



FPC Ocala

THE SPIRE

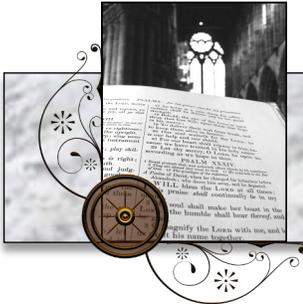
October 2021

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Volume 64 Number 10

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 **World Communion Sunday** approaches, we are reminded that the church is bigger than First Presbyterian Ocala, bigger than St. Augustine Presbytery, bigger than the 1.25 million members of the PCUSA. Our witness is unique, but it only represents a fraction of the church universal which has 2.5 billion Christians in the world. 1.9 billion people count themselves as Muslims, while 1 billion are Hindus, 500 million are Buddhists, and only 15 million Jews. (source: Gordon Conwell Center for Global Christianity). Though we are the largest religious group in the world, we cannot agree on things like what day to celebrate Christmas and Easter. Though world communion is not officially recognized through all denominations, many individual churches across Christendom practice receiving the

sacrament on the first Sunday in October, a tradition started (of course) by Presbyterians at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh in 1933. Whether you celebrate in person or at home on our Youtube broadcast, I hope you will pray for the unity we Christians experience on that special day.

On the last day of October which falls on a Sunday, October 31st, we will celebrate **All Saints Day** (a day early) and have a special commemoration of those who have died during the pandemic as part of our regular worship service that Sunday.

Yours in Christ,
Ron

The church office will be closed Monday, October 11, 2021 in observance of Columbus Day



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

Each Monday



Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

This coming Sunday, October 3, is **World Communion Sunday**. It is often a day we celebrate the church around the world as well as ecumenical ties across denominations.

I was thinking about all the countries where I have taken the Lord's Supper. I recall worship services on mission trips in Haiti, South Africa, and Mexico as well as the times I went to church as a student or tourist. There were services around the Table in England, Scotland, France, and Israel. I remember an outdoor service in California and there may have been services that I don't remember. Yes, Nancy and I go to church while on vacation. I specifically remember a recent Palm Sunday at the American Protestant Church in Paris where they use our

new Presbyterian hymnal (the same one that is in our pews in Ocala). They waved boxwood sprigs for lack of palm trees in northern France. Memorable.

Where have you worshiped God around the nation and the world?

The Holy Spirit is hard at work around the world. The church is growing faster in Africa and South America than in North America. At First Pres we have a new relationship with Presbyterian missionaries to Madagascar, Dan and Elizabeth Turk. We continue to support the whole constellation of Presbyterian Mission as well as this specific support of the Turks. Join me in praying for them and the Church in Africa on World Communion Sunday.

Session News

Slate of Elders and Deacons in Nomination

The Nominating Committee has completed its nominations for Elders and Deacons for the upcoming classes. A congregational meeting will be set for later in October. Please watch for the exact date and time in the bulletin and the Inspire.

Slate of Elders

Van Akin (Class of 2023)
Jeff Baker (Class of 2022)
Cindy MacKay (Class of 2022)
George Tomyon (Class of 2024)
Tom Weaver (Class of 2024)
Peggy Wiechmann (Class of 2024)
Jim Yancey (Class of 2024)

Slate of Deacons

Evelyn Longo (Class of 2024)
Lannie Mercer (Class of 2022)
Martha Petrey (Class of 2024)
Raul Roman (Class of 2024)
Alice Russell (Class of 2024)
Sharon Shirley (Class of 2023)
Terri Tucker (Class of 2024)
Barbara Whitt (Class of 2024)

Session Brief

- We mourned the death of Marilyn Tucker on 8/13/2021
- Approved the removal of Steven Shotwell and Paulette Johnson from the membership rolls at their request.

Sunday Morning Apostles' Creed Discussion Group

We are off to a great start and it is not too late for you to join us on Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. as we continue to look at the Apostles' Creed and, more importantly, God's word to us, the Bible. Our discussion group for the Apostles' Creed will go through the end of October. I can provide you the study material we have been using if you email me, Dale Ambler at dfapurdue81@gmail.com. I am already starting to look at opportunities for Sunday

morning with Mike Morehouse (joined the church in September) and our pastors as it is clear that there is a hunger needing to be fed. Please come and join us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall and bring your Bible, something to write with, and, for now, your mask/face covering as we are still wanting to keep everyone as safe as possible in these trying times.

Blessings in Christ...Dale Ambler.

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

Greetings to each of you! I hope you enjoyed the first lesson in our study book, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus by Merryl Blair. In October, we will study about the life of Tamar. "Of all the stories in Matthew's genealogy, Tamar's story is probably the least told. Perhaps this is because we are uncomfortable with a tale of sexual transgressions and a woman who uses her sexuality to get what she wants. Whatever the reason the story deserves to be heard in its ancient Near Eastern setting."



As we approach October we continue to let each Circle decide if they want in-person meetings. Your leadership has decided that we will leave it up to the members of each Circle as to whether your Circle will meet for the month of October.

Tom and Evelyn Weaver will email Tom's lesson to all the Circle members who have been receiving email or mail through the postal system. Circle Leaders will contact their membership and see how many want to meet and make those plans for in-person meetings. Thanks to Tom and Evelyn for their labors of love.

Circle 3, with Liz Diener-Dickmann as Leader, led an in-person meeting on September 20th, hosted by new member, Marcia Dove, with the lesson led by Sharon Shirley. There were eight participating. It was great being together and we all wore masks and safely distanced. Circle 3 will meet in person on Monday, October 18th, at 10 a.m. at the home of Tari Ambler, 10546 SW 90th Street Road, Ocala 34481, telephone 815-315-2544.

Lois Clardy, Liz Diener-Dickmann, Gera Fleming, and Pat Greaves attended the St. Augustine Presbytery's, Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the Montgomery Conference Center. There have been some wonderful changes made in upgrades at the Conference Center. We took donations for the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network Cleanup Bucket service project and paper products, cleaning supplies, soap and detergent donations for Teen Challenge. I urge you to pray for the clients in the Teen Challenge program – a Christ-centered program for drug addicted clients. I heard the testimony of three young adults and it is amazing how the Lord has changed their lives and is working to get them back into society.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021 at 7 p.m. at the Church.

The Coordinating Team has decided to have a FALL GATHERING on Saturday, November 13th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have Lee's Pot Pies and the cost will be \$10.00 per person. Mark your calendar and plan to sign up with your Circle Leader. More information to come in the November Spire.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, October 28, 2021 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 contact Coordinator, Liz Dickmann (908-377-8913)

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, courage is such a difficult word. We so often find it easier to remain within the safety of others' expectations rather than dare to challenge, even when we know that injustice is all around us. Help us to have Tamar's courage and insight to see the wider vision of justice for all. Help us to dare to change whatever keeps us bound and silent, so that we may stand with our bound, silenced sisters and brothers and allow your vision and promise to move toward fulfillment." Amen. (Taken from the study book.)

Youth News, Casey Miller, Coordinator



Time's flying!

Monday, November 1st
is the deadline for
FPC SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS!

Applications for the winter term are available in the church office. **The absolute final deadline** to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on **Monday, November 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, Paul Vowinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.

November 1st is fast approaching! Apply now!

Bike Rally 2021



FPC Deacons

FPC Deacons Embrace Another Outreach

Over the summer, members of the FPC Deacon Ministry graciously gathered lunch box items to support Open Arms Village residents, helping them as they work toward their personal growth and independence each day. Their generous delivery was made August 11th. Please prayerfully consider this additional outreach as the Deacons would like to expand it to include the entire congregation in the future. "We feed those as we have been fed".

"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble.

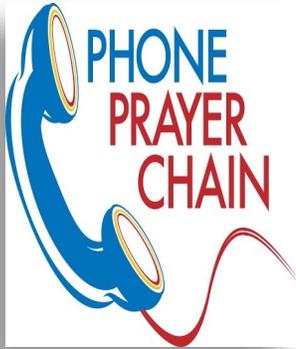
Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day." Isaiah 58:10



<u>Worship Attendance</u>	8/29	9/5	9/12	9/19	9/26
10:00 a.m.	97	71	86	102	95
Online	109	128	149	130	107

Announcements

Hear new sermons Every Monday. Call Sermon-by-Phone (352) 342-9814



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.

FPC's church library is available for your use. We encourage you to see if there is something you may be interested in.

There are over 3,000 books in fiction, non-fiction, bible references and commentaries, prayer, family relationships, health, death & grieving.

There are books by popular authors like MacArthur, Lucado, Barclay, John Grisham, Mary Higgins Clark and collections of novels in a series from Jan Karon and Terry Blackstone.

We also have many children's books available and are accepting donations of them and videos. Stop in and relax or read books to your children or grandchildren. Even take some books home for a while. We would love to see you there.

*Thanks and God Bless,
your church librarians, Joe and Cheryl Lara*



HELP NEEDED

FPC's Fellowship Committee is looking for folks who would like to join a group involved with creating textile art to enhance our worship experiences. This would include making banners, stoles, paraments, etc.
If interested please contact Vicki Roberts at 351-2220.

October Birthdays

1
Pat Bishop
Jim Edwards

3
Joe Dickmann
Joe Fante
Dianne McDonald
Kaylyn Guest

4
Isla Wren Standley

5
Biddie Kirk

6
Sam Langley
Howell Winfree III
Mary Carstenn
Ben Draime

7
Pam Curtis
Dawn Bourne

9
Jules Watson

12
Bob Drake
Savannah Bennett

13
LT Manning
Julie Weiss
Kristen Crawford

14
Barbara Gowie
Gary Merians
Ross Winfree
Ryan Edwards
VonHayes Switzer
Hannah Ruiz

16
Howard Behrens
Evan Byrd

17
John Hagood

18
Sharon Jank
David Austin Albright II

19
Trusty Drake
Hank Goedert

20
Neige Stabler

21
Jeff Hart
Zachary Welch

22
Nita Williams
Jane Beebe
Allison McDonald

23
Chris Johnson
Landyn Baines

25
Carolyn Mason
Gloria Miller
Phyllis VonEbers
Dale Cook IV

26
Jane Hutcheson
Susan Raffa

27
Tracy Hester
Bill Tucker
Walter Laseter
Danny Gilman

28
Hope Meffert
Tari Ambler

29
Chip Morris

30
Dawn Kirk
Max Morin

31
John Peterson
Jill Callahan
Kay Yancey
Peighton Labagh



Prayer List

Claudia Markham-Ahl
Wilma Andrews
Bill Canganelli (grandson of Pat Bishop)
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley (Arbor Trail Rehab)
Shirley Cochran
Mina DiGeronimo
Adele Evans (friend of Richard Grosso)
Maranell Fleming
Ruth Fraser (Life Care)
Hendley Fuseler (great-nephew of Joseph Pickard)
Barbara Harrel
Hope Hill (friend of Richard Grosso)
Mark Heuer (son-in-law of Julia Wirono)
Jolene Kai (Ginny Miller's daughter-in-law)
Janice Kelly
Scott Kinnaugh (son of Dorothy Siemons)
Biddie Kirk
Renate Lipp (friend of Nita William)
Celine Mack

Judith Martin
Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
Tom Michael
Bob Mikulski (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler)
Gloria Miller
The Morse Family (on the death of Jean)
Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Chuck Opitz
Annette Pickard
Ken Petry
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Craig Sanders (friend of Lisa Waldren)
Betty Smith (The Lodge)
Shannon Tanga (Bill Harrel's granddaughter)
Yvonne Trusty (sister of Lisa Waldren)
Ann VanDenburgh
Richard and Sandy Valvo
Erv Wagner (brother of Lois Dolin)
Larry and Lisa Waldren



FPC gives thanks for the life of **Jean Morse** who joined the saints of light September 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.

Christian Outreach News

Interfaith Food Drive a Great Success

Thank you to all the people who donated food and their time to make our food drive so successful. There were 18 people who volunteered to help at the food drive. We could not have done this without you. Some elementary school students came to volunteer also. What a big help that was.

We are proud to say we donated 1,198 pounds of food and \$323 in monetary donations to Interfaith Emergency Services. Ocala desperately needs these donations. Thank you for your continued support.
Christian Outreach Committee



Thank You

Interfaith Emergency Services mentioned us in their September 2021 newsletter. They gave us a special thank you for donating 65 pounds of food during the month of August. Thank you to all the generous people who gave to this wonderful organization.

My heartfelt thank you for the visits from Ron and Walk, the flowers and gifts, the phone calls and the prayers from you. I thank God for the many blessings he has and continues to bestow on me. Each has helped in my healing process. I pray for each of you and for the time I will be back in person on Sundays.

God Bless you, Janice Kelly

Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to acknowledge your gift of \$166.67 on 9/2/2021 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 for supporting future ministers of Christ's Church. To learn more about the impact of your gift, visit www.presbyterianfoundation.org/tef.

Sincerely, The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty
Senior Director, Theological Education Funds Development





First Presbyterian Church

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Sent with a prayer to:



Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is a lay-led three-day spiritual weekend in which the main goal is learning about God’s love for each of us. Unfortunately, the 2021 weekend has been postponed (again) because of the Covid-19 virus. It will be held in 2022, at a date to be determined, at The Retreat at Silver Springs. Presbyterians from all over Florida will be traveling to attend the weekend and to provide leadership. We are so fortunate that this spiritual retreat is held so close to home. For more information contact Ann VanDenburgh (352) 615-2262 or Rev. Walk Jones at church. Both have been leaders of these weekends in the past.

The website is floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org

We Need Your Help to rearrange flowers right after worship each Sunday.

These bouquets will be delivered to our homebound members.

Please contact Evelyn Longo at 352-509-5179.

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
First Presbyterian Church
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www.fpcocala.org

