



FPC Ocala

August 2021

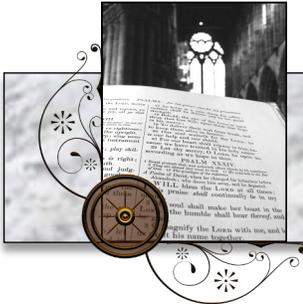
Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE SPIRE

Volume 64 Number 8

*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,*

It is difficult to say what happens next regarding the virus. It looked like we were on a great track. This Delta variant has slowed us down. We continue to meet on Sundays and are getting ready to celebrate a new school year as we bless backpacks, collect school supplies, and have fellowship.

But our activities happen in the shadow of the potential for a regression in our pandemic lives. Please pray with me that this does not happen, but also pray with me that we will approach the situation with wisdom if it does. As your pastor, I am concerned for your spiritual life as well as your physical one. Please be patient with us as a church as we continue to evolve with the situation.

Whatever happens next, we should remember how much God loves us and cares for us. Let

God's sustaining love brings us peace in an uncertain future.

Yours in Christ, Ron



During the July 11th worship service, three of the five students from FPC were commissioned to attend the July 13-17th PC(USA) Montreat Middle School Conference at Maryville College in Tennessee. Pictured left to right: Adults **Jackie Albright** and **Casey Miller**, students **Grant Vowinkel**, **Skye Caskey** and **Levi Cole**. Students not shown: Ellie Kaizer and Zane Waldren.



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

Each Monday



## Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones



### Griefshare Begins Friday August 13

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. I am the leader of our Griefshare discussion group, I play the videos and facilitate the discussion, but the Holy Spirit and the group are the real healers. This is for everyone who has had a significant death in their life and wants to walk through the mourning process with others.

There will be a Griefshare Open House and Introduction Sunday, August 8th after church in the conference room. Come meet alumni from past groups, see an introductory video and hear about ways we in the church support each other after a death. Go to [Griefshare.org](http://Griefshare.org) to learn more.

### Presbyterian Pilgrimage is October 28-31

Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a spiritual retreat for Christians who want to deepen their relationship with the Lord. My wife, Nancy, and I went to our first retreat in 1991 and have been on the staff of many of these retreats since. It is in the style of the three day retreat called Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dios, etc. For this particular weekend the three days are shortened to Friday evening, Saturday and most of Sunday.

After 18 months of COVID, we all need spiritual renewal and a closer walk with Jesus. I have been a leader on these retreats, I'm happy to answer your questions, as are other members of First who have been. [floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org](http://floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org)



## Welcome Cheryl and Joe to FPC!



We want to extend a warm welcome to Joe and Cheryl Lara who joined our church by Reaffirmation of Faith on June 27, 2021. Originally from Pennsylvania, they moved south and landed in St. Cloud where Joe worked for Ford Motor Company and Cheryl worked for Sea World. At retirement, they decided to move away from the big city environment and they found Ocala. Joe is a US Army veteran and likes to write mystery novels and work with model trains. Cheryl loves to work in her flower garden. They have a son and grandson living in Orlando.

*We are so happy  
that you  
have decided  
to become  
a part of our church!*



LEFT: Joe and Cheryl Lara

# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

Greetings to each of you! I hope that you are enjoying getting out and about safely during these summer months. It has been wonderful to worship back in our beautiful sanctuary every Sunday and seeing so many of you worshipping there as well.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

We look forward to getting our Circles back together in September. The new study books have been ordered and will be disbursed before the September meeting schedule. The study title is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* by Merryl Blair. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary – Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? We look forward to having Tom Weaver as our lesson coordinator. I think we will all enjoy these lessons. We hope this coming year will be a good year for getting back together as we study God's word.

The St. Augustine Presbytery's Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the Montgomery Conference Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a light breakfast. The early registration cost by August 15th is \$20. Registration is available online and payment is also available through the presbytery website: [www.staugpres.org/pwfallgathering](http://www.staugpres.org/pwfallgathering). The service project donation for Teen Challenge is paper products, cleaning supplies, soap and detergent. Let's have a good crowd represent FPC Ocala PW. We will have a carpool to Camp Montgomery. Contact Pat Greaves (352-362-0013) for more information.

A special thank you to the Officers and Circle Leaders who have agreed to remain serving another year: Pat Greaves, Moderator; Liz Diener-Dickmann, Vice Moderator; Sharon Shirley, Secretary; Kristen Crawford, Treasurer; Lois Clardy, Together in Service: Mission; Debbie Koch, Bereavement; Gera Fleming, Spiritual Life and Worship; Circle 1 Leader, Esther Arango-Palencia; Circle 3 Leader, Liz-Diener-Dickmann; Circle 4 Leader, Debbie Koch; Circle 7 Leader, Susie Marta; and Circle 8 Leader, Lois Clardy.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7 p.m. at the church.

Please continue to keep the work of Presbyterian Women and its leadership in your prayers. 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. Thanks to all of you for your love and support. May God continue to give us direction for Presbyterian Women and its leadership.

*"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, You have brought us thus far on our way. Though the road continues out before us, you give us hope, Hope that our work will bring your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. For your unfailing love for us, and the hope you give us, we give you thanks. Our trust is in you". Amen*

<u>Attendance</u>					
Worship Services	6/27	7/4	7/11	7/18	7/25
10:00 a.m.	91	81	100	104	113
Online	93	107	142	74	79

**Join Us on the third  
Wednesday of the month from  
11 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**  
**Putting the Spire together for  
the mail is a worthwhile  
ministry and we need your help.**  
**Email [hquinlan@fpcocala.org](mailto:hquinlan@fpcocala.org)**

# Youth News, Casey Miller, Coordinator



On July 13 Through 17th, I had the pleasure of accompanying five youth to their very first Montreat experience, Middle School Montreat Conference at Maryville College, Tennessee. We are so thankful for **Jackie Albright** who came as an adult chaperone and our five youth: **Skye Caskey, Levi Cole, Ellie Kaizer, Grant Vowinkel, and Zane Waldren**. We had a lot of fun listening to Key-note, going to small group, playing games, dancing, singing, and going to worship. The conference theme was **“Just As I Am”**.



Each day we were able to learn about how God accepts us just as we are. We learned how we are welcomed in the claim that we are made in the image of God. Even when we make mistakes and even when we doubt, God claims us and loves us just as we are. We are called together and community, just as we are, and we are called to love others just as they are.



Each worship service took us through some of the major seasons of our faith: Advent and Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Lent, Easter and Pentecost.



We read many scripture stories including: Jesus and Zacchaeus, Mary and Elizabeth, the Samaritan woman at the well, doubting Thomas, Ruth and Naomi, and Phillip and the Ethiopian.



Overall we had an amazing week learning how we are accepted in our faith community and by Jesus just as we are. If you'd like to see a brief video recap from the week you can check out the churches Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us this week.



## Announcements



Todd and Sandra Dailey welcomed their first grandchild Gracy June Ullman, born on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is the daughter of Caroline and Carter Ullman. She is a blessing!!

## Chancel Choir is Beginning Soon

The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing in the choir room on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 5:30-6:30 pm. We sing in church almost every Sunday through June and also sing cantatas at Christmas and Easter. Please join us on August 25 at 5:30 if you are interested in singing at all during the year. We are in particular need of Tenors and Basses, as well as Sopranos. If you're not able to commit to the full choir year, we can talk about a "customized plan" for you!

## Thank You

Thank you for remembering me and the *These Days*. Arrived just in time, as my life is in a little valley right now. Receiving *These Days* was like a sign from God, that everything will be OK. Thank you, Patty Cook



Thank you so much for the scholarship that helped me go to Camp Montgomery. I had so much fun. We learned about champions of the Bible and what it means to be a champion. One of my favorite camp activities was tubing behind the boat. I had so much fun and want to go back and do it again next summer.

Sincerely, Skye Caskey  
(top right and left)



Good afternoon,  
  
Thank you for your help so that I could go to Camp Montgomery. I had a great time. One of my favorite things was behind the boat. I hope to go back next year.

Declan Caskey



# August Birthdays

**1**  
Skip McDonald  
Brian Shotwell

**4**  
Kevin Brooks

**6**  
Jeff Baker

**7**  
Jennifer Carlisle

**8**  
Ella Charnley  
Jeff Grodi  
Troy Barrett  
Mac MacKay  
Caroline Schlenker

**9**  
Cody Peterson

**10**  
Carlton Curtis

**11**  
Roger Drummond

**12**  
Mary Morris

**13**  
Ruthanne Reiss  
Ken MacKay  
Chris Gilman

**14**  
Travis Barrineau

**16**  
Luke Patrick

**18**  
Blue Montsdeoca

**20**  
Lois Dolin  
Rusty Juergens

**21**  
John Kirk  
Richard Kirk

**23**  
Lex Peek  
Sarah Bennett

**24**  
Craig Cannon

**25**  
Richard Faust  
Paralee Johnson

**27**  
Dave Taylor  
Cathy Edwards  
Kayla Drudge

**28**  
Barbara Tomyn

**29**  
Rose Roberts

**30**  
Chris Hasselkus  
Pat Bald



# Prayer List

**Claudia Markham-Ahl**  
**Wilma Andrews** (at home)  
**Roger Brandt**  
**Bill Canganelli** (grandson of Pat Bishop)  
**Andy Carlisle**  
**Shirley Cochran**  
**Adele Evans** (friend of Richard Grosso)  
**Maranell Fleming** (The Lodge)  
**Ruth Fraser** (LifeCare)  
**Hendley Fuseler** (great-nephew of Joseph Pickard)  
**Norma Giles**  
**Hope Hill** (friend of Richard Grosso)  
**Mark Heuer** (son-in-law of Julia Wirono)  
**Jolene Kai** (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)  
**Janice Kelly**  
**Scott Kinnaugh** (son of Dorothy Siemons)  
**Ken Kramer** (brother-in-law of Evelyn Longo)  
**Kathy Lance** (daughter-in-law of Lois Lance)  
**Lois Lance**  
**Walter Laseter**

**The Lewis family** (on the death of Grietje)  
**Renate Lipp** (friend of Nita William)  
**Celine Mack**  
**Judith Martin** (visitor)  
**Eric Masterson** (brother-in-law of Deb Cone)  
**Skip McDonald**  
**Ron McMillin**  
**Bob Mikulski** (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)  
**Gloria Miller**  
**Rita Miller**  
**Kathy Mortensen** (sister of Sharon Shirley)  
**Chuck Opitz**  
**Joseph Pickard** (heart surgery)  
**Michael Rou** (cousin of Dr. David Albright)  
**The Siemons family** (on the death of Dorothy)  
**Janie Scott**  
**Debbie Tompkins** (sister of Rusty Juergens)  
**Ann VanDenburgh**  
**Erv Wagner** (brother of Lois Dolin)  
**Larry and Lisa Waldren**



FPC gives thanks for the life of **Ellen Drummond** who passed away July 1, 2021, **Dorothy Siemons** who passed away on July 21, 2021 and **Grietje Lewis** who passed away on July 28, 2021.

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.

## Fellowship News

### Fellowship on the Go – August 4, 2021

Have lunch with a friend, then join us at the Appleton Museum at 2 pm for a docent-led visit of the latest exhibits. Before school starts, it will be a fun afternoon for children or grandchildren to enjoy the ARTSpace as well! Questions? Call Mary Moore 598-2525—Members and pre-K, free; Seniors, \$6, Adults, \$8, Youth, \$3.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO

# A LIGHT **BACK-TO-SCHOOL** BREAKFAST CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS & TEACHERS

FOLLOWED BY BACKPACK BLESSING  
DURING 10:00A.M. SERVICE.

Bring A Friend!

Don't forget to  
bring school supplies  
to be donated to the  
Skill Day Center!

Sunday, August 8  
9:00a.m. -9:45a.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall

**BRING YOUR BACKPACKS,  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## HELP NEEDED

FPC's Fellowship Committee is looking for folks who would like to join a group involved with creating textile art to enhance our worship experiences. This would include making banners, stoles, paraments, etc. If interested please contact Vicki Roberts at 351-2220.



## First Presbyterian Church

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## Donate Flowers for a Sunday Service



You can donate a lovely arrangement of flowers for many different occasions:

- ◆ *To the glory of God*
- ◆ *Special events*
- ◆ *Birthdays*
- ◆ *Anniversaries*
- ◆ *Births*
- ◆ *Anything*

To provide flowers, complete one of the envelopes in the back of the sanctuary or in Fellowship Hall.

Put the envelope into the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

Contact the church office (629-7561) to arrange details!

**We Need Your Help** to rearrange flowers right after worship on Sundays. These bouquets will be delivered to our homebound members.

Please contact Evelyn Longo at 352-509-5179.

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
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[www.fpcocala.org](http://www.fpcocala.org)

