
WOODLAWN WINDOW

OCTOBER 2026

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



John F. Underwood, Pastor
Telephone: 727-822-4477
Internet: www.woodlawchurch.net
Email: office@woodlawchurch.net

Dear Friends,
Songs often speak to me. Sometimes it is just a line from a song; sometimes just the title. I barely remember the plot of *The Fantasticks*, a 1960 musical about nostalgia. But one of its songs still speaks to me—"Try to Remember." The lyrics call us to remember days of wonder and innocence, but the title's message to me has shifted considerably. When I saw *The Fantasticks* in college, the words "Try to Remember" raised a scholastic question—my grade depended on how well I remember my class lessons. Nowadays, "Try to Remember" more often relates to trying to remember a name or where I left my keys, and the lapses get labeled as "Senior Moments."

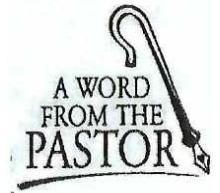
It is strangely reassuring to realize that the challenge of remembering is as old as recorded history. We even see it in the pages of Scripture!

I learned that when I was young. Father's memory sometimes failed as he tried to remember the citation of a passage he was quoting or which prophet made some pronouncement or which epistle gave some instruction. He would direct my attention to Hebrews 2:6, where a biblical author wanted to quote a scripture passage. Like Father, that writer could not remember the exact source, so he simply said: "someone has testified somewhere" as he wrote out verses from Psalm 8.

That is a good example (there are others) of what I like to call a "SACRED senior moment."

Have you ever been about to introduce an old friend when your memory suddenly fails you and you use the wrong name? Almost exactly the

same thing happened in the Gospel of Matthew. which says: "Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah" (27:9). But what follows is not from Jeremiah. No! it is from Zechariah! Theologians and scholars have devised various ways to suggest it was not really Matthew's error [maybe it was a copyist's error not Matthew's or maybe Matthew was making a "composite quotation," drawing on more than one passage] but, in truth, it was almost certainly another example of a "Sacred Senior Moment."



Sometimes we read a verse such as James 4:5 where "...scripture says, 'God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us,' " only to learn that there is a problem. No such quotation can be found anywhere in the Bible. Is that yet another "Sacred Senior Moment"?

It is important to be very clear that such "senior moments" are rare in the Scriptures.

What stands out to me is not that such things happen. To the contrary. What stands out is exactly the opposite! What stands out is the exceptional quality of the memory of Bible writers.

Most of us, if we want to find a verse of scripture, have a Bible somewhere readily accessible that we can consult. The writers of scripture had to "Try to Remember" everything! Every copy of scripture had to be written out in longhand. There were no printed Bibles. And scrolls were prohibitively expensive. The writers of Hebrews,

Matthew, and James would not have had a Bible or scroll available to consult when they had those sacred senior moments.

How about you? Even with your own copy of the Bible in front of you, how easily can you find a particular verse you are trying to remember? Before Gutenberg and the printing press, the single most important gift for a scholar was a good memory. So are you impressed to learn that Paul quotes the Old Testament more than 60 times in Romans alone and more than 100 times in all his letters combined! Then there is the Book of Revelation. It is 404 verses long and more than two-thirds of those verses include allusions to Old Testament passages! One of the great marks of the authority of New Testament writers is the fidelity of their memories as they cite the Scriptures.

Fortunately, there are good tools today to help us through our senior moments as we "Try to Remember" Bible verses. But what is most important isn't having a Bible at hand or knowing Bible verses by rote. It is having such profound knowledge that we are called to love God and neighbor that we strive to live out the will of God whether we remember a chapter and verse or not.

Senior moments, sacred and otherwise, happen to us all—even to Bible writers and scribes. But what is truly sacred is having the word of God and the will of God and the love of God and neighbor deeply within us—not written in our memories but engraved directly on our hearts!

Pat Johnson

**PLEASE PRAY
FOR OUR
HOMEBOUND**

BARBARA ANN MUNROE

ZULEMA GROVES

MARY NUTTING



"Cyber Security - Proactive IT - Data Protection"

Genie IT SERVICES

Computer & Laptop Repairs
Business Services & Websites

Ph: 727-322-9474
GenieWish.com

ADVERTISEMENT

DUST TO DUST AND ASHES TO ASHES by Dan Schramek

There is a time in our lives when we must think about how we want our remains to be disposed. Traditionally, it is to have our bodies buried in the ground in a cemetery, but a lot has changed with the advent of having your body cremated and the ashes kept in an urn or spread in a place selected by the deceased. In Florida today 80% of the population are choosing cremation as their choice. Cremation is less costly compared to a burial in a cemetery. The thought of visiting a gravesite versus a place where the ashes have been placed has become more appealing to many of our loved ones.



Cremation started, thousands of years ago, as a way of disposing of bodies in wartime, during plagues that devastated towns and countries and the most sanitizing way of preventing diseases from spreading and more deaths. It was a way of releasing the spirit of the deceased from their bodies.

Amy and I have decided to make cremation as our choice. We've discussed our choice with our daughters and plan a pre-pay for the cremation services and lock in the current pricing. Whatever you choose, please discuss it with your loved

ones responsible for your final arrangements. It will make things better and easier for them to carry out your final wishes.

Since our final adventure has evolved around our property in Brooksville, we have decided to be close to nature and our hardwood hammock forest, now known as our



family's "Hardwood Ranch." Our ashes will be spread among the trees and the critters of the forest. A quiet resting place for our family to visit, when camping there or at their new home in the forest. Nature has been a big part of our final adventure and will take care of our ashes in a way that we have designated as our final resting grounds.

We pray that when your final time comes, you will choose what's right for you and your family. God bless our decision and shall we rest in



peace! Until next month, may your lives be filled with God and nature.

Pictures are Nature at its best! What a place to be a part of ... in life or death!



Please continue to pray for our first responders and members of the military. **They are the ones we count on to keep us safe and respond to events over which we have no control.**

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING NEWS

"... my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge." Psalm 18:16-19

September was Sepsis awareness month. Do you know how the word sepsis is related to the word infection? Any infection can lead to sepsis.



The Mayo Clinic explains that sepsis is a serious condition in which the body responds improperly to an infection. The infection fighting processes turn on the body, causing the organs to work poorly.

Sepsis may progress to septic shock. This is a dramatic drop in blood pressure that can damage the lungs, kidneys, liver and other organs. When the damage is severe, it can lead to death. Early treatment improves chances of survival. .

Sepsis is your body's life threatening response to an infection. It is usually easier to treat if detected early.

Symptoms may include: change in mental status, fast shallow breathing, sweating for no clear reason, feeling lightheaded, shivering, worsening symptoms of an infection such as a urinary infection or pneumonia. Symptoms are not specific and can vary from person to person and in adults and children.

Any infection could lead to sepsis. This includes bacterial, viral or fungal infections. Go to a health provider if you have symptoms of sepsis or an infection or wound that isn't getting better. Symptoms such as confusion or fast breathing need emergency care. Sepsis kills an estimated 270,000 people each year in the U.S.

There is an online support group, Sepsis Alliance, that reaches out to those diagnosed with sepsis and septic shock and their families. Recovery can be challenging.

Wendy Siedlecki RN, BSN
Faith Community Nurse

PRAYER CHAIN

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'S OCTOBER CHILDREN

9 Kaleb Duff
10 Coralie Wright
24 Kristy Stewart
26 Ruth Wilbanks



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

**I BUY CARS
ANY YEAR ANY CONDITION
FOR TINKERING OR
RESTORATION**

(727) 328-8840

Advertisement

GOD IS GOOD!

WOODLAWN WINDOW DEADLINE FOR ALL ARTICLES ARE DUE BY 4 PM

**FOR NOVEMBER
OCTOBER 19TH**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR ITEM TO:
mlk140142 @gmail.com**

Thank You

Dear Woodlawn Family,
On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank everyone who helped with my mom, Freda Melody's recent memorial service and reception. I know it was a lot of work to get everything organized in such a short time frame, but we greatly appreciate everyone's help.

Woodlawn Presbyterian will always hold a special place in our hearts as it has been a part of family's lives for so many years. Although my mom wasn't able to attend regularly the past few years, she always held fond memories of when she was actively involved in attending and serving in church services and activities.

With much love and gratitude,
Kristy Melody Stewart

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

In last month's article, I wrote about the maintenance and the number of groups that use our facilities. You may remember that our property is the meeting place for one group or another Monday through Friday and on Sunday morning we have the Reliance Church using Hutchinson Hall and a conference room used for their children's room.



We are happy to have the groups use our

facilities. Only one of the tenants pay us on a regular basis. I'm sure you see how this article is going. I am the Financial Administrator. Don't get excited, I only have the title because trying to deal with some of our contacts is a nightmare. They want to deal with a person with a title, so the Session gave me the name to go with the work I do for the church.

Since I count the money, pay the bills and the payroll, I also have the job of trying to keep expenses down. There are many ways to do that, but there are bills over which we have no control. Like your homes, we have to have water and sewer from the city, electricity from Duke Energy, lawn care, insurance, including Workmen's Compensation, regular check-ups on the a/cs, lawn care, pest control and the list goes on.

We have three part-time employees. Each one plays an important role in the life of the church. We only have part-time employees because that is all we can afford (they are worth more than we can pay, but they have stayed with us over the years. And we are grateful for them.)

To write this article, I went to the computer. I found that most of our expenses are monthly amounts that can vary from month to month, such as our electric bill. Others are the same from month to month. Some of the expenses are surprises - like the a/c going out on a Sunday morning.

We are entering the time of year when we are beginning to look at 2027. We will be sending out contribution statements at the first of October. Please check them to see that your amount corresponds with our amount. If you have a question please check with me. If you have a shortage, please bring your account up to date.

As you know our expenses continue and we have always tried to keep current with all our bills. We depend on you to provide us with enough money to pay our bills. Thank you for your generosity.

Mary Lee King
Member of Administration Committee

BOOK CLUB

Wed. Oct. 21
10:00 AM
CLASSROOM B

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



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.



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 -

LUNCH BUNCH

Thurs. OCT. 15TH
11:30 AM

The Hanger
540 1st St. S.
St. Petersburg
727-823-7767



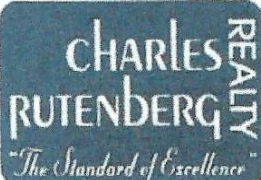
BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN THE FUN!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee,
has decided to continue our
annual **Trunk or Treat** – It
will be held on Saturday,
October 24, 2026 from 4pm – 7pm.



We will need volunteers
See Mari Blaquiere, Chairman



CHARLIE KARD
Realtor®

(727) 328-8840

Call me to help you with buying
or selling real estate.

EMAIL: charlieyourrealtor@hotmail.com



Advertisement

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
THE CHURCH IN
YOUR ESTATE PLANNING?

BIBLE READINGS FOR

OCTOBER

(Ephesians)

1. 4:1-16
2. 4:17-32
3. 5
4. 6

Philippians

5. 1
6. 2
7. 3
8. 4

Colossians

9. 1
10. 2
11. 3
12. 4

1 Thessalonians

13. 1
14. 2
15. 3
16. 4
17. 5

2 Thessalonians

18. 1
19. 2
20. 3

1 Timothy

21. 1
22. 2
23. 3
24. 4
25. 5
26. 6

2 Timothy

27. 1
28. 2
29. 3
30. 4

Titus

31. 1

SAVE THIS DATE: NOVEMBER 22ND

100TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
WITH A LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

OCTOBER 2026

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

THE WOODLAWN WINDOW

A Monthly Publication of
Woodlawn Presbyterian Church
2612 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Vol. 2026 Issue 10



STAFF

Editor

Mary Lee King

Contributors

Pastor John Underwood

Wendy Siedlecki

Dan Schramek

Mari Blaquiere

JerriAnn Johnson

Proofreader

Wendy Siedlecki

Printing

Mary Lee King

Assembly & Dispatch

Dan & Amy Schramek

COMMITTEES

Administration

Christian Education

Fellowship

Worship

Mission

Outreach