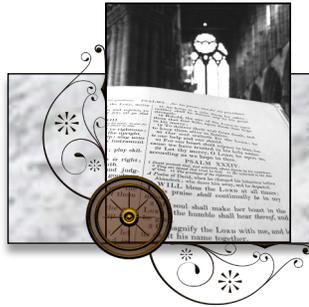




Our Vision - Our Mission

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 in Christ,

Our high holy days are here. The journey from Christ’s triumphal entry, to the Upper Room, to the Mount of Olives and his betrayal and arrest, to his abuse before Caiaphas, to his unjust trial and conviction and sentencing before Pilate, to Golgotha, and to the tomb donated by a man named Joseph, is a troubling journey for people of faith. O that we could just rush to Easter! O that we could use footnotes in our hearts and skip these steps that bring us to Easter triumph. The mixture of joy and sadness weighs our hearts down, but such a weight builds our faith, reminding us of the dear price our Savior paid for us, for what he bought for us with his suffering and death.

As I do every year, I invite you to make this journey in your hearts. We also will be making the journey in person. Here are both the in person schedule and the online schedule:



In person services for Holy Week:

- March 28 Palm Sunday Tent Service 10:00 a.m.
- April 1 Maundy Thursday Tent Service 6:00 p.m.
- April 2 Sanctuary Open for Prayer 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. (no in person service)
- April 4 Easter Sunday Tent Service 10:00 a.m.
- April 4 Fellowship following service using distancing guidelines

Our protocols are the same as before:

*No congregational singing
Masks to be worn under the tent
Bring a chair if you can*



Online services for Holy Week:

- March 28 Palm Sunday - Online 3:00 p.m. March 27
- April 1 Maundy Thursday - Online 3:00 p.m. April 1
- April 2 Good Friday Service - Online 11:00 a.m. April 2
- April 4 Easter Sunday - Online 3:00 p.m. April 3

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

The online service premiere times are estimates. Sometimes we have technical issues, but this is our planned schedule. We are not streaming any of our live services. We are not filming our tent services for replay online (as we did at Christmas), but rather we are making online content based on those services. What you will hear and see online is the same content we are presenting in live services (with the exception of Good Friday in which we are not presenting a live service but opening the sanctuary for prayer from noon to 3:00 p.m.)

I invite you to take the journey with us from start to finish, to perhaps experience “the peace which passes all understanding” in your hearts.

In the coming month, we will continue to deliberate about what our services will be like moving forward. We will inform you when those decisions are made. Do everything you can to be safe and well.

Yours in Christ,
Ron

Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

When I was growing up I looked forward to church camp every year. I went to our presbytery’s camp and when I got older I went to other camps and the Youth Conference at Montreat. Later, you’ll read about Youth and VBS plans. Now is the time to think about summer camp at our presbytery camp: Montgomery Camp and Conference Centre, located just outside Starke, Florida, 56 miles north of Ocala.

We have camp brochures at church, but most parents will look at their website: <https://www.montgomerycenter.net/camp> to learn more

about summer camps and other programs.

They are taking care to be very COVID-safe for campers and staff. This is a great opportunity for your children and grandchildren to spend a week in the woods this summer. Look also at their leadership training camps for high school students.

Call 1-352-342-9814
to hear our latest sermon



Hear new sermons every Monday

Griefshare

GriefShare continues on Fridays. Rev. Walk Jones, our interim associate pastor, convenes the grief group for discussion and lessons.



Call or email the Rev. Jones at church (629-7561) to get a Zoom link. Come to Fellowship Hall on Fridays at 10:30. we need a few more folks to make a real group. GriefShare alumni are encouraged to Zoom in to help us.

Participants may join any week by showing up or registering at www.griefshare.org/groups

Please wear a mask if you come in person.

Call the church office (629-7561) or email wjones@fpcocala.org for information about the meetings.

Session News

Session Brief – March 7, 2021

- We mourned the deaths of the Rev. George Smith on 2/19/2021 and Joyce Heenie on 2/21/2021.
- Approved with regret to remove Robert Van Winter from the church rolls at his request.
- Approved to have tent services on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021 and Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

FPC's Boy Scout Troop 72 teams with Veterans Memorial Park volunteers for major landscape project at the six acre park

The partnership between the Scouts and veterans began several months ago when Troop 72 sought an outdoor venue where it could

hold Brock Ramey's Eagle Scout award ceremony in light of COVID - 19 restrictions. FPC member **Sandy Clardy**, the troop's scoutmaster since 1980, indicated that the

park's outdoor gazebo was well suited for the Eagle Scout ceremony. These pictures show the project's progress that eventually made it a perfect location for Brock to receive his award.

Soon after the Eagle Scout ceremony, park volunteers realized that about 150 American flags turned in at the park needed proper disposal. Troop 72 scouts came to the rescue and burned the flags in a 3-1/2 hour ceremony. But more work remains to be done! Adult Troop Leader **Lyndon Bonner**, who is organizing the troop's efforts on this community service project, indicates that the Veterans' Memorial Park project probably will take several more months. **Troop 72** is the longest continuously chartered troop in Marion County—tracing its roots back to the Anthony School in 1934. In 1935 it moved to Ocala's First Presbyterian Church who has sponsored it ever since.



Sandy Clardy,
troop scoutmaster since
1980.

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

Greetings to each of you as we approach Easter and the celebration of our Risen Savior.

As we begin to see all of our ladies receiving the Coronavirus vaccine we will be looking at a way we can safely gather and have our Spring Gathering. The Coordinating Team will be meeting, and will have met by the time you read this, on Tuesday, March 23rd. We want to collect our offerings so we can give and support the missions we support each year.



Please continue to keep the work of Presbyterian Women and its leadership in your prayers. We need some new volunteers so if you are willing and able please contact me. This past year has been difficult on all of us but let's hope we can move forward with God's help to do His Will and the work we have before us.

As we study Lesson Eight on Page 73 of our study book, we study about what causes God to lament with us during this Lenten Season. In addition to our study book, we all look forward to the helpful handout that Tom Weaver has prepared and Evelyn will be distributing around the first of April. Thanks to both of them for their faithfulness to PW. With God's help, we draw near to Him, become stronger in His word and persevere until that day when we can put this all behind us and be together in fellowship, study and worship. May God continue to give us direction for Presbyterian Women and its leadership.

*"Forgive us, O God, when we cause you sorrow.
Have mercy on us when we give you less than our best.
Our hope is truly in you: in who you are and in your love for us.
We give you thanks that your love is stronger than our failings. Amen."*

The First Presbyterian Phone Prayer Chain is Growing!



We've added two additional prayerful members to our chain who will be praying for those in need of God's Blessings.

This ministry is a vital part of First Presbyterian Church. It is greatly appreciated by those it serves. Prayers are being heard and answered daily! Anyone who would like to join is welcome. It's a wonderful way to feel more connected and to serve your church and the Lord. All you need is a phone. Come join us!

First Presbyterian Deacons
352-843-0262
abrdvm@yahoo.com

***"And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well."
James 5:15***



www.fpcocala.org



www.facebook.com/fpcocala



www.youtube.com/First Presbyterian Church Ocala FL



www.instagram.com/FPCocalaFL

Announcements

2021 Interfaith Dinners

Thank you, everyone, for volunteering to take care of 2021 Interfaith Dinners! We have only one spot left! **July 8**. If you can take this date please contact Jarl Hagood 352-867-9372 or jarlhagood@aol.com.

Remember!

Thursday, April 1st is the DEADLINE to apply for FPC Post-secondary school education SCHOLARSHIPS!

Applications for the fall 2021 term are available in the church office. **The deadline to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on Thursday, April 1st.**

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 Vonwinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

Holy Week and Easter 2021

Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 28

10:00 a.m.—Under the Tent

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 1

6:00 p.m.—Under the Tent with Communion

Good Friday - Friday, April 2

12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.—Sanctuary open for Prayer

Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 4

10:00 a.m. – Under the Tent (bring a flower for the cross)

Masks to be worn at all services. Bring your chair for under the tent

April Birthdays

2 David Albright	6 Jimmy Butscher Lannie Vorwerk	8 Nancy Livesay	17 Pat Stephens Dana Smith Terri Tucker	23 Suzanne Slaughter Bryan Runyon Rachael Heinbockel
3 Tola Hass Garrett Robinson	7 Frank Misiano Fran Belisle Carey Bald Reinhardt Switzer	9 Michele Brooks Dave Bice	19 Madelyn Luther	24 Valeria Curry Lewis Heinbockel Emma Curtis Ava Curtis
4 Ali Vorwerk Robyn Guest		11 Andy Carlisle	20 Mary Beth Rivers Chris Schuler Brad Dozier	26 Tim Liberatore
		12 Elaine Rost John Brawner	21 Steve Von Ebers	27 Lanford Slaughter Declan Caskey
		13 Norma Giles Emilee Grodi George Harrison White	22 Susie Marta	29 Mayson Sprowles
		15 Gera Fleming Mary Dingman		



Thank You

Greetings,

My prayer is that this letter finds you all feeling God’s presence and blessings. I want you to know that FCA is grateful to have you as a partner to reach every coach and athlete for Jesus Christ.

When the Fellowship of Christian Athletes selected Mark 12:30 as our 100% theme verse for last year, we didn’t know how much of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength we were going to need to face the challenges 2020 threw at us. The year forced us to our knees as we committed to rally together our 100% for God’s work.

Thank you for your support. Through your generosity, coaches and athletes are being transformed by Jesus Christ around the world.

Peace and Blessings, Shane Williams, President/CEO



Attendance Worship Services	2/28	3/7	3/14	3/21
9:00 a.m.	38	27	17	33
Online	147	160	149	132

Kaleo Youth News, Casey Miller, Coordinator

Why "Kaleo" Youth?

About ten years ago, someone in the church asked the youth group (myself included), "what is the name of your youth group?". The only answer we could come up with was, "Youth Group". In order to take ownership, it was decided we would come up with a couple names, and put them to a vote. That's when we became "Kaleo". Throughout the last ten years the youth group has seen changes, including the pronunciation of Kaleo (kā-leo to kal-eh'-o). But, why did we decide on Kaleo? What does it mean?

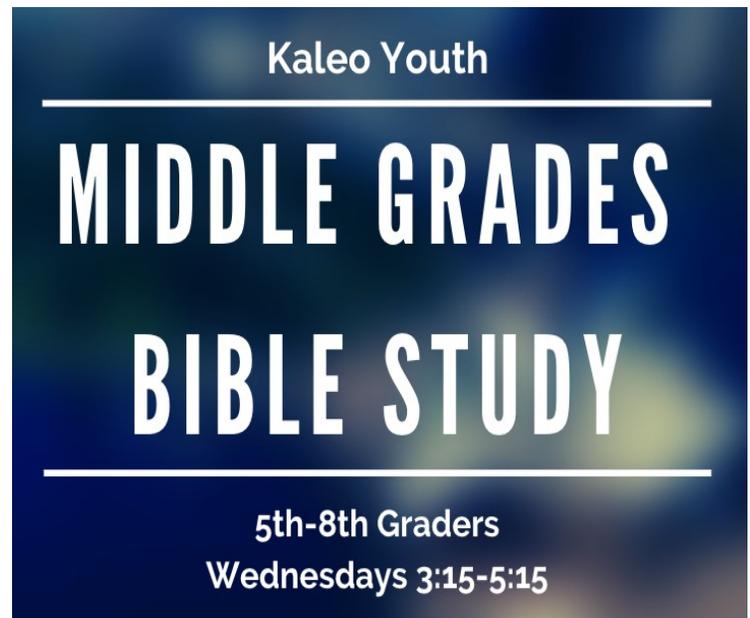
In the Greek translation of the Bible, the root word "kaleo" can be found over one hundred times in the New Testament alone. Translated to English, kaleo means:

1. to call
 - a. to call aloud, utter in a loud voice
 - b. to invite
to call i.e. to name, by name

So, why are we Kaleo youth? We are **called by name** to know, worship, and serve God. Also, as a youth group it is our job **to call aloud** the good news of Jesus Christ and **invite** others to join us.

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

-1 Corinthians 1:9



A dark blue rectangular graphic with white text. At the top, it says "Kaleo Youth" in a smaller font. Below that, "MIDDLE GRADES" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath, "BIBLE STUDY" is also in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom, it says "5th-8th Graders" and "Wednesdays 3:15-5:15" in a smaller white font. The graphic has horizontal white lines above and below the main text.

Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl
Eddie Allsopp
Wilma Andrews (at home)
Bill Bowen
Bill Canganelli (grandson of Pat Bishop)
Andy Carlisle
Shirley Cochran
Jodi Eaton (daughter of Norma Giles)
Maranell and Hank Fleming
Ruth Fraser (recovering from
shoulder surgery)
Barbara Gowie
Rev. Bill Harrel and wife Barbara
Jolene Kai (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)
Scott Kinnaugh (Dorothy Siemons' son)
Rhonda Kirk (on the death of her father,
Lucius Williams, Jr.)
Kathy Lance (daughter-in-law of Lois Lance)
Lois Lance
Grietje Lewis

Renate Lipp (friend of Nita William)
Sandra M (friend of Mary Beth Olson)
Celine Mack
Eric Masterson (brother-in-law of Deb Cone)
Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
Mia Jade McRae (granddaughter of Mary Beth Olson)
Gloria Miller
Rita Miller
Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Jessie Moseley
Christian Myers (friend of Julia Wirono)
Chuck Opitz
Hal Price (friend of Mary Beth Olson)
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Janie Scott (colon cancer)
Ann VanDenburgh
Phyllis Von Ebers (on the death of her
mother Sue Wilson)
Larry and Lisa Waldren



First Presbyterian Church

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BECAUSE FOOD IS LIFE



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Envelopes will be distributed and collected on Easter Sunday.

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
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Phone: (352) 629-7561 Fax: (352) 629-8066
www.fpcocala.org

