



FPC LOCALA

THE SPIRE

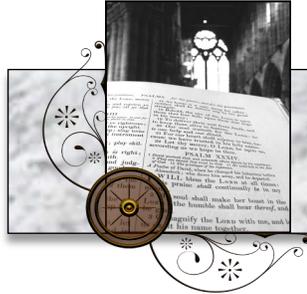
October 2020

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Volume 63 Number 10

*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.



THE REV. DR. D. RONALD WATSON, JR.  
PASTOR

*Dear Friends,*

**Big Tent Drive-In Event Stewardship All Saints Day Service**

I have changed the name of our tent service to let you know of the three ways you can attend on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am:

- \* Come and bring your own chair and sit inside the tent with your mask on
- \* Come and bring your own chair and sit or stand outside the tent in the open air
- \* Stay inside your car and worship on your car radio FM dial (or crack the window)

We want to encourage as many of our members to come as possible! Still, I want you to know that having an outdoor service is a considerable expense for the church. We want to know if this is a viable way for us to worship during the pandemic. Church participation on November 1<sup>st</sup> will be a factor in whether or not we try this again at Christmas time.

For those unable to attend, we will be recording the service and putting in on YouTube on Sunday afternoons. We will not have our normal weekly broadcast that comes out Saturday afternoon on November 1st, but we will remind of you this as well.



**Grant Lovell** of Party Time Rentals measuring our parking lot field for the tent for Nov. 1st.

I also want to announce we are having another food drive on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. At our last drive, we gathered together nearly a ton of food and supplies. This will be our goal once more. It is not only a time to donate food and belongings, but also a time to see our friends in ministry, even if only their eyes!

Pray for a vaccine. Pray for those suffering from the virus and those who have lost loved ones. Pray for effective therapy. Pray for those who are in elections and for the leadership of our country. Pray for justice. Pray for peace.

Grace and Peace, Ron

## Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Walk Jones

### Stewardship 2020

I am grateful for my relationship with Jesus Christ. In these hard times – with worries about a new virus and all the medical and social ramifications that go with it – my faith keeps me going. I am also grateful for my new church, First Presbyterian.

Our practice of worship and service has been altered a bit. Your pastors and musicians film our worship segments and edit them into an online service. We've all had to learn new skills to bring worship to our members and to new friends and viewers around the country. The string ensemble sits apart, appropriately distanced to film their songs, as the bell-choir stands at separate tables, rehearsing. Our in-person worship is different, but very meaningful, as we gather in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday.

Others are learning new skills and serving in new ways. Deacons, Elders, and even presbytery has met electronically. Our Boy Scout troop went camping on the church lawn. We are all learning new skills and serving in new places. The children and youth have met electronically and Bible School was done at home with guidance from videos and supply boxes from church.

We have had two drive-through food and hygiene products drives. The generosity of this church is amazing. You gave over a ton of food and money to buy another ton. Our friends at Grace Episcopal contributed too. (There will be another drive on Sunday, October 11)

I wish we could shake hands and appropriately hug one another, then fellowship over meals, then laugh and cry together as needed. But for now we wait. We pray for one another and visit on the phone. Your church is alive and we'll celebrate that this fall, especially, as we pray together and think about the coming year, in Jesus' service.

Plan to be here on Sunday, November 1st at 10:00 a.m. when we gather under a tent, or in our cars, and worship God together. You'll hear a lot more about that and the ministry of our church in the coming month.

We have a lot to be grateful for and a lot to think about. I'll keep praying for you and hope you will pray for our Session, pastors, and church staff. Together we are all going to serve God in both old and new ways in the coming year.

Yours in Christ, Walk

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for caring enough to support our ministry with your donation. Your donation makes it possible for us to assist people in need of basic necessities such as food and clothing. With 44% of our county residents living at or just above the poverty level and paycheck to paycheck, one minor event can put a family in financial distress. Your support means a great deal to Interfaith and to those we serve. We thank you for giving 1,703 pounds of food (along with Grace Episcopal) on August 14, 2020. We appreciate your help more than words can say!

Karla Grimsley, CEO, Interfaith Emergency Services

# Session News

## Session Brief – August 30, 2020

We mourned the deaths of Jack Shepherd on 8/11/2020, Jane Smith on 8/12/2020, and David Cook on 8/24/2020.

Approved three tent worship services on our property to be held on 11/1/2020 and 12/20 and 12/24,

## Nominating Committee looking for Potential Elders and Deacons

It is that time of year when your Nominating Committee works diligently to find those people who will lead the church into the future as Elders and Deacons. In the July and August editions of The Spire we asked you to suggest persons in our congregation who you felt would be great candidates to become an Elder or Deacon. We ask that if you have a suggestion whom you feel would be suitable for one of these offices, please speak to that person first. Find out if they are interested in being an Elder or a Deacon, and then contact the church office at bpwiech@gmail.com, or you can mail your suggestions to FPC, 511 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471, or drop your envelope into the mail slot at the church. Your Committee will take it from there!

## PRAYER LIST

**Claudia Markham-Ahl** (recovering from surgery)

**Tom Alles** (Peggy Wiechmann's brother)

**The Allsopp family** (on the death of Marilyn)

**Jim Bennett** (brother of John Bennett)

**Pam Butcher**

**Andy Carlisle**

**Ella Charnley** (on the death of her brother  
Henry Gibbons)

**Donna Claus** (recovering from surgery)

**Shirley Cochran**

**Stewart and Diane Edwards**

**Bill English** (nephew of Pat Bishop)

**Maranell and Hank Fleming** (Hank recovering  
from surgery)

**Ruth Fraser** (recovering from shoulder surgery)

**The Geer family** (on the death of Jane)

**Bill Green** (friend of Richard Grosso)

**Barbara Gowie**

**Dick Hancock**

**Johnie Johnson** (son of Tommy Johnson)

**Brenda Jones and family**

**Marsha Knepp**

**Kathy Lance** (daughter-in-law of Lois Lance)

**Lois Lance**

**Grietje Lewis**

**Renate Lipp** (friend of Nita William)

**Sandra M** (friend of Mary Beth Olsen)

**Celine Mack**

**Eric Masterson** (brother-in-law of Deb Cone)

**Skip McDonald**

**Jessie Moseley**

**Christian Myers** (friend of Julia Wirono)

**Raul Nieves** (brother of Mina DiGeronimo)

**Michael Rou** (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

**Marilyn Tucker and the Tucker family**  
(on the death of her husband, Howard)

**Nancy Wells** (daughter of Shirley Wells)

**Joyce Williamson**

**Nancy Wollett**

**John Yorlando** (recovering from cardiac surgery)



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the lives of **Luann Bainbridge** who joined the saints of light on September 3, 2020, **Marilyn Allsopp** who joined the saints of light on September 9, 2020, **Jane Geer** who joined the saints of light on Sept. 10, 2020 and **Howard Tucker** who joined the saints of light on September 20, 2020.

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.

# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

As we begin to move forward into October 2020, the Coordinating Team and I will continue to work together with our Circle Leaders as we continue with our individual study at home until the time it is safe to be together in our respective Circles. I encourage each one to set time aside, maybe at the time you would have met with your Circle and spend time with these lessons. I think you will find encouragement and strength through the study.



I continue to pray and hope that we will be able to get back together with our Circle meetings in the months ahead and to get back to some normalcy in the life of our congregation. I continue to pray everyone is staying healthy and I miss not being able to meet together. I pray that we can all encourage one another during these trying times. Give your Circle members a call as we grow stronger in our faith by being encouraged by one another. I solicit your prayers for wisdom in leading Presbyterian Women as we plan toward getting the Circles back together safely.

**OUR NEW STUDY BOOKS**....entitled, *“Into The Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament,”* **HAVE BEEN DELIVERED.** The study books and PW Directory were assembled and distributed to Circle Leaders and were distributed to all of our PW Members in early September. If you have not received your copy, please contact your Circle Leader or Liz Diener-Dickmann at 908-377-8913.

A big “Thank You” to Tom Weaver who put together our handout for September and now is ready to distribute the October handout on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks goes to his lovely wife, Evelyn, who emailed the September handout and will be emailing the October handout to each of you individually and mail to a few who do not have email. Thanks to all of our dedicated Circle Leaders and members of the Coordinating Team who play vital roles in keeping Presbyterian Women strong in our church. God bless each one and thanks for your commitment.

As always, newcomers are welcomed to join with any Circle. If you’re interested in joining a Circle, please feel free to contact Pat Greaves, Moderator, at 362-0013.

**THE COORDINATING TEAM** will meet as needed sometime in the future. Social distancing and wearing masks will be mandatory as we gather.

**THE PW FALL GATHERING** has been **CANCELLED.** We will conduct any business and take up any offerings (Birthday, Least Coin and Thank Offerings) when we meet in the future.

**2020-2021 Officers and Program Coordinators:** Moderator, Pat Greaves; Vice-Moderator, Elizabeth Diener-Dickmann; Treasurer, Kristen Crawford; Secretary, Sharon Shirley; Church Women United, Gera Fleming; Together in Service-Missions, Lois Clardy; Bereavement and Hospitality, Debbie Koch.

**Circle Leaders:** Circle 1, Esther-Arango-Palencia; Circle 3, Elizabeth Diener-Dickmann; Circle 4, Joyce Williamson; Circle 7, Susie Marta; and Circle 8, Lois Clardy. We give thanks to MaryBeth Rivers, who was the leader of Circle 4 and recently moved to Texas. Thanks to Joyce Williamson for taking on the role of Circle 4 Leader.

**ALL gathered Circle meetings, WeCare Sewing Ministry and Prayer Shawl Ministry** meetings and gatherings are cancelled until we can safely gather.

# Announcements



**deadline**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Tuesday, November 3 is the application deadline  
for FPC post-secondary school education**

## **SCHOLARSHIPS!**

Applications for the spring 2021 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 **Tuesday, November 3**. 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, Elaine Cox, Nancy Livesay, Paul Vowinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT PRESBYTERIANS CAN SUPPORT THEIR CHURCH WITH A GIFT FROM THEIR IRA?**

With all the changes this year related to IRA distributions, we wanted to clarify the options that are available for 2020.

Even though required minimum distributions (RMD) are waived for 2020, the option to contribute to qualified charities from your IRA is still available.

A charitable distribution meets the qualifications if it meets all the following criteria:

- Donor must be 70 1/2 or older at the time the distribution is made.
- The distribution must be made directly to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. First Presbyterian Church qualifies.
- Donors are limited to \$100,000 annually.
- The charity receiving the gift must provide donor proper substantiation of the gift.

The donation amount is not included in the donor's adjusted gross income, helping to potentially avoid increased taxes on social security income, higher Medicare premiums and the loss of deductions/exemptions. Giving in this way provides donors that use the standard deduction, a tax break for the donation. (Please note that Direct gifts from IRAs do not qualify for Schedule A charitable deduction)

Your tax or investment advisor should be able to discuss the tax implications and determine if this option would be beneficial for you. If you need to confirm the church's information to ensure accurate accounting please call the office at 352 629 7561 or email Andrea at [ajacque@fpcocala.org](mailto:ajacque@fpcocala.org)

Thank you

Mary Dingman - - Finance Committee

# Outreach Ministries

## Interfaith Food Drive Scheduled for October 11th



It's time for our church to help again. In August we had a wonderful food drive! The need is great again. On October 11th, we will be at the church parking lot from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. to receive your donations. (We will be following CDC guidelines.) For those attending the 9:00 a.m. service, please bring items to Fellowship Hall. We also welcome Grace Episcopal Church to join us in our parking lot with food items.

*Some suggested food and hygiene items requested by Interfaith are listed below.*



*Remember that  
one item or a bag of items  
make a difference!*

### FOOD ITEMS

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

### HYGIENE ITEMS

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

*Thank you in advance for your participation. FPC Outreach Committee*



**The 2020 Giving Tree Committee  
is hard at work planning for FPC's  
wonderful  
sharing of our blessings!**

**We will have more information  
in next month's  
Spire so please stay tuned to see  
how you can help.**



# October Birthdays

**1**

Pat Bishop  
Jim Edwards

**3**

Joe Dickmann  
Joe Fante  
Dianne McDonald  
Kaylyn Guest

**4**

Bobby Bryant  
Samuel Tull

**5**

Biddie Kirk

**6**

Sam Langley  
Howell Winfree  
Mary Carstenn  
Ben Draime

**7**

Pam Curtis  
Dawn Bourne

**9**

Jules Watson

**12**

Bob Drake  
Savannah Bennett

**13**

Kristen Crawford

**14**

Barbara Gowie  
Gary Merians  
Ross Winfree  
Ryan Edwards  
VonHayes Switzer  
Hannah Ruiz

**16**

Howard Behrens  
Evan Byrd

**17**

John Hagood

**18**

Sharon Jank  
Austin Albright

**19**

Trusty Drake  
Virginia Miller  
Hank Goedert

**20**

Bob Van Winter  
Jake Casler  
Neige Stabler

**21**

Jeff Hart  
Zachary Welch

**22**

Nita Williams  
Jane Beebe  
Allison McDonald

**23**

Chris Johnson  
Landyn Baines

**25**

Carolyn Mason  
Gloria Miller  
Phyliss Von Ebers

**26**

Jane Hutcheson  
Susan Raffa

**27**

Tracy Hester  
Walter Laseter  
Danny Gilman  
Caroline Ullman

**28**

Hope Meffert

**29**

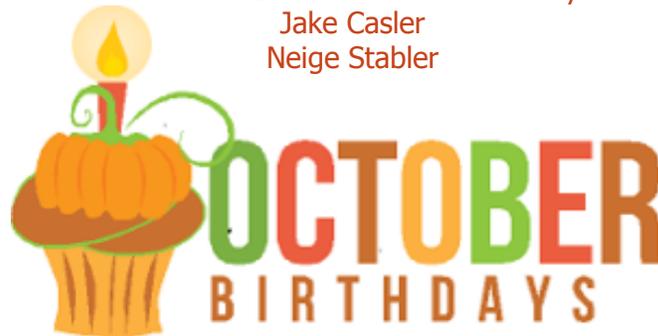
Chip Morris

**30**

Dawn Kirk  
Gwyneth Tull  
Max Morin

**31**

John Peterson  
Jill Callahan  
Kay Yancey  
Peighton Labagh



## *Prime Timers' Luncheon Postponed*

Dear FPC Prime Timers', It is with great regret that the Deacons have had to postpone the Prime Timers' Luncheon until (hopefully) a date in 2021. We so look forward to hosting this event each year for our Senior Singles, but your health and safety are far more important. When the atmosphere is such that you will feel completely comfortable "Coming to the Table of Fellowship" then we will gather again. We wish you all good health and well-being.

Yours in Christ, The FPC Diaconate



**GRIEF SHARE** will be Friday, Oct 2nd and 9th from 10:30 to noon in Room 1 of our Educational building and online Zoom.

*Surviving the Holidays* program will be offered November 20th.

Participants may join any week by

showing up or registering at

[www.griefshare.org/groups](http://www.griefshare.org/groups)

Please wear a mask if you come in person.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
511 SE Third Street  
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

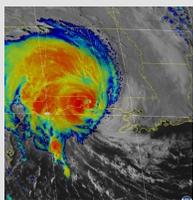
**Non Profit Org**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Ocala, FL**  
**Permit #25**

**Sent with a prayer to:**

## **Ways To Help After a Disaster** by Walk Jones

There are several ways each member of First Presbyterian can be help after the fires in the West and hurricanes on the Gulf Coast. The most important thing we can do is to pray, we can also act, and we can give.

### **Pray**      **Act**      **Give**



I hope each of you will join together and pray for the helpers and those affected by storms and firestorms. You may also give to your favorite secular charity. The American Red Cross provides great relief to our fellow citizens. There are many other charities hard at work. Some other time I'll write about how major charities (including PDA) and state and local governments divide up disaster response to use each one's specific gifts and skills. I'll also write about ways you can act.



You may give to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by designating it on a check you send to First Presbyterian of Ocala. You may also give through our web site (electronically) or at the address below.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

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