



FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

March 2023

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Volume 66 Number 3

*Our Vision - Our Mission*

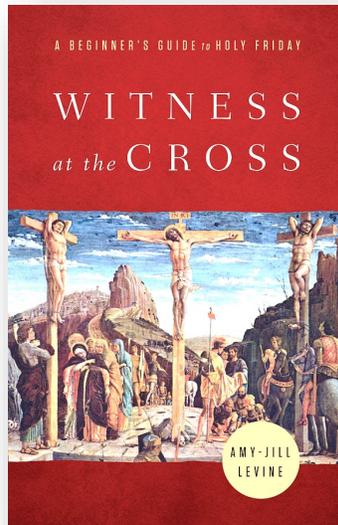
To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and the world.  
To be an inclusive downtown community of faith that seeks  
to embrace everyone in growing spirituality.

Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

I am excited about many things. Our Session and Way Forward Committee have been hard at work (see below), we have had strong attendance in worship, and Lent promises to be a prayerful time for our church.

The Lenten Study I picked this year is a deeper Bible study than we've done the past two years. We are reading Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book Witness at the Cross about the many people who witnessed the crucifixion. Over six Tuesdays we'll learn about the



soldiers, the Beloved Disciple, the women, and many more.

Join us Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in Room 1 or at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. For a zoom link write me or call the church office. Copies of Witness at the Cross are available in church office. There are kindle books, audiobooks, and used copies online.

If you can't make it in person, remember our recorded worship is available on YouTube by Monday evening.

Way Forward Committee Update

On Sunday Feb. 19, the Way Forward Committee along with session held a retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to review the findings of our two most recent congregational feedback opportunities: the priority ranking of the 12 Areas of Focus, and the small group discussions.

Dan Holloway, our consultant from Pinnacle, will now take all the information he has gathered, and will write his report. He will present his report to session in March and we will keep everyone informed about the next steps.

A final remark: At the retreat, the attitude and the atmosphere were positive and confident and hopeful.

A final remark II: Our consultant, Dan, who worshipped with us on Feb. 19th, was impressed by the positive energy he witnessed. He first came to our church about a year ago, and he said the difference between then and now was stunning. He too is very hopeful about the steps we've taken.

We all see a way forward.

# Session News

## Session Brief – February 5, 2023

- Accepted new members Faith Coomes by Re-affirmation of Faith, Caroline Ullman by Re-affirmation of Faith, and Carter Ullman by Letter of Transfer.
- Installed Ruling Elder Denise Caskey as a member of the Class of 2025.
- Approved signers of the Merrill Lynch accounts—Jeff Baker, Todd Dailey, and Peggy Wiechmann
- Highlights of the Winter meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine were received.
- A Session Retreat will take place on 2/19/2023 with Dr. Dan Holloway, The Way Forward Committee and the Session at the home of Cindy and Ken MacKay.

## FPC Welcomes Faith Coomes and The Ullmans



Faith Coomes

**We want to extend a warm welcome to Faith Coomes who joined our church by Reaffirmation of Faith on February 5, 2023.**

I was born in Tallahassee, FL and grew up on a farm just outside of town. I graduated from Leon High School and attended Florida State University (part time) for 3 years while working as a secretary for the State of Florida.

In 1961, I moved to Atlanta, GA and found employment with Delta Air Lines as a Secretary. Two years later, I went through Flight Attendant training, and worked for 31 years as a Flight Attendant for Delta. I was fortunate to be selected as a Supervisor on the Boeing 747 in 1971. I had four wonderful years in that position, until Delta sold those aircraft in 1975. After that I flew the leadership position on the DC-10 and Lockheed L1011 for the remainder of my career.

I retired on January 1, 1995.

I married the love of my life, Joe Coomes, on September 26, 1981. We were married for 40 years, until his unexpected death on Thanksgiving Day 2021. Joe and I lived in Chicago for the first 10 years of our marriage. We moved to Atlanta, GA in 1991 and lived there for 14 years. We bought a summer home on Lake Michigan in 1997, which we had for 18 years. We then bought a cottage in North Carolina. I still have that summer home.

We moved to Ocala in October 2005. We had both started playing golf after retirement and were pleased to find a home in The Country Club of Ocala, where I still live.



**We want to extend a warm welcome to the Ullmans who joined our church by Reaffirmation of Faith on February 5, 2023.**

Please welcome to our church The Ullman family, Carter, Caroline and Gracy. They have recently moved to Ocala. Caroline is Todd and Sandra Dailey's daughter and Gracy is one year old.

Left: The Ullman Family

Attendance	1/29	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
10:00 a.m.	117	131	117	126	123
Online	47	56	95	52	

# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

## To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

In March we will study lesson seven, titled "Sabbath and Self-Care" found on page 65 in the 2022-2023 study book, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. The lesson centers on the importance to remember that Sabbath is not primarily about caring for ourselves, but first about honoring God. I hope that you are enjoying the study each month.



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 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on March, 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. We will do the last study, Lesson Nine, "Sabbath and Community" under the leadership of Tom Weaver. This will leave time for your May meetings to do lunch if you wish to do so.

**THE COORDINATING TEAM** is looking for volunteers to serve in leadership positions: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, to name a few. If you're interested in serving, please let Liz Dickmann know. Thanks for your prayerful consideration to serve in these capacities.

*"Accept our Sabbath praises, O God. We will return to praise you, week after week, and year after year. 'even when the soul is seared, even when no prayer can come out of our tightened throats.' And if, in your great mercy, you see fit to heal us, we will praise you all the more. Only let us praise you for your own sake until 'the clean, silent rest of the Sabbath leads us to a realm of endless peace, or to the beginning of an awareness of what eternity means.'" Amen. (taken from the study book)*

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for March 2023					
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
<b>Coordinating Team Mtg.</b>	Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	352-236-0716 or 352-362-0013 cell
<b>Circle 3</b>	Monday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Chris Schuler 290A SW 89 Terr Ocala, 3448	Liz Diener-Dickmann	231-620-2488
<b>Circle 4</b>	Tuesday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
<b>Circle 8</b>	Tuesday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	352-622-3053
<b>PRAYER SHAWL</b>	Thursday March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

# 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](mailto:Jarlhagood@aol.com)



## Thank You

To Walk and the church staff, Mary Moore and Faith Friends, Mary Dingman and ushers and to all those helping hands from our church family. So grateful for your help with John's memorial service on January 28th. Thank you for your generous spirit and kind words through this journey. Gwen Peterson and Family

Thank you to all who contributed to the **Souper Bowl for Caring Food Drive** during which we collected 946 pounds in canned goods and hygiene items and \$600 in monetary donations. Your donations were given locally to Interfaith Emergency Services and will provide much needed assistance to fight hunger and poverty in our community. We also want to thank all those who support Interfaith throughout the year. *Happy are generous people, because they give some of their food to the poor.* – Common English Bible

The Outreach Committee

Dear FPC members, I just can't imagine anything better than hearing from my church family in time of sickness. Thank you so much for the texts, cards and gorgeous shawl from the prayer shawl ministry. I feel very blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. Thank you again! Jeanne Vincent

Ken Petrey so appreciates the prayers and thoughts from the congregation who sent cards, made phone calls or made visits while he was hospitalized and in physical rehab. This greatly speeded the recovery from his fall.

Ken and Martha Petrey

## Deacons' Corner

*We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:20-22*

Lent, a season of observing and commemorating the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the son of God, began with Ash Wednesday—a holy day of prayer, fasting and rubbing of ashes on one's forehead in the sign of a cross. Share with us through the forty days of Lent as together we reflect on what it means to be a follower of Christ – to repent for our misdeeds and misgivings, to increase the intensity of our prayers, and to grow in our faith. Pray with us as we become more aware of and concerned about others, especially the underrepresented, underserved, marginalized, disabled, elderly, helpless and hopeless in our midst. As we practice our faith, we are able to see Christ in them. We try our best to love and care for them the way we want to be loved and cared for. Thank you, Lord, our Savior and our Redeemer.

*Note: As terms end there have been some new Deacon reassignments. Any members with a newly appointed Deacon should be hearing from them soon.*



# Holy Week 2023

*Palm Sunday - April 2*

10:00 a.m.

*Maundy Thursday - April 6*

6:00 p.m.

*Good Friday - April 7*

12:00 noon Service

*Easter Sunday - April 9*

10:00 a.m.

## Highlights of the Feb. 4th Presbytery Meeting

The meeting was held at the recently refurbished **Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center**.

Three deceased FPC elders—**Doris Blagus**, **Biddie Kirk**, and **Dr. John Peterson**—were recognized in the necrology report.

**Sandra Hedrick**, concluded her ten-plus years as presbytery's stated clerk; she is succeeded by **Evan ("Charlie") Evans**.

**Nine members** were commissioned to serve on the Mutual Mission's Cuba Team to work particularly in Cuba's Matanzas Presbytery.

The day's offering of \$1,056 was dedicated to Mutual Mission.

**Susan Rose**, Memorial Presbyterian's parish associate, was installed as presbytery's incoming moderator.

Elders **Jacqueline Sexton** and **Tom Weaver** represented FPC at meeting.



Incoming Presbytery of St. Augustine moderator **Susan Rose** (left) is installed by outgoing moderator **Jerie Lukefahr** during the February 4th presbytery meeting.

# 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.

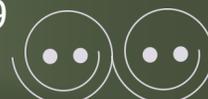
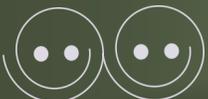
*DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!*

FPC is in need of USHERS for our Sunday service.

Maybe this is your ministry? Please join the ushers and help members get to their seats safely and efficiently. March and April are coming and we need you!

Please call Evelyn Longo 352-509-5179 or 352-286-8439

You can also email her at EvelynLongoPW@yahoo.com



*Wonderful Human Alert!*

**We Need Your Help!**

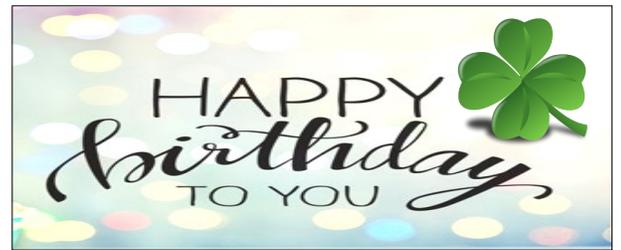
Volunteers are needed Monday mornings to make our floral arrangements into smaller bouquets so they can be distributed to the sick and homebound.

Please call Evelyn Longo at (352)509-5179



## March Birthdays

<b>1</b> Julia Wirono	<b>11</b> Jarl Hagood	<b>16</b> Amy Schlenker	<b>20</b> Larry Sprowles	<b>27</b> Al Nolan
<b>2</b> Lee Anne Drake	Bonnie Vorwerk	Doug Gordon	Eileen Demarest	Weldon Albright
Celine Mack	<b>12</b> Bill Russell	Caroline Kimball	<b>23</b> Diana Briggs	<b>28</b> Christopher Barrett
<b>3</b> Jeanne Vincent	Joshua Gillum	<b>17</b> Mariann McClary	<b>24</b> Jordann Blair	<b>29</b> Devon Wiechens
<b>7</b> Becky Schatt	Ron Mosby	Margaret Baker	Morgan Evans	Zachary Johnson
Rhonda Slone	Joe Vorwerk	Eve Lewis	<b>25</b> Casey Miller	31 Alexander McMichael
Debbie Vincent	Cody Wilke	Joseph Pickard		Jimmy Kirk
Dan Woerner	<b>14</b> Harry Batten	Weston Cook		
<b>8</b> Christie Bald	<b>15</b> David Arango- Palencia	<b>18</b> Elaine Sprowles		
<b>9</b> Carrie Waldren		Richard Grosso		
Jack Carlisle		Bill Crawford		
		Larry Waldren, Jr.		
		<b>19</b> George Tomy		



## Prayer List

**The Behrens Family** (on the death of Howard)  
**Cede Blackwell** (great-niece of Mary Kauffman)  
**Tania Blackwell** (sister-in-law of Mary Kauffman)  
**Andy Carlisle**  
**Ella Charnley**  
**Shirley Cochran**  
**Mina DiGeronimo**  
**Bill Dolin** (Hip Surgery)  
**Beth and Sharon Follmer** (daughter and granddaughter of Dorothy Siemons)  
**Ruth Fraser**  
**Joe Glenn** (friend of Mary Kauffman)  
**Griefshare members**  
**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**  
**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**  
**Bob McClary** (on the death of his mother Jean)  
**Cordelia McCully** (The Poteet's granddaughter)  
**Chris and Peyton McLoney Brown**  
**Ron McMillin**  
**Gloria Miller**  
**Albert Peek**  
**Annette and Joseph Pickard**  
**Fritz Rain** (friend of Marybeth Olson)  
**Erik Reiss**  
**Ruthann Reiss** (on the death of her sister Carol)  
**Bobbie Ripple** (sister of Mike Poteet)  
**Frank Roberts**  
**Michael Rou** (cousin of Dr. David Albright)  
**Janie Scott**  
**Bob 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 life of Howard Behrens who passed away February 8, 2023

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**

511 SE Third Street  
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Ocala, FL  
Permit #25

**Sent with a prayer to:**



**Men's  
Breakfast  
Tuesday  
March 14th  
Wolfy's  
in Ocala 7:30 a.m.**

*Join Us for Holy Time  
Sunday, March 5th*

After worship join  
the Fellowship Committee  
for fellowship,  
coffee  
& snacks  
in the  
Courtyard.



THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
511 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471  
Phone: (352) 629-7561  
[www.fpcocala.org](http://www.fpcocala.org)

