

# First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach

## Vision Frame

### **Mission**

Equipping people to pursue and share gospel-driven lives.

### **Core Values**

- Biblically Rooted- We believe the Bible is God's Word and the primary means by which we know God. God's commands and promises are the pathway to life, blessings and wholeness.
- Caring Deeply- We are a family dedicated to love and support one another
- Serving Together- We use our individual and collective gifts to serve our church and community
- Developing Leaders- We equip people to discover their calling and embrace their role in building God's Kingdom
- Missionally Focused- Strategically invest in opportunities to spread the gospel everywhere

### **Spiritual outcomes**-a person who pursues and shares a gospel-driven life....

- Studies the Bible and applies what is learned
- Talks with God and prays for others
- Walks with integrity and speaks the truth
- Loves other believers and extends kindness to everyone
- Stewards his/her resources and invests in others
- Knows his/her faith story and shares God's story

### **Ministry Strategy**-a pattern of participation and involvement in our faith community

- Starting Point-the place people go to learn more about FPC and how they can get involved in the life of the church
- Attend a Worship Service weekly
- Connect in a small group regularly
- Serve on a Team at least monthly

## 90 Day Prayer Initiative

April 28, 2019

**First Presbyterian in North Palm Beach is a special church.** It's been my church since 1997. My sons grew up in Sunday School here, were Wednesday night regulars and devotees of Team.

Our family has appreciated the emphasis here on connecting with God's work around the world and students in our backyard. We have loved watching young people develop into leaders as they have been given opportunities to grow through internships. Steve and I love the high quality music we hear week after week and the stability of our pastoral leadership.

But all around First Pres, **change is happening.** Fewer folks in the surrounding community are taking the time for weekly worship. More and more children are growing up without any faith influence. The wider culture has less tolerance for talk of God in public spaces.

As changes happen outside the church, they also are happening inside. Our beloved Pastor Lucky is beginning to plan his retirement. While we have plenty of time before it happens, we are looking to the future and wondering what it will be like at First Pres. How will God work in our community as we go forward?

The more we think about the changes inside and outside the church, the clearer it becomes that there are **many possible paths** for us to take but some of them will not be healthy paths. We need God's guidance and provision. Only by seeking God together in prayer can we as a congregation find the path forward in this new season.

That is why the Session has asked me to lead the congregation in 90 days of focused corporate prayer for **God's vision for our future.** Next week I will address this initiative in my sermon and introduce you to the Weekly Prayer Guides that will help us pray together through the months of May, June and July.

These **Weekly Prayer Guides** will be published in the bulletin and on the web site. We know there are many faithful folks in our congregation praying. Our goal is for us to pray in unity, that is, to pray as a church in the same direction.

*Would you take **5 minutes today** to pray for our church to listen to God about how we are to fulfill our mission: "Equipping People to Pursue and Share Gospel Driven Lives"?*

I am excited to have your partnership. Let's join together in prayer for God's guidance.

Pastor Elizabeth Nielsen

## 90 Day Prayer Initiative Prayer Guide for May 5, 2019

On Paul's second missionary journey, he and Silas had plans about where to go to preach the news about Jesus, but they found that the Holy Spirit had other plans. The Spirit kept them from preaching the word where they had planned to go. When they tried a different place, they again found that God would not allow them to go. Finally, God sent a vision in the night giving them clear direction: "A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with [Paul], "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there." (Acts 16:9-10)

We, too, have plans for our church's ministry. How can we be sure that our plans line up with God's vision for our Church?

This week let's begin our 90 days of prayer by asking God to develop a deep **desire in all of us to hear from him**. Let's pray that we will be able to put aside our own desires and **together seek God's vision** for our future.

Please include all our pastors, staff and session, as well as each member of our congregation in your prayers.

For younger children: How do you find something you are looking for? Draw a picture of your family looking together for a special gift that God has for you. Pray that God will help us as a church family to search together for God's plan.

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Thank you for your participation in the 90 Day Prayer Initiative. Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

I/ We prayed for our church to find God's direction.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Prayer Concerns:

The Pastor Nominating Committee:

Jim Laub

John Carey

Becca Nabhan

Nick Crisafi

Kim Sanders

Bob Johnson

Ray Dorsey

Shirley Alley

Carrie Wallace

Pray for the committee as they put together a position description and connect with ECO to plan the process of evaluating candidates.

Pastors:

Lucky: Sermon series, preparing for transition

Ron: Sermon series, evaluation of programs

Session:

Seeking God together for vision

Financial health for the church

Staff:

Wisdom in planning

Joy, unity and stamina in service

## 90 DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Prayer Guide #2 for May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

One of our Core Values at FPBNPB is that we are **Biblically Rooted**. This means we believe the Bible is God's Word and the primary means by which we know Him. God's commands and promises are the pathway to life, blessing and wholeness. In Psalm 119 this is pictured beautifully.

This week's prayer guide will focus on that value. As in all the prayer guides, we want you to focus on ever increasing circles as you pray; for yourself, your family, your friends, FPCNPB (leadership, staff, members), our neighborhood, and globally. As you read and pray, try and keep in mind the core value of being Biblically Rooted.

Read aloud Psalm 119:105-117

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for

they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end. I hate the double-minded, but I love your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!

Read it aloud a second time pausing to pray between words or lines.

If there are things each verse brings to mind, pray for them. This is not a timed exercise and there is no right or wrong way to do this. Just allow yourself to pray for what comes to mind.

If you are doing this exercise with your family or a small group of friends, take turns reading each verse and praying between them.

If you have small children, try walking in the dark with a flashlight pointed at your feet. Talk and pray about how God's word can help us along our way.

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I/we prayed this week for our Church to find God's direction.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut this section off and place in the offering plate.

**90 Day Prayer Challenge**  
**Prayer Guide #3 – May 19, 2019**  
**Caring Deeply**

People’s lives can be transformed when they experience the care of another person. It is our hope that in being a part of the First Pres family, you experience being deeply loved and cared for.

Reflect on how you have been cared for at First Pres. Have you felt God’s love through your interactions here? Give thanks to God for that love if you have felt it, or tell God about your frustration in not feeling it.

Read the following two verses:

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

What are some ways you can be kind and tenderhearted toward others? How has God gifted you to care? Would it be to take a meal to someone, write a note, visit someone, or offer to buy groceries for someone who can’t go shopping? Maybe it would be just to listen to someone. Praying for one another is also a significant way to express your care for others.

Sit a moment with God in silence, asking for Him to show you how you can show care and love for others. Ask God to guide you and show you who specifically you can care for. Perhaps it will be for someone younger than you or older than you. Maybe it will be a family member, neighbor, friend, co-worker, classmate, a single parent, a college student, a young mom, an ill or home-bound person, or someone who has lost a loved one.

This week, pray for opportunities to love and care for one another. Pray that God will bring people to mind and will show you ways to demonstrate His love and care. Be watchful and thankful for each opportunity!

For Parents: Children are eager to show love to others. Involve your child in praying about who needs to feel the love of God and help your child find some way to share it.

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I/We prayed this week for our church

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Specific prayer requests for this week:

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): Continued guidance for the process and wisdom as they put together a profile and job description.

Lucky: For the PNC and the new pastor

Ron: For his trip to Cuba and new duties as Executive Pastor

Session:

Seeking God together for vision

Financial health for the church

Staff:

Wisdom in planning

Joy, unity and stamina in service