



FPC Ocala

February 2021

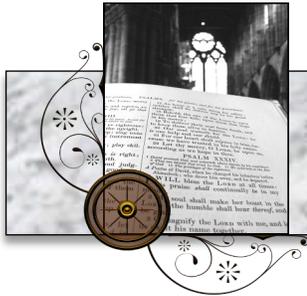
Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE SPIRE

Volume 64 Number 2

*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,*

The pastors are working with the session to develop plans for reopening our worship space. Much of our plans will have to do with how quickly we become vaccinated as a people. All of us would love to restore the church to some sense of normalcy, but this will most likely happen in phases. For now we are still open on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., and about 25 people attend our blended worship. When you are ready, we ask you to join us. Pray for our country. Pray for those affected by the virus. Pray for our church. Pray for each other.

We will be beginning the season of Lent soon as well. With that season comes the reminder that this virus has been with us for nearly a year. We will have a second Lenten season of soul searching, penitence, and prayer. Join me in praying to God that we will be faithful.

In some shape or form, we hope to be dispensing ashes on Ash Wednesday. We will let you know very soon what to expect.

Peace, Ron

Happy Valentine's Day



Follow us on social media:



[www.fpcocala.org](http://www.fpcocala.org)



[www.facebook.com/fpcocala](http://www.facebook.com/fpcocala)



[www.youtube.com/First Presbyterian Church Ocala FL](http://www.youtube.com/First Presbyterian Church Ocala FL)

## Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Walk Jones

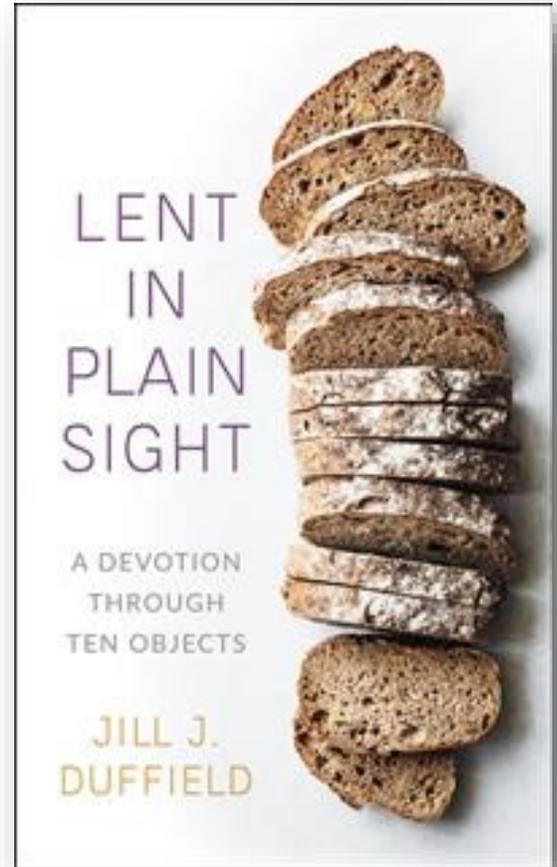
# Lenten Book Study

During the church's season of Lent, Rev. Jones will lead a study of the book *Lent In Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield, which looks at ten ordinary objects and Bible stories that refer to them. It is a spiritual look at the ordinary as we prepare our hearts, minds, and homes to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

This study is a little more touchy-feely and spiritual than the typical Presbyterian, intellectual Bible study, but as we enter the second year of COVID-19 being more tactile while seeking God in the ordinary feels about right.

Because many in our church are still being physically distant due to the Covid-19 virus, we'll meet by Zoom conference beginning Thursday morning, February 18th from 11 to 12 p.m.

Call or email Mary Dingman 352-817-6720, [rtdingman@aol.com](mailto:rtdingman@aol.com) to sign up. If you have questions call Rev. Jones in the church office. Books will be ordered through the church, but you may order through Amazon (including Kindle), [thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://thethoughtfulchristian.com), or the bookseller of your choice. Shop around, there are used copies available.



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

Call or email Rev. Jones at church to get a Zoom link, come to the Fellowship Hall on Friday 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](http://www.griefshare.org/groups) Please wear a mask if you come in person.

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

### **DRIVERS NEEDED**

For Meals on Wheels. 4th Friday of each month. Call Jo Ann Brandt for details 352-671-1429.

Attendance Worship Services	1/3	1/10	1/17	1/24
9:00 a.m.	26	25	28	25
Online	164	158	159	149

# Session News

## Session Brief – January 3, 2021

- Mourned the death of Marsha Knepp on 12/6/2020.
- Approved election of Peggy Wiechmann as Clerk of Session.
- Approved John Peterson as Treasurer of FPC.
- Approved the election of the following Corporate Officers of FPC for 2021:
- President, Donnie Slone; Secretary, Peggy Wiechmann; Treasurer, John Peterson; Directors, Bill Futch, Joe Vorwerk.
- Approved the following check signers for 2021: John Peterson, Jeff Baker, Donnie Slone, Peggy Wiechmann.
- Approved Todd Carstenn to monitor a Zoom meeting for elders and deacons to discuss what place our church has in race relations.
- Approved part-time employment for Casey Miller to oversee a middle grades Bible Study every Wednesday from 3:00-6:00 p.m., plan and implement Vacation Bible School, attend Montreat with high school students, and plan and video a weekly children’s sermon.

Session			Diaconate		
Class of 2021		Class of 2022	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jeff Baker	Caroline Schlenker	Todd Carstenn	Evelyn Longo	Pat Bishop	Julia Wirono
John Heinbockel	George Tomyn	Elaine Cox	Alice Russell	Lois Dolin	Leslie Wiechens
Rusty Juergens	Joe Vorwerk	Pat Greaves	Donna Winfree	Gera Fleming	Kim Vollmer Smith
Cindy MacKay	Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk	Amy Johnson	Sue Brawner	Jessie Moseley	Jackie Albright
Mary Moore		Dave Schlenker	Trish Mosby	Joe Moseley	Sue Gordon
		Donnie Slone	Barbara Tomyn	Ann VanDenburgh	
				Kay Yancey	
Class of 2023					
Cathy Hancock	Jacquelyn Sexton				

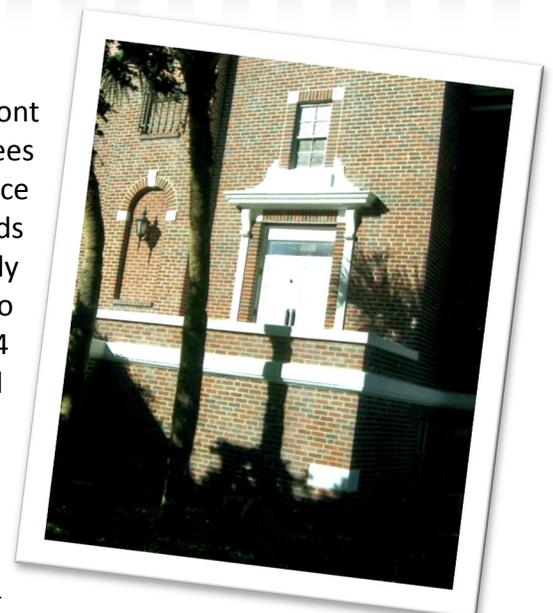
## Building and Grounds

### A New Door?

A member recently asked if we had added a new and additional front door entrance to our church? No, however, several of the Palm Trees closest to the door had to be removed. They had become an insurance liability and a danger to the church facility. Both facilities and grounds require constant oversight by this committee, in addition to the weekly lawn and shrub maintenance. We may not all recall, that in addition to the church, educational building wing, and fellowship hall, we have 4 additional city blocks. All of this together comprise 5 city blocks and become part of the First Presbyterian Church “Greater Campus”. City codes and compliance may often drive a final decision.

I told the lady that noticed the greater visibility and thought we may have added a new door. “No, Ma’m! But thanks for noticing and asking”.

-Don McCormack



# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

Greetings to all of you as we approach February 2021. It's almost been a year since we had to curb our PW activities. I'm praying that we can all begin to get the Covid-19 vaccine and begin the healing process for our wonderful country.

The lesson for February begins on page 55 in our study book, Lesson Six, entitled "Lament Over the City." Interesting that we are studying this subject when our country is witnessing so much turmoil. I know Tom Weaver has prepared another helpful handout and Evelyn will be distributing it around the first of February. 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.



*"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
For I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
For to you I entrust my life."  
Psalm 143:8*

The PWPCT will hold a business meeting on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10 til Noon over Zoom. I plan to represent our PW by participating in the virtual meeting. They continue to look for women to serve on a Search Committee as there are many vacancies within the Presbytery. If you are interested in serving, please let me know and I will put you in contact with Daryl Mullee, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, Presbytery of St. Augustine.

Let us remain faithful to PW and diligent in study and prayer as we continue through this pandemic and have God bless each one of us as we journey through this New Year. May God continue to give us direction for Presbyterian Women and its leadership.



## Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage 2021

Pilgrimage is a lay-led, three-day spiritual weekend in which the main goal is learning about God's love for you. The next pilgrimage weekend will be held October 29-31, 2021, at the Retreat at Silver Springs. This is not an evangelical experience but for committed Christians who desire a closer relationship with God. For more information, contact Rev. Walk Jones at the church (629-7561) or Ann Vandenberg (352) 615-2262 or visit [FloridaPresbyterianPilgrimage.org](http://FloridaPresbyterianPilgrimage.org).

### **2021 Interfaith Dinner Sign Ups**

"Thank you for the enthusiastic participation of so many in 2020! Thanks to Mary Moore and the Fellowship Committee, Mary Dingman and Faith Friends, Outreach Committee, Alice Russell and the Deacons, and many individual families and/or friends: Lee Anne Drake, Margaret and Jeff Baker, Ann Richardson, John and Suzy Heinbockel, JoAnn and Roger Brandt, Van and Fran Akin and Walk Jones. Three spots are still available: Feb. 11, April 8 and Dec 9, 2021. So please text or email Jarl Hagood to sign up - second Thursday of any month. [jarlhagood@aol.com](mailto:jarlhagood@aol.com) or text to 352-867-9372. Thank you!"

# Announcements



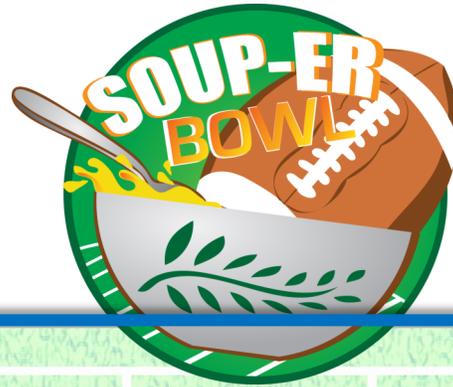
**Thursday, April 1st is the DEADLINE to apply for FPC Post-secondary school education SCHOLARSHIPS!**

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.

*Congratulations Walk and Nancy Jones*

on the birth of their third grandchild

*Arya Grace Jones,*  
born January 20, 2021



## **SOUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE FOR INTERFAITH SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7TH**

Happy New Year, First Presbyterian members and friends! It's time to bring your favorite cans of soup and any other items to celebrate the super job that Interfaith does for those in need in our community. Please join us on Sunday, February 7th (Super Bowl Sunday) between 10 and 12 noon to bring food or hygiene items to the church parking lot. We also welcome financial donations.

### **FOOD ITEMS**

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

### **HYGIENE ITEMS**

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

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

# February Birthdays

<b>2</b> Rick Meyer	<b>5</b> Marguerite Souder	<b>8</b> Wes Schultz	<b>16</b> Donnie Slone	<b>23</b> Shirley Stone
<b>3</b> Linda Meyer Chuck Opitz Matt Winfree	<b>6</b> Bob McClary Mike Wiechens	<b>9</b> Marty Smith	<b>17</b> Ruth Lewis	Luke Lewis
<b>4</b> Jeannette Casler Lois Clardy	<b>7</b> Curtis Vollmer Smith	<b>10</b> Ashley Winfree	<b>18</b> Madison Sprowles	<b>25</b> Ken Petrey Russel Dingman Taylor Robinson
		<b>11</b> Shirley Wells Doug Cone, II Heather Bookbinder	<b>19</b> Brenda Dauner Tracey Patrick	<b>26</b> Donna Bucy Glenda Winfree
		<b>12</b> Adella Barrineau	<b>19</b> Don Hutto Rita Miller	<b>27</b> Rachel Bookbinder
		<b>14</b> John Reiss Maren Kimball	<b>20</b> Ray Charnley Debbie Koch	<b>28</b> Cathy Taylor Floyd Johnson
		<b>15</b> Doug Brown Linda Bookbinder Gavin Robinson	<b>21</b> Vikki Hutto	<b>29</b> Heather Guest
			<b>22</b> Dick Blagus	



## PRAYER LIST

**Claudia Markham-Ahl**  
**Eddie Allsopp**  
**Wilma Andrews** (at home)  
**Bill Bowen**  
**Hal Brice** (friend of Mary Beth Olson)  
**Bill Canganelli** (grandson of Pat Bishop)  
**Andy Carlisle**  
**Shirley Cochran**  
**Maranell and Hank Fleming**  
**Ruth Fraser** (recovering from shoulder surgery)  
**Bill Green** (friend of Richard Grosso)  
**Barbara Gowie**  
**Cathy Hancock** (on the death of her husband Dick)  
**Brenda Jones and family**  
**Jolene Kai** (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)  
**Janice Kelly**

**Scott Kinnaugh** (Dorothy Siemons' son)  
**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**  
**Kathy Mortensen** (sister of Sharon Shirley)  
**Jessie Moseley**  
**Christian Myers** (friend of Julia Wirono)  
**Andy Patrick** (on the death of his father)  
**Michael Rou** (cousin of Dr. David Albright)  
**Ann VanDenburgh**  
**Larry and Lisa Waldren**



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the life of **Dick Hancock** who joined the saints of light on January 19, 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.

# Youth News

## It's a new year and Kaleo Youth is back!

Kaleo Youth has started and invites all **5th through 8th** graders to join us on **Wednesdays** to gather as friends and grow deeper in their walk of faith! At **3:15 p.m.** we will meet in on the sports fields to play and grow as a community as everyone is brought from their respective schools. Then at **4:00 p.m.** we will gather together for Bible Study. Pick up is at 5:15 p.m.

Students who attend the small group are asked to bring a Bible, mask (required), water bottle, and a blanket/towel to sit on.

If you have any questions, concerns, or are interested in volunteering please email Casey at [caseydiuguid@gmail.com](mailto:caseydiuguid@gmail.com)

*We are looking forward to seeing you there to explore God's word.*

Kaleo Youth

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# MIDDLE GRADES BIBLE STUDY

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5th-8th Graders  
Wednesdays 3:15-5:15

# Thank You





## First Presbyterian Church

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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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Sent with a prayer to:



## Hear ye! Hear ye! First Presbyterian Church Has a Phone Prayer Chain!! Again!

Anyone who has a need for prayers can call the Church Office, (352) 629-7561, and ask to be placed on the list of the Phone Prayer Chain. Our newly revived Prayer Chain is made up of a faithful and prayerful group of First Presbyterian members who deeply believe in the power of prayer and are ready to compassionately and discreetly pray for you and/or your loved ones. Please don't hesitate to call on them to pray on your behalf.

Moderated by the First Presbyterian Diaconate

**Questions? Call 352-843-0262**

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[www.fpcocala.org](http://www.fpcocala.org)

