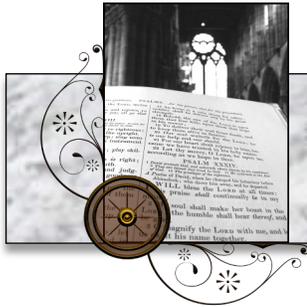


Our Vision - Our Mission

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,

As the Covid 19 landscape continues to change and evolve, so your church also is changing and evolving. For now, our worship remains one service at 10 am, incorporating elements of both traditional and contemporary worship. It is likely we will continue having this one worship service through the summer. Our church offices will be open beginning June 1st. With the exception of holidays, the offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm.

If the good news regarding the virus continues, I expect that the church will resume some of its weekday Bible studies and perhaps some fellowship events as well. These will most likely also happen in stages through the end of the year.

Your pastors continue to be on 24 hour call, 7 days a week. Whenever you have need of us or something to tell us, it is always best to call us

directly (cell phones) or email us. The church phone system is quite antiquated and not very reliable. Updating the church phone system is on a long list of repairs and updates for our church. Both pastors will be taking time for rest and pastoral study this summer, but one of us will always be on call. Our phone numbers are listed in your directory. If you have a paper directory that does not have Walk's phone number, call the office during business hours or call me to get that number. Your deacon has our numbers as well should you have any trouble reaching us. If you know something that you think we should know, please do not assume that we do know. Thanks to those who call us with such information, especially when a member has had an event in their extended families. Many times, such events are well known to the community but not to the pastors.

Let us continue to love one another, care for one another, and pray for one another. I hope you have a great summer!

Yours in Christ,
Ron



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

Each Monday



Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

Summer Camp is Back!

In 2020 Camp Montgomery overcame, in 2021 they are now champions like Jesus and the biblical warriors who faced trials with faith. Camp includes full days of activities including Bible study, "behind the boat", canoeing, swimming, archery, rock wall, low ropes course, hiking, arts & crafts and much more. Campers will enjoy fresh food from the camp garden prepared by the culinary staff. Evening activities include stargazing and a snipe hunt.

Each week a pastor in the presbytery will be the Camp Chaplain, and I, Pastor Walk, will be there in late July. I am excited about all that I just wrote and more. There are brochures in the church office and lots of information is available at www.montgomerycenter.net. Because there are six sessions of camp, our youth can go on a Montreat retreat and attend Camp Montgomery.

A COVID-19 waiver and negative COVID-19 test report will be required this summer and the camp staff will follow health guidelines. Camp is for 2nd through 12th grades. There are leader training weeks and counselor in training weeks. Counselors are needed. Applications can be found at the website above.

Welcome to FPC



LEFT: We want to extend a warm welcome to **Dale and Tari Ambler** who have moved here from Shorewood, Illinois! Tari joined our church on May 2, 2021, by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet. Her husband, Dale, a retired Presbyterian minister from that church, will remain a member of St. Augustine Presbytery. Tari is a retired pharmacist. She loves baking and cooking and has served her church in many ways, including being in the handbell choir. We are so happy you have decided to become a part of our church!



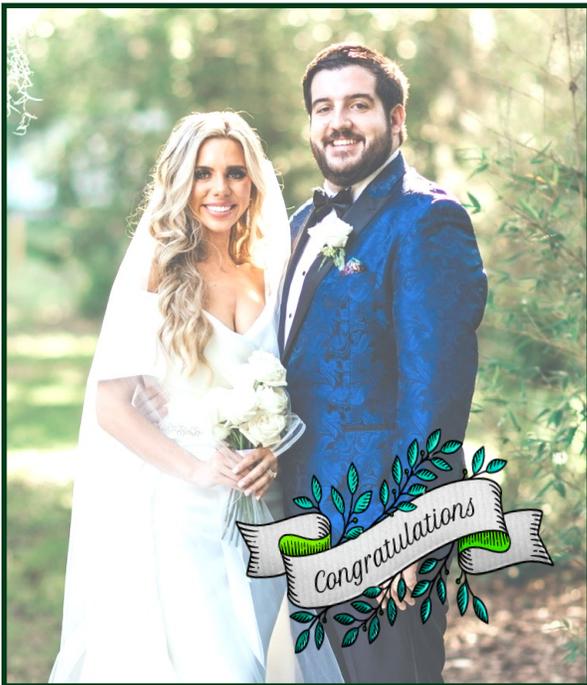
RIGHT: We want to extend a warm welcome to **PJ and Lara Standley**! They joined our church by reaffirmation of faith on May 16, 2021, and their precious seven-month old daughter, **Isla Wren**, was baptized the same day. Both PJ and Lara were born and raised in Ocala. PJ is an aspiring Engineer, loves sports and anything outdoors. Lara loves to bake, read a good mystery novel, and spending quality time with her family. We are so happy you have decided to become a part of our church!



Session News

Session Brief – May 2, 2021

- We mourned the deaths of Bill Bowen on 3/31/2021 and Hank Fleming on 4/8/2021.
- Approved acceptance of Tari Ambler into membership by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Joliet, IL.
- Approved the baptism of Isla Wren Standley, daughter of Lara and PJ Standley, on May 16, 2021.
- Approved a Called Session meeting prior to worship on May 16, 2021 to accept Lara and PJ Standley as members joining by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Approved a 10:00 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary to begin on May 9, 2021.
- Approved mask wearing and social distancing with no taking of temperatures during worship services. Members are encouraged to take their own temperatures prior to church services and if you are feeling ill, please worship from home. Mask wearing will continue to be required by all worshippers. Those unable to wear a mask are encouraged to worship from home.
- Approved Choir Director, Phyllis Von Ebers, to be responsible for putting in a traditional piece of music for each worship service. No full choir at this time.
- Approved bringing Choir Director, Phyllis Von Ebers, back from 1/3 to 2/3 of her salary with a start date of May 2, 2021 and to begin adding vocal music coordinated by Phyllis to both broadcast and in-person worship services.
- Approved for the foreseeable future, discontinuing the nursery during worship services and due to a budget shortfall, the nursery employees as of May 4, 2021. We thank those employees for their many years of faithful service.



Lea Diamond and **Austin Dailey** (son of Todd and Sandra Dailey) were married on May 1, 2021 at the Herlong Mansion in Micanopy. Austin and Lea live in Ocala.

<u>Attendance</u>				
Worship Services	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/23
10:00 a.m.	40	130	94	115
Online	226	118	121	148

Thank You

Our Interfaith Food Drive, Sunday, May 2, was a success again! Thanks to all who donated 1,049 pounds of food, plus an additional monetary donations of \$125 to Interfaith.

We also appreciate those who put in time and energy unloading food and gifts: **Leif Cole** (Bellevue Middle School), **Casey Miller**, **David Guest**, **Kaylyn Guest**, **Zane Waldron**, **Cheryl Fante**, and **Kay** and **Jim Yancey**.

Our friends at Interfaith were very appreciative, as always. We'll let you know the date of our next food drive!

Thank you for your continued support,
Christian Outreach Committee

Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to acknowledge your gift for addition to The Theological Education Fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Your generosity, together with the investment management provided by the Presbyterian Foundation, continue to safeguard those whom God and the Church call as our next generation of ministers.

Thank you again, Theological Education Fund

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

Presbyterian Women – To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

Greetings to each of you as we approach the summer season and look forward to being together as a congregation and with our extended families.

The Spring Gathering held on Saturday, May 1st, in the Fellowship Hall was wonderful in every way and to be together celebrating all Presbyterian Women stand for. There were twenty-six present and it was wonderful to be together once again. Tom Weaver led the discussion of our last lesson, entitled "The End of Lament." We collected our pledges for 2020-2021, mission offerings, for Birthday, 2021 Thank Offering, Least Coin and any other offerings from the past year as we were unable to meet to do so before. Note, that if you have a study book you want to donate for mission work, you may place it in the PW closet by the library on the ground floor.

If you have not already done so, Circle Members need to place their order with your Circle Leader in June for the new study book beginning in September 2021. The study title is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* by Meryll Blair. I think we will all enjoy this study. Tom Weaver has generously accepted to remain as our lesson coordinator. Thanks, Tom! We hope this coming year will be a good year for getting back together as we study God's word.

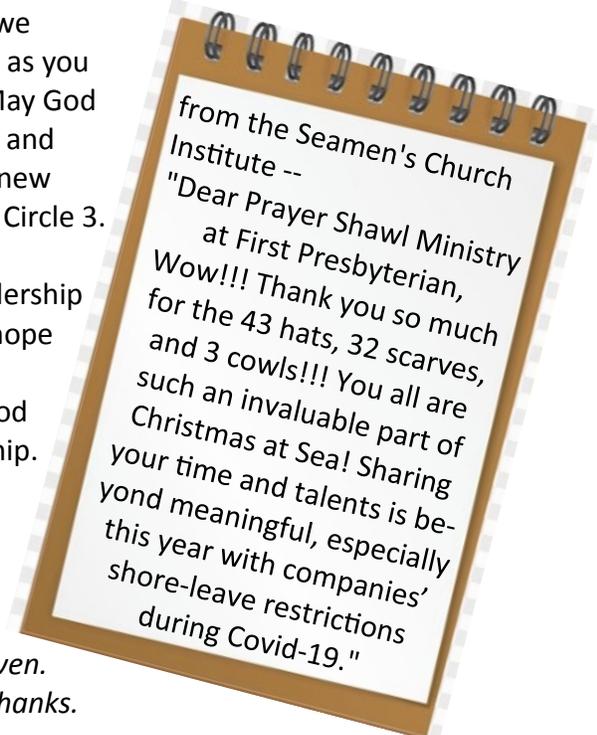
A special thank you to the Officers and Circle Leaders who have agreed to remain serving another year through this pandemic: Pat Greaves, Moderator; Liz Diener-Dickmann, Vice Moderator; Sharon Shirley, Secretary; Kristen Crawford, Treasurer; Lois Clardy, Together in Service: Mission; Debbie Koch, Bereavement; 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.



Please wish one of our very own members, **Louise Kail**, a very Happy 100th Birthday on June 20, 2021. You may send greetings to Louise at her summer home address: 124 Pleasant Mountain Drive, Dillard, GA 30537. Louise, we love you and wish you well as you celebrate this milestone. May God surround you with His love and give you strength for each new day. Louise is a member of Circle 3.

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.*



June Birthdays

1 Miranda Barrineau	8 Sara Wood	16 Donna Claus Alice Carlisle Morgan Evans	20 Louise Kail Betty Williams Courtney Edwards	24 Jennifer Gilman Naomi DiGeronimo
2 Carter Grodi	9 Taylor Bissett	17 Dwayne Molock	22 Andy Patrick Kyle Brawner	26 Jim Stone Frank Roberts Cathy Hancock
3 Keith Shotwell	10 Rev. Ron Watson	18 Elaine Cox		27 Jack Roberts
4 Pat Greaves	13 Eddie Aldrich Ethan Russell			29 Christopher Wollett
5 Beth Cannon	14 Cavi Drake			30 May Fair Taylor Marilyn Youngman Anna Lane Moore
6 Karen Faust Janie Scott	15 Evelyn Yorlano Fred Wollett Marlene McMurrer-Shank John Heinbockel			
7 Betsy Burfening Beth Futch				



Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl	Eric Masterson (brother-in-law of Deb Cone)
Wilma Andrews (at home)	Skip McDonald
Bill Canganelli (grandson of Pat Bishop)	Ron McMillin
Andy Carlisle	Gloria Miller
Shirley Cochran	Rita Miller
Ruth Fraser (recovering from shoulder surgery)	Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Barbara Gowie	Chuck Opitz
Rev. Bill Harrel and wife Barbara	Joseph Pickard (heart surgery)
Jolene Kai (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)	Richard and Fritz Rain (friends of Mary Beth Olson)
Scott Kinnaugh (Dorothy Siemons' son)	Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Kathy Lance (daughter-in-law of Lois Lance)	Janie Scott
Lois Lance	The Smith family (on the death of Marty Smith)
Walter Laseter	Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Grietje Lewis	Ann VanDenburgh
Renate Lipp (friend of Nita William)	Erv Wagner (Lois Dolin's brother)
Celine Mack	Larry and Lisa Waldren



FPC gives thanks for the life of Marty Smith who passed away May 8, 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.

*Hear new sermons every Monday
Call Sermon-by-Phone - (352) 342-9814*

Seniors 2021

Madison Sprowles



Madison graduated from The Villages High School. She is the daughter of Tommy and Shannon Sprowles and granddaughter of Larry and Elaine Sprowles. She was the 2021 District Champion for Triple Jump and is graduating in the top 10% of her class with a 4.5 weighted GPA. She has received a scholarship from Hope Lutheran Church in the Villages. Her favorite memories of First Presbyterian Church are going through confirmation and volunteering. Next year she will be going to the University of South Florida where she plans to pursue a degree as a Speech Language Pathologist.

*Robyn Nicole
Guest*



Robyn graduated from Belleview High School with a 3.8 GPA. She is the daughter of David and Heather Guest, and granddaughter of Jim and Kay Yancey. She was an active athlete with four years varsity letter for track, two years varsity soccer, two years cheerleading, and flag football. She also participated in SGA, HOSA Board Meeting, and Student Television Network. Her favorite memories from First Presbyterian Church are going to Vacation Bible School and then giving back as a Vacation Bible School leader. Robyn is the recipient of the Elton Veal Memorial Scholarship. This fall she will attend University of South Florida.



**LUKE
PATRICK**

Luke graduated from Forest High School. He is the son of Andrew and Tracey Patrick, and grandson of Barbara Patrick. He graduated with a 3.8 GPA. His favorite memories from First Presbyterian Church are the ski trips to Boone, NC and "torturing Mr. Schlenker." Next year he is going to Tallahassee Community College to study Building Construction Management.

Weston G. Cook



Weston graduated from Forest High School. He is the son of Dale Cook, former Director of Youth Ministries at FPC, and great-grandson of Rev. Edwin and Ruth Albright Sr., (former pastor at FPC). He is a Scholar Athlete and participated in Varsity Football, and Varsity Lacrosse. He was also an active participant in Student Government. His favorite memories from First Presbyterian Church are Wednesday night dinners, programs with Mrs. Brooke, and Mrs. Rhonda's cooking! This fall he will attend Florida State University.

Heather Rose Bookbinder



Alexandra Sexton



Alexandra graduated from Florida State University. She is planning to attend law school in the fall. She is the daughter of Jacquelyn Sexton and sister of Victoria and Charlene Sexton. She was the FSU Senior Class President, a Dance Marathon Morale Captain, a Relay For Life Survivor Caregiver Chair, and a member of Chi Omega. Her favorite memory of First Presbyterian Church is seeing her mother ordained as an Elder of the church! She is so proud and extremely thankful to have such an amazing role model!

Heather graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science: College of Human Sciences. She is the daughter of Linda and Stephen Bookbinder. Her favorite memory of First Presbyterian Church is Jesus in the Marketplace. She graduated Summa Cum Laude, was selected as the research assistant in the organic chemistry lab, and volunteered and had a leadership role in Best Buddies organization at FSU all 4 years. She is currently working full-time as a medical assistant in a dermatology practice in Tallahassee, FL during her gap year while studying for the MCAT. Her goal is to be a Dermatologist.

HELLO MONTREAT!

A Montreat Youth Conference is a gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of fellowship, worship, and recreation.



Middle School Montreat @Maryville College

July 13-17, 2021

Cost: **\$220**

If you have not signed up yet, a deposit of

\$100 due 06/16/21

Total Payment due: **07/07/21**



High School Montreat

July 18-24, 2021

Cost: **\$400**

If you have not signed up yet, a deposit of

\$100 due 06/16/21

Total Payment due: **07/07/21**

What is Montreat?

1 **Worship & Keynote**

Worship and keynote engage youth in the theme and challenge all in attendance to faith exploration and growth. Using scripture, Reformed theology, and song, youth are affirmed and united as children of God.

2 **Small Group**

Small group is a place where youth can share their journey of faith with peers through respectful conversations. Small group sessions are led by trained adult leaders who facilitate honest discussions about the themes presented in keynote and worship.

3 **Recreation**

We engage youth physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually in events that build up the Christian community while having fun! We believe that people who can play together can pray together; people who can sing together can talk together; and people who can dance together can walk together.

4 **Back Home Time**

Back Home Groups are the people you come with to Montreat. Each evening groups gather together to connect through prayer and conversation. Our hope is that experiences in keynote, worship, small groups, and recreation will provide all the content youth need to have some meaningful conversations with their Back Home group.

Please call or text Casey at
352-234-4137

**if you have any questions or
concerns about the trips!**



FPC KALEO YOUTH

SUMMER SERVICE WEDNESDAYS

Join us for service projects to earn volunteer hours, food, and fellowship.

7:45 A.M.-9:00 A.M.
OPTIONAL BREAKFAST/DROP OFF
9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
SERVICE PROJECT
1:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.
LUNCH
2:00 P.M.-5:15 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP AND GAMES

Dates:
June 2, June 16, June 30, July 7, and July 28





First Presbyterian Church

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Sent with a prayer to:

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 VanDenburgh (352) 615-2262 or visit FloridaPresbyterianPilgrimage.org.

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
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