

This week at FPC

August 18-August 24, 2022

A congregational meeting will be Sunday, August 21, 2022 as well as a reception honoring the Watson family in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship.

Dear Friends,

Shakespeare said, "Parting is such sweet sorrow." For me, you all, the congregation, are that sweetness. I am so thankful for the five years of being your pastor. I didn't plan for our ending now any more than I planned our beginning in 2017. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. FPC has been my seventh installed pastorate and perhaps my last. In Montreat starting next weekend, I am taking a class in transitional ministry, often called interim ministry. Only God knows for sure what I will be doing next, but that is enough.

We have things to celebrate together, including your response to the challenges of Covid. Ministry looks quite different now than it did prior to the pandemic. I know that you will discover the path you will take next under your new leadership and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You have an incredibly talented Interim Associate Pastor as well as a great staff to assist you on your journey. I admire them, and I am grateful to them. I pray that the coming time of discernment will be fruitful, a time of spiritual growth.

I need to take a moment and define our relationship moving forward. I previously agreed to perform two weddings early next year, both of which are out of town. The session and the presbytery have authorized me to officiate. With only these exceptions, I will

no longer function as your pastor after August 31st. I will continue to love you all and pray for you all. I will not perform nor participate in any other weddings, funerals, sacraments, pastoral care, fellowship, or other functions here at FPC. All of this is part of our Separation Guidelines for Pastors which you can read on our presbytery website.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your pastor. I am glad that God brought us together. It has been both an honor and a rich privilege to serve you. I will leave you with the exhortation of Paul to the church in Philippi:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

In Christ, Ron



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PHONE PRAYER CHAIN

This ministry is a vital part of First Presbyterian Church. It is greatly appreciated by those it serves. Prayers are being heard and answered daily! Anyone who would like to join is welcome. It's a wonderful way to feel more connected and to serve your church and the Lord. All you need is a phone. Come join us! FPC Deacons 352-843-0262 abrdvm@yahoo.com

"There is a power in persistent prayer"
Micah 7:7



Grieving the death of a loved one?



Join us:
Sundays at 3:30 in Room 1
Started Aug. 14
First Presbyterian Church of Ocala
griefshare.org



Chancel Choir is Back!

The Chancel Choir is rehearsing in the choir room on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m. We sing in church almost every Sunday through June and also sing cantatas at Christmas and Easter. Please join us if you are interested in singing at all during the year. We are in particular need of Tenors and Basses, as well as Sopranos. If you're not able to commit to the full choir year, we can talk about a "customized plan" for you! Please contact Phyllis Von Ebers (509)998-6039.

Hand Bell Ringer Needed!

We are seeking a permanent hand bell ringer and 1 or 2 people who can fill in from time to time? Rehearsals are Wednesdays 5:30-6:30. Email Phyllis Von Ebers: phyllisvonebers@yahoo.com



PRAYER LIST

Wilma Andrews
Edie Alderton (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)
Caroline Benton (friend of Helen Quinlan)
Pat Bishop
Cede Blackwell (great-niece of Mary Kauffman)
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Mina DiGeronimo
Beth and Sharon Follmer (Dorothy Siemons' daughter and granddaughter)
Ruth Fraser
Bob Greaves (Hospice at home)
Barbara Harrel
John Hagood
Hope Hill (friend of Richard Grosso)
Mark and Melanie Heuer (son-in-law and daughter of Julia Wirono)
Victoria Johnson (great-granddaughter of Christine Johnson)
Richard Jones (brother-in-law of Margaret Trump)
Jolene Kai (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)
Scott Kinnaugh (son of Dorothy Siemons)
Celine Mack

Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
Gloria Miller
The Montsdeoca family (on the death of Blue)
Ron Mosby
Albert Peek
John Peterson
Annette and Joseph Pickard
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Bobbie Ripple (sister of Mike Poteet)
Frank Roberts
Jerry Rost
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Janie Scott
Betty Smith (friend of Pat Bishop)
Shannon Tanga (granddaughter of Bill Harrel)
Renee Timmer
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Jason Trump (son of Margaret Trump)
Richard and Sandy Valvo
The Willard family (on the death of Kathy)
Bo Williams
William Wright
Jeffrey Yawn (grandson of Betty Williams)

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
<i>God's Renewing Word of Mercy and Forgiveness</i>			Sunday	August 21	Genesis 43:1-14
Thursday	August 18	Genesis 41:37-57	Monday	August 22	Genesis 43:15-34
Friday	August 19	Genesis 42:1-24	Tuesday	August 23	Genesis 44:1-17
Saturday	August 20	Genesis 42:25-38	Wednesday	August 24	Genesis 44:18-34