

THE CP POST



Issue 27

October 2025

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Romans 14:19 encourages us to "pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding," a call that resonates deeply with the Peace and Global Witness Offering organized by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on October 5th. This initiative embodies the spirit of reconciliation and harmony, extending beyond local communities to reach across the globe. The offering supports efforts to promote peace, justice, and reconciliation in areas plagued by conflict, providing resources to individuals and communities working tirelessly to build bridges and heal divisions. By participating, congregants embody the teachings of Romans, actively seeking ways to foster peace and nurture understanding among diverse peoples. This collective endeavor not only strengthens the bonds within congregations but also amplifies their impact on global peace-building initiatives, reflecting a commitment to a world where peace prevails.



What Does Christmas Mean to you?

September is almost over, the holiday season is soon to begin. Before we know it, December will be here. This is the time we invite all who worship at our church to write a few words conveying their personal thoughts about Christmas. These writings will be collected and published in a beautiful, colorful Advent Book that will be made available to any and all who would like to have one.

I have some past Advent books and it is such a joy to read them. Particularly meaningful to me are the written words of deceased members. How comforting to read the words of the precious saints who are no longer among us!

The instructions for your entry are simple – just write two paragraphs (or more if you feel inclined) about whatever comes into your mind when you think of Christmas. **Email them to eperry26@cfl.rr.com or snail mail them to Sue Perry, 549 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955, or submit them in church by November 15th.**

There is no wrong way to do this! Your submission can be as personal or as impersonal as you like. Don't worry about correctness, just follow your heart and write whatever you would like to share with your fellow worshipers about Christmas!

Thank You,

Sue Perry



New Member Class?

Are you considering becoming a member of Cocoa Presbyterian Church? If so, please reach out via email at office@cocoapres.org, and we will arrange a class for you led by Rev. Rick.

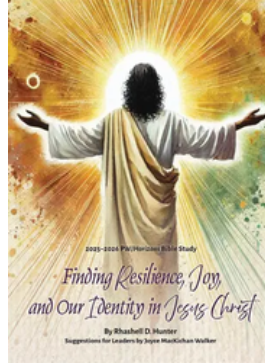
We would be thrilled to welcome you to our family!

Ruth Circle

Circle will meet Thursday,
October 9 @ 11 am
WCR #26 for our bible study
"Find Resilience, Joy, and
Identity in Jesus Christ"

We will be going to lunch
following bible study.

For more info, please call
Laurie King: 321-543-3654



Busy Fingers and Priscilla Circle

Busy Fingers will be meeting **October 18th @ 9 AM in the WCR followed by Priscilla Cir @ 10 AM.**

The PW bible study for 25-26 is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ."

Thanksgiving Helpers!

October 5th, the crew of folks that have signed up to help prepare for our Thanksgiving Potluck will be meeting immediately following service DownUnder to discuss needs and assign tasks.

Thank you for your help!

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast will return in full swing on **October 18th @ 8 AM** in the DownUnder. If you are looking for good food, fellowship, and a quick bible study, this breakfast is for you!

THANK YOU FOR PREPPING BREAKFAST FOR OUR SINGERS ON SEPTEMBER 20TH! YOU ROCK!



Pulpit Supply

October 5: Rev. Rick Oppelt

October 12: Catherine Heffner

October 19: Rev. Rick Oppelt

October 26: Rev. David Lindemer

Veteran's Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Cocoa Pres Girl Scouts will be collecting Non-Perishable food items that go into Thanksgiving baskets given to low-income veteran families in the Titusville area.

Donations Due by Nov 11!

Rick's Ramblings....

Greetings Cocoa Presbyterian Church family!

Throughout the month of September, I have been joining you in worship and doing a sermon series on "Close Encounters of the Jesus Kind". I am having fun taking a new look at some of my favorite stories of Christ's encounters with folks of all kinds. So far, we've watched Saul of Tarsus get knocked off his horse by the risen Christ on his journey to persecute Christ followers in Damascus; we've watched those two sets of fishermen brothers, Peter, Andrew, James and John drop their nets to respond to Jesus' call to "Follow me...". And we've been a fly on the wall as we observed that moment when Jesus makes a house call on Mary and Martha and sparks fly over what to do when he is with them.

These stories remind us of the variety of ways Jesus encountered people, how he approached them, how they approached him, and the lasting impressions these encounters made. And they invite us to be on the lookout for our new experiences of grace as we follow Christ in Christian community.

Over the past two weeks I have also been having my own "close encounters". "Close encounters" of the Cocoa Presbyterian kind as I have begun my part time work as your "Minister of Pastor Care", focusing on getting out and making home visits (just like Jesus!) to church members who may need or desire such. Particularly important to me is being able to bring Communion into the homes of folks who cannot get out to church, bringing a little bit of church into their homes. That was always important to me in my ministry and remains so.

I do have to admit that my head is swimming with many new names and faces as I try to connect the two! Many thanks to Sarina for passing on a copy of your most recent picture directory to help with that learning curve. I'm also grateful for the CPC Shepherds who are pointing me in the right direction of people who may need some attention.

While I make appointments with the help of your Shepherds, I am also open to invitations to meet with anyone who desires, either at the church, or at one's home, or even at a good place to eat for lunch. I am typically only available on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, but I'm trying to fit in as much as I can with that limited weekly time frame.










As we transition into another Fall season bringing some welcome relief from a terribly hot Summer, I am grateful to be sharing part of it with the saints at Cocoa Presbyterian Church!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Rick

2025

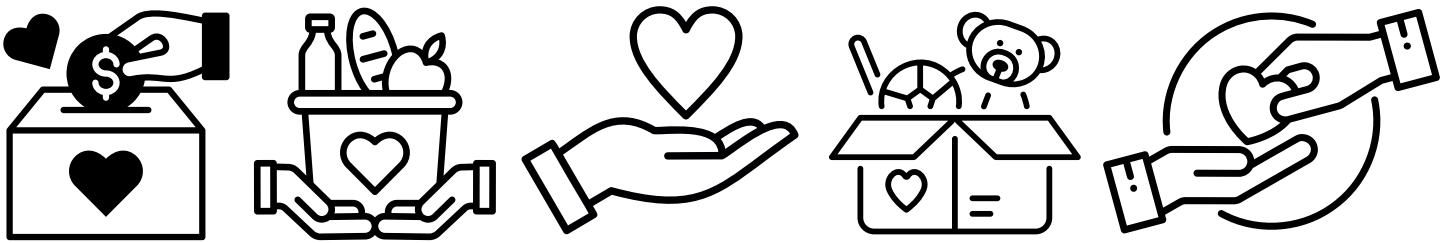
October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Legend Church Events <i>Holidays</i> <i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i></p>			<p>1 Outreach mtg @ 10:00 am International Coffee Day</p> 	2	3	4
<p>5 Communion Sunday</p> <p>Thanksgiving crew @ 11:30 AM</p> 	6	7	8	9	10	11
		<p>National Taco Day</p> 	<p>Choir @ 6 PM</p>	<p>Ruth Cir - WCR #26 @ 11 AM</p>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<p>Stewardship Season Begins!</p>	<p>National Dessert Day</p> 	<p>Finance Mtg @ 4:30 PM - The Library</p> <p>Choir @ 6 PM</p>		<p>National Pasta Day</p> 	<p>Men's Breakfast @ 8 AM</p> <p>Priscilla Cir @ 10 AM</p> <p>Busy Fingers @ 9 AM</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Session Sunday</p> <p>Joyce Kelley</p>	<p>Laurie King</p>	<p>National Pumpkin Cheese Cake Day</p> 	<p>Choir @ 6 PM</p>			<p>World Opera Day</p> 
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<p>Reformation Sunday</p> 			 <p>National Cat Day</p> <p>Choir @ 6 PM</p>			

Ways to Contribute!

Our Stewardship Campaign begins this month! Did you know that there are many ways to give or contribute? A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a tax-advantaged way for individuals aged 70½ or older to donate to a qualified charity directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). To execute a QCD, contact your IRA custodian and request a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to the charity of your choice. The amount transferred can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, potentially reducing your taxable income. It's important to keep records of the transaction, including the date, amount, and the charity's acknowledgment letter, for tax filing purposes. Consulting with a financial advisor or tax professional can also provide personalized guidance tailored to your financial situation.

If you don't feel comfortable contributing that way, our pledge cards (which you will receive via mail) have a space where you can mark down ways you might be willing to volunteer your time!



What is Reformation Sunday?

Reformation Sunday is a significant day in the Protestant Christian calendar, commemorating the beginning of the Reformation, a movement that profoundly transformed Christianity in the 16th century. This day is usually observed on the last Sunday in October, just before October 31st (**October 26th, 2025**), which marks the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517.

Luther's actions challenged the practices and doctrines of the Catholic Church, paving the way for religious, political, and cultural changes across Europe. Reformation Sunday is celebrated to honor the principles of faith, scripture, and grace that were emphasized during the Reformation. It serves as a reminder of the importance of continually examining and reforming religious practices and beliefs to align with biblical teachings. Through services and special events, churches reflect on the Reformation's impact and reaffirm their commitment to its core values.

