



January 23, 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANFORD

# First Word

*“To live by faith, to be known by love, and to be a voice of hope.”*

**Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,**

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, we read these words of proclamation in Chapter 5, <sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and walk in love, as Christ loved us <sup>[a]</sup>and gave himself up for us.... <sup>8</sup>for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light.”

In the January 9<sup>th</sup> edition of First Word, there was an invitation to us to recognize the light in others and Paul affirms our calling from Christ to “walk as children of light.” The light of Jesus Christ is love revealed through words we speak and deeds we do each day of our lives. This light is the strength and courage that are revealed through the way that we face adversity and witness through our perseverance of faith, believing in Christ even in the midst of the toughest of circumstances. The light of the Spirit is revealed through our gentle response to a world that has its fair share of anxiety and fear. Our calm presence reflects that light in ways that help others to trust in the Lord who is our Shepherd. The light of Christ, like the brilliant beam that shines from the lighthouse on a rocky shore, is illuminated many, many-fold as we allow Christ to guide us in all of our decisions so God’s will is done. Remember the words declared in the hymn, “If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee,”

SING, PRAY, AND KEEP HIS WAYS UNSWERVING,  
OFFER YOUR SERVICE FAITHFULLY,  
AND TRUST HIS WORD; THOUGH UNDESERVING,  
YOU'LL FIND HIS PROMISE TRUE TO BE.  
GOD NEVER WILL FORSAKE IN NEED  
THE SOUL THAT TRUSTS IN HIM INDEED.

Commissioned by Christ the Light of the World to be Lights to the World, you are invited to step outside on a clear morning and to watch the sun rise. Focus on its warmth and glow and let your life glow also! **Shalom, Brad**





**We look forward to seeing you there!!!**



*We need contestants! If you're interested, please contact Michele in the church office.*



**It's that time of year again...time for our annual soup cook-off! Please join us in the Harper Center on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> after the 11am service as a contestant or to just enjoy a bowl of your favorite soup. As always, your donations to our FPC Youth are greatly appreciated. Earn bragging rights and a prize for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places!**

**2023 Soup Cook-Off Judges:**

**John and Jae Breidenstine**

**Charlie and Charlene Hicks**

**Pat and Emalee McCracken**

**Who will be our 2023 Soup Cook-Off Top Chef??? Come to the Harper Center on January 29th at noon to find out, and enjoy fun, food and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!!!**



Laurie Lee will be behind the Harper Center on Thursday, February 2nd with an open trunk to collect food for CUOC from 10am-12pm.

# Pictures from Bingo this past Saturday afternoon!

