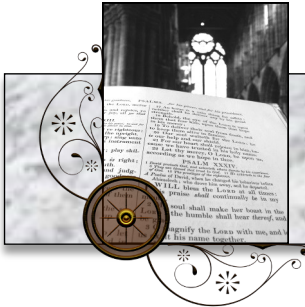




Our Vision - Our Mission

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 certainly had setbacks as a church, as a community, as a state, and as a nation. The abrupt loss of Afghanistan to the Taliban gives us all a great sense of uneasiness, for the people of that nation as well as for the world. We know that human rights have been dealt a severe blow in that country, and now the consequence to stoke the fires of terrorism is real. The earthquake in Haiti coupled with the assassination of their president has left that country vulnerable and all of us feeling a sense of despair. The delta variant of Covid-19 has made us put our masks back on, and put our friends in danger. It does not feel like we are winning on many levels. Yet we are a people of hope, and our hope stands strong in the Lord. God has not forgotten us or anyone else in the world. God is still at work. God calls us to be at work. And so we pray for the people of Afghanistan and Haiti. And we will help them any way we can. And we pray that we will make new strides in conquering this insidious virus so that this pandemic may end. And we pray for one another.

Be strong and of good courage. Fear not nor be dismayed, for the Lord God is with you. Peace, Ron

Session Brief – August 1, 2021

- Mourned the deaths of Ellen Drummond on 7/2/2021, Dorothy Siemons on July 21, 2021 and Grietje Lewis on July 26, 2021.
- Approved to accept Mike and Janet Morehouse into membership by reaffirmation of faith.
- Approved a letter of transfer of membership to Rod and Linda Reimer to Shallowford Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA.
- Approved all congregants, if they are able, to wear masks indoors until further notice.
- Approved inviting Holly Inglis, Ministry and Mission Coordinator of the St. Augustine Presbytery, to our August 29, 2021 Session meeting to speak to us about self-assessment tools and hiring a consultant.

The church office will be closed Monday, September 6, 2021 in observance of Labor Day.



www.fpcocala.org



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

Each Monday



Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

New discussion group - The Apostles' Creed

On a regular basis we recite the words to The Apostles' Creed following the sermon. When was the last time you stopped to think about what those words mean to you? Beginning Sunday, September 12th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we will begin a 7-week journey to know why this ancient creed, The Apostles' Creed, has been part of worship services for centuries.

While some may think of this as a class, I prefer to think of it as a discussion group because the experiences and insights of many can further the learning opportunity. I will facilitate this discussion group but will let God lead us into understanding and thinking more deeply about the 110 words we have come to see as a regular part of our worship services. Lastly, all you will need each week is the following: a pencil or pen and your Bible as I will supply the study guide material for each week.

We will use the following outline for our discussion group:

Week 1: Getting to Know Each Other & Introduction to

The Apostles' Creed

Week 2: God

Week 3: Jesus Christ

Week 4: The Holy Spirit

Week 5: The Church and the Communion of Saints

Week 6: The Forgiveness of Sins

Week 7: The Resurrection of the Body

Presbyterian Pilgrimage is October 28-31

Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a spiritual retreat for Christians who want to deepen their relationship with the Lord. My wife, Nancy, and I went to our first retreat in 1991 and have been on the staff of many of these retreats since. It is in the style of the three day retreat called Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dios, etc. For this particular weekend the three days are shortened to Friday evening, Saturday and most of Sunday.

After 18 months of COVID, we all need spiritual renewal and a closer walk with Jesus. I have been a leader on these retreats, I'm happy to answer your questions, as are other members of First who have been. floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org



FPC Welcomes Mike and Janet



We want to extend a warm welcome to Mike and Janet Morehouse who joined our church by Reaffirmation of Faith on August 1, 2021. Mike and Janet moved to Ocala from Opelika, Alabama in Nov. 2018 where they lived for thirty-four years and were active members of their church as Sunday School teachers, drama ministry leaders as well as serving on various church boards and work areas. They have been married forty-seven years and have a married daughter in Tampa, a married son in Tallahassee, and four grandchildren. They love spending time with each other, traveling, exercise and playing pickleball. They performed in community theater together in Alabama and Georgia for fifteen years.

They wish to thank all the staff and members of FPC Ocala for the warm and gracious welcome they have received since their Initial visit.

We are so happy that you have decided to become a part of our church!

LEFT: Mike and Janet Morehouse



Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

Greetings to each of you! As I write this article it has become clear that our Covid numbers are going up and many of our members staying safely close to home. As we approach September and trying to decide what is safe to do to meet, your leadership has decided that we will leave it up to the members of each Circle as to whether each Circle will meet together for the month of September.



For September, 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. We look forward once again having Tom as our lesson coordinator. I think we will all enjoy these lessons.

The new study books have been received and will be distributed before the September meeting schedule. The study title is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me, learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* by Merryl Blair. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary – Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? The first lesson, "Family Trees," main idea states "family stories shape our sense of identity. Matthew begins his Gospel with a list of Jesus' ancestors. In this list we find names of some rather unusual women – Jesus' grandmothers." We look forward to this study this program year.

Several will attend the St. Augustine Presbytery's, Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the Montgomery Conference Center. Registration is available online and payment is also available through the presbytery website: www.staugpres.org/pwfallgathering. The service project donation for Teen Challenge is paper products, cleaning supplies, soap and detergent.

A special thank you to the Officers and Circle Leaders who have agreed to remain serving another year: 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

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet on Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. At that time we will gather the hats and scarves for Seaman's Church Institute's Christmas at Sea project. The Prayer Shawl Ministry follows the original pattern instruction of 3's – "Father, Son, Spirit" and "Be Still and Know That I am God". The group includes both knitters and crocheters and welcomes anyone who is interested in this ministry – "We can always use more hands and we will be happy to get your started!" The shawls are given along with prayer to enfold the receiver in warmth, comfort, healing and peace. To date, our ministry has distributed 313 shawls, including those placed in the narthex to be used by worshippers needing some warmth when the church's air-conditioning proves too cold. 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.

"Creating God, your mind saw everything in terms of relationship: heavens and earth, sea and dry land, animals and humans, male and female – partnerships all working together for good. We are human, we are complicated, and despite our best efforts, we break down relationships, compete where we should cooperate, name foreign where we should welcome as family. Give us your desire for all things to work together for good and help us, alongside you, to cultivate the garden of the earth family." Amen. (Taken from the study book.)

<u>Worship Attendance</u>	8/1	8/8	8/15	8/22
10:00 a.m.	119	97	84	82
Online	106	107	87	124

Youth News, Casey Miller, Coordinator



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Monday, November 1st is the *DEADLINE* to apply for FPC Post-secondary school education *SCHOLARSHIPS* for the winter term!

Applications 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, Nov. 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, Nancy Livesay, Paul Vowinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.



Photo by Tom Weaver

The Children that attended the "Bless the Backpacks" on Sunday, August 8th, are now ready to begin another school year. God bless FPC's children!

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for caring enough to support our ministry with your donations. 143 pounds of food make it possible for us to assist people in need of basic food. With 44% of our county residents living at or just above the poverty level and paycheck to paycheck, one minor event can put a family in financial distress. By giving of your resources, you lighten the burden of someone going through a difficult time. Your support means a great deal to Interfaith and to those we serve. We appreciate your help more than words can say!

May God bless you, Karla Grimsley, CEO Interfaith

Dear FPC Family,

The family of Grietje Lewis appreciates the outpouring of love and support for us in this time of loss. The tears we shed are mixed with sadness and joy. Mom's suffering and pain has ended. Revelations 21:4 says "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Our family so appreciates the many prayers, floral arrangements, cards, gifts, calls, and condolences from Grietje's church family. These all have been heartwarming to us and have helped us to carry on.

With Love, and God Bless all of you!

Julie Kennedy

FOOD DRIVE



We are grateful to those who have donated in the past and hope that you will continue to help those in need. Our next Food Drive will be:

Sunday, September 26, 2021
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
in the parking lot
next to the Fellowship Hall

Some suggestions for food and hygiene items that have been requested by Interfaith are:

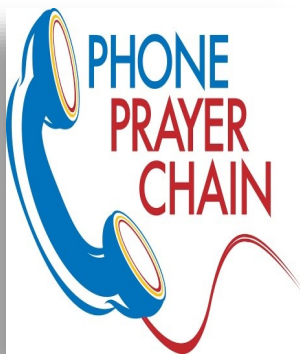
FOOD ITEMS:

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

HYGIENE ITEMS:

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

*Please remember that one item or a bag of items make a difference.
Thank you for donating and blessings to all!*



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.

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.

September Birthdays



<p>1 Tommy Johnson Mary McMillin</p> <p>2 Garris Lee Graham Karly Westfall</p> <p>3 Kim McElhaney Peggy Wiechmann EB Gee Jr. Charline Drake Katy Cortes</p> <p>4 Carolee Grodi Dana Rodgers</p> <p>5 D.J. Gilman</p>	<p>7 Edna Oplinger Tom Weaver Janice Kelly Brent Stabler</p> <p>9 Ruth Fraser</p> <p>11 Lannie Mercer Rachael Sharpe Alex Lehrer-Morin</p> <p>12 Martha Petrey</p> <p>13 Larry Waldren Sr C.J. Bissett</p>	<p>15 Sue Murphy Evelyn Longo Jeff Dauner Denise Bryd Cale Russell</p> <p>16 Lauren Meyer</p> <p>17 Kathryn McCormick</p> <p>18 Kathy Cooley Brian Fitzpatrick Harris Cannon</p> <p>19 Bo Williams Jan Jo Merians</p>	<p>20 Debbie Atchison John Arline Jo Ann Brandt Denise Caskey</p> <p>21 David Demarest Sandy Owens William Bald Douglas Cone III</p> <p>22 Katie Kimball</p> <p>23 Jamie Schatt Sharon Wiechens</p> <p>24 Ray Ruark</p>	<p>25 Rose Wilke Kim Vollmer Smith Benjamin Wollett James Blair</p> <p>26 Ian Morin</p> <p>27 Wilma Andrews Sharla McElhaney</p> <p>28 Joey Fante Katie Schlenker</p> <p>29 Yancey Guest Alice Smith</p> <p>30 Chris Bald Baldwin Switzer</p>
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Prayer List

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Claudia Markham-Ahl
Wilma Andrews (at home)
Dick and Tina Brown (friends of Mike & Janet Morehouse)
Bill Canganelli (grandson of Pat Bishop)
Andy Carlisle
Shirley Cochran
Adele Evans (friend of Richard Grosso)
Maranell Fleming
Ruth Fraser (The Bridge at Ocala)
Hendley Fuseler (great-nephew of Joseph Pickard)
Norma Giles
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)
Jerry Lance (on death of his wife Kathy)
Lois Lance (on the death of her daughter-in-law Kathy)
Renate Lipp (friend of Nita William)</p> | <p>Celine Mack
Judith Martin (visitor)
Eric Masterson (brother-in-law of Deb Cone)
Skip McDonald
Ron McMillin
Bob Mikulski (friend of Dale & Tari Ambler receiving cancer treatments)
Gloria Miller
Rita Miller
Kathy Mortensen (sister of Sharon Shirley)
Chuck Opitz
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Debbie Tompkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)
The Tucker family (on the death of Marilyn)
Ann VanDenburgh
Richard and Sandy Valvo
Paul Vowinkel (on the death of his father, Charles)
Larry and Lisa Waldren</p> |
|--|--|



FPC gives thanks for the life of **Marilyn Tucker** who passed away August 13, 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.

Fellowship News

Fellowship on the Go

It's always fun to get together with church friends! On August 4th a small but enthusiastic group visited the Appleton Museum of Art. We learned a lot about Mr Appleton and his collections, saw current exhibitions, and visited the ARTSpace. If you have ideas for places we might visit in the future, please let the Fellowship Committee know! Mary Moore 352-598-2525



Though many of our families were taking last minute trips before the beginning of school, we had a wonderful Back to School Sunday. Thanks to Eileen Demarest and Lois Clardy for yummy breakfast treats, and to Walk and Casey for the meaningful service. Prayers for all for a safe and happy new school year! A very special "Thank you" to all our members who brought an abundance of school supplies to share with the Skill Day Center! Dr. and Mrs. Jones were so very grateful, and ask for our continued prayers.





First Presbyterian Church

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Donate Flowers for a Sunday Service



You can donate a lovely arrangement of flowers for many different occasions:

- ◆ *To the glory of God*
- ◆ *Birthdays*
- ◆ *Births*
- ◆ *Special events*
- ◆ *Anniversaries*
- ◆ *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!

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
511 SE Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: (352) 629-7561 Fax: (352) 629-8066
www.fpcocala.org

