
WOODLAWN WINDOW

AUGUST 2026

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



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Dear Friends,

Mistakes happen.

That makes an odd interplay between mistakes (to err is human) and faith (In God we trust).

Mistakes are everywhere. They even happen at the mints where the nation's coins are made. If you ever find one of those mistakes—a coin that is off-center, for example (it is called a mistrike)—do not just spend it. It is special. It is worth something extra.

In my school days, I collected coins and always looked at my change. I never found one of those mistrikes (though I once found a rare penny). While I rarely look at coins anymore, I was recently struck by a quarter from a series depicting notable American women. I did not see any text or numbers on its backside, only the woman's portrait. That was unexpected. I cannot remember another coin with a side so free of text. I wondered if I might have found one of those mistakes.

There may have been a mistake on that coin, but not the one I was expecting. There was, in fact, a lot of text on the coin's reverse, but it was highly stylized, made to look like the fabric of the woman's outfit. There was, however, a possible mistake on the front side of the quarter. That side had George Washington's head, the word "Liberty," a date and mintmark, and the motto, "In God We Trust." When I looked for information about that quarter, I learned that there is serious discussion that, on some of the quarters in that series, the motto may read "In COD we trust"!!!

"In God we trust" first appeared on US coinage on a two-cent piece in 1864. In 1955

Congress voted to require it on all American currency and in 1956 it established the words as our official national motto. Those dates were not random. They reflected the trials of the times. Saying "In God we trust" in 1864 was a way of implying that God was on the side of the Union in the Civil War. In the 1950s "In God we trust" was a counter to the "godless" communist menace.

Could the motto really have been corrupted to say "In COD we trust"? Was it even possible?

Was it all a conspiracy theory? Such conspiracy theories are nothing new. In the 1960s, a half dollar was minted with the portrait of the late President Kennedy. A close look at Kennedy's neck showed something small engraved there. Conspiracy addicts were convinced that "commies" had sabotaged the coin and insinuated an engraving of the communist hammer and sickle symbol onto Kennedy's neck. In fact something was indeed engraved there, but that "something" was nothing more than a monogram of the designer's initials. It was totally mundane; totally benign.

Was it an urban legend? That has also happened. A trivia book I used to have asserted that the mint once ran a misprint saying, "In GOLD we trust." It was pure urban legend. Totally untrue. Misinformation. There are very reliable resources about coin mistakes. That is not among them.

But what about "In COD we trust"? Is that report true? A coin blog says such a mistake is "rare but possible." But it adds: "no officially verified specimens have been validated." An even more definitive source says it was merely "a design choice," noting that "a stylized font on this

quarter...can make the 'G' in God look like a 'C.'" Perhaps it was a poorly chosen font. Perhaps part of the "G" is too easily worn off by handling. In any case, it seems that the "G" really **IS** a "G"!

That does not, however, make the motto more spiritual. "In God we trust" is officially void of theological significance. In the 1960s the government was sued for using that motto to establish religion in violation of the constitution. The United States Court of Appeals ruled (in 1970) that use of the motto, *"is of patriotic or ceremonial character and bears no true resemblance to a governmental sponsorship of a religious exercise."* While that ruling preserved the use of "In God we trust," it made the motto seem as ornamental as the text on the woman's outfit on that quarter.

But when the Psalmist appeals to God for help and says, *"In God I trust,"* (Ps 56:11) it is no mere ritual. He is not indulging in error. He is entrusting himself to God! It is an act of faith!

Let that also be your motto and the motto of all who believe in God. It is your act of faith!

As Woodlawn looks to a new century, let us be sure that that is our motto: **In God we trust!** And may the God we trust bless us all.

Patricia John

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING NEWS

"I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, in whom I trust."

August is designated Psoriasis Awareness Month. The National Psoriasis Foundation has helpful information explaining this chronic disease. Skin cells build up quickly, typically causing red or discolored, scaly and itchy, burning patches on the skin. Psoriasis is a disease with an unclear cause, related to genetics, the immune system and the environment. Usually something triggers



psoriasis, causing symptoms to appear or worsen. It is not contagious, and can vary in severity.

Plaque psoriasis is the most common form of the disease, affecting about 80 to 90 percent of people diagnosed. A health care provider will take several factors into consideration when making a diagnosis. This includes the appearance of the skin, the location, itch of the skin, and sometimes also with a biopsy.

It is possible to have more than one type of psoriasis and more than one in a lifetime.. Treatments may vary depending on the type and location and include topicals, phototherapy, and systemic (internal). Symptoms often start between the ages of 15 to 25 but can start at any age in men, women, and children.

Although there is no cure at this time, research is on going. There are more effective treatments today than ever before for psoriasis. It is important to address symptoms to lower the risk of other diseases such as psoriatic arthritis, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and depression. As with other chronic diseases, psoriasis may affect areas other than your physical health. Work with your health care providers and look for support through organizations such as the National Psoriasis Foundation.

Wendy Siedlecki RN
Faith Community Nurse

GOD'S AUGUST CHILDREN

4 Betty Coughenour
12 Joyce Scott
15 Wendy Siedlecki
26 Dorothy Richardson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

(CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH)

THE SMALL ROOM ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CHOIR

1. Scroll with musical notes.
Praise God in words and music.

2. Lilies stands for purity.
Symbol of the Resurrection.



Back Wall of the Sanctuary

1. Bible - Cross - Crown
Bible: Word of God
Cross: Symbol and principal content of the Christian religion and Christian civilization.
Crown: King of Kings

The nineteen windows of the sanctuary are all memorials taken from the old sanctuary. They were lengthened to fit this building.



The Cross (Usually on the table in the front.)

The Cross is unique. It was hand carved by Kenny Jones, of Jonathan Jones, Inc. It follow an unusual design created in 1945 by Dr. Phillip Adams, of the Cincinnati Art Museum. It is the Celtic pattern.

The death of the sculptor who produced the cross put the original out of production. That is why it was hand carved. The summit of the cross represents the Old Testament Tabernacle. Beneath this is the symbol of the Lamb, which Christ became in taking away the sins of the world.

On the left arm is the symbol of the dove, the Holy Spirit and on the right arm, the symbol of the Hand, representing God the Father and Creator. In the center is the ancient symbol of Christ known as the Chi-Rho, from the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.

This symbol ante-dated the cross as the symbol of Christianity. At the bottom is the symbol of the Trinity. The Celtic Cross was produced by missionaries in Scotland about the 6th century. The circle at the intersection of the arms can represent the halo of glory about the cross or the circle which speaks of its eternal nature. We are

indebted to the First Presbyterian Church of Orlando through whom we became acquainted with the design and from which the measurements and ideas were derived.

In 1980, Mr. Harley Lighty made a mahogany stand to elevate the cross five inches. This makes the cross more easily seen by those sitting in the back pews.

Mary Lee King
Member of Administration Committee

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GOOD!**

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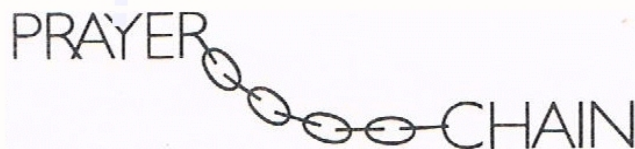
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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

ZULEMA GROVES
FREDA MELODY
MARY NUTTING
BARBARA ANN MUNROE



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.

**"BLESSED IS THE NATION
WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD"**

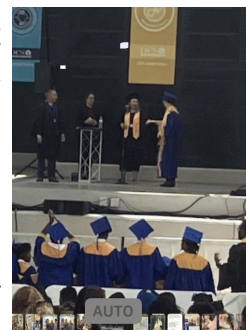
Psalms 33:12

PRAY FOR LOVE AND SAY IT!

by Dan Schramek

"If I should die before I wake, I pray to the Lord my soul to take". We all remember that prayer we said at bedtime with our parents. But when that final time comes for our loved ones, our lives will change, forever, not to make us weaker, but to create opportunities for the future. Our past is precious, not to be forgotten, but the future will bring us to a new phase in our life. For so many years, you were inseparable, but time has changed all that, it's time to say goodbye and thank God for what we had, for that is where our future will be.

Saying goodbye is a difficult time in our lives and not everyone has the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones, once the time has come. In our family, we have a tradition of always saying I love you when we leave their presence, along with a hug.



Amy and I have been blessed with our children, two daughters and four grandchildren, living next-door and across the street. We had 20+ years of being with them and saying goodbye and getting hugs all that time. The grandkids are becoming adults and our tradition continues.

With today's technology, each of you can have such a tradition with your loved ones. If your children and grandchildren are not nearby, give them a phone call and just tell them this: "I just called to say, I love you, I just called to say how much I care and I mean



it from the bottom of my heart (Stevie Wonder)." Leave a message if they don't answer! You

can do this once a week, once a month or at least every other month this is a great conversation starter.

Your Children do want to have a relationship with their parents and

grandparents. Someone has to start this tradition and it should be you. Your love will change and grow stronger, each and every time you call them. Then, if something does happen unexpectedly, you've already said your goodbyes to those you love. They will understand and not feel guilty for not saying goodbye, when the time comes.

How many times have you heard that?

So, it's time to pick up your phone, make your calls and tell your loved ones that you love them and how much you care! Start this new tradition today and your lives will change forever! God bless you, your children, your grandchildren and Pray for Love! Until next time, your favorite writer, signing off!



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, PLEASE TALK TO KRIS
RAGSDALE.

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

**FOR SEPTEMBER BY
AUGUST 17TH
PLEASE SEND YOUR ITEM TO:
mlk140142 @gmail.com**

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Missions conducted a Feeding the Pig event during the summer, and to date we have collected \$1704.75. I am



anticipating one more contribution, then we will fill out the form and send the money to Presbyterian Giving. We have enough to buy an entire cow!

I would like to have a Fall Food Drive, as well as a push for the SPFC Community Food Bank for Thanksgiving.

IN December, we will, once again, collect toys for the Christmas Toy Shop, and CASA.

THE ST. PETERSBURG FREE CLINIC PROVIDES LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH ESSENTIALS

The St. Petersburg Free Clinic is a local organization that Woodlawn church supports with quarterly gifts. We also have several food drives a year to help stock the Food Bank with food and personal hygiene items. The St. Petersburg Free Clinic has been a lifeline for Pinellas County residents since 1970, providing compassionate care to individuals and families facing financial hardship. Its mission is simple but powerful: to change lives by providing food, shelter, and health care to neighbors in need. Today, the organization serves thousands of local residents through medical and dental services, transitional housing, and programs that address food insecurity.

At the heart of its hunger relief efforts is the SPFC Community Food Bank, formerly known as Jared S. Hechtkopf Community Food Bank. The Food Bank distributes millions of pounds of fresh produce, dairy products, protein, and pantry staples to more than 60 partner agencies throughout Pinellas County. The Free Clinic's

FRESH Pantry also welcomes any county

resident in need, ensuring that families have access to nutritious groceries with dignity and respect.

The impact of these programs is reflected in the stories of local residents. One St. Petersburg resident shared online that visiting a Free Clinic food pantry during a difficult financial period provided not only healthy food but also kindness and encouragement from volunteers. Another community member described how the pantry supplied fresh groceries, meat, eggs, toiletries, and other essentials, helping families bridge unexpected hardships without judgment. These personal experiences highlight the Free Clinic's commitment to treating every neighbor with compassion while meeting immediate needs.

Through dedicated staff, volunteers, and generous donors, the St. Petersburg Free Clinic continues to strengthen the community by ensuring that hope, nourishment, and quality care remain within reach for every neighbor who needs them.

Mari Blaquiere, Missions Committee



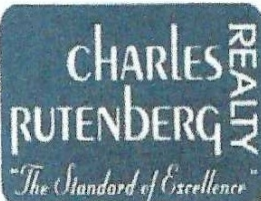
FREE BINGO

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



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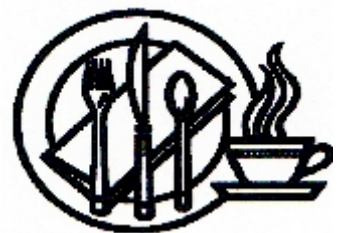


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**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
THE CHURCH IN
YOUR ESTATE PLANNING?**

LUNCH BUNCH

4TH Street Shrimp Store
August 20th.
11:30 AM



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**

WOODLAWN WINDOW DUE DATES FOR 2026

<u>FOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
SEPTEMBER	AUG. 17
OCTOBER	SEPT 21
NOVEMBER	OCT. 19
DECEMBER	NOV. 23
JANUARY	DEC. 21

BOOK CLUB

WED.

10:00AM

Classroom B

AUGUST 19, 2026



All are welcome. Expand your horizons. We take turns picking the monthly book.



Please remember in your prayers the members of our armed forces, first responders, police, EMTs & firemen and all others who respond to emergencies and natural disasters along with their families who know the dangers their loved ones face. They are the ones we count on to keep us safe and respond to events over which we have no control.

GOD LOVES YOU!

FYI

We are looking for photos from the past ten years of people and events at Woodlawn Presbyterian Church. They will be used in Woodlawn Window articles and slide presentations. Please contact Mari Blaquiere at mblaquiereus@gmail.com with any photos.

Thanks, Mari Blaquiere

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/2 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM

8/3 Monday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/4 Tuesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/5 Wednesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

Yoga 7 PM

8/6 Thursday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

Choir Practice 6 PM

8/7 Friday NA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/9 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM

8/10 Monday Women's AA Group 8 PM

8/11 Tuesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/12 Wednesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

Yoga 7 PM

8/13 Thursday AA meeting 8:00 pm

Choir Practice 6 PM

8/14 NA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/16 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM

8/17 Monday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/18 Tuesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/19 Wednesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

Yoga 7 PM

Book Club 10:00 AM

8/20 Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM

8/21 Friday Bingo 6:00 PM

8/23 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM

8/24 Monday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/25 Tuesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/26 Wednesday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

Yoga 7 PM

8/27 Thursday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

8/28 Friday NA Meeting 8:00 pm

8/30 Worship Service 10 AM

8/31 Monday AA Meeting 8:00 PM

(The Eating Disorder Group is no longer meeting at Woodlawn. If there are any changes we will advise you in the next Woodlawn Window.)



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THE GIFT OF LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-7 & 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful;

5 it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

6 it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

13 So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

BIBLE READINGS FOR

AUGUST

(Romans)

1. 4

2. 5

3. 6

4. 7

5. 8:1-17

6. 8:18-39

7. 9:1-18

8. 9:19-33

9. 10

10. 11:1-16

11. 11:17-36

12. 12

13. 13

14. 14

15. 15:1-13

16. 15:14-33

17. 16

1 Corinthians

18. 1

19. 2

20. 3

21. 4

22. 5

23. 6

24. 7:1-24

25. 7:25-40

26. 8

27. 9

28. 10:1-22

29. 10:23-33

30. 11:1-16

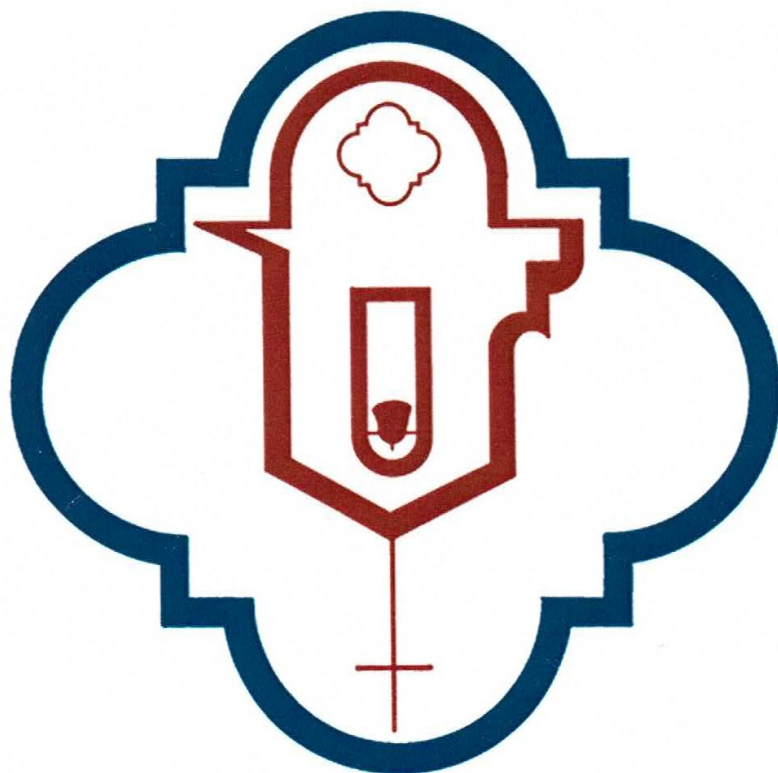
31. 11:17-34

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						OFFICE CLOSED
2 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	3 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON W OMEN'S AA MEETING 8 PM	4 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	5 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING 8 PM YOGA	6 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING 8 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	7 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING 8 PM	8 OFFICE CLOSED
9 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	10 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMEN'S AA MEETING 8 PM	11 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	12 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA AA MEETING 8 PM	13 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING 8 PM	14 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING 8 PM	15 OFFICE CLOSED
16 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	17 OFFICE OPEN WW DEADLINE AA MEETING WOMEN'S 8PM	18 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	19 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA BOOK CLUB AA MEETING 8PM	20 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON LUNCH BUNCH CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING 8 PM	21 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING BINGO 6:00 PM	22 OFFICE CLOSED
23/30 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	24/31 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING WOMEN'S 8PM	25 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING 8 PM	26 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA AA MEETING 8PM	27 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING 8 PM	28 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON NA MEETING 8PM	29 OFFICE CLOSED

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