



The Lighthouse

November 2021

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 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).

We have two opportunities to worship on Sunday, at 10:55 and at 5:00. Join us for both if you are able! As the Shorter Catechism states...

Q. 60. How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

A. The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

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.

Last year's quarantine during the pandemic showed us all how much we need human interaction (especially encouragement!) from one another. Get involved in building relationships with other members of the church!

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 fellowshiping 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

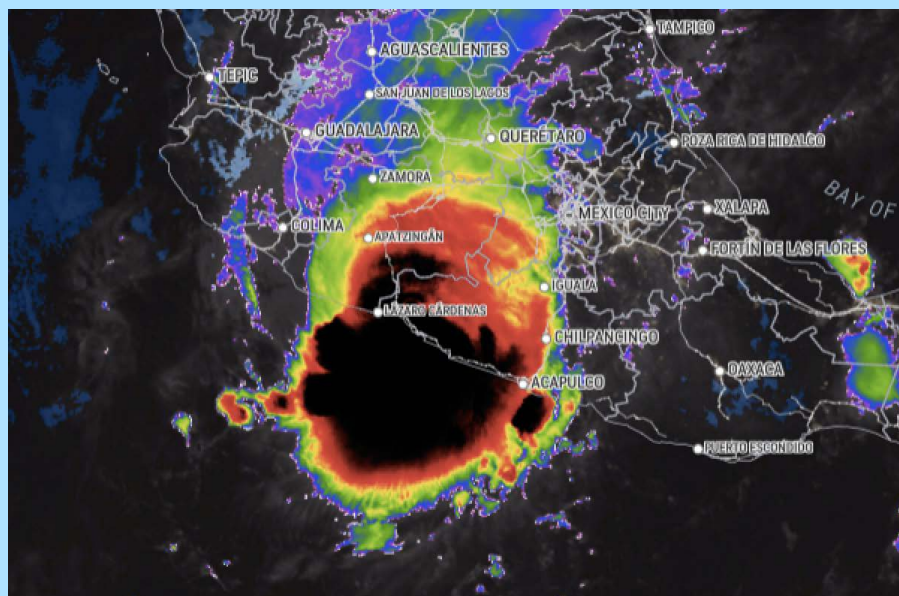
*Stay Tuned for our
latest Missionary
update...*

The hurricane is over! We are safe.

Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

October 26, 2021



Hurricane Rick

Travels: (Dios mediante--Lord willing)

- November 13 to 15, to Houston, to visit Bay Area Presbyterian Church

Prayers and Praise

1. Thank God for his protection during Hurricane Rick! We had strong winds and heavy rains, and the power and Internet were out for many hours. Tree branches and limbs are down, and the sea is still raging. But the power and Internet came on just before the time to lead an online Bible class with kids. Please continue to pray for the families in the hills.

2. Many children and teens are confronted, in school, on the Internet, and from their peers, with modern (but false) teaching on areas such as gender, sexuality, and abortion. We want to give them a more Biblical viewpoint, so they can respond with truths consistent with the Bible. Please pray as we are preparing online classes for children, youth, and parents.

3. Today we are beginning an online class for youth on *How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret*, starting with David and Bathsheba. In January, we hope to do *Mama Bear Apologetics* with parents and other adults. Please be praying! Stay tuned! Or go to <https://belovedtruth.com/> for more information and more online classes.



4. We just finished holding our first online version of the International Wholistic Missions Conference, with regional meetings and participants from many countries, as well as a global summit. Thank God for the great participation.

5. Our children's ministry is starting again in Convergencia, though we mourn the death of David Ward, our host and good friend. I also work with Juan and Anayeli Cruz in another children's ministry--though my primary role is to teach English and study the Bible with parents.

6. Please pray for the school in the garbage dump. They were reorganized this year, and suffered damage from the hurricane.

Thank God for his protection! And thanks for your prayers and encouragement. Let me know how I can be praying for you.

With love in Christ,

Jody



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS for NOVEMBER

Kayleigh Clark 8th
Harrison Horn 11th
Nielsa Harding 13th
Kathy VanderKoooy 21st
Fran Bagby 25th
Winston Horn 28th

Dates to Remember for November

- November 3 Ladies Circle at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall
- November 6 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am
- November 7 Communion
- November 14 Operation Christmas Shoeboxes due at the church
- November 21 Monthly Luncheon & Communion (Evening Worship Service)
- November 24-26 Church Office will be Closed for Thanksgiving

Be sure to set your clocks back an hour on Saturday evening, Nov. 6th. Daylight Saving Time Ends
Join us on Sunday, Nov. 21st for our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon after the morning worship service. The meat, dressing, rolls, gravy and cranberry sauce will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. This will take the place of our monthly luncheon.

Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus Fall 2021 Performance Venues

Tentatively, based on no other COVID - related changes, our performance dates and venues are:

First Methodish Church: Pascagoula, MS, November 29th, 2021 at 7:00pm

Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Biloxi, MS, December 3, 2021 at 7:00pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church: Gulfport, MS, December 4, 2021, 7:00pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church: Gulfport, MS, December 5, 2021, 3:00pm