

This Week at FPC

May 21—May 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

What strange times these are! Though we have seen lives lost and economies suffering, I am thankful that the loss of life for us here in Marion County has been minimal, though each one lost is important to us and of course to God. Books could be filled with what we don't know. I am reminded of a comment made by Homeland Security after 9/11 right after its creation: "We don't know what we don't know." Which is simply to say, we are unsure of what we are even unsure of.

We are working on a reopening plan for our church. The session will meet again soon to discuss it and choose if and when we might enact it. I know that some churches have already announced when they will reopen. We will keep your safety as our top priority. Even after we begin again, many may need to stay home. Rest assured that we will continue our online worship services even after Sunday services start back.

I am thankful for all of the talented people who are part of our staff, and I can't wait for Phyllis Von Ebers to officially join our staff as our Choir Director! We are a church full of all kinds of talented and dedicated servants of the Lord. We will also be making an announcement soon about our next celebration of communion.

Stay strong and faithful. Remember that even if our way of life is disrupted, our faith can stay strong. Thank God for all the good things that we still have in our life, especially plentiful food and healthcare. Say a prayer for the people who bring us these things, and for those first responders who are ready to come to our aid in these times. Pray for those who do not have enough to eat in fear for losing their homes. Pray for the unemployed and those uncertain about their future. Contribute directly to Interfaith if you can. You may also give to them through the church. Pray for all of your church leaders who must make difficult decisions in the days ahead.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Ron

Pentecost Video By Walk Jones

Next week is Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate the Holy Spirit's coming to the church with miracles and tongues of fire. I'm compiling a video of Pentecost greetings and Bible readings. With your computer or smartphone, record a few words of Pentecost greeting for the rest of the church and email it to me at wjones@fpcocala.org. Ten seconds is long enough; I have limited computer memory. Just say "Happy Pentecost" or something like that.

I also need members to video a verse or two of Acts 2:1-12 in English and other languages. Please make these videos by 5pm on Thursday, May 28. I'll edit this into a montage for worship May 31.

PRAYER LIST

Debbie Ault (on the death of her husband Tom)	Evelyn Longo (hospitalized)
Jim Bennett (brother of John Bennett)	Celine Mack
Pam Butcher	Skip McDonald
Andy Carlisle	Wendie Moore (on the death of her sister)
Sara Chey, Brenda Jones and family	Jessie Moseley
Shirley Cochran	Sue Murphy (on the death of her husband, Jerry)
Stewart and Diane Edwards	Raul Nieves (brother of Mina DiGeronimo)
Phoebe Escobar (sister of Evelyn Longo)	Joseph Pickard (on the death of his brother)
Hank and Maranell Fleming	Greg Robinson (brother of Carolyn Varner)
Bill Green (friend of Richard Grosso)	Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Barbara Gowie	The Schafer family (on the death of Janice)
Dick Hancock	Deloris, Steve and Keith Shotwell
Johnie Johnson (son of Tommy Johnson)	Larry Spowles
Ken Kramer (brother-in-law of Evelyn Longo)	Baldwin Switzer (on deployment with the Navy)
Kathy Lance (daughter-in-law of Lois Lance)	Howard Tucker
Lois Lance	Evelyn Weaver (on the death of her sister and niece)
Grietje Lewis	Nancy Wells (daughter of Shirley Wells)
Renate Lipp (friend of Nita William)	Bo Williams and family (on the death of beloved Sally)
Kevin Lloyd (cousin of Lee Ann Drake)	Nancy Wollett

This Week's Daily Bible Readings

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<i>Sustained by God's Life-Giving Word of Faith</i>			Sunday	May 24	2 Corinthians 6:1-7;1
Thursday	May 21	Acts 1:1-26	Monday	May 25	2 Corinthians 7:2-16
Friday	May 22	Psalms 47	Tuesday	May 26	2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Saturday	May 23	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	Wednesday	May 27	2 Corinthians 8:16-24