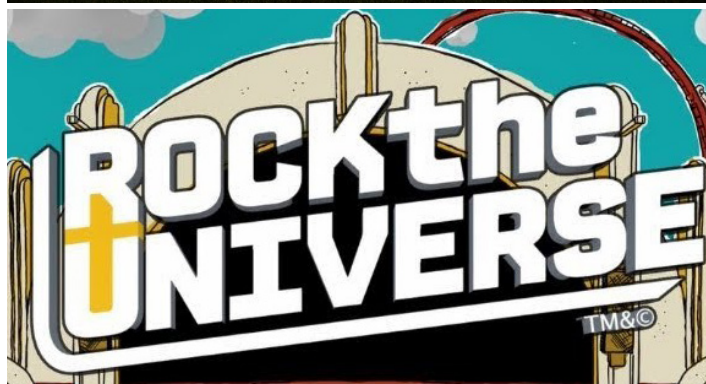
Bring your friends and come to join us weekly for fun, engaging, crazy, thought-provoking gatherings with students from all over Martin County.

## Youth Mission Dinner: August 26 at 5pm

Our Mission Team would like to share their experiences from Puerto Rico with you all and would like to say “thank you” to everyone who supported our mission.

Come to join us for an evening of dinner, pictures, and stories from this summer’s Puerto Rico Mission Trip — presented in the Huizenga Family Life Center.

This event is FREE, but we will be happy to accept any donations given. Please RSVP to Jason at 714-809-5065.



## Rock the Universe: September 7-8, 2018

### Florida’s Biggest Christian Music Festival

It’s an unforgettable weekend of faith and fun. Experience two nights of powerful tunes from today’s most popular Christian artists at Universal Studios Florida. Lift your hands and let your heart soar with awesome performers including: Jesus Culture, TobyMac, Lauren Daigle, Casting Crowns, For King & Country, and Family Force 5.

We would like to stay the 2 nights and attend the worship service Sunday morning (Sept 9), but this will be determined by those of you interested in going. These tickets do sell out and need to be reserved early. If you are interested or would like to reserve your spot, please contact Jason at 714-809-5065. After August 12, there is no guarantee for room or tickets. Don’t miss out.

All of our programs and events (unless otherwise noted) are for ANY student going into the 6th grade through 12th grade for this coming school year.

In His service and yours,  
Jason Pridmore  
Youth Ministry

cont'd from pg. 1

his power, I ought to trust God despite everything. And my mentor set an example in that!

He taught me how to suffer. I fear suffering less than before. I'd like to say I do not fear it at all, but that would be dishonest. I do have the conviction that God will see me through anything.

He taught me, when I suffer, not to torment myself by asking why. I'm not likely to get an answer to that question, nor do I need one. What I need is God. Is it enough to know that God loves me and has a plan for me? It is if I can accept that the purpose of my life is not to have fun or live in comfort. In fact, the purpose of my life is not about me at all. It is to glorify and enjoy God. That's from the Westminster Catechism. I don't think my mentor used those words exactly, but that's what he taught and how he lived.

He taught me, when I suffer, to persevere. The only thing that overcomes my suffering is God's mercy, so I must look to God in faith—and be patient. I understand

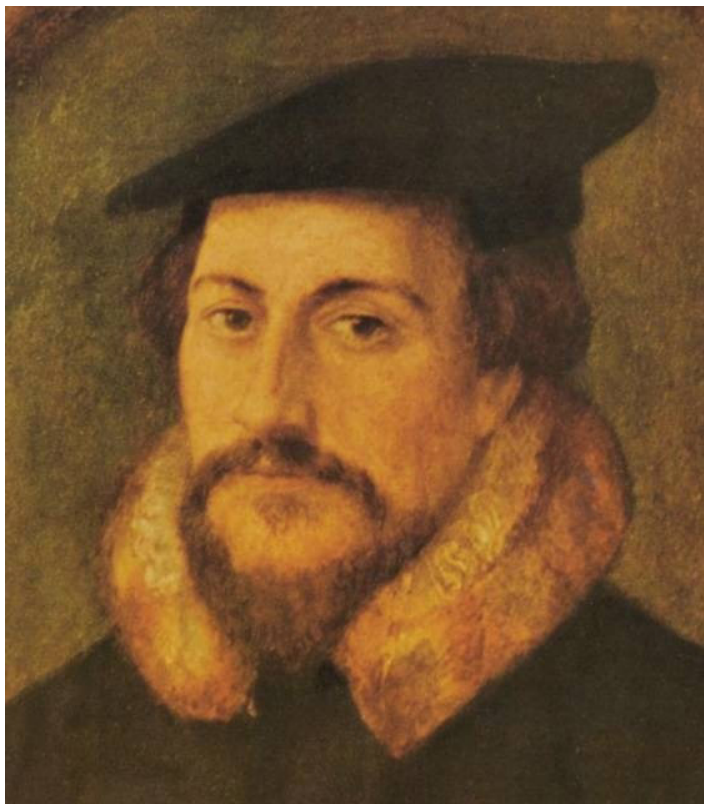
the theory of patient enduring. I see the wisdom of it. Now if I could just figure out how to actually do it better than I have so far ...

My mentor, as you may have figured out by now, is John Calvin. He was the great Protestant Reformer who in the 16th century taught so many people how to follow Jesus. We've been learning from him ever since. The Presbyterian Church is part of the fruit God has brought from the labors of Calvin and many others. Mentors may be living or dead. Some of the best we only know through their writings.

This month, in our Classics of Christian

Spirituality class, we will spend two weeks with Calvin. He is the only author who gets more than one week. I did this in part because it is good for Presbyterians to be familiar with Calvin. More importantly, I wanted to share the things he has taught me.

All the excerpts by Calvin come from his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. On August 15, we will discuss what he wrote about faith. What is it? Where does it come from? We will also read about the Lord's Supper. More than anyone else, Calvin has helped me to understand the Lord's



Supper. His insight about the Holy Spirit's role in the Supper is absolutely brilliant. On August 22, Calvin will teach us about prayer. I chose this reading because prayer is so important, and I doubt many of us pray as we ought. We need guidance and encouragement. At the end of the study, we will read E. M. Bounds on prayer. Hearing two powerful people of prayer on this topic should be helpful.

I am excited about the Classics of Christians Spirituality class because it's a chance to make new friends, living and dead. If you are participating in the class, I challenge you to do that. Make a new friend among the folks in the class. Find a new friend who lived and wrote long ago and who inspires you.

To suffer. To pray. To live for God. Christians have been doing these things for a long time. We learn from one another how to do them, and we always do them together.

fin.



This series, based on Barna research, addresses four of the most common reasons non-Christians give for why they do not believe.

# **BARRIERS TO FAITH**

Aug. 5

Matthew 5:48 & Romans 3:21-24  
“Christians Are Hypocrites”

Aug. 12

Revelation 21:1-5  
“How Could a Good God Allow So Much Evil?”

Aug. 19

Luke 1:34-37  
“I Don’t Believe in Fairy Tales”

Aug. 26

Isaiah 58:1-8  
“There Are Too Many Injustices in the History of Christianity”

# August Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30p Classics of Christian Spirituality 6:00p Gentle Fitness 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	2	3 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	4
5 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Contemporary Service 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 11:00a Traditional Service	6 9:00a The Counters 6:00p Gentle Fitness 6:30p GriefShare 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise	7 10:00a Staff Meeting	8 3:30p Stephen Ministry Training 5:30p Classics of Christian Spirituality 6:00p Gentle Fitness 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	9 4:00p P&A Committee	10 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	11
12 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Contemporary Service 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 11:00a Traditional Service	13 9:00a The Counters 6:00p Gentle Fitness 6:30p GriefShare 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise	14 10:00a Staff Meeting	15 10:00a Finance Committee 3:30p Stephen Ministry Training 6:00p Gentle Fitness 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	16	17 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	18
19 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Contemporary Service 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 11:00a Traditional Service 6:00p H.S. Youth Group	20 9:00a The Counters 6:30p GriefShare	21 10:00a Staff Meeting <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	22 3:30p Stephen Ministry Training 5:30p Classics of Christian Spirituality 5:30p M.S. Youth Group 7:00p Session 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	23	24 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	25 8:00a CBS Leader Training
26 8:30a Traditional Service 9:30a Contemporary Service 9:30a Pre-K - 5th Grade Sunday School 9:45a New Members Class 11:00a Traditional Service 5:00p Mission Trip Dinner	27 9:00a The Counters 6:30p GriefShare	28 Election Day 9:45a New Members Class 10:00a Staff Meeting	29 3:30p Stephen Ministry Training 5:30p Classics of Christian Spirituality 6:00p Gentle Fitness 6:45p Firm Believers Exercise 8:00p Cornerstone Rehearsal	30	31 9:00a Bulletin Stuffing	

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Received June 2018 \$58,486  
 Received June 2017 \$58,758  
 Received as of 6/30/18 \$513,989

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2018 Budget \$1,184,297  
 Needed each month \$98,691

## Birthdays

08/03 Marie Bartnick, George Eagleson  
 08/04 Donnie Gould, Donna Levengood  
 08/05 Sue Scheitzow  
 08/06 Betty Lahti, Matthew Mealing  
 08/07 Sarah Katherine England, Sara Hazelton,  
 Jordan Stewart  
 08/08 Elizabeth Gutschmidt  
 08/09 Heidi Neff, Lou Tudor  
 08/11 Eric Olson  
 08/13 John Moffitt  
 08/14 Harold Shehan  
 08/16 Gary Coton, John Sanders  
 08/17 Arthur Kehlhem, Joan Zedowski  
 08/18 Hailey Schoner  
 08/19 Nancy Harper  
 08/20 Richard Austin, Pam McLean,  
 Barbara Wagner  
 08/21 LaBarbara Chenault, Grant Meikle,  
 Steven Wood  
 08/22 Janet Sallman  
 08/23 Bailey Coleman, Renee Gould,  
 Dawn Mealing  
 08/25 Carole Hart, Greg Vurnakes  
 08/26 Florine Blackshear, Ferne Rea  
 08/27 Jamie Cramblitt, Kevin Levengood  
 08/28 Richard Buteux, Joe Ens, Eric Mooney  
 08/29 Judy Miller, Dennis Mullen  
 08/30 Courtney Santorella

## Anniversaries

08/03 Mark & Robin Henn  
 08/04 Michael & Kimberly Izzolo  
 08/05 Dale & LynnAnn White  
 08/06 Michael & Rebecca Marino  
 08/08 Steven & Andrea Wood  
 08/11 Greg & Claudia Vurnakes  
 08/16 Fred & Diane Graczyk  
 08/17 Bill & Sarah Bangley,  
 Frank & Marian Neff  
 08/19 Bob & Dot Blake,  
 Wade & Carolyn Hersperger,  
 John & Rose Lillich  
 08/22 Edwin & Joan Hyde,  
 Bill & Nancy Kurth  
 08/24 Frank & Jamie Cramblitt  
 08/25 Bill & Lou Tudor  
 08/26 Bill & Becky Nicholson  
 08/27 Jon & Lori Albright,  
 Bill & Judy Miller  
 08/28 Anthony & Kristine Gunn

**Have something for the next newsletter?** Email it to our editors, Amy Kitchell and Andrea Wood: [newsletter@palmcitypres.org](mailto:newsletter@palmcitypres.org) by the deadline indicated on this newsletter's calendar.

## Worship Times

Traditional  
8:30 Chapel  
11:00 Sanctuary

Contemporary  
9:30 HFLC

2700 SW Martin Highway  
Palm City Florida, 34990

Phone: 772-286-9958

Fax: 772-286-9960

Email: [worship@palmcitypres.org](mailto:worship@palmcitypres.org)



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