
WOODLAWN WINDOW

MARCH 2026

Woodlawn Presbyterian Church
2612 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704



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Dear Friends,

I have long been fond of Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall."

That is the lead piece of Frost's second book of poetry, North of Boston, published in 1914.

The opening line is both an observation and a statement:

"Something there is that doesn't love a wall."

Frost knows from experience that summer ground swells and winter freezes do not love a wall. As surely as passing hunters, they break down walls and leave gaps you can pass through.

The poem tells of two neighbors with opposing attitudes about walls. One says, "Before I built a wall I'd ask to know / What I was walling in or walling out." The other counters, "Good fences make good neighbors." What strikes me about those neighbors is that, notwithstanding their differences about the value of walls, they meet up and work side by side to mend that wall together.

I wonder how many problems would be less divisive if people of opposite perspectives worked as closely as those two neighbors. Is it too idealistic to think that people might really cooperate to work on a wall they do not both believe in? While that would not eliminate their differences, it might help them better understand each other. It might help them learn again what it means to be good neighbors who can do good work together in spite of their differences.

If building that way could re-form a divisive wall, making it a "good" wall, it would suggest in a strangely subtle way, that building "good" walls can indeed make good neighbors.

Such lessons are built into the fabric of the

poem.

There is another lesson that comes from outside the poem. It is a lesson that recognizes that the opening line—"Something there is that doesn't love a wall"—does not tell the whole story.

Before I retired I spent many weeks at a church camp in Holmes, NY, just east of the Hudson River and north of New York City. The 500+ acres of the camp included extensive stone walls. When those walls were built, maybe two hundred years before, they divided and subdivided farmers' fields. Today they still stand, but now they run purposelessly through miles of deep woods.

For ten years I lived within walking distance of Valley Forge Park. Even now—two hundred fifty years after the Revolutionary War—the earthen walls that Washington's troops built to protect the Valley Forge encampment still stand. The earthworks of the principal fort still stand. Even the smaller earthen redans and redoubts that shielded canon positions still stand.


I once drove from Scotland to England past Hadrian's wall, a stone wall built nearly two thousand years ago to protect Roman occupied Britain from the Scots to the north (though I missed a chance to see the remains of the Antonine Wall, a turf wall, built further north two decades later).

All of those walls—in Holmes, in Valley Forge, and in Great Britain—still stand, decades and centuries and even millenniums later. So—with all due respect to Robert Frost—you could just as easily say, "Something there is that persists about a wall."



When we build walls, elements of both truths are at play. While something works to break walls down, something also sustains them. (The question of what we wall in and what we wall out also persists, as does the question of whether walls—even good walls—can make good neighbors.)

As fond as I am of “Mending Wall” as a poem and of the idea of breaking down walls that divide us, I am also drawn to the witness of the persistence of walls. I am thinking about that now as we celebrate our centennial. All the ministries of the church and all the members who have been part of the congregation leave traces that persist like the stone walls at Holmes, the earthen walls at Valley Forge, and the stone and turf walls of Great Britain. All our outreach, our special offerings, and our services of worship have left traces as well. Something there is that persists wherever a Church of Christ has ministered. Something there is that persists when good people are built together by the Good Book and celebrate the Good News. Something there is that persists when the world is defined by good neighbors who love their neighbors as themselves.



CHOIR

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



THE CHOIR IS PRACTICING ON THURSDAYS AT 6:00 PM AND ON SUNDAYS AT 9:20 AM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR S, PLEASE TALK TO KRIS RAGSDALE.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

ZULEMA GROVES
FREDA MELODY
BARBARA ANN MUNROE
MARY NUTTING



ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The work of the Administration Committee goes on. We continue to pay all the bills, prepare reports for the Session, handle phone calls (we now have volunteers in the office Monday through Friday), send out the Woodlawn Window, letters, birthday cards (for those who have shared their birth date with us) and many other reports and items. We also run copies of the Woodlawn Window, contribution statements, annual reports and everything else that is handed out or mailed to the congregation.



We deal with everything that comes through the mail or through the door.

The other side of the committee is the maintenance of the church property. This is a full-time job. Mike Baker has for some years been the go-to person when anything comes up. We are celebrating 100 years of service to the members and friends of Woodlawn and for all these years we have had people like Mike who care for the physical condition of the church. It is a job that not many people can handle, but throughout all these years someone has stood up and volunteered to do the “impossible.”

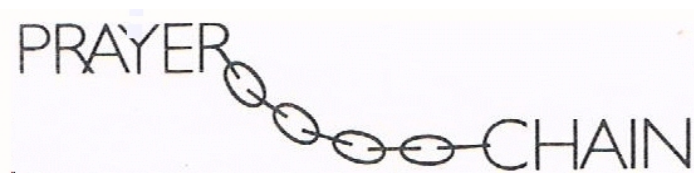
We actually get phone calls or reports of things needed done at any time of the day or night. If we are not able to “fix” the problem we have to have a professional come in. They have to be overseen which means that someone (Mike in this case) has to be at the church when the work is done.

I am going off the Session as of the Congregational Meeting and want to thank the

people who have worked with me, some for many years, and kept the church running without the cost of paying employees to do the work. They are all current volunteers:

Mike Baker, Doreen Means, Joe Orts, Wendy Siedlecki, Coralie Wright, Amy and Dan Schramek and Andrea Tihal.

Mary Lee King
Administration Committee Member



As soon as we receive the prayer request we will be praying for your need. When you have a request please contact the church office or Pastor John at 727-822-4477.

The request may be confidential and not detailed and you will know that your church family is lifting your concern up to our Heavenly Father.

GOD LOVES YOU!

GOD'S MARCH CHILDREN

1 Zulema Groves
5 Barbara Kuhn
8 Mike Baker
19 Marie Adams
19 Emily Gillespie
21 Brian Turini



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING?

**WOODLAWN WINDOW
DEADLINE FOR ALL ARTICLES
ARE DUE BY 4 PM**

APRIL BY MARCH 23RD

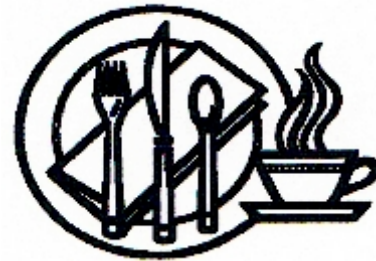
**PLEASE SEND YOUR ITEM TO:
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GROUPS AT WOODLAWN

THERE ARE FOUR AA GROUPS MEETING IN HUTCHINSON HALL MONDAY - THURSDAY NIGHTS. ALSO, THE EATING DISORDER GROUP AND THE YOGA CLASSES MEET WEDNESDAY NIGHT EACH WEEK. RECENTLY, WE ADDED A NEW WOMEN'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE GROUP MEETING ON FRIDAY NIGHTS.

ALL THE GROUPS THAT MEET IN OUR FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



FREE BINGO

3RD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
Come and bring a friend with you!

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM -
GAMES AT 6:30 PM

\$50 IN PRIZES - SNACKS -
50-50 DRAWING -

BRING A FRIEND

FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

As we age we may acquire certain diseases that occur more often later in life. One is Parkinson's disease, a progressive movement disorder of the nervous system that appears more often after age 60, and in men more than women, that worsens over time.. Online The Mayo Clinic has a concise outline to help explain the disease. The nervous system is a network of nerve cells that controls many parts of the body, including movement. Neurons produce dopamine in the brain. Without enough dopamine Parkinson's symptoms become apparent. Each person reacts differently and symptoms can include tremors, rigidity, slowed movement, depression, and changes in speech and posture, often starting gradually and worsening over time. Later stage Parkinson's may include a shuffling gait, and trouble swallowing and chewing.

Currently, there isn't a specific test to diagnose Parkinson's disease. A diagnosis is made by a doctor trained in nervous system conditions, known as a neurologist. A diagnosis of Parkinson's disease is based on your medical history, a review of your symptoms, and a neurological and physical exam. . It can take time to diagnose. This includes tests of your thinking and mental abilities, senses, coordination, and reflexes.



Blood and lab tests and imaging and scans may be ordered to rule out other conditions. Genetic testing may be done if there is a known family history of Parkinson's disease or you might have early-onset disease.

There are tests of the spinal fluid being studied about what could be present that is damaging brain cells. The tests are also highly sensitive for detecting people at risk for Parkinson's. Research continues. Parkinson's disease can't

be cured but there are medications and surgical procedures to help control symptoms. Working with a physical therapist and occupational therapist to help maintain your strength and balance and keep you as active as possible is essential.

Wendy Siedlecki RN, Faith Community Nurse

COMING ACTIVITIES

Bring your family for a fun evening of kid-friendly Bingo on Friday, February 20th, Woodlawn Presbyterian Church, 2612 12th St. N. It's FREE to play! Doors open at 6PM. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners of the nine games. Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win half the money in our 50/50 drawing after the eighth game. See you there!

Also, we'd like to invite you all to join us for worship every Sunday @ 10:00AM, followed by coffee hour immediately after the service.

Woodlawn Presbyterian Church, will be celebrating 100 years in the Greater Woodlawn Community this Sunday, February 22nd, kicking off the Lenten Season with a worship service at 10AM, followed by a luncheon at 11:15AM.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

3/1 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM

3/2 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/3 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/4 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Yoga 7 PM

3/5 Thursday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Choir Practice

3/8 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM

3/9 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/10 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/11 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Yoga 7 PM

3/12 Thursday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Choir Practice 6 PM

3/15 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

3/16 Monday Women's AA Group

3/17 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/18 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Yoga 7 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM

3/19 Thursday
AA Meeting 7:30 pm
Choir Practice

Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM

3/20 Friday Bingo 6:00 PM

3/22 Worship Service 10 AM

3/23 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Woodlawn Window deadline 4 PM

3/24 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/25 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Yoga 7 PM

3/26 Thursday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/29 Worship Service 10 AM

3/30 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

3/31 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

● **WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM EVERY SUNDAY**

● **BRING A FRIEND AND STAY FOR FELLOWSHIP**

● **IT'S A GREAT TIME TO VISIT AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER**

SPRINGTIME FELLOWSHIP EVENTS BLOSSOM

Souperbowl of Caring Luncheon

The Souperbowl of Caring luncheon was a great beginning to Superbowl Sunday on February 9. Church members outdid themselves with many varieties of soups, breads and desserts. Thanks to everyone who decorated and set up the room, to those who made all the wonderful food, for those who brought canned goods for the food pantry, for those who donated cash, and for those who cleaned up afterwards.



Pet Blessing Service

Area residents as well as churchgoers were invited to participate in our Annual Pet Blessing on Saturday, Mar. 14th. Pastor John officiated at the event, which was held in the church courtyard. It attracted a number of residents, churchgoers and their pets. Refreshments were available after the blessing, with special treats for the precious dogs and cats. Also available was pet information from various local veterinarians. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make this event a meaningful and enjoyable experience.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 4

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is currently in the planning stages. We hope to include Reliance Church in the crafts and games for the children who attend. There are many opportunities to help. We need donations of candy and plastic eggs. We need volunteers who will stuff the plastic eggs with the candy. We need volunteers at the event to set-up the refreshments and games, to assist with games, to hide eggs, etc.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service and Easter Breakfast, Sunday April 5

The Easter Sunrise Service, jointly with Reliance Church, is at 7:00 am, with Easter Breakfast in

Fellowship Hall immediately afterwards, followed by Easter Service in our Sanctuary at 10:00 am.

Mari Blaquiere, Fellowship Chairman

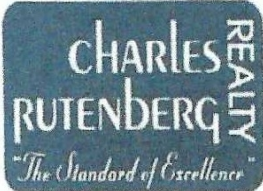
JESUS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

John 14:1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to my self, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. Not one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you know my Father also. From now on you do know and have seen him.”




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“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!

PSALM 46:11

GOD'S REASON

I don't know how to say it,
But somehow it seems to me
That maybe we are stationed,
Where God wants us to be.

That little place we're filling
Is the reason for our birth,
And just to do the work we do
He sent us down to earth.

If God had wanted otherwise,
I reckon he'd have made
Each one of us a little different
Of a worse or better grade;

And since God knows and understands
All things of land and sea,
I fancy that he placed us here
Just where he wanted us to be.

Sometimes we get to thinking,
As our labors we review,
That we should like a higher place.
With greater things to do;
But we come to the conclusion,
When the envying is stilled,
That the post to which God sent us
Is the post he wanted filled.

And there isn't any service we can scorn
For it may be just the reason
God allowed us to be born.

Author Unknown

WOODLAWN WINDOW DUE DATES FOR 2026

<u>FOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
APRIL	MAR. 23
MAY	APR. 20
JUNE	MAY 18
JULY	JUNE 22
AUGUST	JULY 20
SEPTEMBER	AUG. 24
OCTOBER	SEPT 21
NOVEMBER	OCT. 19
DECEMBER	NOV. 23
JANUARY	DEC. 21

BACK TO THE FOREST

by Dan Schramek

During our last visit to the forest, Amy and I discovered our tangerine trees and orange trees were full of brightly colored orange fruits. It was time to harvest the fruits and enjoy the succulent, sweet flavor that nature had prepared for us, taking many home to our family to "taste the fruits of our labor".



There are many more to pick, but they were for another day. With tall slender trunks, these citrus trees are amazingly tall, usually standing 15 to 20 feet above the ground and not easy to pick, except with a picker. We believe that these trees grew from seeds dropped by birds in years past, when there were many citrus groves around the area of Brooksville. We have located at least two dozen citrus trees through- out the property and will continue to be blessed with all the fruits that are grown year after year.



While relaxing for lunch near the campfire, we noticed vultures flying over our camp area numbering at least a couple of dozen. They began flying lower and lower, flying through the canopies of the tall trees, then through the trees, lower and lower, when a dozen or so began landing not far from the back of our RV. We decided to check out what they had landed for, a pig or a deer or some kind of animal. We snuck quietly

through the trees to find six or seven vultures having a meal of armadillo. They continued to eat while we watched in amazement.



After lunch, we checked our two Mulberry trees and they were full of berries ready to pick. We picked a bag full, tasting along the way. These berries are large, sweet and a great snack and ready for canning, making great jellies and jams, Amy style.

Until next month, enjoy nature when you can and wherever you can, she's always full of surprises when you least expect it. God bless!

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**BLESSED IS THE
NATION WHOSE GOD
IS THE LORD!
PSALM 33:12**

BIBLE STUDY FOR MARCH 2026

(Mark)

1. 7
2. 8:1-21
3. 8:22-38
4. 9:1-29
5. 9:30-50
6. 10:1-31
7. 10:32-52
8. 11:1-18
9. 11:19-33

10. 12:1-27
11. 12:28-44
12. 13:1-23
13. 13:24-37
14. 14:1-26
15. 14:27-52
16. 14:53-72
17. 15:1-24
18. 15:25-47
19. 16

Luke

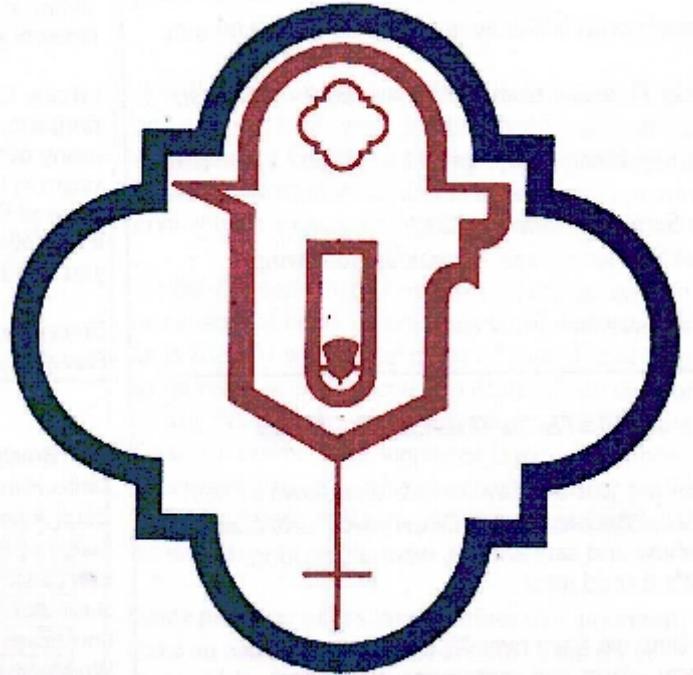
20. 1-20
21. 1:21-38
22. 1:39-56
23. 1:57-80
24. 2:1-24
25. 2:25-52
26. 3
27. 4:1-30
28. 4:31-44
29. 5:1-16
30. 5:17-39
31. 6:1-26

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY 1 WORSHIP SERVICE 2 ND SUNDAY WOMEN'S AA	MONDAY 2 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5PM MEETING	TUESDAY 3 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING YOGA AA MEETING	WEDNESDAY 4 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM EATING DISORDER GROUP	THURSDAY 5 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING	FRIDAY 6 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON	SATURDAY 7 OFFICE CLOSED
8 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM 3 RD SUNDAY IN LENT	9 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMEN'S AA	10 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING	11 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING YOGA EATING DISORDER GROUP	12 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 PM	13 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON	14 OFFICE CLOSED
15 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM 4 TH SUNDAY IN LENT	16 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA WOMEN'S MEETING	17 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING	18 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA AA MEETING EATING DISORDER GROUP	19 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE LUNCH BUNCH AA MEETING	20 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON BINGO 6:30PM	21 OFFICE CLOSED
22 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM 5 TH SUNDAY IN LENT	23 OFFICE OPEN WW DEADLINE AA MEETING WOMEN'S	24 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING	25 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA EATING DISORDER GROUP AA MEETING	26 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING	27 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON	28 OFFICE CLOSED
29 WORSHIP SERVICE PALM SUNDAY	30 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING WOMEN'S	31 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING				

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