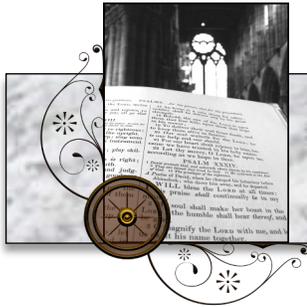




Our Vision - Our Mission

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 in Christ,

What a joyous celebration Easter was for us! We estimated 250 people that were either in the tent, outside the tent, or worshipping in their cars over the radio. I think the way in which people attended says a lot about how far we have come since this virus started, but it likewise, also says how far we still have to go.



I do think that soon we will be making an announcement about when worship will be returning to the sanctuary. This will be discussed again at the next session meeting on May 2nd. Your elders have done a great job of leading us through these difficult times, and I thank God for them. Our unity as a church is very important, and I urge you to look to our leaders for direction as they seek the will of God.

Of course, we also miss singing! Singing also will be discussed at this and future session meetings. We are fortunate that our elders include a number of individuals who are educated in and work in biological science. We will continue to look to them especially on issues of your safety.

May God continue to richly bless us, protect us, and bring us together in spirit until we may also be joined together in person.

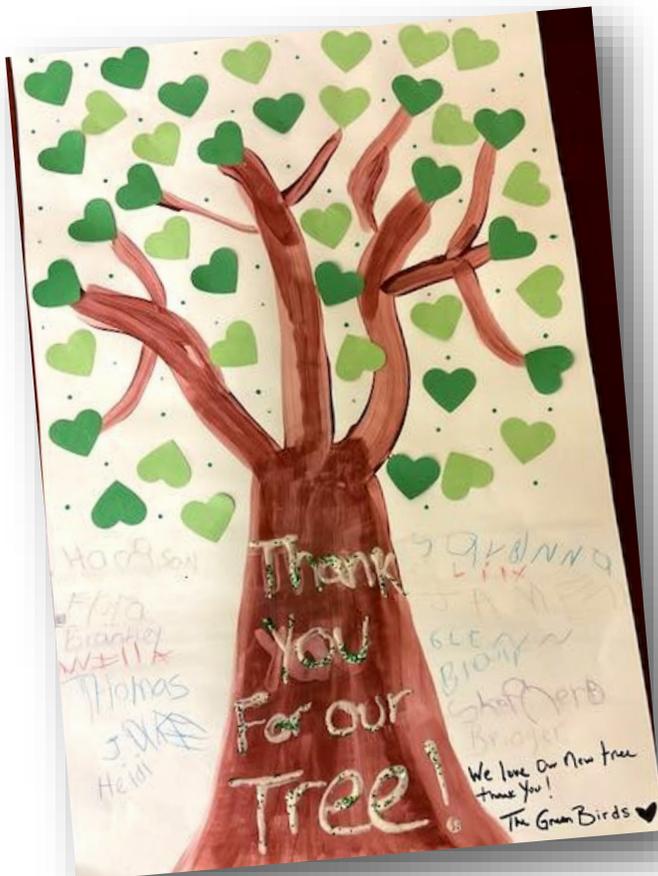
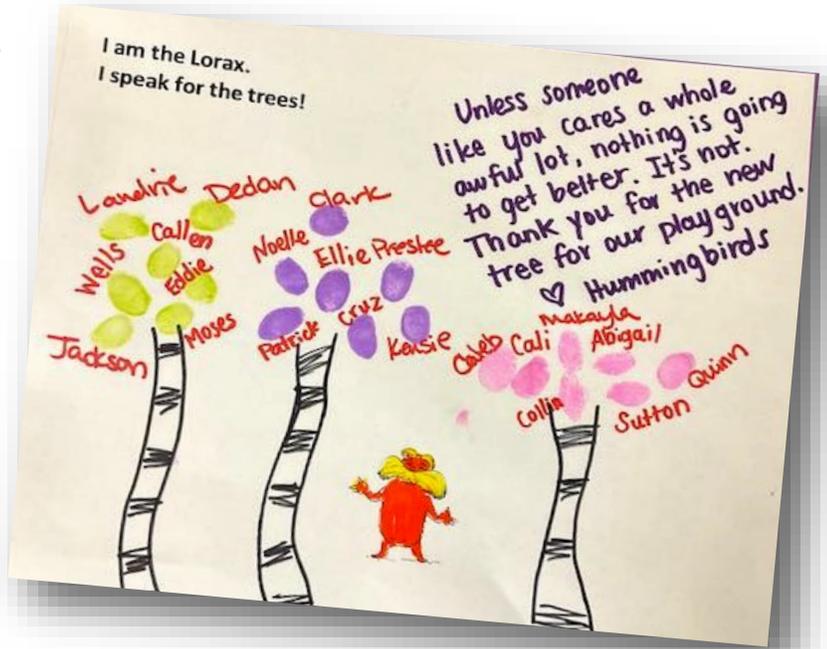
He Is Risen! Ron

Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

Last month the Building and Grounds Committee planted a new tree in the shared playground at First Presbyterian. The children at Happy Hearts Preschool were fascinated by the crane and the planting process. They love the new elm tree that shades their play.

The children and their teachers were so pleased with the large, new tree that each class collaborated on a card to thank our church, especially the members of the B & G committee. On this page are a few of the cards made by the classes. Note how the youngest children made hand prints while the older ones printed their names. The original artwork is on display in our Fellowship Hall for the next two weeks.



Members of the Buildings and Grounds committee, which has worked hard during this year of physical distancing, are:
Bob Drake,
Don McCormick,
Donna Claus,
George Tomy, Glen Switzer,
Raul Roman,
Sandy Clardy,
Shep Dozier
and Van Akin.



For more information about Happy Hearts go to <http://www.happyheartssocala.org/>

Session News

Session Brief – March 28, 2021

- Approved the request by Ramona Gant to be removed from the church rolls
- Approved allowing quiet congregational singing with masks on during the tent services.

Session	
Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Jeff Baker John Heinbockel Rusty Juergens Cindy MacKay Mary Moore	Caroline Schlenker George Tomyn Joe Vorwerk Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk
Class of 2023 Cathy Hancock Jacquelyn Sexton	

Diaconate		
Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Evelyn Longo Alice Russell Donna Winfree Sue Brawner Trish Mosby Barbara Tomyn	Pat Bishop Lois Dolin Gera Fleming Jessie Moseley Joe Moseley Ann VanDenburgh Kay Yancey	Julia Wirono Leslie Wiechens Kim Vollmer Smith Jackie Albright Sue Gordon



We need a Church Librarian

First Presbyterian is blessed with an extensive and appropriate church library beside our office in the sanctuary building. For many years Ann O’Hart of our church was our church librarian. Last year she moved to North Carolina to be closer to family. There are theological, general, and children’s sections in the library.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Rev. Jones (352) 629-7561 or email wjones@fpcocala.org. This would be a great job for one of our retired educators in the church.

As we begin the process of returning to a new normal, check out this great Christian resource at your church.

Hear new sermons every Monday

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



sermonbyphone.com

Attendance					
Worship Services	3/28	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25
9:00 a.m.					
Online	159		223	206	186



FPC Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, May 31, 2021

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 Coordinating Team of PW is planning our Spring Gathering to be held this Saturday, May 1st, at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will ask everyone to wear their mask and practice social distancing. Light refreshments will be served. I hope you will plan to attend this social as we close out the study for this year. Tom Weaver will lead the discussion of our lesson, entitled “The End of Lament” on page 83 in our study book. The main focus to the lesson is “God has promised that one day there will be no more crying, no more death, no more tears, no more lament.” Please bring your lesson book with you as we share this time of study together.

Following the lesson we will have a Business Meeting and collect pledges from last Fall for our present year 2020-2021, including payment for the present lesson books, mission offerings for the Birthday, Least Coin and any other offerings we have.

Circle Members need to place their order with their Circle Leaders in May for the new study book beginning in September. The study title is “What My Grandmothers Taught Me,” learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus by Merryl 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.

Please continue to keep the work of Presbyterian Women and its leadership in your prayers. We need some new volunteers so if you are willing and able please contact me. 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.

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. May God continue to give us direction for Presbyterian Women and its leadership.

*“Forgive us, O God, when we cause you sorrow.
Have mercy on us when we give you less than our best.
Our hope is truly in you: in who you are and in your love for us.
We give you thanks that your love is stronger than our failings. Amen.”*



www.fpcocala.org



www.facebook.com/fpcocala



www.youtube.com/First Presbyterian Church Ocala FL



www.instagram.com/FPCocalaFL



May 2, 2021 - 10 am to 12 noon
in the church parking lot

For those attending the 9:00 a.m. worship service, please bring your items to Fellowship Hall

Spring has been pleasant for our church and friends. Unfortunately, that hasn't been true for many who need help at Interfaith. God has been good to us, so if you can, please help others by giving food or hygiene items to Interfaith.

FOOD ITEMS

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

HYGIENE ITEMS

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

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

Thank You

*Pastor Watson
 I have been a board member for Interfaith going on five years. Many, many times I have heard of First Presbyterian's support for us whether dollars, donations, prayers, supplies or whatever. Your support is noticed and not taken for granted. We may not thank you and your church members enough but the main thing is God knows those who help the needy.*

*Once again Thank You. You and your members are truly generous and as they say, "Wind beneath our wings".
 God Bless,
 Vern Shukoski
 IES BOARD MEMBER*

Wording from thank you:

Pastor Watson, I have been a board member for Interfaith going on five years. Many, many times I have heard of First Presbyterian's support for us whether dollars, donations, prayers, supplies or whatever. Your support is noticed and not taken for granted. We may not thank you enough but the main thing is God knows those who help the needy.

Once again, Thank You. You and your members are truly generous and as the say, Wind beneath our Wings.

*God Bless,
 Vern Shukoski
 Interfaith Emergency Services Board Member*



Need help with finding a job? Need some extra supports with maintaining or advancing in your current job? Vocational Rehabilitation may be able to help. This state agency assists those who have a physical or mental disability find and/or maintain employment. If you think that you may be eligible for services or even if you are not sure, please call the Ocala office at (352) 732-1290. Want to know more about VR? You can visit our website at www.rehabworks.org.

May Birthdays

1 Mary Beth Olson Amy Curtis Tyler Michael Sharpe	7 Mia Palacios	11 Ryleigh Gladdin Melanie Slaughter	16 Skyler Elizabeth Blair	24 Sue Gordon
2 Andie Vorwerk	8 Cheryl Fante Anna McCurry Jackie Albright	12 Carly Grace Albright	18 Sharon Shirley	25 Ann VanDenburgh Judd Reed
3 Robert Moore	9 Frieda Mae Bovard Wayne Curtis	13 Liz Diener-Dickmann David Wayne Guest	22 Kathryn Augusta Palmer	26 Jordon Drudge
5 Victoria Anne Sexton	10 Camryn Lily Johnson	14 Barbara Wood Barbra Eileen Siebert	23 Nancy Reichenbacher Shep Dozier Hayden Kimball	27 Charles Moseley Andrew Wilke Parker John Labagh
6 Joyce Herbert Hannah Evans	10 Hayley Adair Maggie Sage Davis	15 Patty Ann Schiefer Georgene Nolan Jimmy Kelly Grant Joseph Brodi		29 Bryce Peek Jr.
				30 Estella Faust
				31 Kelly Merians Davis

Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl
Eddie Allsopp
Wilma Andrews (at home)
The Bowen family (on the death of Bill)
Bill Canganelli (grandson of Pat Bishop)
Andy Carlisle
Shirley Cochran
Mina DiGeronimo (numerous family members with Covid)
Bill Dolin (in hospital)
Maranell, Scott, Gera Fleming and the Fleming family (on the death of Hank)
Ruth Fraser (recovering from shoulder surgery)
Barbara Gowie
Rev. Bill Harrel and wife Barbara
Rusty Juergens (on the death of his mother Bernice)
Jolene Kai (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)
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
Ron McMillin
Mia Jade McRae (granddaughter of Mary Beth Olson)
Gloria Miller
Rita Miller
Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Chuck Opitz
Hal Price (friend of Mary Beth Olson)
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Janie Scott
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Barbara Valentino (friend of Helen Quinlan)
Ann VanDenburgh
Phyllis Von Ebers (on the death of her mother Sue Wilson)
Erv Wagner (Lois Dolin's brother)
Larry and Lisa Waldren



FPC gives thanks for the lives of **Bill Bowen** and **Hank Fleming** who passed away in April 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.

Kaleo Youth News, Casey Miller, Coordinator

Graduation season is upon us and ceremonies and celebrations are about to be in full swing. We would like to congratulate all of our graduates and celebrate them during this special time in their lives. They have overcome many obstacles as their final year of school have been anything but normal. Yet, they have persevered.

Many of the youth who are graduating have grown up in our church right in front of our eyes. Now, as a church, we look forward to sending them off to the next chapters of their lives. We will celebrate the class of 2021 during our worship service on May 23, as well as including them in our virtual service and monthly newsletter. If you or your family know of any high school or college graduates you would like to recognize, please call the church office.



High school seniors:

Robyn Guest

Weston Cook

Madison Sprowles

Luke Patrick

College:

Heather Bookbinder
(FSU)

Congratulations



Robyn Guest receives FPC Scholarship

FPC's Scholarship Committee headed by Chair Kay Yancey, unanimously granted a \$500 scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year to **Robyn Guest**.

Robyn Guest

Robyn, daughter of FPC members Heather and David Guest, will graduate from Belleview High School and plans to attend the University of South Florida. She hopes to become a nurse practitioner, focusing on neonatal care. An FPC member, she has been a faithful volunteer during the church's frequent food drives. For many years she's been an active volunteer in our Vacation Bible School.

The church proudly acknowledges **Robyn Guest's** accomplishments as she begins her college education and extends its congratulations and best wishes.

FPC's Scholarship Committee members include Kay Yancey, chair, Todd Carstenn, Elaine Cox, Nancy Livesay, Bonnie Vorwerk, Paul Vowinkel and Tom Weaver.

KALEO YOUTH

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to pick up
and serve dinner on Sunday evenings
5:30pm-6:45pm

**CALL OR TEXT CASEY IF INTERESTED
352-234-4137**

If you are interested in helping in another
capacity, please feel free to reach out!

KALEO

Youth Group Sunday!

FPC Sport Fields
Middle School: 5-630
Dinner: 6-630
High School: 6-730

Rain Plan: Fellowship Hall



First Presbyterian Church

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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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Sent with a prayer to:

The First Presbyterian Phone Prayer Chain



This ministry is a vital part of First Presbyterian Church. It is greatly appreciated by those it serves. Prayers are being heard and answered daily! Anyone who would like to join is welcome. It's a wonderful way to feel more connected and to serve your church and the Lord. All you need is a phone. Come join us!

First Presbyterian Deacons
352-843-0262
abrdvm@yahoo.com

*"And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well."
James 5:15*

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
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www.fpcocala.org

