

The Tidings

the monthly newsletter of

Pineda Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)



Sunday, August 2nd

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

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

Sunday, August 9th

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

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

Sunday, August 16th

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

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

Sunday, August 23rd

(Mission Connection Sunday)

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

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

(The Five Cents per Meal Offering will be received.)

11:00 a.m. — Potluck Lunch with Mission Guest (*Fellowship Hall*)

Sunday, August 30th

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

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

Lectionary Readings

August 2nd

Genesis 32:22-31

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9th

Genesis 37:1-4 & 12-28

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16th

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a & 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

August 23rd

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30th

Exodus 3:1-15

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28



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PASTOR'S NOTE

Rev. Emily Wasser

Howdy Pineda Presbyterian Church! Westward Ho!!!

As I sit here writing this to you, I'm counting down the days to something special I've been looking forward to for years! In my sermons I often bring up the fact that part of my preparation for preaching every week includes a podcast called "Sermon Brainwave." This podcast is sponsored by Lutheran Seminary and when I describe it to people, the start of it has a tendency to sound like the opening of some kind of joke... "A Lutheran, a Presbyterian, and a Baptist walk into a podcast studio..." It sounds like a joke, but in reality every week I tune in to hear these three brilliant individuals wax poetic for 30 minutes on the scriptures of the week. And every week I always walk away having learned something. Sometimes those things I learn end up in my sermons, sometimes they don't, but every week I feel my faith grows a little more as they enhance my understanding of the scriptures.

I've listened to the scholars on Sermon Brainwave for years now, and about four years ago they became something new. Once a year they invite pastors and listeners out to Ghost Ranch in New Mexico for a "Preachers Retreat." It's a time where preachers can attend lectures, round tables, and worship with the minds behind the podcast, where we can deepen our faith and understanding of the gospels, and worship God in the beautiful desert.

I've always wanted to go to the Preachers Retreat. Ever since they first talked about it years ago, I've wanted to go, but funds were never there or the time was never right, or, or, or... But this year...this year the stars aligned.



This year Central Florida Presbytery helped me with a scholarship to cover some of the more expensive aspects of the trip. This year, I get to go sit at the feet of some amazing teachers and learn firsthand, not just as voices on the airwaves, but as colleagues in our mission to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with one and all. To say I'm excited for this opportunity doesn't do this energy I feel now justice.

And yet...I'd be lying to you if I said I also wasn't a little bit anxious. This is the first trip I'm taking all by myself. Other trips I've gone on have either been with friends or family, other trips have involved people from the Presbytery or the Synod, I always knew there would be a familiar face there waiting for me when I arrived! Doing this has me feeling some of those first day of school jitters all over again. Will I make any friends? Who will I sit with at lunch? What if no one likes me? What if I forget my deodorant and start to smell funny and my hair frizzes out and I say something weird and become the laughing stock of the retreat?!

Continued on next page

Pastor's Note continued

Siblings in Christ...I am a jumble of nerves and excitement right now, but I think that's how it's supposed to be. Stepping out in faith is never an easy thing, it's supposed to be a little scary and exciting all at once. That's why it is an act of faith. It's trusting in something beyond ourselves and that's difficult even for us Pastors. And yet we are called to it. Again and again and again. We're called to it; not because living in anxiety is good for us, but rather because learning to put our faith in God is good for us (and our anxiety). We believe that there is a reward that comes with being faithful, with following after God no matter where God leads. And when we exercise that faith, then after some time, the anxieties, while always present, begin to get quieter and quieter.

Friends, I'm nervous as all get out for what will come this week! But I'm also so very excited to see what God is going to do with this experience. I'm excited to do something I've never done before. I'm excited to potentially meet some new friends. And I'm excited to share all these lessons with you in the weeks after I return because I am positive that there are lessons to be learned that will be worth sharing! Catch you on the other side!

Westward Ho!

Peace to you,

Emily



Pastor Emily will be out of the office for continuing education from Monday, August 3rd through Friday, August 7th.

She will be on vacation from Thursday, August 27th through Monday, August 31st. We will welcome a guest preacher on Sunday, August 30th.

Special thanks to the anonymous donor who made the renovations of the floor and painting in the Fellowship Hall possible! We appreciate it so much!



Thank you to all who donated school supplies this summer. Many elementary students will benefit greatly from your generosity!

SESSION SOUND BITES

(From July 22nd Meeting)

- ♦ The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Patricia Zinn, the reading of Psalm 8, and a devotional from The Lord of Heaven by Max Lucado reminding us that the Lord who created the universe is not far away and is always with us, even in times of difficulty.
- ♦ Minutes of the June 16 stated and June 28 called session meetings were approved and the June 30 email vote approving the special offering for PDA on July 12 was confirmed.
- ♦ Two new members were received by letter of transfer. All 6 members who have recently joined will be recognized during an upcoming worship service.
- ♦ An informal report on the recent mini-retreat will be presented to the congregation on September 13, immediately following worship.
- ♦ The Moderator will attend a continuing education event at Ghost Ranch, NM August 3-7 and will be on vacation August 27-30. Pastoral care and pulpit supply will be arranged.
- ♦ Fellowship and Faith Formation hopes to schedule a return visit by astronomer Rev. Maynard Pittendreich to present a program on the Christmas Star. They are also reaching out to Rev. David Keck to present a WOW program on "Listening with Love".
- ♦ Facilities announced that the doors in Fellowship Hall have been repaired. To ensure that FH doors and the door to the office are securely locked, please allow them to slam after they are opened, or press the panic bar to release it and then allow the door to slam closed.
- ♦ The facilities use policies and forms are being updated to include provision for recurring rental use (i.e. weekly, monthly, etc.) and to identify when facility rental agreements must be approved by the session.
- ♦ Finance reported a current operating deficit of nearly \$9,000; we are also \$29,000 behind on planned income from estimates of giving.
- ♦ Finance Team is contacting presbytery resources for a presentation on stewardship and legacy giving.
- ♦ Technology Team successfully live streamed the July 12 special worship service in Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ A Tech Grant application for \$4,600 to upgrade our video display capability in the Sanctuary was submitted to the Presbyterian Foundation. A response is expected by August 17.
- ♦ Elder Haskell Walker 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 on the Our Team page of the church website.



WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES



This worship note is brought to you by...gratitude.

On July 12th, Pineda Presbyterian Church decided to do something that we've never done before... well, actually, it was a whole lot of somethings we've never done before! On this very special Sunday we invited our siblings in Christ from Grace Communion Church to a joint service in the Fellowship Hall where we dedicated our newly renovated space, took up a special offering, livestreamed, shared a meal together, and spent our worship raising our voices in a hymn sing!

As there always is when trying new things, there were some anxieties around this event. We were worried about how the livestream would sound to those who watch us from a distance. We hoped that no one would get offended when we realized we couldn't possibly sing all the songs we'd received as requests. There were more than a few of us who were a little nervous about the time change and how the morning would work and if our two very different churches would mesh together.

The result: it was a smashing success! Were there hiccups? Sure, nothing in life is ever hiccup free. But before the morning ended, there were more than a dozen requests from PPC and Grace Communion, all the same: when can we do this again? Rest assured, we are talking about just that. We are talking about which parts everyone liked, and what something like this might look like in the future, but before we move forward, continuing to explore this prospect, we do need to take a moment simply to say...thank you.

Though the service was simple, it involved many hands and hearts that were dedicated to bringing it to life. Big thank yous for this service are going out to Dian Walker, who organized the buffet; Bonnie Griffith, for her spectacular piano playing, Justin Walker for leading our hymns and Rhenae Sikdar for helping us collect the requests; Melissa Ketterman for helping us coordinate the behind the scenes details; Sam and Jen Gray as well as Haskell Walker for making sure we could livestream to those who couldn't join us; many thanks to Steve Schantz, the Pastor at Grace Communion for helping us to organize; and many, many thanks to you! The people! Without your joyful and heartfelt participation, this service would not have been the joyful experience that it was!

Thank you all so much for taking a leap with us into something different and truly beautiful!

"Oh, how wonderful, how pleasing it is when God's people all come together as one!" ~Psalm 133:1

Rev. Emily Wasser

In July we withdrew \$25,000 from our Fidelity Investment account to help cover daily expenses. The remaining balance is **\$133,129**. The Endowment account had a loss of **\$3,104** for the month.

The operating fund donations total \$98,405 so far this year, which is approximately \$35,000 behind the pledged amount of \$228,927 for the year. We received donations for Sue Noonan's Memorial Fund in the amount of \$1,200.

On July 12th, we collected a special offering at the dedication service. The special offering is for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid the earthquake relief. We were able to raise \$370. Thank you for your generous support.

Barb Mathewson

Finance, Stewardship & Endowment Chair



MISSION CONNECTION SUNDAY



Mark your calendars for Mission Connection Sunday on August 23rd with a Potluck Lunch and Mission Guest Speaker, Tom Kammerdener, CEO of Aging Matters .

Please bring a favorite dish to share and join us for worship at 10 AM followed by the Potluck Lunch.



8/14

Barb Mathewson

8/21

**Lin Dankmyer &
Melissa Ketterman**

8/23

Shannon Hardner

8/25

Bonnie Griffith

During July the food pantry assisted 78 neighbors consisting of 269 individuals. An average of 122 bags were distributed with a maximum of 130. 10 new families were served. This is a real service that we provide to our community. Thank you all!



Sunday, August 4th—Canned Green Beans

Sunday, August 11th—Canned Meat (*SPAM, chicken, hash, etc.*)

Sunday, August 18th—Canned Soup (*Chicken or beef based*)

Sunday, August 25th—Canned Beans (*Kidney, pinto, black, etc.*)

Sunday, August 25th—Canned Beans (*Kidney, pinto, black, etc.*)

“WHY DIGITAL MINISTRY IS INCLUSION”

By The Rev. Brittany Harrold Porch

Published April 28, 2026 in The Presbyterian Outlook

We are all one accident, diagnosis, or life disruption away from needing online ministry.

I know this personally. My toddler was diagnosed with pediatric cancer in 2017, before we had robust online worship and digital ministry. Oncologists told us to stay home and avoid places with high risks of infection — specifically playgrounds, grocery stores and church. While our child was on chemotherapy, our world shrank dramatically.

Our church community showed up. They dropped off food and toys and shoveled snow. But come Sunday morning, I longed to be there with my toddler in tow. I was lost and confused and craved the comforting rhythms of hymns and hearing my community pray. But Sundays came and went. It would have meant everything to be able to worship online and connect on Zoom for communion during that time.



When people debate the value of digital ministry, the conversation often turns quickly to anxiety: Doesn't online worship just make it easier for people to stay home? If we keep streaming services, will people stop showing up in person?

It's a question pastors and church leaders ask each other. But I have come to believe that question asks the wrong thing. The real question is this: **Who would be missing entirely if online worship didn't exist?**

- ♦ New parents rocking a baby in the quiet of their living room while worship plays on a laptop.
- ♦ Someone with hearing or vision loss finds that watching online actually makes worship more accessible.
- ♦ A person carrying religious trauma needs distance before stepping back inside a church building.
- ♦ A mom with children on the autism spectrum who finds it difficult to attend in person.
- ♦ A wife caring for her husband with dementia.
- ♦ A man exploring faith for the first time, but unable to find a church that fits in his small town.
- ♦ A family that pauses during carpool to worship before a soccer tournament.
- ♦ A man who travels constantly for work and logs onto Zoom, telling us a new city each time before we break bread over communion together.

These examples aren't arbitrary. These are people I have known. Real people with names and stories who have told me how digital ministry and online worship kept them connected to God and to a church community.

Continued on next page

Digital Ministry continued

Ask most people, and they will tell you they prefer the in-person experience. I do, too. There is something holy about being in the same room. But inclusion means making sure the digital experience exists so that people can find ways to worship in community that are safe and possible for them.

Because sometimes the sanctuary extends beyond the walls of the building. Sometimes communion is broken over Zoom from miles apart. Sometimes worship plays quietly in hospital rooms, living rooms, or from the dashboard of a minivan.

So livestream the service. Offer communion on Zoom. Take prayer requests on Facebook. Keep the digital doors open. It all matters.

Because for someone, somewhere, that screen is not a convenience. It is the only doorway they have left into the life of the church.



The Rev. Brittany Porch is a pastor and certified Christian educator serving at Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. A practical creative, she loves innovative ministry, travel, her book club, and MLS soccer. She and her spouse, the Rev. Trip Porch, joyfully raise two kids and their pets, including an axolotl.

AUGUST WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS					
	August 2nd	August 9th	August 16th	August 23rd	August 30th
	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
	Communion Sunday			Mission Connection Sunday	
DEACON OF THE WEEK	Scott Zinn	Leslie Lyman	Cliff Smith	Freda Baker	Karen Smith
LITURGIST	Barb Mathewson	Leslie Lyman	Melissa Ketterman	Pat Zinn	Betty Francis
COMMUNION SERVERS	Sandy Curry				
	John Ellis				
	Dian Walker				
	Pat Zinn				
	Scott Zinn				
USHERS	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker
	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith
	John & Elizabeth Bumgarner	John & Elizabeth Bumgarner	John & Elizabeth Bumgarner	John & Elizabeth Bumgarner	John & Elizabeth Bumgarner

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, June 28th, we dressed casually in red, white & blue and celebrated the 4th of July with our annual Independence Day Cookout & Potluck! We gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a Patriotic Sing-a-Long led by John Ellis while our grill masters, cooked burgers & hot dogs. Members brought various side dishes to share and we all enjoyed a festive afternoon with lots of tasty food!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES RETURN SOON!

Join Presbyterian Women and learn about Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth through this year's Horizon's Bible Study "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other". This Bible study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ. Study participants will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today.

Although First Corinthians contains familiar theology and passages we easily recognize—like the words of institution for the Lord's Supper and the meditation on love—readers often don't realize that Paul wrote this letter to a church in conflict.

The church in Corinth was diverse, and it was easy for factions to form. In his letter, Paul called his siblings in faith to a loving unity rooted in the reality that Jesus Christ had been crucified and resurrected for everyone. Christians throughout the ages have recognized the Holy Spirit's influence on Paul's words of unity and love, especially during times of conflict.

Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return, and he challenged all to be ready when that day came. Today the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. This Bible study challenges us to trust in Christ's saving love and to demonstrate that love by the way we live.

This study will take place at both of Pineda Presbyterian Women's Circles. Please join us!



Lydia Circle

Begins September 9th

*2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
at Pat Zinn's home*

Dorcas Circle

Begins September 10th

*2nd Thursday of the month
at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2  9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Fellowship & Faith Formation Team (Fellowship Hall)	3	4 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Knitting & Crochet Group (Fellowship Hall)	5	6	7	8  9:00am Central Florida Presbyterian Women's Annual Bible Study Event (Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary)
9 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	10	11 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 2:00pm Administration & Personnel Team (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Mission Team (Room A)	12 4:00pm Finance Team (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Worship & Tech Team Meeting (Room A)	13 2:00pm Facilities Team (Fellowship Hall)	14	15
16 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	17	18 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	19 6:00pm Session Meeting (Room A)	20	21 5:30pm Game Night (Fellowship Hall) 	22
23  8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) <i>5 Cents per Meal Offering</i> 11:00am Potluck Lunch with Mission Guest (Fellowship Hall)	24	25 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	26	27	28	29
30 8:45am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	31					