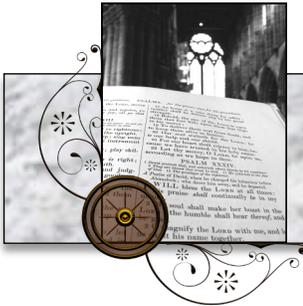




Our Vision - Our Mission

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 have been blessed with another celebration of Easter which included worship in the sanctuary on our festival day for the first time since 2019. Yes, it has been three years since we celebrated Easter in the sanctuary due to the pandemic which started not much before Easter of 2020. Call this just another reason we are involved with our consultants and our Way Forward Committee. I hope you had a chance to fill out the survey! But even if you didn't, you may now participate through the listening sessions mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, May 14-16. Rev. Dr. Dan Holloway, our consultant from Pinnacle Leadership Associates, is very experienced and talented in listening to what congregations have to say about themselves. I would encourage you to participate if you possibly can. The more we know, the more information we have to move forward. I ask you to pray for Dan, for the Way Forward Committee, the session, the pastors, and the

rest of the church staff as we hear the results and interpretation of the survey.

I encourage you to participate in the picnic on May 15th. May God send us more great weather like the last picnic! Please join us. When we get together and break bread, we are the body of Christ in a most unique way. We share our joys and sorrows and grow in the bond of Christian fellowship.

From Romans 12

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

May you experience Christ's love in a most unique and FPC way this May!

He Is Risen! Ron

Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

Inquirer's Class – Sundays at 9 in Fellowship Hall—Led by Dr. Jones

Last Sunday, April 24, I preached on Thomas and his questions. We all have questions and doubts. Others of us are new to Presbyterianism and still others want to become members of our congregation. For five Sundays, beginning May 8, I will teach a class for all of us who are seeking, searching, inquiring, or just pondering what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian and member of First Presbyterian church.

Over these five weeks we'll look at Church History, Presbyterian Beliefs, How First Presbyterian is organized, thinking about what each of us believes, and a summary week on June 5. Also on Sunday, June 5, the Session will meet after worship and receive new members. This Inquirers' Class is not required to join the church, but it is a good introduction and a good recap for folks who joined our church during the Covid restrictions.

I hope you will join me in this Adult class on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. beginning May 8 (next week).

Session News

Session Brief – April 3, 2022

- Mourned the death of Marguerite Faulkner-Souder on 3/20/2022.
- Approved the Deacons holding a food drive for the congregation to donate non-perishable lunchbox items for the residents of Open Arms Village. In addition, they will need paper goods, cutlery, plates, cups, lunch boxes, shelf staple items like tuna, peanut butter, jelly, etc. Gift cards from Walmart and Publix can also be donated for disposable items. This drive will take place from the end of June through the end of July with a collection day of Sunday, July 31st.
- Approved an Inquirers Class to be taught by the Rev. Walk Jones on Sunday mornings from May 8-Junes 5 for those people interested in learning more about being a Presbyterian.

Announcements



FPC Ocala's church office will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

The FPC Spire also goes out electronically through email. If you are not receiving it by email, and would like to, please contact the office and we will add you to the email list.



Our June Spire is for Our Graduates!

Know a graduate? Send a baby photo, current photo and a brief bio to officefpc@fpcocala.org.

Join us in honoring our graduates at the Sunday, May 15th worship service



<u>Attendance</u>				
Worship Services	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24
10:00 a.m.	108	130	202	121
Online	80	102	110	108



FPC celebrates the sights,
sounds and message of
Easter



Fellowship News

Holy Time—

Before and after
worship on May 1st
join the Fellowship
Committee

for
coffee
and
snacks



Family Picnic — May 15th

May 15th following
service will be a church
family picnic in
Fellowship Hall.

Food, Fun and Fellowship



Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator



For ALL women of First Presbyterian Church

As we enter the month of May we think of taking a break during the Summer much like we did in the elementary school years. But do we really take a break from our Bible Study and prayer life? Maybe we can take our study books and review some of the great lessons we shared in Circle. Reminisce about our grandmothers or the great women in our life who were influential in the path our lives took. It was a great study.

Thank you to Tom Weaver for his faithfulness to our Bible study and preparing additional study comments to each lesson and to his lovely wife, Evelyn, for distributing Tom's lesson outline to all the Circle members each and every month.

OUR NEXT STUDY FOR 2022-2023 will be *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Please sign up for your copy through the Circle Leaders or Liz Diener-Dickmann. Cost of the study will remain at \$10 per book, payable in the Fall when we resume and distribute the books.

At the time of writing this article, the SPRING GATHERING was held on April 23rd, and had 30 ladies participating. If you didn't get to participate, I urge you to plan to attend our fellowship lunches when we resume in the Fall.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, April 28th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. They will continue through the summer months with May 26th as the next date. 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 April 28th or contact Coordinator, Liz Diener-Dickmann, with your questions.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

"Let us give thanks for faithful grandmothers.

God of promise, We thank you for Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.

We thank you for the unnamed women of faith who tirelessly loved those in their care, never looking for reward, often not even receiving thanks. We bring forward the women we would like to thank. As we remember our own stories alongside the stories of Jesus' grandmothers,

Help us to be mindful of our place in the great Story of your saving grace.

May we also faithfully nurture those who are under our care and those who come after us.

Help us to pay attention to the times when we exclude, and to always look for you at work in the ignored and cast aside. Let us remember that our own experiences of being ignored and cast aside are also the places where you bring life and hope.

For the good of the world, and so all may be overwhelmed by the joy of your presence, We pray in the names of all of whom Jesus was born, Jesus, who is the Messiah." Amen.

(Taken from the study book.)

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for May 2022
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, May 3 rd	7:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 362-0013 cell
Circle 3	Monday, May 16 th	11:00 a.m. Lunch	Pat Greaves 5623 NW 25 th Loop 352-362-0013	Liz Diener-Dickmann	
Circle 4	Tuesday, May 10 th	6:30 p.m.	Contact Debbie Koch	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
Circle 8	NO MEETING				
PRAYER SHAWL	Thursday April 28 th and May 26 th	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

Deacons

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! FPC Deacons 352-843-0262 abrdvm@yahoo.com

"There is a power in persistent prayer" Micah 7:7

Deacon's Corner

*Psalm 86:12 – I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever. (NIV)*

She has been found!! Our prayer chain received a call around 10 a.m. one Friday asking us to pray for Lori, a woman who had been missing for two days. A relative knew that FPC, like her own church, had an active Deacon phone call prayer chain. Prayers went out immediately asking for God's help in finding Lori. By 1:00 p.m. we received the call that Lori had been found. She was in the hospital after a drug overdose... not her first... but we have continued to keep her in our prayers and learned that Lori is now sober in her fourth week of rehab. A miracle? Your Deacons believe it was – and that is why we never stop praying, and thanking God for never giving up on us.



Christian Outreach

Hello Spring

It may be May Day on the calendar, but it's also a great day to donate your favorite food, hygiene, and any other items to help Interfaith for those in need in our community. Those of us at First Presbyterian, and our friends and families, are welcome to join us **Sunday, May 1, 2022** between **9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.** in the parking lot.

FOOD DRIVE FOR INTERFAITH SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

FOOD ITEMS

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

HYGIENE ITEMS

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

Remember that even one item can make a difference. We also welcome monetary donations. Thank you for donating and blessings to all!

Scholarship News

Five Receive FPC Scholarship Awards

FPC's Scholarship Committee recently granted monetary awards to the following:

Christina Diuguid
Robyn Guest

Caroline Schlenker

Yancey Guest
Ethan Russell

The church proudly acknowledges these students' accomplishments and extends congratulations and best wishes to each.

About FPC's scholarship program

The committee's resources come entirely from donations and memorials dedicated to the scholarship program. These contributions are directed to three unrestricted accounts—the Edwin Albright, the Elton Veal and the Jane Layendecker—or to two permanently restricted accounts that are limited to persons preparing for a church-related vocation.

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, Paul Vowinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver. Members also can discuss donations to the scholarship program.

May Birthdays

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

Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl (cancer treatment)
Wilma Andrews
Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)
Cede Blackwell (great-niece of Mary Kauffman)
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Mina DiGeronimo
Adele Evans (friend of Richard Grosso)
Ruth Fraser
Barbara Harrel
Hope Hill (friend of Richard Grosso)
Mark and Melanie Heuer (son-in-law and daughter of Julia Wirono)
Victoria Johnson (Christine Johnson's great-granddaughter)
Jolene Kai (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)
Janice Kelly
Scott Kinnaugh (son of Dorothy Siemons)
Jerry Lance
Lois Lance (Life Care Center)
Celine Mack

Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
Bob Mikulski (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)
Gloria Miller (Hawthorne Rehab)
Blue Montsdeoca
Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Albert Peek
John Peterson
Annette Pickard
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Bobbie, Bob Ripple and family
(Mike Poteet's sister and brother-in-law)
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
C.A. Russell (Alice Russell's brother-in-law)
Betty Smith (friend of Pat Bishop)
The Stephens family (on the death of Pat)
Shannon Tanga (granddaughter of Bill Harrel)
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
Jason Trump (son of Margaret Trump)
Richard and Sandy Valvo
Larry and Lisa Waldren
Jeffrey Yawn (grandson of Betty Williams)



FPC gives thanks for the life of Pat Stephens who passed away April 4, 2022.

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.



First Presbyterian Church
511 SE Third Street
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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Sent with a prayer to:

Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30 a.m.
at Wolfy's Restaurant
2159 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470

THE is a monthly publication of
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