



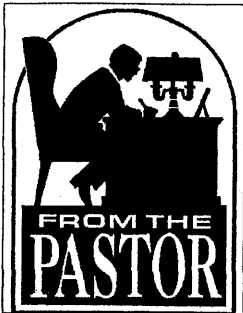
# First Press

The First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August 2007

Rev. L. Holton Siegling, Jr. - Senior Pastor  
<http://www.1stpres-fb.com>

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions



by Reverend Dr.  
L. Holton Siegling

Dear Friends,

Over the last two weeks you have outdone yourselves at making me and my family feel welcome. Your acts of hospitality are too many to name; however, please be certain that they are both noticed and appreciated. This time of getting to know one another has been

filled with everything from hospital and office visits to meals around your tables. In our conversations I have noticed that several questions show up with some regularity, and they are as follows: drum roll, please...

### **Question #1: What is your sense of call to and vision for our church?**

On Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, I stood before the St. Augustine Presbytery to answer essentially that same question. In detail I told those in attendance what I now tell you in part. The call process for me began with a conversation with Judd Shaw, Executive Presbyter of the New Harmony Presbytery, who helped me come to terms with the reality that I was being called away from Marion. Once I reconciled in my mind that particular aspect of the call process, I was better able to move forward and more fully vest myself in preliminary conversations with several Pastor Nominating Committees (PNC).

My initial conversations with members of our PNC helped me to recognize that,

based upon who I am as a Pastor and who we are as a congregation; we were well suited for one another.

As I moved through the process the Biblical call narrative that resonated within me was the same as that of Jeremiah, who said, "Truly I do not know how to speak for I am only a boy (Jer. 1:6)." I sensed from the members of the PNC that, while this church family was particularly mindful of the importance of spiritual maturity, the opportunity to complement that desire with a certain measure of youthful exuberance was very appealing. Over and again I was comforted by the words, "Do not say I am only a boy; for you shall go to all whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you (Jer. 7)."

The Heidelberg Catechism begins with the following question: "What is your only comfort, in life and in death?" The answer partially follows: "That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death - not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ (Book of Confessions, 4.001)."

It is my prayer that we will remain mindful that Christ is the head of the church and that together we will be attentive to the ways in which God's Spirit is at work among us. It is also my prayer that we will continue to move forward with eyes that see and ears that hear as we earnestly seek out opportunities to love both God and neighbor.

(Continued on page 2)

Please submit articles for the newsletter as early as possible, but no later than the 20th of each month.

(Pastor's Article, Continued from page 1)

**Question #2: When will we have additional pastoral staff?**

Many of you have inquired about additions to our pastoral staff and the time schedule for such ministerial support to be in place. First of all, thank you for asking! Having considered those questions myself, I plan to work prayerfully and diligently with the Session to provide answers for them in the very near future.

For the time being, I would simply say that pastoral care/visitation and youth ministry appear to be the two main areas in need of immediate attention. In previous years we have addressed these needs with an Associate Pastor for Youth and Families and at least one Parish Associate. While that model is certainly familiar, there is at least one other alternative that is well worth bearing in mind.

Considering not only our current needs but also the opportunities that may exist for us to serve God in the future, we may find that as a church we are better positioned to effectively grow spiritually and otherwise if we move in the direction of adding an Associate Pastor with general responsibilities and a Director for Youth and Families. I base my thinking upon the need for increased homebound and hospital visitation along with the need for continued congregational development. It is also based on the need for a full time individual to direct our vibrant and committed group of youth leaders in continuing to minister to the needs of our

students.

This potential model flows forth from my conversations with several of you combined with my experience as a former Associate Pastor for Youth and Families and as a solo pastor. Please know that, not only do I welcome your feedback but, in whatever direction we move, our commitment to pastoral care and youth will remain high.

**Question #3: Have you found a home?**

The short answer is, "No." Though we have come very close a couple of times, Martha Ann and I have decided to slow down, catch our breath, and wait until she and the boys arrive sometime at the beginning of August so that we may explore other housing options in the area.

God has given us a tremendous sense of peace about that decision. For the time being, we will reside in the Manse. We are so thankful for the committee that has worked diligently to prepare the Manse for our arrival. We know that their hard work will be appreciated not only by us, but also by whoever may reside there in the future.

Well, there you have it! These are not necessarily the only questions posed to me over the last couple of weeks but clearly three which are asked with some regularity. Again, thank you very much for your kindness toward us! We are so glad to finally be in your midst. Until I speak to you again, take care and God bless.

Your Friend and Pastor,  
Holton

## Bibles Needed

The Mission Committee is looking for bibles we can recycle. If you have any complete bibles on your bookshelf that you can spare, we would like to place them at the Barnabas Center, and at their Samaritan Clinic to make them available to clients who come for help at these two facilities. We will put a box in JTH marked BIBLES for you to deposit them in. Thanks so much for helping us to spread the word of God to neighbors who may be hungry for His word.

## Presbyterian Men

After reviewing the fall calendar, the schedule of the monthly dinner meetings for the Presbyterian Men will revert to its more traditional meeting night on the second Thursday of each month beginning with the first meeting in the fall on September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm in Jim Thomas Hall.

A list of dates and speakers will be published. Reservations will be required and can be made through the church office.

# RALLY DAY



## August 26th

### Starting Line for:

- Preschoolers** - Noah's Place for infield tailgate picnic & balloon car races
- Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade** - Jim Thomas Hall for slot car racing and grandstand snacks
- Middle School & High School Youth** - the Anchor for the Pit Stop Café, Team assignments and Road Maps to The Amazing Bible Race
- Parents of Preschool & Elementary** meet in the Sanctuary for Race Course Briefing and Registration with Race Track Coordinator, Doris Davis and Holton Siegling, leader of the Pack
- Parents of Youth** meet in Map room for Race Overview, rules, challenges, and pit crew instructions from pace car driver Doris Holloway and Holton Siegling, keeper of the keys.
- Race start for all participants is 9:50 a.m. Be in position no later than 9:45 a.m. Prepare to start your engines!**

### Summer's End Celebration

Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>  
from 4 - 7 p.m.



Grilled Hamburgers & Hotdogs  
25-foot Ice Cream Sundae  
Cake Walk

(bring your favorite home made cake)  
Live Music

Water Slide & games for all ages

Make Reservations for you, your family, and friends at 261-3837  
by Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Don't miss the fun and fellowship as all of FPC gathers to celebrate  
In Jim Thomas Hall!

### Presbyterian Women News

Ladies, please plan on joining us September 13<sup>th</sup> for our annual Kick Off Luncheon. We will meet in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. where we will have our program. This will include a short business meeting, our annual Thank Offering devotion, and the introduction of our 2007-2008 study book, "Above and Beyond - Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth."



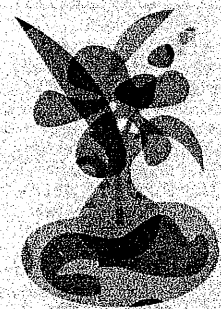
Trish Booten will be presenting the first chapter summary of this study. After the meeting, we will adjourn to the Jim Thomas Hall where we will share a covered dish luncheon. This will be an occasion that will bless your heart and nourish your soul.

The PW Coordinating Team will meet on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the church. There will be no September 6<sup>th</sup> CT meeting.

The 2007 Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Synod of South Atlantic, Presbyterian Church (USA) will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia. Anyone interested in going may contact Alice Payne at 277-2001 for information and costs. The theme for this event is, "Here Am I, Lord".

### Flower Calendar

- August 5<sup>th</sup> - by Cynthia Sapp, Linda Love and Andy Allan in loving memory of their parents Sara and Andrew S. Allan, Jr.
- August 12<sup>th</sup> - by Mike, Marsha, Pam, and Nancy Daniel in loving memory of their mother Ann.
- August 19<sup>th</sup> - in loving memory of Bob Turney by his family.
- August 26<sup>th</sup> - by Mary Jo Griffin in loving memory of her husband Ransom Griffin.



# Communications Committee News

## New Pastor Arrives

Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> was a red letter day for our church. Rev. Holton Siegling arrived in Amelia Island to take up his duties as our new pastor. He is living in the fur-lough apartment above Angel Davis Hall at present until the manse is ready.

He had no sooner arrived and inspected the apartment and received his keys than he was greeted by the noisy arrival of two fire engines at the home of Celeste Kavanaugh across Sixth Street from the church. Miss Celeste had a brush with high blood pressure, and as a precaution she was taken to Baptist Hospital on the island, and released later that same evening. Rev. Siegling has already been to visit her and she is doing well at home.

Rev. Siegling, along with several members of our congregation, attended the stated meeting of the Presbytery in Ocala on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, where he was formally introduced to the Ministers, and Commissioners of the Presbytery. The following day, he conducted his first services at our church on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, which in addition to being a communion Sunday also featured a baptism at the 11 a.m. service. It can be said that he certainly began his ministry in a great whirl of service.

## Save the Date

Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>, is the date for the installation ceremony of our new pastor. Lunch will be served following the 11 a.m. service. Reservations required by August 7<sup>th</sup> by calling the church office at 261-3837.

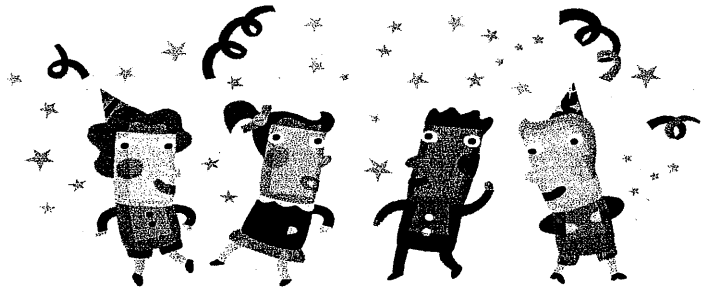
*Important  
DATE!*

## Words to Learn From

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams"*

Henry David Thoreau

## Kids Say the Darndest Things



A friend told me of a vacation trip with his grandson. On the first night when they entered their rented cabin they kept the lights off until they got inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still a few fireflies followed them in. The boy, noticing them before his grandfather whispered, "It's no use, Grandpa, the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

## Volunteers Needed

The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers for the 90-day mentoring program. This program uses members of our congregation to work with new members for the first 90 days of their new church family life with us. It's fun and because of its limited time horizon it does not become a life long volunteer chore. Call Susan Rodriguez at 277-6971 for more details.

## Kitchen Renovations

The kitchen floor and the area immediately outside it leading through the corridor to the rear entrance and the rest rooms in Jim Thomas Hall has been re-tiled and looks very spiffy. Most importantly the new tiles provide safer and more sanitary surfaces while enhancing the overall look of the area. Thanks to the Finance Committee and the Property Committee for their excellent stewardship of our facilities.



# YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

- ★ Coffee Hour - Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> - Middle school and senior high youth host the coffee hour between services.
- ★ Summer's End - Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> - Middle and Senior High Youth build 25-foot ice cream sundae.
- ★ Family Night supper - Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> - High school students who attended the mission trip to Pine Ridge Indian reservation share their experiences with the congregation.
- ★ Youth group meeting - Sunday, September 2nd, middle school and senior high youth group meetings.
- ★ Rock the Universe - September 8th and 9th - Senior High youth attend Rock the Universe in Orlando.
- ★ Fall Youth Retreat - October 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, Camp Montgomery. Join our church's youth at a fall retreat which will include a ropes course on Saturday morning.

## Summer Library News

We have a new edition in the "Gospel According to . . ." series, i.e. Snoopy, the Beatles, and the Simpsons. Added to these titles is The Gospel According to Starbucks: Living Life with a Grande Passion, by Leonard Sweet. This book dares to ask if Christians have downplayed the visceral experience of spirituality--then explores the bone-deep impact of knowing God. Look for a wonderful new fiction series about the Yada Yada Prayer Group to be on the shelves in coming weeks. This series comes highly recommended and will be reviewed in an upcoming First Press. We are missing lots of books that have been out for many months. If you find that you have a library book that has been hanging around your house for a long time, please return it so that others may enjoy it.



## \*After School At Presby

Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Wednesdays  
 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 5 - Nov. 28  
 Sign up ASAP!

- After School Fun
- Recreation & Games
- Yummy, healthy snacks
- Arts & Crafts
- Visiting Storytellers
- Music & Instruments

FPC partners with you in the cost of ASAP. Your fee for the 3-month program will be \$40.00 per child; fees for additional children in the same family will be \$25.00. Scholarships are available by contacting Pastor Holton Siegling in the church office. Registration forms are available in Jim Thomas Hall and the church office. Questions? call Doris Davis-261-3837.

## New Study for Saltshakers Class

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Saltshakers class will begin a DVD based overview of other belief systems commonly encountered by Christians today. Included are six distinctives which separate Christianity from all other belief systems. Developed and presented by former Muslim, Dr. Ergun Mehmet Caner who is now a Christian, topics include new age spiritualism, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, with a major focus on Islam. All are welcome to join us at 10 a.m. in our Jim Thomas Hall classroom.



## Senior High Mission Trip - Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Out of the five days we spent at Pine Ridge, the third was the most memorable for me. It was our first day at Kids Club, an all summer program similar to VBS, and I wasn't really sure what to expect. When the actual program began the first thing we did was sing. I will never forget the song "Arustashaw" which is probably one of the funniest song and dance numbers I have ever been a part of.

We also did a skit, learned a memory verse, and moved on to some games. I eventually ended up over at the swing set with a little girl, no older than 3, and her older sister. The girl started asking for "Underdoggies" and, being a former fan of them myself, I started running under the swing. Not 15 minutes later I was giving 3 different kids "underdogs" on 2 different swing sets! I helped one leader, Mark, take all the kids back to their houses later that afternoon and that's a sight I will never forget. The houses were small, dirty, and there were all sorts of miscellaneous items laying all over the place. It really was a horrible sight and made me realize just how much we were doing for these kids by entertaining them for a few hours.

On the car ride home the weather got really bad. Devin and Nathan started talking about seeing a tornado and how awesome it would be. Then we rounded a turn in the road and saw a funnel about half way to the ground. The boys started freaking out wanting to get a picture and we saw the site leader (Nathan Mead) on the side of the road. We pulled over, and while Devin and Nathan were screaming at each other trying to get a good picture, the site leader told us to head back to town because the tornado was in Batesland where we were housed in a school! We spent the next 3 hours at a local grocery store and hospital basement taking shelter. When we were all clear we headed back to the school. We were all starving and badly behind schedule.

Youth Works ordered pizza and we spent the rest of the night having free time, Club, and doing a very enlightening budgeting activity based on the annual national household average income of \$19,000. Then we learned the area's average annual income is \$6,100! It was a great experience of witnessing God in all sorts of ways- in the weather, with the kids. It was a crazy day but hey, I got to see my first tornado!

Rachel Gillespie



### To our First Presbyterian Family

We are looking forward to being with you at the end of August. In the three years we've been serving with the ministry of Valley of our Savior Children's home in Recife, Brazil we have learned much and the ministries have grown and changed.

We are excited about sharing with you in person the work that God is doing in Brazil. We are grateful for your continued support, prayers and encouragement.

With love,  
Craig, Mary, Gennifer and Shelby DeLille

Phil. 4:13

### Family Night Dinner

Please mark your calendar for 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, when we can all enjoy dinner with the Delille family. It will be a chance to learn more about being missionaries in South America, and to ask questions about life in Brazil.

As an added treat, we will hear from the youth of our church who had their own mission trip to South Dakota this summer. Bring a covered dish to dinner to hear great stories about some of the mission work of our church. Please call the church by August 21 to be included in the Mission Night supper.


# August @ 1st Presbyterian

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 churchoffice@1stpres-fb.com  
 Web: www.1stpres-fb.com

First Presbyterian Church

9 N. Sixth Street

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Opportunities</b> 8:30a Worship 9:30a Coffee 9:50a Sunday Studies 11:00a Worship			1	2 8:00a Prayer	3 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12:00p	4
5	6 6:30p Youth Committee	7 Reservations due for Church Family Lunch Aug. 12 7:00p Property Committee	8 6:00p Worship Committee	9 8:00a Prayer	10 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12:00p	11 9a-1p Quilt Guild-JTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunk Tank</li> <li>• Games</li> <li>• Cake Walk</li> </ul>
12 11:00a Installation of Senior Pastor Dr. Holton Siegling 12:15p Church Family Lunch-JTH	13 4:00p Christian Ed Committee	14	15 Reservations due for Summer's End Celebration 10a-1p Bazaar Workshop-JTH 6:45p Mission Com	16 8:00a Prayer	17 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12:00p	18 Congregational Summer's End Celebration 4:00-7:00pm
19 Communion	20 School Starts	21 4:00p Finance Committee 5:45p Deacons 7:00p Session	22	23 8:00a Prayer 2:00p Presbyterian Women CT meeting	24 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12:00p	25 
26 <b>Rally Day</b> 5:30p Mission Covered Dish-JTH 6p Halfway House 6p Youth Groups	27 5:30p Teen CBS	28	29	30 8:00a Prayer	31 Pastor's Day Off Church Office closes at 12:00p	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hot dogs</li> <li>• Hamburgers</li> <li>• 25' Ice cream sundae</li> <li>• Entertainment</li> </ul>

# Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts



*There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

*- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV)*

## Have you a gift or awesome talent?

Can you quilt or mow or hammer?  
Do you speak with proper grammar?  
Some are called to be bell ringers  
Others ushers, cooks and singers.  
Many have the gifts of preaching  
Giving, helping, listening, teaching.  
So many things that one can do-  
pull a weed or tie a shoe,  
file or fold or stick a stamp.  
Two might even build a ramp.  
Do you feel the need to lead?  
Or would you rather plant a seed?  
It takes both to keep things running-  
leaders leading, planters planting!  
You might be a real swell greeter  
or a spittin image of Apostle Peter.  
Either way, there's a place for you  
Doing what you're called to do.  
So jump for joy and shout hooray!  
I'm here to help you find your way.  
In groups of ten or twenty something  
We'll find your gifts. We're going hunting.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Six Classes

Beginning Tuesday September 11

10:30a-12:00noon

Register for class by calling 261-3837

Facilitator: Doris Davis

*God sees with utter clarity who we are.  
He is undecieved as to our warts and  
wickedness. But when God looks at us  
that is not all He sees. He also sees who  
we are intended to be, who we will one  
day become.*

*- John Ortberg*

*God does not ask your ability or your in-  
ability. He asks only your availability.*

*- Mary Kay Ashe*

## Meeting Highlights

### Summer Stated Meeting of the St. Augustine Presbytery

The Summer Stated meeting of the presbytery of St. Augustine was held Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church Ocala, Florida. Highlights of the meeting included:



## Presbytery Summer Meeting

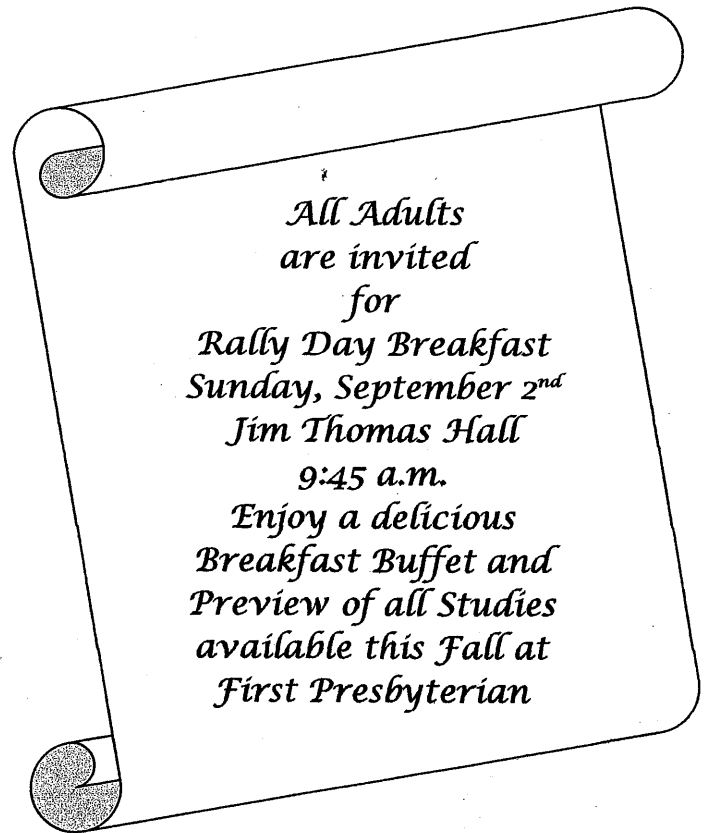
- Introduction of Dr. Holton Siegling by our Pastor Nominating Committee chair Larry Williams. Committee members Sally Ericksen and Roger Martin as well as commissioners Mac Noden and Rich Lang were also present. Following Dr. Siegling's statement concerning his sense of call and vision for the ministry at Fernandina Beach, the presbytery unanimously approved the appointment of a commission to install Dr. Holton Siegling as Pastor Fernandina Beach, First Church effective 9 July 2007. Installation service to be conducted 12 August 2007.
- Malcolm Noden was elected to serve on the presbytery Evaluation and Review Committee as a member of the class of 2010. This committee works with mission statements, goals and objectives and publishes the presbytery annual report. The presbytery is always seeking committee members willing to serve. A simple two-page information and application sheet is available at the church office.
- The committee on Preparation for ministry reported Benjamin Isaac and Rebecca Gillespie from Fernandina Beach, First as inquirers under care.
- In addition to Holton Siegling, the presbytery empowered a committee to install Jesse Alexander as pastor of Geneva Presbyterian and Robert Scott as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Palatka.
- The second reading and approval of St. Augustine Presbytery's Policy Manual was conducted. A copy of this document is available in the church library.
- New Church Development (NCD) reported: "The Providence Church (in Yulee) continues to grow. We were disappointed that the grant application did not receive funding from the GA (General Assembly). In spite of this disappointment, the forming congregation has made a strong financial commitment to this work and, with the financial assistance of the presbytery, the NCD committee feels confident of their success. The next step for the Providence Church is to select an organizing minister. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) elected by the presbytery last year has been hard at work and has narrowed the candidates to a small number."
- Enrichment 2007 will be held 18 August and Spirituality Retreat 28 – 29 September at Camp Montgomery. Information about these exceptional opportunities is available at the church office.
- Montgomery Presbyterian Center is accepting applications for the position of Program Director.

## August Coffee Hour Responsibilities

- August 5<sup>th</sup> - Youth Committee
- August 12<sup>th</sup> - Mission Committee
- August 19<sup>th</sup> - Personnel Committee
- August 26<sup>th</sup> - Property Committee



Coffee Fellowship



First Press is published monthly as part of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

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“GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.”  
LAMENTATIONS 3:23

**Sunday Worship Hours: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.**  
**Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 8:00 a.m.**