



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Ocala



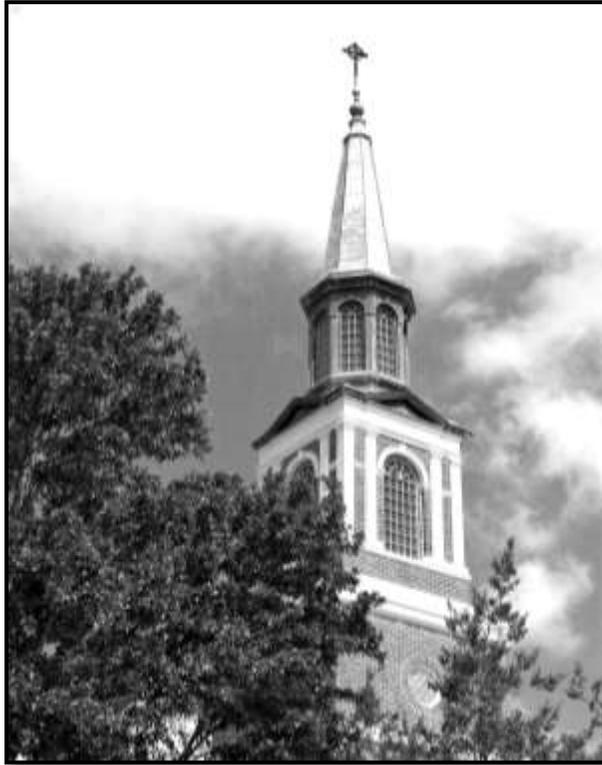
Our Vision

To be a church that shares God's love through Jesus Christ with everyone.

Our Mission

We are an inclusive historic downtown community of Christian faith.

We seek to welcome all people through prayer, meaningful worship, and supportive groups while sharing our talents and resources with those in need.



166 YEARS IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN OCALA

March 17, 2024

Today's Sermon "Bearing Fruit"

Rev. Ruth Elswood, guest preacher

Rev. Dr. Walk Jones, Transitional Pastor
Phyllis Von Ebers, Choir Director
Dr. Kosumo Morishita, Organist
Leslie Athanason, Vocalist

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2024

10:00 a.m.

We Gather with Others in God's House

Words of Welcome

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Prelude

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

Johann Crüger

We Give Praise and Adoration to God

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day God has promised: the day of the new covenant.

People: We are here, because our hearts are filled with love for our God.

Leader: No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.

People: Our hearts are open so God's Word can shape us.

Leader: We will reach out to our neighbors, our friends and family, even to strangers.

**People: Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's people.
Let us worship God together.**

*Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

#1

*Confession of Sin

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of Grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. (silent prayer)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

*Gloria Patri

#581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

First Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10 (NT Pg. 267)

Children's Sermon

Praise Song

“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone”
Cindy Andrews and Debbie Atchison, soloists

Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace
how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch
like me
I once was lost,
but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear
And grace my fears
relieved
How precious did
that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone,
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has
ransomed me
And like a flood
His mercy reigns
Unending love,
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised
good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield
and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone,
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has
ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love,
Amazing grace (Repeat)

The earth shall soon dissolve
like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine,
will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Anthem

“In a Borrowed Tomb”
Chancel Choir

Patti Drennan

Second Reading

John 12:20-33 (NT Pg. 130)

Sermon

“Bearing Fruit”

Rev. Ruth Elswood

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Depart to Live and Love as Christian Disciples

*Hymn

“Jesus Calls Us”

#720

*Benediction and Offering

(After service, ushers will be standing by the doors with offering plates
to receive your tithes and offerings)

Postlude

“Grand Chorus Op. 52 No. 1”

Alexander Guilmant



*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and with thoughts and prayers
and in memory of Richard Grosso from Karen Thompson.*

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Welcome Visitors - Thanks for worshipping with us! Please complete a yellow card and bring it to an usher in the back after worship.

Our Guest Preacher today is Ruth Elswood, who worked for many years for the Florida State University System. Later she went to seminary and spent almost a year working as a resident chaplain at Tampa General Hospital in Florida. Her first ordained call was to serve the elderly as chaplain at Palm Garden Health Care Centers. At the same time, she served the First Presbyterian Church in Jasper, Florida as interim pastor for one year. She served as parish associate for pastoral care here at our church in 2017-2019. She is now retired, living in Gainesville and enjoying continuing ministry as a pulpit supply preacher.

Next Sunday, March 24th we will have a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Christian Ed. committee is hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, March 30th starting at 10:00 am. We are seeking filled eggs and bags of candy and treats. To donate, please drop off at the church office by Sunday, March 24th.

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1 today, starts a six week series: **Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table**. This series will include a video presentation by Louie Giglio followed by a class discussion. Following is a brief description of the series: Our minds spinning seemingly out of control with thoughts that are not only unproductive, but potentially destructive and harmful. These thoughts are not of God. No, they're from the Enemy lurking, ready to seize any opportunity to lie his way into your mind and claim control over your life. But God has other plans for you.

Fellowship Lunch after church **TODAY** - we will have a special St. Patrick's Day luncheon. Make plans to stay for the food and fellowship. There is no charge, but you may make a donation to the youth program. The youth will be serving the lunch.



On Easter Sunday we will have a flower cross - Please bring flowers for the cross.

Monday, April 1st is the deadline to apply for FPC Post-secondary school education scholarships! Applications for the fall 2024 term are available in the church office or print from our website. The deadline to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on Monday, April 1st. FPC members and their member dependents or children may apply for scholarship assistance.

PRAYER LIST

Pat Bishop

Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)

Tania Blackwell (sister-in-law of Mary Kauffman)

Andy Carlisle

Ella and Ray Charnley

Shirley Cochran

Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest, cancer diagnosis)

Linda Deyton (sister of Annette Pickard)

Mina DiGeronimo

Ruth Fraser

Gabby Gates (friend of Dave Bice)

Joe Glenn (friend of Mary Kauffman)

Dorothy Halliwell (sister-in-law of Pat Interdonato)

Bill and Barbara Harrel

Andrea Mogg Jacque

Victoria Johnson (great-granddaughter of Christine)

Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)

Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)

John Koch (brother in law of Debbie Koch)

Cordelia Bree McCully (granddaughter of Mike and Teresa Poteet)

Gloria Miller

Jodi Miller (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)

Wendi Moore (on the death of her uncle Bob Dillinger))

Annette Morris (friend of Mary Kauffman)

Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)

Ruthanne and John Reiss

Frank Roberts

Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

Mike Scalf (loss of his mother, friend of Julia Wirono)

Kim Scalf (fighting cancer, friend of Julia Wirono)

Janie Scott

Rev. Ed Tenhor

Bob and Renee Timmer

Ann VanDenburgh

Robert Webber (brother of Ginny Miller)

William Wright