



FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

December 2022

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Volume 65 Number 12

*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.

*Interim Associate Pastor*

*The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones*

*Anticipating Jesus' Coming*

Advent means 'coming' in Latin and it is a two-fold season in the church year as we anticipate celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas and watch for his Second Coming in glory. For the first two Sundays in Advent we'll focus on his return. Then during worship on December 11, when the musicians grace us with their talents, we will pivot from the clouds to Bethlehem.

Advent begins November 27. On that Tuesday and Wednesday we begin our Advent Spiritual practice with a program I'm calling 'Searching for the Stable.' See page 2 for more information about it especially the Tuesday evening zoom version. You may come to one or all of the mid-week spirituality and prayer services.

On December 4 we continue our Preachers of Ex-

cellence series as we welcome Rev. Marianne Niessen back to the pulpit. I am especially excited about our two Christmas Eve services this year!

Some folks asked if we will have worship on Sunday morning, December 25 and if we will have the Lord's Supper on Sunday January 1. While Christmas and New Year's Day are holidays on the secular calendar, we still keep the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment and stick to our communion schedule. The answer to both is YES.

Finally, many thanks to all of you who have completed pledge cards and Time and Talent Sheets. They are still available in the narthex and from the church office. We can email or mail them to you.

*Holey Time this month is Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>*

Come join fellow members in the courtyard after church for refreshments

*Christmas Fellowship Lunch*

will be held Sunday,

December 18th after worship.

\$5/adult \$3/children \$15 maximum/family



# Session News

## Session Brief – November 7, 2022

- We mourned the deaths of the Rev. Robert Greaves on 10/25/2022 and Jane Hutcheson on 10/29/2022.
- Approved removal of Tim Liberatore from the membership rolls at his request.
- Approved the job description for the Interim Head of Staff/Pastor.

Session		
Class of 2022		Class of 2023
Jeff Baker	Cindy MacKay	Van Akin
Todd Carstenn	Dave Schlenker	Cathy Hancock
Elaine Cox	Donnie Slone	Jacquelyn Sexton
Pat Greaves	Peggy Wiechmann,	
Amy Johnson	Clerk	
<b>Class of 2024:</b> George Tomy, Tom Weaver, Peggy Wiechmann, Jim Yancey <b>Class of 2025:</b> Jo Ann Brandt, Denise Caskey, Todd Dailey, Mary Dingman, Bill Dolin, Pat Greaves, Amy Johnson, Bill Tucker, Steve Vincent, Kathryn White		

Diaconate			
Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Pat Bishop Gera Fleming Jessie Moseley Joe Moseley Ann VanDenburgh Kay Yancey	Pat Bishop Ann VanDenburgh	Evelyn Longo Martha Petry Raul Roman Alice Russell Terri Tucker Barbara Whitt	Sue Brawner, Lannie Mercer, Amy Schlenker, Janie Scott, Doug Sullivan

**Searching for the Stable**, an Advent spirituality experience at First Presbyterian on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at noon begins November 29<sup>th</sup>. For the Tuesday evening sessions by zoom, you will be sent a link.

For Wednesday at noon, you may just come to the Sanctuary Call the church office to register for zoom 352-629-7561 or email [officefpc@fpcocala.org](mailto:officefpc@fpcocala.org)



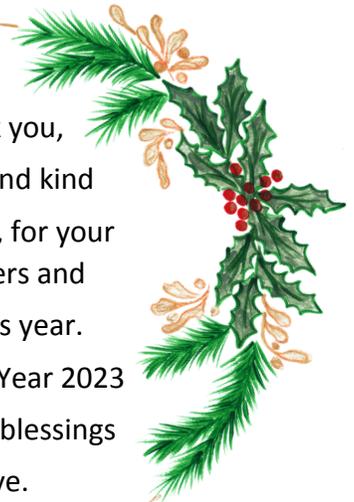
## Deacons' Corner

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*

C – CHRIST Jesus is born!  
 H – HAPPINESS fills our hearts  
 R – for our REDEEMER lives  
 I – INSPIRED by feelings surrounding us  
 S – with the love of our SAVIOR  
 T – overflowing with THANKFULNESS  
 M – MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 A – ANGELS are singing and we are rejoicing  
 S – singing joyful praises to God for the gift of SALVATION

We thank you,  
 our caring and kind  
 congregation, for your  
 many prayers and  
 support this year.  
 May the New Year 2023  
 be filled with blessings  
 and love.



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*Advent and  
Christmas  
at JPC*



December 4, 2022 – Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Marianne Niessen preaching

December 11, 2022 – Christmas Music Service at 10:00 a.m.

to include the String Ensemble, Handbell Choir,  
the Chancel Choir, Leslie Athanason, Kosumo Morishita,  
and participation by the Youth Group.

December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Luncheon

December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Services

Family Service 5:00 p.m. ~ Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

December 25, 2022 – Regular Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.



# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

## To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

As you will see PW has been very busy during the month of October and November. Praise God for your faithfulness to FPC Ocala's Presbyterian Women. I pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving and Advent Season.



**THE FALL GATHERING...** PW collected 450 pounds for the **Food 4 Kids** program on Saturday and Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who contributed to this local need.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** group has been knitting and crocheting not only prayer shawls but hats and scarves for the "Christmas at Sea" program of the Seaman's Church Institute. We were able to send ten sets to the Institute this year. Throughout the year many prayer shawls were given to family members with love and prayers reminding them that God is always near. Some of these shawls were crocheted or knitted from yarn left to us from our deceased member, Barbara Gowie. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, but due to the upcoming holidays, we will not be meeting until January, 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. The group includes both knitters and crocheters and welcomes anyone who is interested in this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Liz Diener-Dickmann.



In December we will study lesson four, titled "Sabbath and Surrender" in the 2022-2023 study book, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. The lesson centers on the "manna" story, with its emphasis on only gathering as much as we need and not gathering on the Sabbath, is a call to trust God to provide for our needs. It is a call to surrender our unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff, and more success. It is a call to recognize when it is time to say, "Enough."

As in the past, Tom Weaver has prepared his portion of the lesson and he and Evelyn will send it out to us via e-mail or snail mail as we get closer to our meeting dates. Thanks to both of them for their faithfulness to PW over these many years. If you didn't get the handout, please give Evelyn a phone call and make sure she has your correct email address.

## Lannie Mercer receives the 2022 PW Honorary Life Membership Award at the Fall Gathering



Above: FPC Presbyterian Women enjoy their 2022 Fall Gathering



PW Moderator **Pat Greaves** (above) presents PW's Honorary Life membership to PW member **Lannie Mercer**.

Serving God is one of the most important principles of the Christian Faith, as believers are expected to help the church with a joyful spirit. "Love one another." "Care for one another." "Pray for one another." "Help one another." "Counsel one another and support one another." On and on Scripture tells us of our relationship to God and others through service.

Matthew 5:14-16 says: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven."*

This year's Honorary Life Member lives this passage from Matthew....she lives a well rounded and active Christian life that has "let her light shine" since she became a member of First Presbyterian Church on March 16, 2008.

This year's recipient personifies leadership and also knows how to be a great follower of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Among the things in which she's been involved include....

- Arranging for sanctuary flowers and decorations for Advent and Lenten seasons
- Working at numerous huge church rummage sales – as well as being in charge of them.
- Participating in off-campus events – volunteering at Interfaith; providing food and fellowship at Skills Day Center's Christmas parties; and supporting Open Arms Village at St. Mark's Methodist Church.
- Enjoying participating at FPC activities like being a VIP club member; ushering for worship services; and being the weekly Friday morning front desk volunteer.
- Serving in church elected positions: the Diaconate in 2016 (and being reelected to the Class of 2023); and serving on the church's Worship Committee.

**Well done, good and faithful servant....Circle 4's, LANNIE MERCER!!**

<b>Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for December 2022</b>					
<b>Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ</b>					
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Coordinating Team Mtg.</b>	Tuesday, January 3rd	6:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	352-236-0716 or 352-362-0013 cell
<b>Circle 3</b>	Monday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Candler Hills Restaurant On Top of The World	Liz Diener-Dickmann	
<b>Circle 4</b>	Tuesday, December 8th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
<b>Circle 8</b>	Tuesday, December 13th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	352-622-3053
<b>PRAYER SHAWL</b>	Thursday January 26 <sup>th</sup> No meetings in November/ December	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

# Announcements



## THE GIVING TREE PROJECT



- **DECEMBER 11:** Deadline for all gifts, gift cards and checks to be turned into FPC office. Please take as many of the ornaments as you wish and fulfill the gift requests that are on them. Tape the ornament's typed gift request to the UNWRAPPED gift. The tree is in the Narthex
- Make checks out to FPC and designate either on check memo line or envelope - "GIVING TREE"
- Gift cards in any amount to Walmart or Target
- We are gifting Sozo Kids and Project Hope
- On **DECEMBER 12** we will distribute all gifts.

*THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY & BLESSINGS TO ALL!*

## BRING the Harvest HOME



Our community is in need of non-perishable food, baby and person hygiene items.

The Outreach Committee wants to thank the congregation for participating in our food drives throughout the year. These food drives are so incredibly important for our community during these trying times.

Since we will not be having our own food drive in December, here is an alternative. Marion County is holding its annual Bring The Harvest Home event on Friday, December 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Ocala downtown Square. These items go to Interfaith, the Salvation Army and Brother's Keeper.

Thank you for your continued support for those in need in our community.



## A Joyful Opportunity . . . .



In years past FPC has served our Lord and His people through the ringing of the bells at Christmas for the Salvation Army. We are delighted to once again to be able to offer this opportunity to you.

The venue has been changed to the **Publix at Park View Commons** on Maricamp Road and we have three days, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7  
Wednesday, December 14  
Thursday, December 15

Seems to work best with two people working a 2-hour slot but we can make adjustments. So grab a friend, a grandchild or whomever and let's 'ring those bells.'

Call Kay Yancey  
to hold your slot:  
(352) 207-3210



# 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*

## Lost & Found

We have many items in our lost and found, especially eye glasses. Please stop by the office to see if any are yours.

**Men's  
Breakfast  
December 13th  
Wolfy's in Ocala 7:30**



Pledge Cards and  
Time and Talent sheets are  
available in the Narthex.

## ATTENTION:



Please wear your name badge to church. This will help our pastor tremendously. If you need one, please contact the front office.

## PHOTOS NEEDED!



The Membership Committee is working to get pictures of all members into the pictorial directory. Please take a look at your directory, and if there is no picture for you, please email a copy of one to Helen Quinlan (hquinlan@fpcocala.org).

Try to choose one that is relatively close up so that we can see your face! If you don't have a photograph, please approach a greeter on Sunday morning and they will snap a quick picture. This is a necessary effort in preparation for a new pastor.

# Thank You

Dear Dr. Jones and church family,

Thank you for your prayers for our son Chris and daughter-in-law Peyton. They recovered from the fire in the apartment complex and are doing well. We appreciate all your care, concern, and prayers.

Doug and Paula Brown

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

I want to thank you so much for choosing me to receive the lovely shawl. It means so much to me to have a part of Greitje and her sisters. I have already worn it to Mahjong and received so many nice compliments. I will think of all of you and Greitje every time I wear it. I also have a small sculpture of Greitje's that hangs in my pottery studio here. I just love looking at it. It is baby Jesus in Mary's arms. Thank you all again.

Much love, Sharla McElhane

Dear FPC Outreach Committee!

Hello! Thank you so much for your incredibly generous donation and for being a part of my financial and prayerful support team as I begin my time as an RUF intern at Virginia Tech. I truly feel so loved and encouraged by you, I can't ever thank you enough. It means so much to me to have my home church, where so much of my faith began, be a part of this new mission. I'm so excited to tell y'all about what the Lord is up to in Blacksburg and the ways that your support is helping to further the gospel on the campus of Virginia Tech. I am so thankful for each of you and excited to have you in my corner. I truly am honored by your support.

Thanks again, Katie Schlenker

Dear Committee Members,

Our hearts are so full following the love and generosity you showed our Katie during her quest for Partners in Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech. FPC Ocala set the spark in her; this church means the world to her. We are proud parents and grateful FPC members.

With love and appreciation, Dave and Amy Schlenker

Dear Outreach Committee,

On behalf of the Board, staff and clients of Florida Center for the Blind, we want to thank First Presbyterian Church for your generous 2022 support. We are grateful to have received the \$2,160 grant.

Best regards, Anissa Pieriboni, Pres/CEO

Thank you so much for supporting our ministry with your donations. By giving of your resources, you lighten the burden of someone going through a difficult time. We appreciate you help more than words can say.

May God bless you, Karla Grimsley-Greenway, CEO Interfaith

God tells us to give thanks in all circumstances! The generous donation from your church has been received with gracious hearts.

With gratitude, Pam McBride, Open Arms Village

*May God fill your life with love, joy and peace  
this Christmas Season and  
throughout the New Year.*

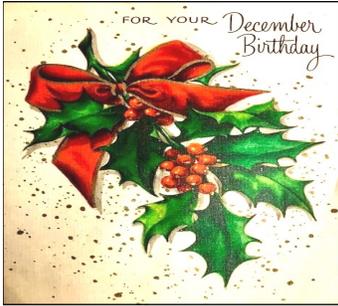
*The church office will be closed on  
Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
and Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Love to you from all of us at First Presbyterian Church*



# December Birthdays

<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
Christina Diuguid	Van Akin	Vicky Stephens	Paula Brown	Maggie Moore
<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	Evelyn Weaver	Jim Youngman	Corson
Marion Thomas	Nancy Graham	<b>11</b>	Teresa Lewis	<b>26</b>
Roger Hileman	<b>7</b>	Nancy Dozier	Paul Militello	Ann McCoy
<b>4</b>	Wendie Moore	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	Renee Timmer
Mike Morehouse		Shirley Cochran	Melissa Gillum	<b>27</b>
		<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	Alice Cannon
		Bill Rainbow	Leslie Switzer	Dolores Dyer
		Bob Timmer	Emma Andrews	Gary Merians, Jr.
		Teresa Poteet	Lara Standley	Caity Peterson
		<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
		Stacey Batten	Will Futch	John Cooley
			<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>
			Cindy Andrews	John Bennett



# Prayer List

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Edie Alderton</b> (friend of Dale &amp; Tari Ambler)<br/> <b>Pat Bishop</b><br/> <b>Cede Blackwell</b> (great-niece of Mary Kauffman)<br/> <b>Andy Carlisle</b><br/> <b>Ella Charnley</b><br/> <b>Shirley Cochran</b><br/> <b>Mina DiGeronimo</b><br/> <b>Beth and Sharon Follmer</b> (daughter and granddaughter of Dorothy Siemons)<br/> <b>Ruth Fraser</b><br/> <b>Jim Ferguson</b> (friend of Mary Kauffman)<br/> <b>Joe Glenn</b> (friend of Mary Kauffman)<br/> <b>Barbara Harrel</b><br/> <b>John Hagood</b><br/> <b>Alan and Ginnie Hisey</b><br/>         (friends of Heather Guest)<br/> <b>Hope Hill</b> (friend of Richard Grosso)<br/> <b>Mark and Melanie Heuer</b> (son-in-law and daughter of Julia Wirono)<br/> <b>Victoria Johnson</b> (great-granddaughter of Christine Johnson)<br/> <b>Jolene Kai</b> (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)<br/> <b>Jimmy Kelly</b> (son of Janice)</p> | <p><b>Scott Kinnaugh</b> (son of Dorothy Siemons)<br/> <b>Lanier Lance</b> (sister of Bill Tucker)<br/> <b>Celine Mack</b><br/> <b>Skip McDonald</b><br/> <b>Chris and Peyton McLoney Brown</b><br/> <b>Ron McMillin</b><br/> <b>Hope Meffert</b><br/> <b>Gloria Miller</b><br/> <b>Albert Peek</b><br/> <b>John Peterson</b><br/> <b>Annette and Joseph Pickard</b><br/> <b>Fritz Rain</b> (friend of Marybeth Olson)<br/> <b>Erik Reiss</b> (in hospital)<br/> <b>Bobbie Ripple</b> (sister of Mike Poteet)<br/> <b>Frank Roberts</b><br/> <b>Michael Rou</b> (cousin of Dr. David Albright)<br/> <b>Linda Sanchez</b> (sister of Eileen Demarest, in hospice)<br/> <b>Janie Scott</b><br/> <b>Renee Timmer</b><br/> <b>Richard and Sandy Valvo</b><br/> <b>Bo Williams</b><br/> <b>William Wright</b><br/> <b>Jeffrey Yawn</b> (grandson of Betty Williams)</p> |
|--|--|

Contributions as at Oct. 31, 2022	
Actual	453,103
Budget	506,054

Attendance	10/30	11/6	11/13	11/20
10:00 a.m.	82	102	108	91
Online	64	75	19	39



**First Presbyterian Church**

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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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**Sent with a prayer to:**

**SURVIVING  
THE  
HOLIDAYS**

GRIEF SHARE

**Sunday, December 11  
at 3:00 p.m. in Room 1**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
YOUTH GROUP**

**SUNDAYS 5:00 P.M.**  
In the youth room

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of  
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