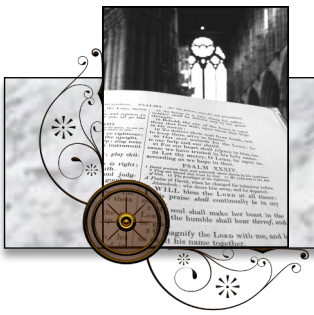
FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

August 2022 Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Volume 65 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

Back to School!

It's that time of year again, a time to encourage and pray for our students and teachers! The Presbyterian Church has always been supportive of education, and FPC in particular has been well represented through the years in its members' participation in education and teaching. I would encourage you to participate in our gathering of school supplies as well as remembering all of the school teachers, staff, coaches, and administrators in our schools here in Ocala. And let's also remember those who are going to or returning to education beyond high school to tech schools, college, and graduate studies.

Likewise, we rejoice with Katie Schlenker in her new ministry at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Katie is going to be working in campus ministry with Reformed University Fellowship. Please join us in praying for Katie as she begins her ministry.

And on a sad note, we are saying "goodbye" to elementary school teacher Casey Miller who has been our Youth Director and Children's Sermon preacher. Casey will still be at church as a member, so if you see her, I would encourage you to thank her for her service to Jesus Christ here at First church. Casey, on behalf of the staff, we will miss working with you.

Grace and Peace, Ron

Join Us for Holey Time
Sunday, August 7th

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

Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

Griefshare Begins Sunday, August 14

For about five years the Griefshare program has been offered at First Presbyterian. I've enjoyed leading the program and look forward to a good group this fall. GriefShare is for anyone who has had a significant loss and wants a supportive, welcoming, Christian group to grow through the grief. Mourning is a long process and through GriefShare we mourn together and help each other. There is a well-designed 13 week plan with video clips from counselors, pastors, and others going through grief.

This is a program for members and non-members. Please tell neighbors and friends about this ministry at your church; offer to come with them the first time and sit with them.

Starting August 14 we will be offering GriefShare on Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 5 in room 1 of our education building here at First Presbyterian, pending Session approval of Sundays.

Christian Outreach lists its current outreaches!

The **Benevolence/ Mission Fund represents** 50% of the income received from the church's Endowment Fund.

On recommendation from the Christian Outreach Committee, on July 7, 2022 the Session approved distribution of funds from this account for the following recipients:

Interfaith was awarded $16,000 to be used for the repairs to its 14th street apartments. The complex focuses on assisting individuals "who have intellectual disabilities, who are mild or moderately mentally-handicapped."

Open Arms Village was awarded $15,000 for their building expansion project. Their program is specifically for "motivated people who want out of homelessness. All residents volunteer a certain number of hours a week to help maintain Open Arms Village and abide by all rules and regulations."

Marion County Children's Alliance whose mission is stated as "to improve the lives of Marion County Children" will receive $6,000 towards their homeless program.

Katie Schlenker

In addition to these awards the session also provided $15,542 from the Mission Account to Katie Schlenker for her college ministry at Virginia Tech University.

Deacons' Corner

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:17-18

We recently received this request from someone who believes in the power of prayer and knows FPC's congregation diligently prays to our loving heavenly Father:

"My name is Mark and I seek your prayers on my behalf for my stage 4 prostate cancer and severe bouts of depression. At this time, advanced prostate cancer has no cure, but I am working with my oncologist in Washington, DC and trying to conquer my depression as well. I believe in the healing power of prayer through Jesus Christ, and I deeply appreciate your prayers."

We, a congregation of Believers, are being trusted and relied upon to join our deacons to be faithful in remembering Mark in prayer. God is counting on every one of us.

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

Greetings to all as we begin the month of August. I hope that you are having a great summer and able to enjoy doing some fun things. As we look towards starting back with our Circle meetings in September, I want to encourage each of you to invite someone who may not participate in PW. All members and non-members of First Presbyterian Church are invited and encouraged to participate in PW fellowship and Bible Study.

THE STUDY FOR 2022-2023 will be *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight.* Study books have been ordered and will be distributed in September prior to our meetings. Cost of the study books will remain at $10 per book.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, August 25, 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. Did you know that the Prayer Shawl Ministry has made over 300 shawls and given them out with love and affection since its inception in 2007? If you'd like to join this happy ministry group, please come on August 25th or contact Coordinator, Liz Diener-Dickmann, with your questions.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

PW PURPOSE

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for September 2022
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, September 6th	7:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 362-0013 cell
Circle 3	Monday, September 19th	10:00 a.m.	Member's Home	Liz Diener-Dickmann	
Circle 4	Tuesday, September 13th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
Circle 8	Tuesday, September 13th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053
PRAYER SHAWL	Thursday August 25th	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

The office will be closed Monday, September 5, 2022 in observance of Labor Day.

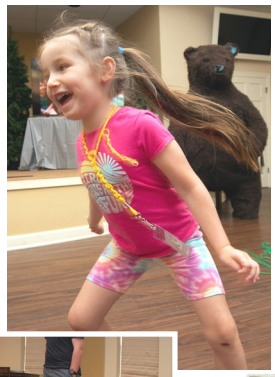
Contributions as at June 30, 2022	
Actual	$303,633
Budget	$303,354

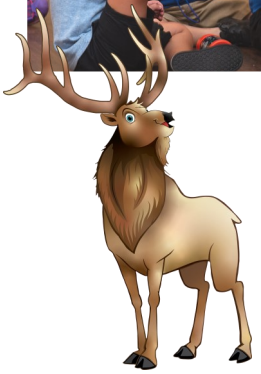
Attendance	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24
10:00 a.m.	107	107	103	87
Online	101	127	135	126

VBS 2022

We had just a great time June 28-30 learning how Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through! We studied the book of Acts and how Saul became Paul and then helped spread Christianity. We had 50 children participate and collected over 270lbs for Interfaith!

I want to thank everyone who prayed for a successful week and specifically the many volunteers who helped: Amy Schlenker, Declan Caskey, Esther Arango-Palencia, BreeAnn Smith, Mary Dingman, Caleb Johnson, Eileen Demarest, Alex Johnson, James Gilkes, Liz Dickmann, Dave Schlenker, Todd Carstenn, Donna Claus, Kay Yancey, Jo Ann Brandt, Belle Johnson, Skye Caskey, Jackie Albright, Carly Albright, Brooke Gilkes, Lois Clardy, Linda Bookbinder, Cathy Edwards, Jim Yancey and Steve Vincent.





Montreat 2022

Back to School

Sunday, August 14th

The Back to School Event will be held on Sunday, August 14th. Blessing of the backpacks will also include teachers as well as students as they prepare to begin a new school year. Please bring school supplies that you would like to donate to the Skill Day Center which supports and tutors children after school. Several stores are having wonderful sales this week and next on supplies such as pencils, notebook paper, folders, binders, crayons, marker, etc.

These items will be collected in the narthex on Sunday the 14th.

Thank you for any way you can help!

Thank Yous

Dear FPC,
Thank you for your love and prayers. I would like to thank all of the ladies of the church who put together the lovely celebration at the church .
I pray not only for church but all of the churches that the young people will come back and build larger congregations that will have faith and let it grow. Thanks again. May God bless you all. - Jerry Lance

Dear FPC Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for blessing me with scholarship money. I will make sure to use this scholarship to further my education and relationship with God as I venture into college life. The church has been an amazing and important part of my life and will continue to be as I go forward. -Thank you, Ethan Russell

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for choosing me to receive the scholarship. I plan to use the money from the scholarship to pay for books as well as using it to pay my tuition in the Fall. - Thank you, Yancey Guest

Dear FPC Scholarship Committee,
I am eternally grateful to be selected as one of the recipients for this scholarship. Thank you for always helping me grow throughout the years , from growing in my faith and studies, you never seem to let it go unseen. As I continue my education at the University of South Florida, I will be continually thankful for this. Thank you for allowing me to continue my growth in my studies and giving me the chance to progress further in my major. -Robyn Guest

August Birthdays

1
Skip McDonald
Brian Shotwell
Luther Leighton

4
Kevin Brooks
Caroline Cook

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
Jonathan Meyer

13
Ruthanne Reiss
Ken MacKay
Chris Gilman

14
Travis Barrineau

16
Lloyd Kauffman
Luke Patrick

18
Blue Montsdeoca

20
Lois Dolin
Rusty Juergens

21
John Kirk
Richard Kirk

23
Lex Peek
Sarah Bennett

24
Craig Cannon

25
Paralee Johnson

27
Dave Taylor
Cathy Edwards
Kayla Drudge

28
Barbara Tomyn
John McMichael

29
Rose Roberts

30
Chris Hasselkus
Pat Bald

Prayer List

Wilma Andrews
Edie Alderton (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)
Pat Bishop
Cede Blackwell (great-niece of Mary Kauffman)
The Blagus family (on the death of Doris)
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Mina DiGeronimo
Adele Evans (friend of Richard Grosso)
Beth and Sharon Follmer (Dorothy Siemons' daughter and granddaughter)
Ruth Fraser
Bob Greaves (Hospice at home)
Barbara Harrel
Hope Hill (friend of Richard Grosso)
Mark and Melanie Heuer (son-in-law and daughter of Julia Wirono)
Victoria Johnson (great-granddaughter of Christine Johnson)
Richard Jones (brother-in-law of Margaret Trump)
Jolene Kai (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)
The Kail family (on the death of Louise)
Scott Kinnaugh (son of Dorothy Siemons)
Celine Mack
Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
Gloria Miller
The Montsdeoca family (on the death of Blue)
Albert Peek
John Peterson
Annette and Joseph Pickard
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Bobbie Ripple (sister of Mike Poteet)
Frank Roberts
Jerry Rost
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Janie Scott
Betty Smith (friend of Pat Bishop)
Shannon Tanga (granddaughter of Bill Harrel)
Renee Timmer
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Jason Trump (son of Margaret Trump)
Ed Turner
Richard and Sandy Valvo
Larry and Lisa Waldren (on the death of Larry's brother)
Kathy Willard
Bo Williams
William Wright
Jeffrey Yawn (grandson of Betty Williams)

FPC gives thanks for the life of **Doris Blagus** who passed away July 3, 2022; **Louise Kail** who passed away July 4, 2022 and **Blue Montsdeoca** who passed away July 22, 2022. (We will have a service at FPC in September)

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

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Sent with a prayer to:

Chancel Choir is Beginning Soon!

The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing in the choir room on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 from 6:30 -7:45 p.m. We sing in church almost every Sunday through June and also sing cantatas at Christmas and Easter. Please join us 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! Please contact Phyllis Von Ebers (509)998-6039.

Hand Bell Ringer Needed!

We are seeking a permanent hand bell ringer and 1 or 2 people who can fill in from time to time? Rehearsals are Wednesdays 5:30-6:30. Contact Phyllis Von Ebers phyllis-vonebers@yahoo.com

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
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