FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

February 2023 Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Volume 66 Number 2

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.

Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

We Need Your Help

We need your help with several church programs. We can't count on paid staff to do everything for our church. We are the church. Here are some examples:

We have a growing Middle School youth group. We need members to help provide meals and to assist with programs and to get to know the kids. Call or email the church office to volunteer.

This spring we will have a Confirmation Class for some of your youth. Many of you taught the class when your children were coming through. Help FPC by teaching it again, see Amy Johnson or anyone from our CE committee.

We need a church librarian. For years Ann O'Hart coordinated the books, then some of our new members stepped up, but we are in need again. Do you have skills in organizing and cataloging books and materials? This may be a great opportunity for you. A good system is in place, we just need one or two people to shelve returned books and catalogue new ones.

We also need liturgists to read in church, choir members, committee members, ushers, and more.

All of these needs are on our Time and Talent Sheet. If you want one, see an usher before or after church.

Please join FPC as we celebrate

Boy Scout Sunday

February 5th at 10:00 a.m. worship.

Ash Wednesday service
with Imposition of the Ashes

February 22, 2023 at Noon

"Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return. Amen."

Session News

Session Brief – January 15, 2023

- Approved Peggy Wiechmann as Clerk of Session for 2023.
- Approved Todd Dailey as Treasurer for 2023.
- Approved Corporate Officers for 2023 as follows: President, Van Akin; Secretary, Peggy Wiechmann; Directors, Todd Carstenn, Cathy Hancock.
- Approved Check Signers: Jeff Baker, Elaine Cox, Donnie Slone, Peggy Wiechmann
- Approved removal of members for inactivity.
- Approved Presbytery Commissioners Jacquelyn Sexton and Tom Weaver attend the February 4, 2023 meeting of St. Augustine Presbytery.
- Approved to replace 3 computers in the business office, communication coordinator's office, and pastor's office at the cost of $4,772.35 which includes installation and upgrading internet fiber optics.
- Approved the 2023 church budget.
- Approved to set the first Sunday of each month immediately following worship for Session meetings.

Deacons' Corner

1 Peter 4:11 *– If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.*

Your Diaconate: Who are we?

As defined by our PCUSA *Book of Order*, "The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the love of Jesus Christ."
We as Christians are all charged to love our neighbors and care for one another. Deacons provide an *organized* way of bringing the love of Jesus Christ to the church and the community. As ordained officers of FPC, our duties of care include assisting our pastors as liturgists, serving communion, visiting homebound members, delivering flowers to those in the hospital, and holding all of you in prayer!
Presently FPC's chosen Deacons are Jackie Albright, Sue Brawner, Pat Bishop, Evelyn Longo, Lannie Mercer, Martha Petrey, Raul Roman, Alice Russell, Amy Schlenker, Sharon Shirley, Terri Tucker, Ann VanDenburgh, Barbara Whitt, and Julia Wirono.

We hope you enjoy this thought-provoking poem, taken from a small-town Pennsylvanian newspaper called *The Fishwrapper*:

Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to them today?
The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through.
Is there anyone now to utter a Kindly word of you?
Can you say tonight, in parting, while day is slipping fast,
That you helped a single one of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does the one whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
Did you waste the day or use it? Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,
You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

In February we will study lesson six, titled "Sabbath and Hospitality" found on page 57 in the 2022-2023 study book, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight.* The lesson centers on keeping the Sabbath meaning there is something in the very nature of Sabbath that demands that it be shared. Accepting the gift of the Sabbath also involves a commitment to hospitality. I look forward to the study.

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.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on February, 23, 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.

THE SPRING GATHERING will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 with a lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Save the date and watch for future announcements.

"Merciful God, we are thankful for the gift of your hospitality, both at the Lord's Table and the Sabbath table. Help us to remember who and whose we are. Show us how to be more generous and just, especially to the strangers within our gates." Amen. (taken from the study book)

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for February 2023
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, March 7th	6:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	352-236-0716 or 352-362-0013 cell
Circle 3	Monday, February 21st	10:00 a.m.	Home of Liz Dickmann 908-377-8913	Liz Diener-Dickmann	
Circle 4	Tuesday, February 14th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
Circle 8	Tuesday, February 14th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	352-622-3053
PRAYER SHAWL	Thursday February 23rd	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

Attendance	12/24 5pm	12/24 7pm	12/25	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22
10:00 a.m.	129	130	54	83	107	111	119
Online	-	111	-	74	68	30	81

News from Christian Outreach Committee

Calling All Interfaith Dinner Volunteers!!!

Still lots of opportunities for you and your family, friends, circles, etc. to serve Interfaith Dinners in 2023! First Pres fills this important mission every second Thursday in the month. Please text, call 352-867-9372 or email Jarl Hagood to sign up your group. Jarlhagood@aol.com

Thank you!

Share The Love on Sunday, February 12

The Outreach and Fellowship Committees hope you will join us for the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive and a Valentine luncheon after worship service on February 12th.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. The Outreach Committee will be collecting food items and monetary donations for Interfaith Emergency Services in the parking lot From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (See suggested items listed below)

The Valentine Luncheon will be hosted, at no charge, by the Fellowship Committee in Fellowship Hall at 11:15. Let's come together to share our love for our fellow members and our community.

FOOD ITEMS — **FEBRUARY 12**

9:30 a.m to 11:30 a.m.

Canned Vegetables/Fruit
Spaghetti Sauce
Mac and Cheese
Canned Soup
Canned Meat
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Dry or Canned Beans

HYGIENE ITEMS

Shampoo/Conditioner
Deodorant
Bar Soap
Shaving Cream/Razors
Toilet Paper
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Diapers, all sizes
Baby Wipes

Ordination / Installation of Elders and Deacons

Session	Diaconate		
Class of 2023: Van Akin, Cathy Hancock, Jacquelyn Sexton	**Class of 2023**	**Class of 2024**	**Class of 2025**
Class of 2024: Todd Carstenn, Pat Greaves, Amy Johnson, George Tomyn, Tom Weaver, Peggy Wiechmann, Jim Yancey	Jackie Albright Pat Bishop Sharon Shirley Julia Wirono	Evelyn Longo Martha Petry Raul Roman Alice Russell Terri Tucker Barbara Whitt	Sue Brawner Lannie Mercer Amy Schlenker
Class of 2025: Jo Ann Brandt, Denise Caskey, Todd Dailey, Mary Dingman, Bill Dolin, Bill Tucker, Steve Vincent, Katherine White			

Beautify our sanctuary with

Flowers

Each Sunday what a blessing to see some of God's natural beauty. Remember you can dedicate a lovely and meaningful bouquet to someone your love, even our Lord.

Call the office (352) 629-7561

Our sanctuary flowers need to be redesigned after our worship services on Sundays. The generous gifts of flowers will be made into smaller bouquets so we may brighten the lives of the sick and homebound of our congregation.

A lovely ministry to be a part of and a short amount of your time each week is all we ask.

Call Evelyn Longo for information (352) 286-8439

Announcements

Monday, April 3rd is the *DEADLINE* to apply for FPC Post-secondary school education

SCHOLARSHIPS!

Applications for the fall 2023 term are available in the church office. **The deadline to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on Monday, April 3rd.** 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, Paul Vowinkel or Tom Weaver.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

GRIEFSHARE®

Our next Griefshare session will begin February 5, 2023, 3:30 - 5:00 pm. For questions and more information call Ann VanDenburgh (352) 615-2262 or Raul Roman (727) 389-6072. To register visit: griefshare.org

Thank Yous

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

I enjoyed worshiping with you on January 8 as we celebrated Epiphany and it was wonderful being with long time friends as well as those of you I met for the first time. Thanks to Walk and the Worship Committee for the invitation and to Cathy Hancock and musicians for leading the service. It is always good to be with my home church! Grace and Peace, Debbie

Thank You! Our church has received a $5000 donation from the Montsdeoca family in memory of their mother, Blue Montsdeoca. Blue was a longtime, active member of First Presbyterian. She was especially involved with Women of the Church and served in several capacities, including President of that group. Blue loved the gatherings in Fellowship Hall and her family has given this money to the Fellowship Committee, along with other money donated in honor and memory of Blue.

The committee will carefully use these funds to replace missing items in the kitchen and to update some of the essential implements needed to serve the congregation in areas of fellowship

Thanks so much to Blue's family!!! The Fellowship Committee

Dear FPC members and friends,

We at The Salvation Army—Ocala would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our Red Kettle Campaign this year. The volunteers that rang the bells have made a real difference!

Without people like you we would not be able to fund our many programs here in Ocala. The Red Kettle program funds temporary shelter, case management, the food pantry, clothing and many other needs of the residents here in Marion County. All of the money collected in the red kettles stays here! This gives people the help they need, hope, strength and ability to make a fresh start.

Again, please accept our sincerest thanks for all you have done to help us with this commitment to Doing The Most Good. We appreciate you and look forward to working with you again next year!

Sincerely, Major Phillip Irish, Corps Officer

February Birthdays

3
Chuck Opitz
4
Lois Clardy
6
Bob McClary
Mike Wiechens
7
Curtis Vollmer Smith
11
Doug Cone, II
Heather Bookbinder
12
Adella Barrineau

14
John Reiss
Maren Kimball
15
Doug Brown
Linda Bookbinder
16
Donnie Slone
17
Madison Sprowles
18
Brenda Dauner
Tracey Patrick
19
Don Hutto
Rita Miller
20
Ray Charnley
Debbie Koch
21
Vikki Hutto
22
Dick Blagus
23
Luke Lewis
25
Ken Petrey
Russel Dingman
26
Donna Bucy
27
Rachel Bookbinder
28
Cathy Taylor
29
Heather Guest

Prayer List

Cede Blackwell (great-niece of Mary Kauffman)
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Mina DiGeronimo
Bill Dolin
Beth and Sharon Follmer (daughter and granddaughter of Dorothy Siemons)
Ruth Fraser
Joe Glenn (friend of Mary Kauffman)
Sharon Grier (mother of Lee Anne Drake)
Barbara Harrel
John Hagood
Alan and Ginnie Hisey (friends of Heather Guest)
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)
Jolene Kai (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)
Jimmy Kelly (son of Janice)
Scott Kinnaugh (son of Dorothy Siemons)
Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)
Celine Mack
The McDonald family (on the death of Skip)
Chris and Peyton McLoney Brown
Ron McMillin
Gloria Miller
Albert Peek
The Peterson family (on the death of John)
Ken Petrey
Annette and Joseph Pickard
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Bobbie Ripple (sister of Mike Poteet)
Frank Roberts
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
The Schultz family (on the death of Wes)
Janie Scott
The Taylor family (on the death of May Fair)
Renee Timmer
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Richard and Sandy Valvo
Ann VanDenburgh
Bo Williams
William Wright
Jeffrey Yawn (grandson of Betty Williams)

FPC gives thanks for the lives of **Wes Schultz** who passed away January 11, 2023, **May Fair Taylor** who passed away January 23, 2023, **Skip McDonald** who passed away January 22, 2023 and **John Peterson** who passed away December 25, 2022.

With believers of every time and every place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Presbyterian Church
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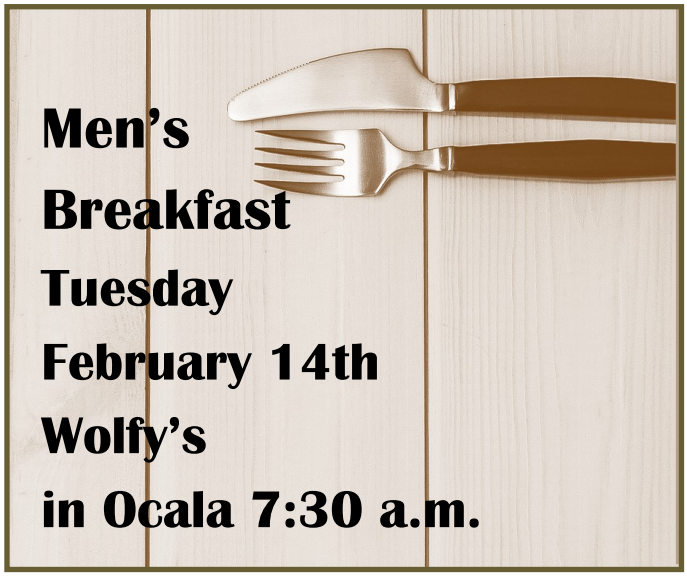

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