

This Week at FPC March 12—March 19, 2020

Scholarship applications for the fall 2020 term are available in the church office. **The absolute final deadline** to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on **Wednesday, April 1st**. FPC members and their member dependents or children may apply for scholarship assistance. Applicants may apply once in a calendar year.

The Out-to-Dinner Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 at Amrit Palace, 3415 SW College Rd, Ocala. RSVP to Cathy Taylor, 353-671-3730 by Monday, March 16. Everyone is welcome!

Friends in Christ,

First let me tell you some good news! Dr. Walk Jones is joining our staff on April 1 as Interim Associate Pastor. Walk will specialize in pastoral care, but he will also assist me in some of his other areas and in general pastoral duties. Walk lives in Orlando with his wife Nancy. They will maintain their residence there, but he will be staying here three to four nights a week when I am present, and every night should I be away. Walk's contract is for one year, but it may be extended if both Walk and the session agree to such an extension. Walk has just completed nearly a decade at Westminster Communities of Florida, first as a chaplain, and most recently as Director of Church Relations. He is a graduate of Louisville Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary. He has over thirty years of ministry experience, and he is planning to attend all services on March 29 to be introduced to the congregation. Welcome, Walk!

I also want to thank Bill Harrel for his work as church visitor while we were without an associate. Bill wanted me to let you all know, especially those whom he has visited, how important this ministry has been to him and how much you mean to him. Bill has been sidelined recently but hopes to be assisting me and Walk in the future.

Now, on to the matter that has us all concerned to some degree, the Corona Virus. As of today, we are planning on having all three services this Sunday. At 10:00 am, Saturday, the session will meet to discuss issues of worship and ministry. Your health and safety are just as important to us as your spiritual well-being. If we make any changes to the worship schedule, we will let you know by email. Our deacons will be contacting those without computers by phone should any changes occur. We are closely monitoring the situation and will try to keep our website updated with any new information.

Let me say again, **as of noon Thursday, we plan to have our three regular services that Sunday. You will be informed on Saturday by email if that changes.**

I invite you to join me in prayer, not only for Lent, but also for our church, our country, our nation, and the world in this time of uncertainty. I do believe our greatest fears are coming from uncertainty. Surely there is much we do not know. Let us remain calm and persistent in our prayers.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
 God will help it when the morning dawns.
 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.-from Psalm 46

Peace, Ron

CHURCH EVENTS

- ☐ **Griefshare** Friday, March 13 at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- ☐ **Faith Friends** Friday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room.
- ☐ **Faith Sisters Disciples Group** Tuesday, March 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.
- ☐ **Disciple XV** Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1.
- ☐ **Disciple Group** Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room.
- ☐ **Out to Dinner** Thursday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Amrit Palace.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ☐ **Christian Education** Monday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

- ☐ **Cross and Crown** Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- ☐ **Chancel Choir** Wednesday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m. in Choir Room.
- ☐ **Handbell Choir** Wednesday, March 18 at 6:15 p.m. in Bell Room.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- ☐ **Circle 3** Monday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m. Sharon Shirley's home, 8591 SW 93rd Pl, Ocala.

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
<i>Sustained by God's Life-Giving Word of Love</i>			Sunday	March 15	Psalm 46
Thursday	March 12	Psalm 30	Monday	March 16	Psalm 48
Friday	March 13	Psalm 31	Tuesday	March 17	Psalm 69
Saturday	March 14	Psalm 32	Wednesday	March 18	Psalm 71