



FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

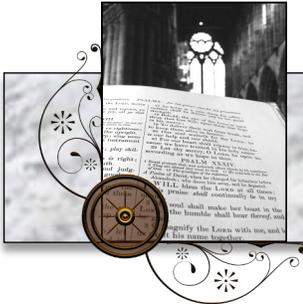
January 2022

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Volume 65 Number 1

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,

Twelve months ago when I wrote to you in the newsletter, we were looking at a very uncertain future. We were wondering when and if an effective vaccine was going to be made available to us. Since then we've had the vaccine and several boosters available, but we have many of the same questions and almost as much uncertainty. I am thankful for the way that the church has shown resilience during this period, but it is also been a period of tremendous change. So many churches are going through the same thing at the same time. We have been in conversation with many of them as we navigate through the pandemic. And yet, your Session has also made the bold decision, after consultation

with the Presbytery leadership, to hire Pinnacle Leadership Associates to work alongside us in 2022. (Pinnlead.com).

We will be reaching out to you with their help in order to rediscover who we are as a church and the thrust of our mission both during and post pandemic.

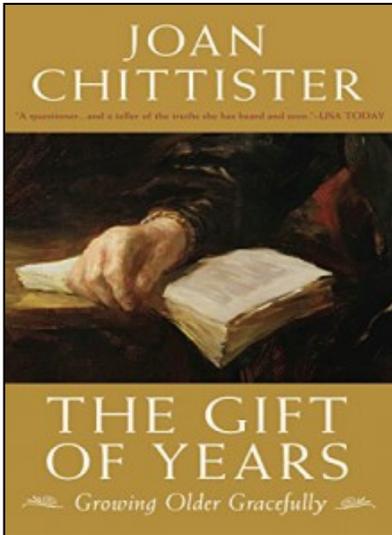
I pray that with God's help we will not only survive as a people and a church but be both focused and hopeful as to what the future may bring.

May God bless you in this New Year,
Ron



Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones



How do you view the aging process? Is it tinged with anxiety and regret? Or do you see it as an adventure, a time to find meaning, and a ripening? Or, is it a little of both? Gift of Years, Joan Chittister's best-selling book, offers us the chance to look at this time of maturation with fresh eyes, with joy for what has been and optimism for what is to come.

This study is for all of us who are aging or have parents who are aging. In about 8 weeks between February 22 and Holy Week we will look at growing older and growing in maturity as Christians. As of this writing, there will be an in-person study and online offering, but as Dr. Watson says in his article on the preceding page, the future is unknown.



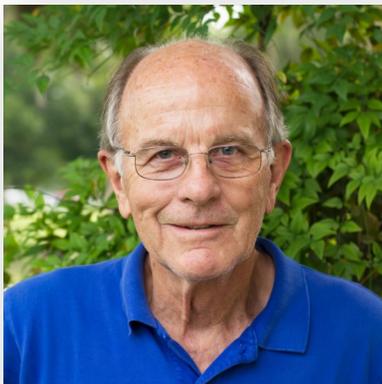
**Next series will start
January 14, 2022.**

Rev. Walk Jones, our interim associate pastor, convenes the grief group for discussion and lessons. Griefshare is held each Friday from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Call the church office (629-7561) or email wjones@fpcocala.org for information about the meetings.

Participants may join any week by showing up or registering at www.griefshare.org/groups/141283.

A well-deserved respite for a faithful servant

Elder John Peterson has resigned as FPC's treasurer, the position that he's held throughout 2021 as well as from 2015 through 2018.



A church member since 1984, John also has been active and productive in church financial matters and was a visionary on investment strategy for the church's Endowment Fund. In 2007, John, as Endowment Committee chair, encouraged the committee to change the investment strategy of using CDs for the endowment funds—as it had been doing since its 1990 inception—to one involving the development of a conservative approach for growing the endowment by utilizing the investment services of Merrill Lynch. The committee, and subsequently the session, agreed to John's and the committee's suggestion. Since then the endowment fund has risen to nearly \$1.3 million. John continues to serve as an active and much-appreciated member of the church's Finance Committee.

Well-done, good and faithful servant!

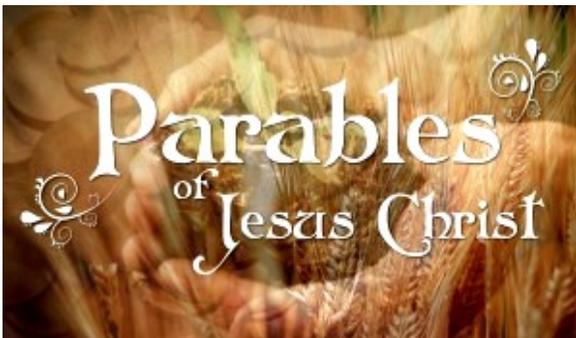
Session News

Session Brief, December 5, 2021

- We mourned the death of H. J. Rivers at the end of November.
- Approved the infant baptism of Piper Nelle Watson, daughter of Davis and Meg Watson of Gig Harbor, Washington to take place on December 24, 2021.
- Approved new elders Van Akin, Tom Weaver and Jim Yancey upon examination by the Session.
- Approved new deacons Martha Petrey, Raul Roman, Sharon Shirley, Terri Tucker, and Barbara Whitt upon examination by the Session.
- Approved standing in the worship service by the congregation as directed by the worship leaders.
- Approved accepting the proposal of Pinnacle Leadership Associates, a ministry consulting firm in South Carolina, that will work for us in 2022 to help us by working with the congregation, lay leadership, and staff to envision our future ministry.

Education News

2022 Plans for the Sunday Morning Discussion Group

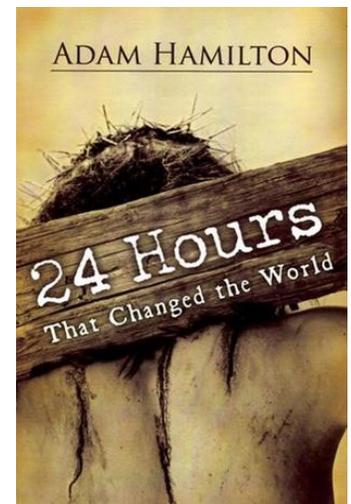


With a new year upon us we look forward to the opportunity to share a look into “The Parables of Jesus” beginning Sunday, **January 9, 2022** at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and continuing for eight weeks until the start of Lent. Dale Ambler and Mike Morehouse will lead discussions on the following parables: The Sower and the Seed, The Good Samaritan, The Rich Man and Lazarus, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, The Workers in the Vineyard, The Lost Son, The Unmerciful Servant, and The Persistent Widow.

Looking ahead to Lent...we will be using our Bibles and Adam Hamilton’s book/video, “24 Hours That Changed the World” to better understand how the course of human history changed “that day”.

For now...let’s see how the new year unfolds as we look a little more deeply at Jesus’ teaching thorough parables and where God may lead our group in the new year! Bring your Bibles and something to write with beginning January 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Happy New Year!! Dale.



Thank You

The family of Tom Michael would like to thank our First Presbyterian Church family for a beautiful memorial service on November 20th. Dad would have loved the music, the message and seeing his family and friends. Between Covid and Dad’s end stage illness, he wasn’t an active part of the church for the last several years. It was heart-touching and special to us that so many of his “Faithful 8:15” worshippers and longtime friends attended the service as well as sending cards and messages of friendship and condolences. The reception afterwards was in the wonderful PW style and many thanks to all those who helped. While we miss him, we are blessed with a lifetime of joyous memories and know Dad is now with Mom celebrating in heaven.

Blessings, Kristen, Michelle and Kyle

Christmas Party at Skill Day Center



FPC Presbyterian circle 4 had their annual Christmas party December 13, 2021 for the people at Skill Day Center in Ocala. Thanks ladies for hosting this party. (L to R) Debbie Koch, Lannie Mercer, Carol Carpenter, Sue Brawner, Catherine Jones (Skill Day Center), Esther Arango-Palencia and Amy Watson (Catherine's God-daughter).



Music Ministries

6 string instrumentalists plus 1 pianist and 1 preacher welcome the season with a wonderful *Christmas Concert with Strings*



Left; A blend of traditional and pop Christmas music filled the sanctuary as FPC's String Ensemble presented its *A Christmas Concert With Strings* on Sunday, December 12.

Those performing included string instrumentalists **Kaylee Asencia, Rebecca Nolasko, Amanda Raices, Mary Carstenn, Alex Morin** and **Kristy Nolasko** who were joined by FPC's organist/pianist **Kosumo Morishita**. Pastor **Ron Watson** and **Kosumo** performed the program's "Christmas Time" selection.



Also on Sunday, December 12th, the congregation was privileged to hear our music ministry perform beautiful Christmas music. Our Bell Choir, Chancel Choir and musicians went beyond their best. Thank you everyone.

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

Happy New Year to all! I remember moving to Ocala in December 1999 and now we are celebrating 2022 coming in. My how time has moved forward so quickly and I'd like to personally put the brakes on for a while. My prayer is for good health and God's richest blessings on each one of you.



The January Circle lesson continues with the study of Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth's is a story of a journey: from home, to a foreign country, back to home; from famine to fullness; from emptiness into community; from prejudice into openness; and from hopelessness into possibility. Looking back over our lives, where might we see similar journeys? What have these taught us? Let's gather together in His word and share our stories to encourage one another. 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.

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

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on January 27th, 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. If you'd like to join this happy ministry group, please come on January 27th or contact Coordinator, Liz Diener-Dickmann, with your questions.

THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, will be held on Saturday, January 29th, 2022 at Camp Montgomery. If Covid cases continue to rise, changes will be made to do it electronically. I will keep you informed of any changes. Please plan to attend, if at all possible.

Please continue to keep the work of Presbyterian Women 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.

“God of the outsider, let me stand with Ruth when I sense my own difference or that of another. Help me to see through the closed shutters of preconceived ideas, or of my own hopelessness, to the small kindnesses of strangers. When I am stuck in my small world, let Ruth bring me to a wider space where I can see the worth of every person. Most of all, let me never underestimate the power of ordinary goodness, and let me live this in every ordinary moment.” Amen. (Taken from the study book.)

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for January 2022					
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, January 4th	7:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 362-0013 cell
Circle 3	Monday, January 17th	10:00 a.m.	To be determined	Liz Diener-Dickmann	
Circle 4	Tuesday, January 11th	6:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
Circle 7	Tuesday January 11th	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	Tuesday January 11th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053
PRAYER SHAWL	Thursday January 27th	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

January Birthdays

3

Gwen Peterson
Dirk Lewis

5

Steve Koch
Lauren Hart

7

Dorothy Behrens
Lyn Rainbow

8

Jerry Rost

10

Adam Schuler

Howell Winfree, II

11

Rhonda Kirk

Molly Jank

12

Leslie Wiechens

13

Glen Switzer

15

Luella Nazaruk

Lilli MacKay

16

Sandra Dailey
Brooke Langley

17

Judy Judy

Claudia

Markham-Ahl

18

Sue Brawner

Trish Mosby

Lora Barrett

19

Connor Patrick

20

Austin Dailey

21

Erin Hutchins-
McClary

Gray Barrineau

23

Randy Briggs

24

Chris Bissett

William Cone

Linda Butscher

25

Gene Wiechens

26

Mina DiGeronimo

Laura Moore

27

Sid Varner

Elle Barrineau

Kathy Hart

Graham Moore

Steve Taylor

28

Mary Moore

Shelby Welch

29

Lamar Knepp

Russel Dingman

30

Roger Mason

Bill Futch



Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl (cancer treatment)

Eddie Allsopp

Wilma Andrews

Devin Anthony-Christiansen

(grandson of Marcia Dove)

Andy Carlisle

Ella Charnley

Shirley Cochran

Mina DiGeronimo

Adele Evans (friend of Richard Grosso)

Ruth Fraser (The Bridge)

Barbara Harrel

Hope Hill (friend of Richard Grosso)

Mark and Melanie Heuer (son-in-law and
daughter of Julia Wirono)

Jolene Kai (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)

Mary Kells (former organist)

Janice Kelly

Scott Kinnaugh (son of Dorothy Siemons)

Biddie Kirk

Calvin Jones (Skill Day Care Center)

Celine Mack

Judith Martin

Ruth Matti (friend of Pat Bishop)

Skip McDonald

Ron McMillin

Bob Mikulski (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)

Gloria Miller (back in the hospital)

Janet Morehouse (knee surgery)

Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)

Barbara Parks

John Peterson (Bridgewater)

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)

Richard and Sandy Valvo

Larry and Lisa Waldren

Jeffrey Yawn (grandson of Betty Williams)

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



A BIG "Thank You" article in the Spire to the committee and also the congregation for making our Giving Tree Project so successful. We were able to gift all of the items that were on the tree and then some extra to : The Domestic Violence Center, SoZo Kids and Project Hope. They were all very pleased and most appreciative of all of our efforts. A special Thank You to our church staff- Helen and Andrea for all of their assistance in putting this project together. Thanks, Becky



Picking up the donations from FPC Giving Tree Project, the representatives were so appreciative. They look towards the community for donations.

FPC came through once again to help make Christmas the best it can be.



*THANK YOU for
YOUR GENEROSITY
&
BLESSINGS TO ALL!*



The church office will be closed on January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.



First Presbyterian Church

511 SE Third Street
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Ocala, FL
Permit #25

Sent with a prayer to:



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!

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



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