

This week at FPC

February 19, 2025 — February 25, 2025

Do We Still Believe God Changes Hearts?

I hope you were moved by the message shared by our guest speaker Pastor Mike Loudon this past Sunday. He talked about Jesus and his unexpected encounter with Zacchaeus in Luke 19. Zacchaeus was a greedy, corrupt tax-collector who had made his fortune by overcharging his fellow Jews on their Roman taxes and then pocketing the difference. His heart was controlled by money and the power and status that it brought him. So much so that he was willing to sell out his own people. It was not a casual relationship to money and power. It wasn't a superficial bad habit like biting your fingernails. It had a grip on his heart and every decision he made...until he met Jesus.

Somehow, after spending an evening with Jesus, his heart was changed. He committed to give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back 4-fold what he had stolen from others. There is no human explanation for that kind of heart-change. But, when Jesus enters any situation, explanations go out the window. He brings heart-change that leads to life-change. Do you believe that? Do you have people in your life that seem like they are too far gone, too controlled by

some sin habit or addiction, or too deluded by the world's empty promises to ever turn to Jesus? It's easy to get discouraged and lose hope and stop praying and hoping and loving and reaching out.

So, we need to be reminded that just like Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life, he still brings that same heart-changing power into the lives of unlikely people. But, he often does so through stubborn, gracious, hope-filled everyday Christians who dare to believe that heart-change is just one more prayer away or an act of kindness away. So, they hold onto hope and keep believing and loving and serving their unbelieving friends and family.

I can only imagine the shock when Zacchaeus started giving his money to the poor and paying back those he cheated. What an awesome display of Jesus' life-changing power. I needed that reminder this past Sunday. Maybe you did too. Let's pray that God would restore our confidence that He intends to keep changing lives and that He would use us.

Kenny

GriefShare
Grief Support Group

Sundays
 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
 through May 4, 2025
 Room 1
 Contact Raul Roman
 for information
 727.389.6072

Visit
www.griefshare.org/findagroup to register

OVER 500,000 SOLD!

A PRAYING LIFE
 CONNECTING WITH GOD IN A DISTRACTING WORLD

Paul E. Miller

"A great book on prayer—biblical, practical, readable. This book will help you generate a culture of prayer in you and those around you."—Tim Keller

Discussion Group

Tuesday Evenings
Starting Feb. 4th
 6-7 PM in Fellowship Hall
 (Childcare Provided)

Wednesdays
Starting Feb. 5th
 12-1 PM in Fellowship Hall

Please call the office or email
kellis@fpcocala.org if you need childcare

The PERSON OF JESUS

A Study of Love

Tuesday Mid-Day
 12-1 PM in Fellowship Hall
Starting March 4

Tuesday Evenings
 6-7 PM in Fellowship Hall
Starting March 4
 Childcare Provided

The Person of Jesus; A Study of Love

It is difficult to imagine what Jesus endured the final week of his life. He knew what nobody else knew about how that week would end. And yet, his love for those around him is stunning. What happens to your capacity for love and compassion when you're under incredible pressure? If you're like me, I become less loving and thoughtful when I'm under pressure. Come join us as we spend 6 weeks diving deep into the final days of Jesus' life and reflect on his capacity for love. We will also consider how reflecting on His love can lead us to love more deeply in our everyday life.



Church Lunch & Fun Day

March 9th

Come join us for a delicious Italian meal followed by activities for all ages. We will have crafts and chalk art for the little ones, cornhole and outdoor games and Bingo. Mark your calendar and bring a friend!

Presbyterian Pilgrimage April 24-27 at The Retreat.



Pilgrimage is a spiritual renewal weekend to renew and invigorate your in Jesus Christ and to build a greater understanding of God's love for you and His will for your life.

The retreat is a long weekend, from Thursday at 4:00 pm to Sunday at 4:00 pm; two and a half days to celebrate and express Christ's love for you.

Contact Ann VanDenburgh for more information 352-615-2262
 The Retreat 6455 East Silver Springs Blvd.
 Visit: <https://floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org>

Children's Ministry Coordinator and a Youth Ministry Coordinator paid part-time positions. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact the office or visit our website for information.



PRAYER LIST

Esther Arango-Palencia
Sadia Corral Benkhalek
Pat Bishop
Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)
Jo Ann Brandt
Ella Charnley
Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest)
Mina DiGeronimo
Terry and Rhonda Fowler (brother and sister-in-law of Teresa Poteet)
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
Mark Jank
Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)
Jose Kornmann (friend of Julia Wirono)
Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)
Chris Longo (cardiac issues)

Lukas Martin (grandson of Judith Martin)
Gloria Miller
Jodi Miller (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)
Bruce Moore (hip surgery)
Kathy Mortenson (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Susan Mulligan (friend of Mary Kauffman)
Anna Phelan (granddaughter of Dude & Stephanie Phelan)
Tony Porter
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Ruthanne and John Reiss
Raul Roman, Jr. (son of Raul)
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Lisa Sherman (daughter of Donna and Nathan Sherman)
Bill Tucker
Ann VanDenburgh
Jeanne Vincent
Judy Weese (friend of Lannie Mercer)
Bert Yancey (brother of Jim)

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
Sharing God's Love			Friday	February 21	Hosea 11:1-11
Tuesday	February 19	Hosea 8:1-14	Saturday	February 22	Hosea 11:12-12:14
Wednesday	February 20	Hosea 9:1-14	Sunday	February 23	Hosea 13:1-16
Thursday	February 21	Hosea 9:15-10:15	Monday	February 24	Hosea 14:1-9