

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,

We are doing our best to provide you with a "normal" Advent experience at church. Included in this are The Giving Tree, a "music" Sunday, and a Christmas Eve service. Things might not be quite as normal as they once were, but we are doing what we can during the pandemic. At least we are indoors this year!

If you have pledged, I would like to thank you for doing so. If you have not pledged, I would urge you to do so. 2022 is going to be a year of transitions for us, hopefully good ones! Without your support, we will not be able to have church. It is as simple as that. Your support for the coming year, in the form of a pledge, will assist us in our budgeting process and help us continue to minister in Ocala, in St. Augustine Presbytery, and participate in

national and worldwide ministries through the PCUSA.

I do ask you to consider a year-end gift this December to your church. Our giving is down substantially in 2021 due to the pandemic. Your end of year gift will help us reach our goal of having a balanced budget. Yes, sometimes lately, I feel like my message is "give, give, give." But Jesus taught us to be giving people, and so we are following our Lord's teaching by our request. Thank you for your support.

May this Advent celebration be a good one for you and yours. May we all know the love of Christ that came down. May our church family reach out to those in need. May we live as Christ taught us to live.

Christmas Peace,
Ron



Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

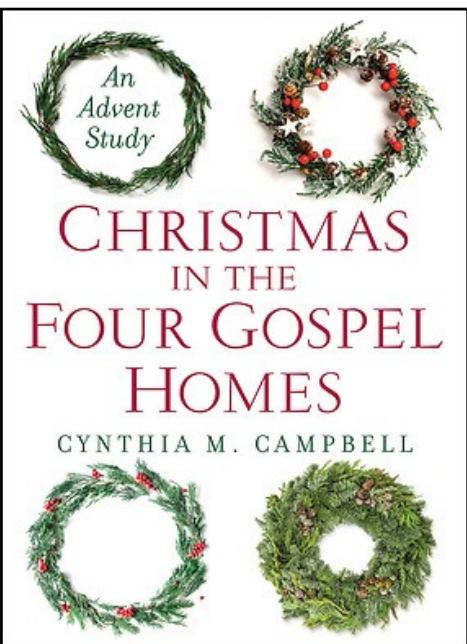
GRIEFSHARE

Surviving the Holidays
is a helpful,
encouraging seminar
for people facing the
holidays after a loved
one's death. Please
join us on Sunday,
December 5 at
3:30 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall.



The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. These people share honestly about:

- *Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- *What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- *How to handle holiday parties and invitations
- *How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people
- *Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time



Please register at <https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/37071> or call the church office (629-7561)

ADVENT STUDY

continues Tuesdays, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Since November 30 we have been studying the book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*. Contact Mary Dingman or call the church office to register and get the zoom link. I, Pastor Walk, will lead the same discussion at both times of the day and it lasts through December 23.



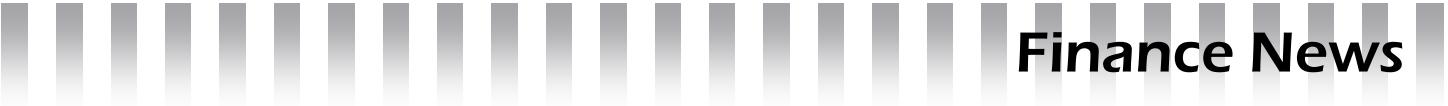
Session News

Session Brief – November 7, 2021

- We mourned the deaths of Thomas Michael on 10/17/2021, Ellen Matthews on 11/5/2021 and Randy Freise in 2020.
- Approved the removal of Doug and Patty Holcomb from the membership rolls at their request.
- Approved the removal of Mary Jean Ruelf from the membership rolls at her request.
- Ratified the adult baptism of Joseph Michael Poteet on November 7, 2021.
- Ratified the acceptance of new members Michael Poteet by Affirmation of Faith and Teresa Poteet by Reaffirmation of Faith on November 7, 2021.
- Approved the Membership Committee to purchase a large feather welcome flag to be placed in front of the church before the worship service and removed at the conclusion of the worship service.

KEEPING ACCURATE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

We love our members and look forward to seeing you as often as you can join us!! However, if you have joined another church or moved away, please let the church office know. If you are a member and know of another member who has decided to join a different church or worship elsewhere, please contact the church office at 352-629-7561 or email ajacque@fpcocala.org.



Finance News

First Presbyterian Church of Ocala has been very blessed financially over the past few years due to two separate non-reoccurring events which generated additional income for the church.

First, the sale of church owned real estate (“BoneCutter Island”) and
Second, the receipt of a forgivable loan through the federal government (Payroll Protection Program).

These two items generated \$165,732 in “other income” which was used to help cover our annual operating expenses.

Going forward in 2022 we do not expect any additional “other income” and will need to rely solely on individual contributions to support our financial need.

Therefore, your **year-end gifts** will be a tremendous help to us as we make our budget for next year. We hope you will consider your church first when making your charitable end-of-year contributions. 2022 is going to be a year of great uncertainty for the church. As we make our way, your contribution will make a big difference in how we negotiate the hopefully post-pandemic landscape.

Jeff Baker, Chair Finance Committee

Welcome to FPC!



We want to welcome Mike and Teresa Poteet! Originally from Indiana and Ohio, they met while working in the industrial sector of the construction industry and were married shortly afterward. They have two sons. After Mike retired, they headed south to St. Petersburg and had a remodeling business for another thirteen years. They moved to Ocala two and a half years ago and actually retired! Their hobbies are being outside and boating and fishing. Bill and Terri Tucker invited them to attend First Presbyterian which they did for about six months before making the decision to become members. They joined on November 7, 2021; Teresa by Reaffirmation of Faith and Mike by Affirmation of Faith. Mike was also baptized. They are looking forward to many more years as a part of the First Presbyterian Church family.

We are so happy you are here!



Music Ministries

Strings Christmas Concert in Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m.

M E R R Y

Christmas

December 12th



Christmas Music Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

to include the Bell Choir, the String Ensemble,
the Chancel Choir, Leslie Athanason, Kosumo Morishita,
and participation by the youth group.

News from the Ministries

Interfaith:

It's that time again! We are signing up participants for dinners in 2022. First Presbyterian does this on the second Thursday of the month.

Those who have done it say it's always a blessing and we know it's a blessing to those we serve. Thank you to all members who participated in 2021!

Call or text Jarl Hagood at 867-9372 or email Jarlhagood@aol.com if you or your group would like to sign up.



THE GIVING TREE PROJECT

- DECEMBER 8 : Deadline for all checks, gift cards and gifts to be turned into FPC office. Please take as many of the ornaments as you wish and fulfill the gift requests that are on them. Tape the ornament's typed gift request to the UNWRAPPED gift.
- Make checks out to FPC and designate either on check memo line or envelope - "GIVING TREE"
- Gift cards in any amount to Publix, Walmart or Target
- We are gifting Sozo Kids, Project Hope and Marion County Domestic Violence Center.
- On DECEMBER 9 we will distribute all gifts.

THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY & BLESSINGS TO ALL!

The Outreach Committee wants to thank the dozens of people for participating in our November food drive on November 21. These food drives are so incredibly important for our community during these trying times. This Sunday we collected 1,033 pounds of food and hygiene items and \$205.00 in monetary donations. This brings our total for 2021 to over 5,600 pounds and also over \$1200 in cash donations.

Since we will not be having our own food drive in December, here is an alternative. Marion County is holding its 10th annual Bring The Harvest Home event on December 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Ocala downtown Square. Before that date you can bring your donations to any of the county public libraries or fire or sheriff's offices or any other governmental office. These items go to Interfaith, the Salvation Army and Brother's Keeper.

Thank you for your continued support for those in need in our community.



Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Happy Advent and a very Merry Christmas to all!

The December Circle lesson studies Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth and Naomi help show how ordinary people can bring about divine outcomes when they deal with each other with loyal love. I hope you are enjoying the studies. Tom and Evelyn Weaver will email Tom's lesson outline to all the Circle members who have been receiving email or mail through the postal system. Thanks again to Tom and Evelyn for their labors of love.

PW held their FALL GATHERING on Saturday, November 13th, when twenty-six women gathered for lunch and dedication of our commitment to the PW program. Our guest speaker was Karla Grimsley-Greenway from Interfaith Emergency Services. Karla told us about the Food 4 Kids program and highlights of other missions in the programming. Women donated items for the backpack food program as well as \$100 in donations that day. Food 4 Kids program has become a mission by all Circles. Thanks for your generosity. We also made a commitment to support the universal Thank Offering for PW which supports missions in the US and abroad.

On a personal note, I am so thankful to be honored with the Honorary Life Membership. Thanks to all of you for this wonderful award. I thank you for your support during my tenure as your Moderator; without your help I could not do this alone. May God bless each one of you for your faithfulness.

There WILL BE NO CHRISTMAS LUNCH in December.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will NOT MEET IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, due to the holidays. They will resume in January. The group includes both knitters and crocheters and welcomes anyone who is interested in this ministry. If you'd like to join this happy ministry group, please contact Coordinator, Liz Dickmann.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the Church.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to Karen Raynor, Affiliate Member of Circle 3, whose husband, Troy, passed away on November 11th, in Hospice Care at their home in North Liberty, Iowa. Karen was a former Moderator of PW and active member of our church, including choir and choir director. In the past few years they have been unable to winter here in Ocala due to Troy's health.

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

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for December 2021 Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, January 4 th	7:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 362-0013 cell
Circle 3	Monday, December 20 th	10:00 a.m.	Sharon Shirley's Home 8591C SW 93 rd Place	Liz Diener-Dickmann	
Circle 4	Tuesday, December 14th	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Social	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
NO CIRCLE 7	In December		Will resume in January		
Circle 8	Tuesday December 14 th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053
NO PRAYER SHAWL	In December				

FPC'S Presbyterian Women's organization recognizes Pat Greaves as its 2021 *Honorary Life Member*



Debbie Koch (right) presents PW's 2021 *Honorary Life Membership* award to member Pat Greaves.

PW's Moderator since 2018, **Pat Greaves** became the latest local member to become an *Honorary Life Member in Presbyterian Women*. Membership is conferred upon a woman or man in recognition of faithful service in some area of the church's work.

As 2019 *HLM* recipient **Debbie Koch** mentioned in making the presentation before the 26 ladies present at the group's Fall Gathering: "Our newest recipient is a very caring, beautiful lady whose faith in God shows through her every action; she is an inspiration to all with her love of the Lord. She definitely does not know the word "NO" as she is often the first to volunteer when a need arises."



Debbie continued, "I don't think this year's recipient ever has met a stranger; her concern for FPC's PW as well as the overall PW organization is evident. She is a huge support for her brother who resides in an assisted living facility. This year's recipient cared for her toddler granddaughter when her military daughter was deployed several years ago. She was a welcome asset to her husband in his ministry....She has a beautiful voice, plays the piano as well as the organ and even has directed the choir—again when the need arose! It is my pleasure and extreme honor to present this award to Pat Greaves."

Pat and her husband Bob became active members of FPC after moving to Ocala in 1999.



26 attend PW's Nov. 14th Fall Gathering luncheon

Left: Guest speaker **Karla Grimsley-Greenway**, CEO, Interfaith Emergency Services.

Below: PW members' contributions to Interfaith's **Food 4 Kids** program.



WAYS YOU CAN SERVE

- ♦ **Music** – Sing with the Chancel Choir or play in the Bell Choir
- ♦ **Serve on a Committee** – Fellowship, Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Membership, Scholarship, or Worship committees
- ♦ **Worship** – Prepare and/or clean up Communion, arrange flowers for Hospital/Homebound members, deliver flowers to Hospital/Homebound members, serve as a Greeter or Usher or member of the Hospitality Team, help prepare Sanctuary for worship
- ♦ **Church Volunteers** – Help prepare pews for worship, help fold and mail newsletters, help clean up or set up for an event
- ♦ **Join a Service Group** – Join a Presbyterian Women Circle, knit or crochet with the Prayer Shawl Ministry, sew with the WeCare Sewing Ministry
- ♦ **Fellowship** – Help with setup and cleanup for fellowship meals
- ♦ **Encourage** – Pray for the church and its leaders, write cards to lift up those who need encouragement
- ♦ **Invite** – Talk about the great things going on in our church, invite people to our social events and to worship with us on Sundays, try to remember new faces and follow up with them
- ♦ **Wisdom and Experience** – use what you have for the glory of God....creativity, education, experience, talents, muscle, brains, love and compassion, problem solving, team building, peace making

...ALL OF IT BUILDS UP THE BODY OF CHRIST



OFFERINGS
WILL BE
COLLECTED
DECEMBER 19TH



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

**This offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts
that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future,
who have pointed us to God.**

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FPC



December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 – Christmas Music Service at 10:00 a.m. to include the Bell Choir, the String Ensemble, the Chancel Choir, Leslie Athanason, Kosumo Morishita, and participation by the Youth Group. Also, Strings Christmas Concert in Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m.

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent with Bell Choir

December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.

December 26, 2021 – Regular Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

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



*Hear new
sermons
Every Monday
After 12 noon.*

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	10/31	11/7	11/14	11/21
10:00 a.m.	96	101	103	87
Online	121	113	109	106

December Birthdays

2
Christina Diuguid
3
Marion Thomas
Roger Hileman
4
Mike Morehouse
5
Van Akin
6
Nancy Graham
7
Wendie Moore
8
Michael McCurry
Lois Lance

10
Tammy Langley
Vicky Stephens
Evelyn Weaver
11
Nancy Dozier
12
Shirley Cochran
14
Bill Rainbow
Bob Timmer
Peyton Yancey
16
Stacey Batten

18
Paula Brown
Jim Youngman
Teresa Lewis
Paul Militello
19
Frank Fraunfelter
Jennifer Fraunfelter

20
Melissa Gillum
21
Kristi Gillum
Leslie Switzer
Emma Andrews
22
Lara Standley
Will Futch

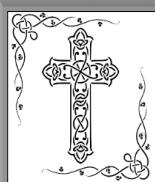
23
Cindy Andrews
25
Maggie Moore
Corson
26
Ann McCoy
Renee Timmer
27
Alice Cannon
Dolores Dyer
Gary Merians, Jr.
Caity Peterson
29
John Cooley
31
John Bennett



Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl (cancer treatment)
Eddie Allsopp
Wilma Andrews
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Edmond & Kay deBie (friends of Julia Wirono)
Mina DiGeronimo
Adele Evans (friend of Richard Grosso)
Ruth Fraser (The Bridge)
Barbara Harrel
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)
Biddie Kirk
Craig Jones
Renate Lipp (friend of Nita Williams)
Celine Mack

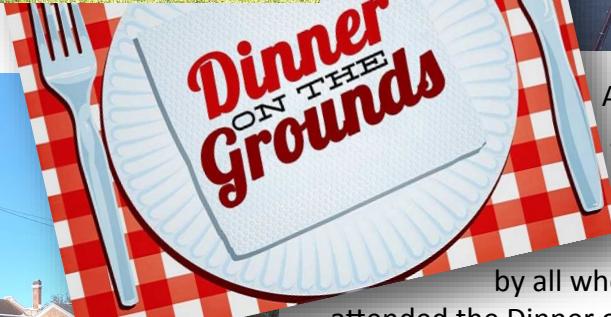
Judith Martin
Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
The Matthews family (on the death of Ellen)
Bob Mikulski (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)
Gloria Miller
Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Chuck Opitz
Barbara Parks
John Peterson
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Betty Smith (friend of Pat Bishop)
Shannon Tanga (granddaughter of Bill Harrel)
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Ann VanDenburgh
Richard and Sandy Valvo
Erv Wagner (brother of Lois Dolin)
Larry and Lisa Waldren
 (on the death of her sister)
Jeffrey Young (grandson of Betty Williams)



FPC gives thanks for the life of **Ellen Matthews** who passed away on November 5, 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



A great time was had by all who attended the Dinner on the Ground on Nov. 14th. Thank you everyone on the Fellowship committee for all your hard work. Special kudo's to mention Eileen Demerest's wonderful desserts, beans and slaw. It is so



Youth News, Casey Miller, Coordinator

Youth Group Christmas Party

December 12th

5:00-6:30 p.m. Middle
6:00-6:30 p.m. dinner
6:00-7:30 p.m. high school

Bring a \$10 White Elephant Gift!

A large, colorful Christmas tree is the central focus of the graphic. It is decorated with numerous glowing lights, shiny ornaments, and intricate snowflake decorations. The tree is set against a dark blue background with a subtle radial gradient.



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:

May God fill your life with love, joy and peace this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

*The church office
will be closed on
Monday, December
27th and Tuesday,
December 28th.*

*Love from all of us
at
First Presbyterian Church*

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
First Presbyterian Church
511 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: (352) 629-7561 Fax: (352) 629-8066
www.fpcocala.org

