

The Tidings

the monthly newsletter of

Pineda Presbyterian Church
(PCUSA)



WORSHIP WITH US!

Sunday, May 3rd

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (Room A)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service with Communion (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day)

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (Room A)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 17th

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (Room A)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 24th (Pentecost Sunday)

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (Room A)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (Sanctuary)

(Pentecost Offering)

Sunday, May 31st (Trinity Sunday)

9:00 a.m. — Adult Sunday School (Room A)

10:00 a.m. — Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. — Hands-On Mission Project (Fellowship Hall)

Lectionary Readings

May 3rd

Acts 7:55-60
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10th

Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17th

Acts 1:6-14
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 24th

Acts 2:1-21
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

May 31st

1 Samuel 2:1-10
Romans 12:9-16b
Luke 1:39-57

Pineda Presbyterian Church (USA)

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PASTOR'S NOTE

Rev. Emily Wasser

Greetings Pineda Presbyterian Church!

In the last two months I have found myself blessed with opportunity! In ways that I expected and ways that I had not! Every year, the sermon podcast that I use weekly hosts a Preacher's Retreat, a four-day opportunity to learn from the greats. I have wanted to go on this retreat ever since its inception about four years ago, but due to financial constraints, was never able to make it work. This year, I applied for a scholarship through the Presbytery, asking for a small amount to cover some of the extra cost. I figured I'd be lucky if I got what I asked for. And then...lucky me! Not only did they agree to fund me what I asked for, they doubled it, effectively paying for my entire trip! Ghost Ranch here I come!



And then another surprise. The Presbytery nominated me to be part of a Synod sponsored cohort program they do every year. This program, intended for Synod Commissioners, is used to develop leaders and leadership within the church. The idea is to send one person per Presbytery, but I was saddened to learn that not every Presbytery nominates someone to go. Therefore, there were extra spots, and alongside Nichole Gower, I was nominated to fill one of those spots! For two days, myself and eleven others from our Synod sat together, talking, listening to coaches, practicing listening, and working toward effective leadership. And we don't end there! From here on out, we will meet once a month with our cohort for more coaching, more lectures, more learning as we all strive to be better leaders within the Church (big "C").

It feels wonderful to be invested in. To know that someone (or many someones) believe in you and want to see you succeed and thrive is a feeling so great and grand and glorious, it makes you want to shout from the top of the world! And now, PPC...it's your turn!

I believe in you PPC! Truly, I do, I wouldn't be here today if I didn't! I believe in what we can do together, in what we can make! And now...I believe it's time! We've done the introductions, we've survived the Christmas holiday, we've lived through Easter, and now...now we can play!

I know what you have planned for the summer, I know what I have planned for the summer, but make no mistake, this is not a time to just sit back and relax and enjoy the slowness of the season. (Don't get me wrong, we're going to do plenty of that!) This is our time to start doing things! To start making changes! To take a few leaps of faith and see where it gets us!

Continued on next page

And I know (oh, how I know), change is super scary, as are those leaps of faith into the unknown. But if there is anything I'm learning from these opportunities for development, it's that staying in our safe space, frozen by fear, can be just as damaging as never taking a step forward. We have a community God has called us to care for, together, I'm confident that we can reach out to them in new and exciting ways! But I need your help to do it.

No church should ever center around the Pastor; no church community should ever have the Pastor be the foundation of that church (no matter how adorable and awesome she may be. 😊) Christ is our foundation, and at the heart of our church is all of us!

So...what I need from you...participation! I need your involvement, your ideas, your energy, your eagerness, your spirit! When you go on vacation, enjoy it! But when you come back, let's get to work. In the months to come, when you see a class starting, when you see a Church Retreat pop up, when you see an invite to something you might never have thought to do...give it a try! And better yet, invite a friend! Even better than that, bring 2! I want to invest in you PPC, because I see your potential, because I believe in you, and because I know that God has blessed this mission we have! Now is the time to seize our opportunities for development and to grow!

Peace to you,

Rev. Emily Wasser

Join the Mission Team for a Hands-On Mission Project following worship on Sunday, May 31st where we will assemble 25 welcome bags for clients of the Serene Harbor Domestic Violence Center.

Welcome bags will include the following items:



Journals & planners
Pens & markers
Coloring books
Fuzzy socks (women's)
Chapstick
Headbands & scrunchies
Lotion
Essential oils
Facial masks

If you would like to donate any of the items listed above, please bring them to the mission donation bin in the Fellowship Hall through Sunday, May 24th. We hope you can join us on May 31st!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Recently, our beloved organist Bonnie Griffith announced that after years of faithful service she would be retiring from Pineda Presbyterian Church. We are so deeply grateful for Bonnie, for her skill, her dedication, and all the many ways that her music has enriched our worship services. We cannot begin to thank her enough for her service. Bonnie will play her final service with us on May 31st. In the weeks that follow we invite you, first and foremost, to show Bonnie your gratitude and love. Let her know how much she has meant to this congregation, to you. Her grandson, Jacob, will be with us on May 17th and May 31st as we celebrate her and wish her well in this new chapter of her life.

What happens after May 31st? Bonnie informed the Personnel Team in March that she would be departing. In preparation, the search for a new organist has already begun. But one of the most wonderful things about Pineda Presbyterian Church is that our worship has never been limited to one type of music. We have never been afraid to branch out or try different things. Until we find the right person to fill the role, our musical contributions to worship will continue with a combination of guest musicians and our own Music Ministry volunteers. God has always provided for us, and we trust that God will continue to provide and send us the right person who will one day invite us deeper into musical worship with their gifts and talents.

We thank Bonnie for sharing her gifts, time, and talent with us and hope you will celebrate her with us on May 31st. And we hope that you will join us in prayer as we continue to search for the individual who will fill the big shoes she'll leave behind.

member spotlight

Betty
Francis

I was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on Nov 2, 1939. Shortly after my birth, WWII started and my father, a Presbyterian minister, joined the Army Air Force. He was sent to the South Pacific and Australia for most of his time in the service. My mother, brother and I lived with my maternal grandmother during the time he was away. We moved several more times as my father accepted callings to other churches. He had elected to stay in the reserves at the end of WWII, so when the Korean War started he was called back to the Air Force. We again moved every two years until I graduated from high school in Savannah, GA. (I attended 11 schools in 12 years).



Pictured above: David & Betty Francis

I graduated from The University of South Carolina with a BS in Biology. I then went to Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Medical Technology, a one year program. I worked in this career for forty years serving in various capacities, including supervisor of Blood Banks, Assistant Lab Manager and Lab Manager.

I met my first husband when my roommate and I decided to visit our respective brothers in Merritt Island, FL. As a lark, my roommate applied for a job at the medical facility at Kennedy Space Center. There were two jobs available, so we were both hired by Art Johnston, who later became my husband! Thus started the second chapter in my life. Art had two children from his previous marriage, Jan and Brad. Jan came to live with us in Cincinnati, Ohio until she finished high school and nursing school. Brad stayed with his mother and visited us every summer.

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I still keep in touch with them and now have 5 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. We moved several times with his job at the Navy Environmental Health Center, lastly in Hampton, VA where he retired. We turned our Cal 31 Sailboat, from a racing boat that we raced in the Chesapeake Bay, to a cruising boat that we sailed to the Bahamas for the winter. We decided we liked the cruising life so we sold our house in Hampton, sold the Cal 31 and bought a CT 41 Ketch. We sailed it back to Hampton for the summer then started south again. Sadly, Art had a massive heart attack in Southport, NC. I had the memorial service in Hampton and two men from Hampton yacht club, which we belonged to, helped me get the boat back to Melbourne, FL. My mother lived in Indian River Colony Club so it seemed natural to settle there.

Now the third chapter: I got a job as director of the Lab at Palm Bay Hospital and bought a house in Live Oak subdivision off Wickham Rd. Six years later I met David Francis through a mutual friend I had met when we wintered in Georgetown, Exumas. David was living in Grant, FL working on Sundance, the Gulfstar 41, a confiscated vessel he bought from the U.S. marshals. She was in terrible shape, a real fixer-upper! This was a match made in heaven and we both worked on Sundance for 4 more years. In between work on Sundance, we got married, bought a canal boat in France because it was too hot in Florida summers to work on the boat, and spent the first summer in France as our honeymoon. We left Melbourne in 2003 to start our around the world adventure. After 10 years of wonderful adventures, visiting many countries, transiting the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal and the Corinth canal, we entered the French Canals. We threw away our masts and began our 10 years of summers touring the canals and Rivers of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. We finally sold Sundance last August to a very nice French couple.

We are now in our fourth Chapter. We have been living in IRCC since 2010 when my mother, Sarah McInnis, gave us her house because she was moving into independent living at Brenntity. She was a former member of Pineda Presbyterian Church. We are now actively enjoying retired life on land.

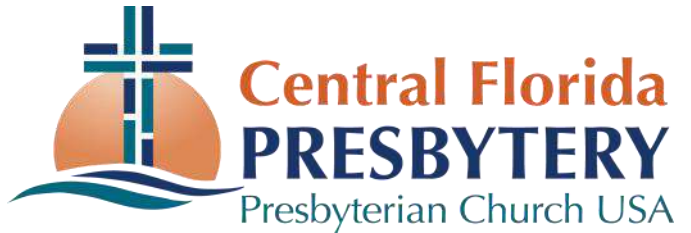


Join us for LAFF (Lunch and Fun Fellowship) each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We begin by playing Candy Bar Bingo and then enjoy lunch together. Everyone brings their own sandwich and we provide chips, beverages and dessert. There is no cost to attend and you don't need to sign-up, just show up and join the fun!

Join us also for Game Night on the 3rd Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have dinner together and then play games such as Chicken Foot Dominos, Phase 10 Ticket to Ride and more! The cost is \$7.00 per person which includes dinner, beverages and dessert. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

MAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th	May 31st
	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>
	<i>Communion Sunday</i>	<i>Mother's Day</i>		<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>
DEACON OF THE WEEK	Cliff Smith	Freda Baker	Scott Zinn	Karen Smith	Marilyn Bullard
LITURGIST	Leslie Lyman	Elizabeth Bumgarner	Betty Francis	Barb Mathewson	Pat Zinn
COMMUNION SERVERS	Elizabeth Bumgarner				
	Melissa Ketterman				
	Barb Mathewson				
	Dian Walker				
	Cliff Smith				
USHERS	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker
	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith
	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry	Mike & Sandy Curry



Dear Rev. Emily Wasser,

We are writing to you to thank your Congregation for their financial support for the ministry and mission of Central Florida Presbytery. We are also asking that you share this letter with your Session and congregation. We want the members of your congregation to know that their mission contributions and their faith are cherished by the members of the Council and our Presbytery.

We know that this is not an easy time for many of our congregations and yet you and many others are stepping up and showing your trust in the goodness and provision of God and offering your financial gifts with glad and generous hearts. Every financial gift to Central Florida Presbytery is a testimony of faith that you believe that God has a good plan for us and you are willing to show your support for that plan. Now more than ever - every gift from every congregation that is part of the family of churches that make up Central Florida Presbytery is needed.

As we celebrate the joyful season of Easter we are grateful to God for your faith and your generous support of the ministry of Central Florida Presbytery. We wish your congregation God's blessing this Easter.

In Christ,

Reverend Paul Ogne
Moderator - Central Florida Presbytery

Nicole Gower
Chair of Council – Central Florida Presbytery

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

For most of April, the food pantry has assisted 86 neighbors consisting of 299 individuals. An average of 135 bags were distributed with a maximum of 150. 12 new families were served. Thank you all for your generous giving!

Sunday, May 3rd
Sunday, May 10th
Sunday, May 17th
Sunday, May 24th
Sunday, May 31st

Canned Green Beans
Canned Meat (*SPAM, chicken, hash, etc.*)
Canned Soup (*Chicken or beef based*)
Canned Beans (*Kidney, pinto, black, etc.*)
Dry Pasta (*Kidney, pinto, black, etc.*)



SESSION SOUND BITES

(April 22, 2026 Stated Meeting)

- ◆ The meeting opened with prayer and devotion led by Elder Haskell Walker from 1 Samuel 25:23-27, 32-35 on how Abigail showed wisdom and courage and promoted reconciliation in the face of adversity.
- ◆ The Deacons are moving their meeting room to the church workroom.
- ◆ The minutes of the March 18, 2025 stated session meeting were approved.
- ◆ A Stewardship thank you letter was received from Presbytery and is published in this newsletter.
- ◆ Pastor Emily reported briefly on her good experience at the initial Synod ELF Cohort meeting. She also suggested some opportunities for new projects for the summer and fall.
- ◆ The installation of Cliff Smith for a 3-year term as deacon is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th.
- ◆ Session is documenting a process to receive new members without requiring a new members class.
- ◆ The new cleaning service started April 2nd, replacing Karla Allen who retired after 30 years of service.
- ◆ Organist Bonnie Griffith is retiring on May 31st. The search for a new organist is underway.
- ◆ The Facilities team is reviewing bids to replace the carpet in Fellowship Hall with vinyl planking and paint the room.
- ◆ The Adult Sunday School continues to meet in Sanctuary Room A, reading and discussing a chapter of Scripture. Faith Formation and Fellowship is considering additional adult education opportunities on other days of the week.
- ◆ LAFF, Chair Yoga, and Game Night activities continue, and new participants are welcome.
- ◆ Elder Pat Zinn closed the meeting with prayer.

NOTE: If you have questions about any of these items, or would like more information, please contact the clerk of session or the appropriate ministry team chair. A list of session members and team chairs is printed on the back of the Sunday bulletin and is on the Our Team page of the church website.



5/7 Joyce Arey

5/27 Gordon Nelson



5/3

David & Betty Francis



You're invited!

Saturday May 9th—7:00 p.m. at Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center

This season Magic of Bronze is pleased to present our story in a look back on the past, a love letter to the present, and glimpse into the future. Hear old favorites the group has loved playing over the years, pop tunes that will have you tapping your toes, and some new hits you're sure to love. We are also excited to premier two new pieces written for and dedicated to Magic of Bronze for our 30th anniversary: "Chronology" and "Threshold." Look for some familiar faces among the ringers: including our pastor, Rev. Emily Wasser and Will Lawrence, Assistant Stated Clerk for CF Presbytery.

Tickets are on sale at the Dr. Phillips Center website:

<https://www.drphillipscenter.org/events/tickets/2026/the-magic-of-bronze>

Our Fidelity Investment account increased from **\$154,668** to **\$155,133**, in February and the Endowment account had a gain of **\$16,641** for the month.

The operating fund donations were \$56,957 so far this year, which is about \$20,000 behind for the pledges (\$228,927) this year. We have received an anonymous donation to replace the flooring in the fellowship hall. Before the flooring is replaced, we would like to have the hall painted. If you know a great painter, or would like to help paint, please let us know.



On Easter Sunday we collected the special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. We received donations in the amount of \$550.

If you haven't already, don't forget to give your per capita donation of \$30 per person. Per Capita is paid to Central Florida Presbytery based on the number of people we have on the rolls. The church will need to pay the difference between what is collected and what we owe. Please help out if you can and contribute your \$30. Thank you.

Barb Mathewson

Finance, Stewardship & Endowment Chair

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00am PPW CT Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
3 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Called Session Meeting (Room C) 11:30am Fellowship & Faith Formation Team (Fellowship Hall)	4	5 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Heart Strings Knitting & Crochet (Fellowship Hall)	6 6:00pm Worship & Tech Team Meeting (Room A)	7 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	8	9
10  9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Deacons' Meeting (Church Office) 11:30am Administration & Personnel Team (Fellowship Hall)	11	12 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Mission Team (Room A)	13 4:00pm Finance Team (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Lydia Circle (Pat Zinn's home)	14 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am Dorcas Circle (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Facilities Team (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	15 9:00am <i>Preschool Graduation (Fellowship Hall)</i> 5:30pm Game Night (Fellowship Hall) 	16 10:00am Memorial Service for Don Hurley (Sanctuary)
17 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service	18	19 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	20 6:00pm Session Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	21 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	22	23
24 Wear red today! 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service Pentecost Offering 	25  Memorial Day ★	26 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	27	28 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	29	30
31 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service 5 Cents per Meal Offering 11:00am Hands-on Mission Project (Fellowship Hall) 	<p>Pineda Presbyterian Church (USA) 5650 N. Wickham Road, Palm Shores, FL 32940 321-259-1330 Pinedapc.office@gmail.com pinedapc.org</p>					