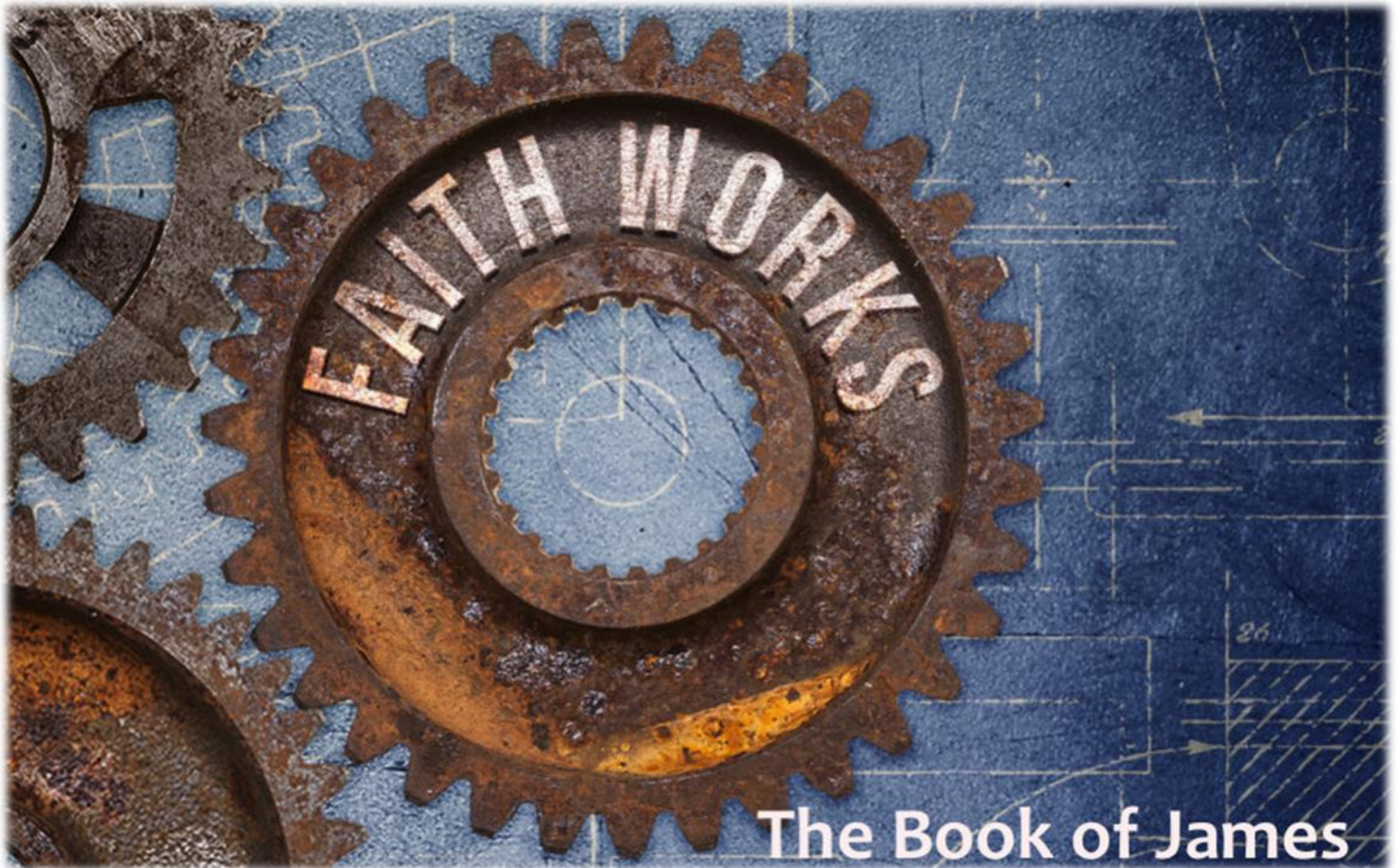


First Presbyterian Church of Naples

*In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God:
we worship, we love, we grow, we serve*



The Book of James

**September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
LITURGY**

*Let us quiet our hearts, minds, and voices for the beginning of worship.
At this time, please silence all cell phones.*

The Prelude

Arioso

J. S. BACH, ARR. VIRGIL FOX

THE TIME OF GATHERING

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

Welcome and Life Together

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

People: *The Lord gives food to the hungry.*

Leader: The Lord watches over the strangers.

People: *The Lord upholds the orphan and widow.*

Leader: Great is the Lord!

All: *Let us worship God!*

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

*Hymn of Praise #327

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

- 1. From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 2. In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong: Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 3. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord our God, who keeps faith forever. Even though we turn away, God remains steadfast and merciful. So, trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

You love us with open arms, O God. Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice: when we do not challenge the injustice around us; when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share; when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment; when we contribute to the brokenness of the world instead of helping to make it whole. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen! Amen!

** Please stand if able*

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

SHIRLEY HAGERSON

Let us pray: Gracious God, we ask now that by the power and illumination of the Holy Spirit you would open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to receive your word for us today. And then make us doers of your word, not hearers only. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 146

PEW BIBLE PAGE 507

Our first reading this morning comes from the Book of Psalms. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! ²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. ³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. ⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. ⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, ⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Response

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

JOHN L. BELL

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

Second Reading

James 2:1-17

PEW BIBLE PAGE 981

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith—PCUSA 1983)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve... We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

Dona Nobis Pacem

ARR. HAL H. HOPSON

Grant us peace. Amen.

*The Doxology

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH

*Hymn of Commitment #687 vs.1-4 ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

ST. ANNE

1. *Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:*
2. *Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*
3. *Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*
4. *A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Toccata in D Minor

GORDON BALCH NEVIN

Offering

Offering boxes and baskets are located near the exit doors.
You may also submit your offering by mail or online at www.fpcnaples.org/give.

Flower Dedication

The Chancel flowers are given by Patty Rutzler in loving memory
of her son, Jay, who would be 50 years old.

Ushers

Jack Marsh (head usher), Cindy Esler, Lucy Koll, Jim Robertson, Patty Rutzler

Greeters

Pat Collins, Mark Owens, John and Joanne Slager

Prayer List

Ebbie Batcher
Darryl Bernhardt
Megan Ford
Gary Giltner
Giraldo-Castano Family
Scott McCullough
Dominique O'Connell
Rick Podgorny
James Seibold

Corey Sheaf
Vanessa Uzupes-Owens
Geoff Wiswell
*Corbin Wyant
The U.S. Military
Stephen Ministers and
care receivers

* church member

Missionary (Honduras)
Dorie Hjalmarson
Central Presbyterian
Reformed Church
(Matanzas, Cuba)
Lucia Bacallao
Walkiria Cardenas
Barbara Cuellar
Josefa de la Osa
Roberto Rodriguez
Gladys Tejeira

Hospital Ministry

Will you be hospitalized or know of someone in the congregation who is? Please contact Sharman Pfaus so she can notify the pastor of your hospital stay. Also, please remember to let the hospital know that you are a member of First Presbyterian Church of Naples.

Church Directory

The latest directory of members and affiliates can be found at the exits and in Spencer Hall.

Stephen Ministry

Are you in need of prayer? Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one lay caring ministry we have at FPCN. Our lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers, have been trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are going through a difficult time. To learn more or to pray with a Stephen Minister contact the church office.

Chancel Flowers

Have you considered a nice way of letting your friends and family know you are thinking of them? What about a dedication to the Chancel flowers, letting them know you care? Not only do the flowers enhance the beauty of our Chancel, but it also sends a special message to your loved one. Dedications are \$65 and can be reserved by contacting Angie Johnson at angiej@fpcnaples.org or calling the church office at 239.262.1311.

E-mail communications

In an effort to keep parishioners informed of upcoming events, e-mail blasts are being sent out on a weekly basis. If we do not have your e-mail address or if you are not receiving these notices, please contact Kathleen Law at kathleenl@fpcnaples.org or 262.1311 ext 213.

Session Update

Due to the continued increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Florida and Collier County, the high transmissibility of the Delta Variant, and relying on recent guidance from the CDC, advice from medical experts at Naples Community Hospital, counsel from Peace River Presbytery leaders, and embracing our call to love one another and care for those most vulnerable, your Session took the following actions on Wednesday August 4:

That until further notice,

1. All persons 2 years of age and over will wear masks in the building during worship and meetings onsite, preschool students excepted;
2. Congregational singing with masks be allowed during worship with the exception of the choir;
3. Fellowship Time after worship will continue with the wearing of masks but without food or drinks being served.

Thank you for your prayers, your cooperation and your vigilance. "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10).

For current and accurate information about COVID-19, you may visit the Naples Community Hospital website, www.nchmd.org.

Events

Kidz Lab and Youth Group

Our Kidz Lab (Sunday School) begins today from 11 - 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Kidz Lab is for children in grades K through 5. Youth Group, for students in grades 6 through 12 will begin Wednesday, September 29 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm. and will also be held via Zoom. We will be sure to respond under our leadership's direction to when it may be in the best interest of our children and youth to once again meet in person. For Zoom links and more information, please contact Ashley Hancock, ashley.hancock@fpcnaples.org or Nancy Van Fleet, nancyv@fpcnaples.org.

Wednesday Morning Men: Faith and Fellowship

Our topic for September will be the Book of Acts. Please join us via Zoom on Wednesday, September 15 at 8 a.m. with leader Larry Comstock. For link information, please contact Bill Kearney, skearney239@comcast.net or Rev. Rex Childs, rexc@fpcnaples.org.

Seekers and Joiners Class

Do you want to know more about our faith, this congregation and how to become a member of our dynamic church? We want to encourage you in your journey of faith. A Seekers and Joiners class will be held on Sunday, September 19, following the worship service in Spencer Hall. Information packets are available at the exit doors. Please register by calling the church office 239.262.1311 or emailing Angie Johnson angiej@fpcnaples.org.

HUDDLE

The men's HUDDLE noon-time Bible Study meets each Thursday at noon in Spencer Hall with a Zoom option. Bring your Bible and your lunch! Join them for discussion and study. For Zoom instructions contact Rev. Rex Childs, rexc@fpcnaples.org.

Lunch Bunch

Don't go home or out to eat alone! Join other FPCN single men and women for lunch every Sunday after worship for a fun-filled Dutch-treat lunch at one of Naples' selected restaurants. You will get to know some nice people and have a wonderful meal. Best of all, you are not eating alone. Sign up in Spencer Hall after the service.

Giving Opportunities

Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)

The Session established CERF to provide assistance to local agencies which provide for persons' basic needs. We are continuing to accept donations as there is certainly an ongoing need on the part of our local mission partners which are: Harry Chapin Food Bank, Mision Peniel, The Salvation Army, and The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Grace Place, Meals of Hope and St. Matthew's House. Please indicate on your check "CERF" or choose the fund from the dropdown menu at www.fpcnaples.org/give.

Playground Campaign

We're excited to add new skill-building items to the playground along with stationary musical instruments. In addition, we will replace the poured rubber absorbent surface under the structure that will ensure safe use by our students for years to come.

Playground - Donated: \$80,400 Campaign goal: \$82,000

You may give by check or give online at www.fpcnaples.org/give, select Playground form the list of funds. Checks may be mailed to the church with the notation to "Playground."

Giving

Wherever you may be, we hope it is for you a time of rest, renewal and encouragement. We would also encourage you, if and when you are able, to continue to make your contributions to the church and to make payments on your pledges. This will help greatly with our cash flow. Although the pace slows down, our ministry and expenses continue. We continue to be grateful for your financial commitment and prayerful support.

Remember that you can give online at www.fpcnaples.org/give and you can setup recurring gifts if you desire. If you have any questions please contact Anna Focht, Director of Finance.

STAFF

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone: 239.262.1311</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Ministers			
Rev. Craig Goodrich, Senior Pastor		2035	craigg@fpcnaples.org
Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor		2027	rexc@fpcnaples.org
Worship & Music			
Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries		2039	briceg@fpcnaples.org
Osei Allen, Sound and Video Technician			
Caitlin Hancock, Sound and Video Technician			
Christian Education			
Jack Fogelman, Kidz Lab Teacher			
Audrey Gordon, Childcare Provider			
Ashley Hancock, Christian Education Assistant		2012	ashley.hancock@fpcnaples.org
Nancy Van Fleet, Director of Children and Youth		2029	nancyv@fpcnaples.org
Office			
Anna Focht, Director of Finance		2042	annaf@fpcnaples.org
Angie Johnson, Office Assistant/Receptionist		2000	angiej@fpcnaples.org
Kathleen Law, Communications Coordinator		2013	kathleenl@fpcnaples.org
Sharman Pfaus, Executive Office Manager		2036	sharmanp@fpcnaples.org
Facilities			
Lisa Ethier, Custodian		2016	lisae@fpcnaples.org
Eduardo Martinez, Maintenance		2014	eduardom@fpcnaples.org
Sandy Poore, Director of Facilities		2028	sandyp@fpcnaples.org
Preschool			
Ashley Houk, Preschool Director		2009	ashleyh@fpcnaples.org
Lindsay Willkomm, Preschool Assistant Director		2038	lindsayw@fpcnaples.org

ELDERS

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Norman Brown	Carleton Cleveland	Teresa Doane
Duncan Connell	Deborah Meeson-Vige	Fran Engelhardt
Doug Jensen	Patty Rutzler	Linda Gadkowski
Saralene Oldham	Janice Witman	Roni Haggart
Barbara Weiss		Bill Kearney

DEACONS

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jean Kasten	Barbara Beach	Pat Collins
Les Kasten	Richard Beach	Charles Fraley
Gary Nordbrock	Cindy Esler	Tedi Fraley
Betty Plum	Audrey Gordon	Nancy Kier
Gary Root	Karen Parker	Lucy Koll
Janet Root	Roy Parker	Eileen Malstrom
Lee Ryan	David Witman	Daisy Scott
Martha Waddell		Barbara Simons
Fred Witt		Roger Simons
Joyce Witt		Deborah Streamer
		Harry Streamer



First Presbyterian Church of Naples
 250 Sixth Street South Naples FL 34102
 www.fpcnaples.org 239262.1311

