



## *Our Vision - Our Mission*

To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and the world, To be an inclusive downtown community of faith that seeks to embrace everyone in growing spirituality.

## *Dr. D. Ronald Watson, Jr., Pastor*

*<sup>41</sup>He (Jesus) sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."*

Jesus spoke of money in 11 of his 39 parables, by one count. We know that money is important. Jesus acknowledges this. Though Jesus lived in ancient times 2000 years ago, the monetary system was much like our own, including a currency of coin. The Romans had a republic with a capitalistic system. The words of Jesus then apply pretty much the same way they do today. This poor widow was an amazing woman! She had lost rights upon the death of her husband. It was up to the community to care for her which apparently was not happening. Rather than complaining, she simply said, with her money, "God, I am fully committed to you with all my heart."

We've long heard the expression upon bragging about our favorite sports team, "put your money where your mouth is." Sometimes the mouth closes, and sometimes the money is produced! It depends on how strong the person's convictions really are (and perhaps their penchant for gambling plays a part as well). But no matter how much we say we trust in God, we know that money is vital to our existence in the capitalistic system in which we live. What makes the widow's mite such an important story? She has invested everything into God, and that means her heart is with God. God is looking for our hearts today — nothing more, and nothing less.

Some of you, like me, are new around here. Others have spent a lifetime in this church. As you consider your pledge this year, remember that our mission to show Christ and his love to the world has remained unchanged in 161 years. What an honor and privilege it has been to serve here in that 161<sup>st</sup> year! We will have many years to come as we demonstrate with our hearts what God means to us. Remember, it is not the amount that you give that will matter, but how much of that represents your heart, your enthusiasm, for our ministry together.

I ask you to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in your heart. I also ask that you pay heed to Natasha's message about giving our time to God as well on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

I also pray that you will come to our "Thanks-for-giving" concert on November 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be an amazing concert by our most talented musicians, Kosumo & David. Thanks to all who gave for both pianos. We are a blessed people with so many generous souls who share their hearts in a variety of ways.

Peace, Ron

## Associate Pastor

*Rev. Natasha Sudderth*

We have not even begun the Advent season but as we enter into the stewardship season it is appropriate that we remember that we are a resurrection people. During Lent we meditate on our dependence on God. We fast, we pray and some of us give up some part of our comfort to prepare our hearts. Such small sacrifices are nothing compared to Jesus' own, and yet we are drawn into the joy of Easter morning as we celebrate God's gift to us in Christ. As we pray about the ways we will contribute this stewardship season the question we must consider is, "are we living and serving like resurrection people?" Resurrection people live in a place of *hope*, anticipation and joy- believing in, and looking for, God's activity in their everyday lives. They anticipate encounters with the risen Lord and their labors and gifts proclaim who they are. In Luke 24, after the death of Jesus, Jesus appears to disciples on the road to Emmaus, and joined their conversation, but they did not recognize him. They were too distraught and confused by the news that Jesus, the one they believed would redeem Israel, was dead. He had been crucified along with their hope for Israel. Many of us have felt our hope crucified in some way or another. I do not need to list the ways. Watching on while our dreams seem to ebb with the setting sun makes us especially prone to overlooking Jesus in our midst. God's ways are not, and never will be, like our own. In Luke, it wasn't until later when he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us?' God needs us to be a resurrection people whose eyes are open and whose hearts are full.

## Parish Associate

*Rev. Ruth Elswood*

*The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1:21*

I am being continually blessed as I lead our bereavement group. I am blessed to get to know people better; I am blessed to learn more about how God restores hope in the lives of people who are grieving. I was quite taken aback, though, to encounter the term "stewardship" during one of the sessions of the Griefshare program that our group is using. One of the speakers on the video was talking about loss, specifically how sometimes people feel that God has called home someone so dear that life without the beloved one seems almost impossible. Some people even feel anger towards God when a loved one dies, especially if the death seems too soon or too tragic. The speaker said she found it helpful to remember that everyone and everything we have in our lives are gifts from God – gifts that are on loan to us, that we do not actually own. I sat up as she used the term "stewardship," as she stated that in reality we must be stewards of these people and these relationships; we must nurture and cherish them for the time they are with us, be that a lifetime, or just a few short years.

This is a beautiful and very meaningful approach to life and death. Stewardship is vital to the way we care for everything in life. We must be good stewards in all aspects of our lives, including our relationships. I encourage you to think this way about everyone you love. Are you a good steward of your relationships with your family, your friends, your work colleagues, your sisters and brothers in Christ? With God's help we can be a blessing to everyone with whom we share our lives.

### **Surviving the Holidays**

**We will offer the Griefshare program *Surviving the Holidays* for all who find this holiday time of year difficult. We will offer the same program twice at the following times:**

**Friday, November 9, 10 a.m. – noon      Conference Room**

**Friday, December 14, 10 a.m. – noon      Conference Room**

***Please bring holiday treats to share. All who feel the need for such a program are welcome!***



## Music Ministries

## David Bedenbaugh

### Spirit, Open My Heart

*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.*

Our hymn for this year's stewardship season is "Spirit, Open My Heart", number 692 in our new hymnal. Ruth Duck set the lyric to the beautiful tune, 'Wild Mountain Thyme', an Irish melody which also goes by the names, "Purple Heather", and, "Will Ye Go, Lassie, Go?". The tune is sometimes attributed to Francis McPeake, but commonly believed to have developed from an Irish and Scottish folk song. You will most likely recognize this as soon as we begin to sing it, it as it has been recorded numerous times over the last seven decades. Ruth Duck's lyric centers on giving our hearts to God and allowing God to change us so that Love is our desire in everything we do. The lyric draws heavily from Ezekiel 36:26, "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart." (NLT) Here are the hymns verses:

*God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.*

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.*

*May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister,  
brother.*

We do pray that as we sing this hymn each week, we will sing and pray these words with heart-felt sincerity. If we are willing to give, what hope we have in Christ, that He can take the coldest, hardest parts of us and exchange those dead things for a living, breathing heart - full of Love and Light!

## Scholarship News!

**Applications for post-secondary education scholarship funds** for the January term are available in the church office. The absolute final deadline to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on Thursday, November 1st. FPC members and their member dependents or children may apply for scholarship assistance. Applicants may apply once in a calendar year. Questions should be directed to Scholarship Committee members—Chair Kay Yancey, Todd Carstenn, Elaine Cox, Nancy Livesay, Paul Vowinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.

Attendance				
<b>Worship services</b>	9/30	10/7	10/14	10/21
8:15 a.m.	36	37	40	54
9:30 a.m.	67	77	76	79
11:00 a.m.	93	142	93	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>239</b>

## Thank You!

*Last week Ron and I had a once in a lifetime experience: we got to pick out a brand new Steinway Grand piano at the Steinway factory! What a major contribution this church has made! It has been a thrill and honor to be part of this inspiring investment that will bring glory to God and draw so many hearts in worship for decades and decades to come. By the middle of November we will receive both our Steinway Grand and Steinway made Boston upright piano for both our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall worship spaces. On Sunday, November 18th, Kosumo Morishita and David Bedenbaugh, along with our String Ensemble, will showcase the brand range of diverse styles our new powerful grand piano has to offer. From*



Ron and David making the final selection of our new Steinway



Jonathan Hunt (Steinway Tampa Bay) with David and Ron in front of our new Steinway

*Bach to Debussy, from Haydn to Rachmaninoff, we will present a very special "Thanks For Giving" concert to express our profound gratitude for being apart of this wonderful moment in the life our church!*



## SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

- Learned that Ann McCoy has resigned from her position as Communion Prep Coordinator and 8:15 service Usher coordinator. These two positions will need to be filled as soon as possible.
  - Noted that new member Steven Shotwell joined the church on September 2, 2018 by Reaffirmation of Faith.
  - Mourned the deaths of Laird Manning on July 28, 2018, and Beth Whelan on September 7, 2018.
  - Approved the motion to sell the church van due to its age, continued problems and lack of seat belts. Vans will be rented in the future as the need arises.
  - Noted that there is no Fellowship Committee at this time, and this committee is urgently needed in order to continue the Wednesday night suppers. Church members are strongly urged to step forward and form this committee or the Wednesday night suppers will not continue.
  - Learned that the repairs to the elevator will be in the \$12,000.00 range. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for a different company to maintain and repair the elevator.
  - Learned that bids will be obtained for the cost of plans and implementation of the emergency exit ramp. The ramp will be a very expensive undertaking.
  - Learned that Rev. Sudderth and Hannah Batten will begin a series of parenting classes about social media and its effects on parenting. These classes are open to the public.
  - Learned that an anonymous donor has offered a dollar-for-dollar incentive to raise the last \$22,000 needed for the new pianos. The money must be raised by December or the cost of the pianos will increase.
  - Learned that there are plans to hold a Session Retreat from January 4-6, 2019.
  - Elected three Commissioners to the October 2, 2018 Presbytery meeting at Camp Montgomery - Mary Dingman, Bill Dolin, and J.J. Albright as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate.
  - Referred the request from Ocala United Youth Group to our Youth Ministry Committee. Ocala United Youth Group has requested to use or rent to use our facility for their meetings.
- Approved the motion to have all updates for the *Policy and Procedure Manual* ready by the Session Retreat in January, 2019.
- Approved the motion to not hire a chef until there is a Fellowship Committee to decide whether or not a chef is needed by our church.

## Greet 'n' Eat Time! Out to Dinner Fellowship

*There will be no  
Out To Dinner in  
November and December  
due to  
Thanksgiving and Christmas.*



*“Thanks-for-Giving”*  
**Concert**

*It will be an amazing concert by our most talented musicians, Kosumo & David. Thanks to all who gave for both pianos. We are a blessed people with so many generous souls who share their hearts in a variety of ways.*

**Program: New Piano Dedication**

**Time: November 18th  
3:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary**

# FPC Announcements

## FPC's 2018 Mission Fair and SERRV Sale



**Sunday, November 4**  
**9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**  
**in Fellowship Hall**

Come and meet the people who represent the benevolence organizations we support and purchase wonderful products from around the world (All proceeds go to SERRV)

Stop by the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Nov 4, 9:00-12:30 for our annual **Mission Fair** to learn more about the agencies that we support through the church members' generous donations. You can also do some **Christmas shopping** for others or for yourself at the **SERRV Sale** (a fair trade organization) to support artisans and farmers in third world countries, help break the poverty cycle, and build stronger worldwide communities. 100% if the profits go back to the organization, so you will be contributing to a wonderful cause!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping with the sale **Nov 4 or Nov 11** (week two of sale), please contact LeeAnne Drake at 812-5311.

*Thanksgiving Dinner -*  
*Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00 p.m.*  
*in Fellowship Hall.*

Turkey and all the trimmings will be provided. Please join us.



### The Bloodmobile is coming!

Mark your calendars for  
**Sunday, November 4th.**

For more information contact Jo Ann **Blood Drive! The Big Red Bus** will be in the parking lot **on Sunday, Nov. 4** from **9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** YES YOU CAN donate if you have High Blood Pressure, are Diabetic, or are one year cancer-free. No upper age limit - most meds and conditions are OK.



### Cub Scout Pack 72 Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

November 11th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Leg Quarter, Beans and Slaw

**Only \$10**

Seating will be available for \$1 at event  
418 SE 3rd Street, Ocala, FL 34471

**Thank you for your support!**

FPC will soon be offering information and discussion sessions on **"Parenting and Discipleship in the Age of Social Media"**. We invite anyone interested to join us as we look at the world of social media and the many challenges we face today as we navigate the complexities of identity, safety, and Christian discipleship.

If you have questions please contact Natasha Sudderth or Hannah Batten by calling the church office (629-7561).



# Presbyterian Women

# Pat Greaves, Moderator

Presbyterian Women is off to a good start with all Circles meeting in September and October. It's not too late to choose a Circle and get involved in PW. Select a day/time that suits your schedule and join a Circle at the times listed below. We are studying from the Horizon's Bible Study book *God's Promise, I Am With You*, by Amy Poling Sutherland. Study books are available from the Contact person listed below or contact Pat Greaves, Moderator, at 236-0716. Come and join in Christian fellowship.



**THE FALL GATHERING** will be held on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, in Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu for the lunch will be a variety of homemade soups, with salad, dessert and beverages. The cost will be \$6.00 and you may sign up through your circle leaders during October or call Pat Greaves at 236-0716. **Deadline for registering is Monday, November 5th.** Our guest speaker will be our very own Rev. Natasha Sudderth, Associate Pastor. The 2018 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women will be dedicated. The theme of the dedication is "Diverse, yet one in Christ," based on the Scripture from Romans 12:4-6, "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...."

**WORLD COMMUNITY DAY** FPC/PW will be hosting this gathering in our Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Natasha Sudderth, our Associate Pastor, will be the guest speaker with the celebration beginning at 10 a.m. The emphasis is on "Reaching for Wholeness in Harmony with God's People." If you have questions, please call Gera Fleming at 629-6065.

**THE COMBINED CIRCLES' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** will be held on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, in Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can start registering with your Circle Leaders. Our guest speaker will be Tom Weaver, who does an excellent job each month mentoring our Bible Moderators with the lesson in our Study Book. The topic will be in Lesson Four of our Study Book, "God with Us When We Seek God." Plan now to attend this wonderful time of fellowship.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for November 2018 Bible Study and Fellowship with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
<b>Bible Moderator Mentoring</b>	November 6	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
<b>Coordinating Team Mtg.</b>	November 6	7:00 p.m.	Room 1	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 352-362-0013
<b>Circle 1</b>	November 13	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
<b>Circle 3</b>	November 19	10:00 a.m.	5165 NW 20 <sup>th</sup> Place Ocala Palms	Michele Burgess	867-0580
<b>Circle 4</b>	November 13	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	MaryBeth Rivers	625-3372
<b>Circle 7</b>	November 13	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
<b>Circle 8</b>	November 13	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053



**“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”  
Luke 1:78-79**



The Advent season is just around the corner and we would like to make the season particularly meaningful to our church family as we continue to grow as disciples serving in ministry together. Therefore, we would like to include your meaningful stories, reflections, and meditations in publications during that special season.

Take some time to reflect on the ways God has worked in your life particularly during the season of Advent and Christmas. We hope that many of you will feel the Spirit and be willing to share your meditations with your church family. We are hoping to receive submissions of your poetry, reflections on scripture, art work, personal stories, and memories. We invite you to share anything that illumines God’s love for others.

Please bring submissions to the church office or email them to Natasha Sudderth at [nsudderth@fpcocala.org](mailto:nsudderth@fpcocala.org).

**1st Sunday of** Isa. 2:1–5 Isa. 64:1–9 Jer. 33:14–16

**Advent Ps.** 122, Ps. 80:1–7, 17–19 Ps. 25:1–10, Rom. 13:11–14, 1 Cor. 1:3–9, 1 Thess. 3:9–13  
Matt. 24:36–44, Mark 13:24–37, Luke 21:25–36

**2nd Sunday of** Isa. 11:1–10 Isa. 40:1–11 Mal. 3:1–4

**Advent Ps.** 72:1–7, 18–19 Ps. 85:1–2, 8–13 Luke 1:68–79, Rom. 15:4–13, 2 Peter 3:8–15a, Phil. 1:3–11, Matt. 3:1–12, Mark 1:1–8, Luke 3:1–6

**3rd Sunday of** Isa. 35:1–10 Isa. 61:1–4, 8–11 Zeph. 3:14–20

**Advent Ps.** 146:5–10 Ps. 126 Isa. 12:2–6, or Luke 1:47–55 or Luke 1:47–55, James 5:7–10 1  
Thess. 5:16–24 Phil. 4:4–7, Matt. 11:2–11 John 1:6–8, 19–28 Luke 3:7–18

**4th Sunday of** Isa. 7:10–16 2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16 Micah 5:2–5a

**Advent Ps.** 80:1–7, 17–19 Luke 1:47–55 or Ps. 89:1–4, 19–26 or Ps. 80:1–7, Rom. 1:1–7, Rom. 16:25–27, Heb. 10:5–10, Matt. 1:18–25, Luke 1:26–38, Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

**Christmas Eve** Isa. 9:2–7 Isa. 9:2–7 Isa. 9:2–7, (Dec. 24) Ps. 96, Titus 2:11–14, Luke 2:1–14

## ***A Request from Your Membership Committee***

Your **Membership Committee** is recruiting team members to actively identify and greet visitors and help engage all churchgoers in the activities and events at First Presbyterian Church of Ocala. If you are an outgoing, smiling, friendly person who enjoys interacting with others, this is the thing for you! Growing our church is not just the role of the Membership Committee; it is everyone’s responsibility. When you come to church, be friendly and welcoming, answer questions from visitors about our church, get them a name tag, make sure first time visitors return, spread the good news about things that are going on at FPCO, and invite others to join you in church events and activities. That’s it! To learn more about becoming a member of your church’s **Hospitality Team**, look for us on the website. You may also contact Nancy Livesay, Membership Chair, by email at [nlivesay@cox.net](mailto:nlivesay@cox.net)

FPC OCALA PRESENTS  
2018-2019 CONCERT SERIES

ALL CONCERTS HELD IN THE SANCTUARY

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER SEASON  
OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL TALENT!

NOV 18 *Thanks-for-Giving!* NEW PIANO  
3 PM DEDICATION!

KOSUMO MORISHITA & DAVID BEDENBAUGH  
SHOWCASE THE VARIETY OF STYLES POSSIBLE ON  
OUR NEW STEINWAY GRAND!

DEC 9 *Marion Civic Chorale*  
3 PM

OCALA'S PREEMINENT CHOIR WOWS  
US WITH SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

DEC 16 *Christmas Cantata*  
11 AM

COME HEAR ALL FPC MUSICIANS JOIN  
TOGETHER IN SONGS OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

JAN 16 *The King's Brass*  
6:30 PM

WORLD CLASS BRASS PLAYERS WILL  
BLOW YOU AWAY WITH THEIR DIVERSE  
STYLINGS OF INSPIRED MUSIC & MESSAGE

FEB 10 *Duo Decca*  
3 PM

PIANISTS KOSUMO MORISHITA AND ARIADNE ANTIPA  
BRING A COLORFUL ARRAY OF REPERTOIRE TO  
A WIDE-RANGING AUDIENCE, PERFORMING CLASSICS  
AND MUSIC FROM LIVING COMPOSERS.

MAR 24 *The Amazing*  
3 PM *Steel Drum Ensemble*

HEAR THE ISLANDS IN YOUR OWN  
BACK YARD. A GOOD SPIRIT FLOWS  
THROUGH THIS TALENTED ORCHESTRA

APR 14 *Palm Sunday Cantata*  
11 AM

JOIN US AGAIN AS ALL FPC MUSICIANS  
COMBINE TO TELL THE EASTER STORY

APR 28 *Marion Civic Chorale*  
3 PM

MCC RETURNS FOR THEIR  
~ SPRING ~ CONCERT

MAY 20 *Spring String Fling*  
3 PM

THIS ANNUAL TRADITION FEATURES  
FPC'S STRING ORCHESTRA

## Coming Soon - 2018 Christmas Giving Tree!

Our 2018 Christmas Giving Tree Project is again an ambitious one! There are so many needs in so many parts of our community and indeed the world, but we have decided to donate to: Skill Day Center, Project Hope, Marion County Senior Services, and Sozo Kids, which helps children living in abject poverty in the Ocala National Forest.



**This year's project will start on Sunday, November 25 and the deadline for turning in gifts will be December 11.**

As always, there will be two Christmas trees, one in Fellowship Hall and one in the Narthex, full of beautiful ornaments made by our children and youth and several volunteers. As always, you keep the ornament(s) and fulfill the gift request on each ornament. Please take as many as you wish.

***Each gift item should be UNWRAPPED and each check made out to First Presbyterian Church earmarked "2018 Giving Tree".***

**Thank you!** We look forward to working together to help make this year's Giving Tree as generous as those in the past. Please let us know if you have any questions: Sue Brawner, Carol Carpenter, Margaret Baker, Cheryl Fante, Cathy Edwards, Lannie Mercer, Becky Schatt, Ann VanDenburgh, Jarl Hagood.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH: CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Advent is just around the corner and FPC needs your help. We are asking the young artists in our congregation who are interested to share their personal artwork with us. We are looking for artwork relating to the Christmas/Advent season that will be used in our church publications and in our bulletins. If you are interested, please bring art submissions to Natasha Sudderth or Hannah Batten in the church office by November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted Artwork should...

- ✍ have your name on it and your age!
- ✝ be in some way about of the story of Jesus' birth. Pictures of the manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, a star, etc. Have fun! We can't wait to see what you come up with.

## Commissioning Service of Walter Glynn Laseter



## Ordination Service Holly Reimer





**First Presbyterian Church**

511 SE Third Street  
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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# STEWARDSHIP 2019

## “GOD WANTS YOUR HEART”

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| October 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Stewardship Sunday - Stewardship Message I                       |
| November 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Commitment Sunday - Pledge Distributed<br>Stewardship Message II |
| November 11 <sup>th</sup> | Dedication Sunday - Pledge Cards Returned                        |

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