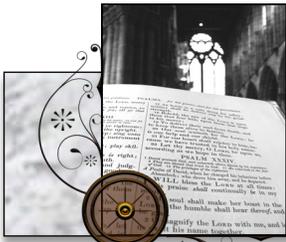




Our Vision - Our Mission

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

The unofficial end of summer is nearly here! (That would be Labor Day Weekend). Though we who live in Florida think about seasons differently than most Americans, we look forward to that time in October or November that Ocala cools off and becomes temperate once more. We had a great back to school celebration in August to honor our teachers and school staff members right before the start of the school year. Slowly, Presbyterians are returning from their summer places and schedules and coming back to their homes and to their church.

As seasons again change, I am reminded of how God never changes. God created a changing world with God being the true constant. We do much to create other constants in our world to help us. We sit in the same pews or chairs at church. We eat at the same restaurants. We park our cars in or near the same spaces. We attempt to create an artificial order so as not to be undone by the chaos we sometimes encounter in life. Yet God is not chaos. God is the same, the loving God that made us, saved us, and sustains us. We create chaos with our sin, our separation from God. What might we do to draw nearer to God? God closed the gap of sin with grace in his son Jesus, yet sin still has a way of recreating that gap between us and God. I had been a minister for many years before I even took the time to realize how distant I had become from God and how easy it is for any of us to create that distance. Might we have a way to become closer to God?

Closing the Gap

For many modern Christians, the practice of meditation is not practiced. Perhaps like me, no one ever taught you to meditate nor mentioned the benefits of Christian meditation. Father John Bartunek has described meditation as having four elements: concentrate, consider, converse, and commit. That

is, we should have a way to think especially of God through a scripture passage, a work of art, a meaningful place for meditation, or even a catechism, as a starting point. From the starting place comes a time to consider something about God, to talk to God about it, and then a commitment to some kind of growth. The practice may take 5 to 15 minutes a day. Here's a link from where I took my summation:

<https://spiritualdirection.com/2009/12/08/a-simple-guide-to-christian-meditation>

Negotiating

Many students of spirituality speak also of negotiating, that is, with others and ourselves, about how our choices will affect us and those around us as well as how these choices affect our relationship with God. How we respond to the material world, and what and who is in it, will either build up or tear down our spiritual wellbeing. Michael Moskowitz, writing on behalf of the Kabbalah Centre, says this:

“When we truly desire something, we are simultaneously prepared to let it go! This is a spiritually healthy way of negotiating our desires: I want it – but if I don't get it, that's also acceptable. Very often, when we reactively desire something, we get into trouble. The more we desire it, the more trouble we get into.”

If you would like some Presbyterian resources, this link will direct you to further Reform reading in book form: <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/suggested-books-spiritual-practices-and-perspectiv/>

Most if not all of us want to be closer to God. We do not have to wait for this to happen. God is ready. Make a spiritual move towards God today.

Yours in Christ, Ron

Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk of Session

SESSION BRIEF – AUGUST 4, 2019

Approved a letter of Transfer for Robert J. and Viann Brady to First Presbyterian Church of Dunnellon, Dunnellon, FL.

Approved a letter of Transfer for Theresa (Teri) Sietsma to Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church, Oviedo, FL.

Approved the removal of Joyce and Michael Akridge from our membership rolls.

Mourned the death of Viann Brady on 6/20/2019.

Approved beginning the payment of the salary of Dr. Carol Piatnek McCoy, Interim Choir Director, on July 1, 2019.

Approved additional wages retroactive to 6/1/2019 paid to Christopher Storey, AV Specialist and Praise Band leader, for his additional duties.

Approved the formation of a search committee for a Youth Director comprised of three Elders and two people from the congregation or any combination of up to five people as chosen by the moderator.

Third in our series on the PC(USA) seal: The Book



The Book

The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

In experimenting with the basic lines and shapes of the cross, the contour of a book began to emerge in the horizontal section, and the two center lines of the cross became the representation of an open book. This integration of the horizontal dimensions of the cross with the book motif highlights the emphasis which the Reformed tradition has placed on the role of Scripture as a means of knowing God's word.

Join the Choir

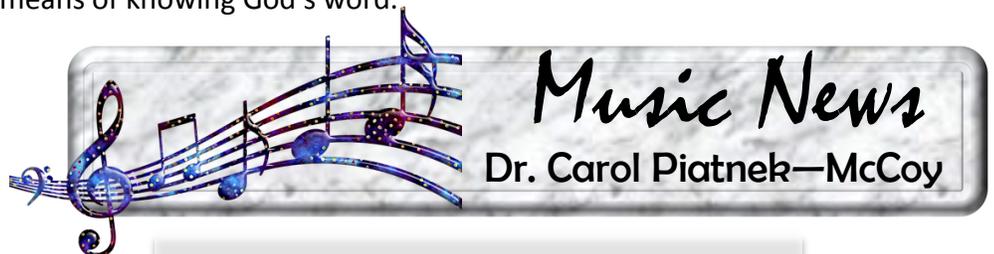
**Sing with us each Sunday
as we praise God
with our voices!**

**Chancel Choir
College and HS
students welcomed
Rehearsal Wed at 5pm**

**Bell Choir
College and HS
students welcomed
Rehearsal Wed at 6:30pm**

**Children's Choir
Rehearsal Wed at 4 pm**

**Email Carol at
piatnekc@gmail.com**



Music News

Dr. Carol Piatnek—McCoy



Hannah Batten Youth and Children Ministries



**Many thanks to our Fellowship
Committee for the wonderful
Back to School Celebration
on August 11th!**



Wednesday Nights Are Family Nights starting Sept. 4th

Drop Kids Off – 4 p.m.

Join Kids for Dinner – 6 p.m.

Children's choir is kicking off! If your child, VPK (Pre-K) – 5th grade, is interested please contact Dr. Carol Piatnek-McCoy (piatnekc@gmail.com) to sign up.

*Choir Practice: 4 – 5 p.m.

*Recreation: 5 – 6 p.m.

*Fellowship Dinner: 6 – 6:30 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE! October 27th — Trunk or Treat!



Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL the women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

Thanks to all who support the mission programs of Presbyterian Women. In 2019 PW celebrates its 31st Anniversary through ministry as well as financial gifts to ensure that PW will continue to make God's world a place of hospitality and abundance for God's people for another 31 years and beyond.



We will begin our September Circle meetings with the study, *Words of Love, I Am Your God; You Shall Have No Others*, in the Horizon's Bible Study book, *Love Carved in Stone* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Study books are available through your Circle Leaders. Costs remain at \$10 and \$15 for large print. We welcome newcomers. If you're interested in joining a Circle please feel free to contact anyone listed below or Pat Greaves, Moderator, at 362-0013.

September 2019 Bible Study and Fellowship with your Sisters in Christ

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	Tuesday, September 3rd	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Circle 1	Tuesday, September 10	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3	Monday, September 16	10:00 a.m.	Pat Greaves 5623 NW 25 th Loop	Liz Diener-Dickmann	908-377-8913
Circle 4	Tues., Sept 10	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Mary Beth Rivers	625-3372
Circle 7	Tues., Sept 10	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	Tues., Sept 10	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053

PRAYER SHAWL....it's been a hot summer, but the knitters and crochet'ers have been clicking away. If you have someone in need of a prayer shawl, please be in touch with one of the Prayer Shawl ministry group or request one through the church office.

We meet in the Conference Room at 1:30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of each month, except December. In addition to knitting, crocheting and weaving prayer shawls, we have made hats for Thornwell Children's Home located in South Carolina.

Most recently we have decided to make hats and scarves to send to "The Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea." The institute sends these items to mariners to "warm their hearts and heads" during the winter.

Regular Members include: Michele Burgess, Lois Clardy, Liz Diener-Dickmann, Pat Greaves, Carol McCammon, Susie Marta, Elaine Sprowles, and Marilyn Tucker.

PW September 2019 Ways to Serve with your Sisters in Christ

Program	Date	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thurs., Sept. 26	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	908-377-8913
WeCare Sewing Ministry	Mon., Sept. 30	9:30 a.m.	Room 1	Evelyn Weaver	622-6028

September Birthdays

1 Mary McMillin	9 Ruth Fraser	18 Charles Hutcheson	
2 Garris Graham	10 Ray Newhouse	Kathy Cooley	
Sheryll Goedert	11 Lannie Mercer	19 Bo Williams	
3 Peggy Wiechmann	Alex Lehrer-Morin	20 Debbie Atchison	
EB Gee, Jr.	12 Martha Petry	John Arline	
Charline Drake	13 Larry Waldren	Jo Ann Brandt	
4 Carolee Grodi	CJ Bissett	21 David Demerest	
Dana Rodgers	15 Sue Murphy	Sandy Owens	
5 Rev. George Smith	Evelyn Longo	William Bald	
7 Tom Weaver	Jeff Dauner	22 Katie Kimball	
Janice Kelly	Denise Byrd	23 Alta Gustafson	
Brent Stabler	Cale Russell	Jamie Schatt	
8 Philip Woods	17 Kathryn McCormick	27 Wilma Andrews	
		28 Rose Wilke	
		29 Kim Vollmer Smith	
		30 Benjamin Wollett	
		28 Joey Fante	
		29 Yancey Guest	
		30 Chris Bald	
		Baldwin Switzer	

The Church office will be closed on **September 2nd** in observance of Labor Day



Congratulations to our Members on Recent Births!

Kelly and Austin Davis welcomed a 8 lb. 12 oz. baby boy **Parks Riley** born on August 4, 2019. He joins a sister Avery.

His grandparents are Jan Jo and Gary Merians and Great Grandmother is Janice Kelly!

Chris & Paige Dingman welcomed a 8Lb 15oz 20" baby girl **Virginia Grace** born on August 2, 2019.

She joins a brother Davis Dingman Russell and Mary Dingman are her Grandparents!

Christian Education



Christian Education Classes start Sunday, September 8th

Blakely Sunday School Class Moderated by Jean Morse

Interested in a pleasant, congenial adult Bible study group? Consider the Blakely class! Beginning Sept. 8th, we meet at 9:45 a.m. in Room 2 of the Education Building.

We study the "Uniform Lesson Series," which is used by PCUSA congregations plus the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, the United Church of Christ, the Cumberland Presbyterian church and the Moravian Church in America.

Our Fall 2019 Quarter study focuses on Bible characters who needed (and received) God's grace. We will start with Hannah, who came to temple and prayed so fervently for help that the priest suspected she was drunk! The scripture for this story is Genesis 18-19.

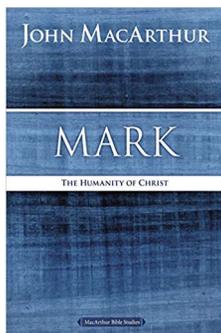
"Death, Dying, and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures" Moderated by Nita Williams

We live our lives knowing that we, as well as our loved ones, are going to die. It forms the horizon against which we live our lives. The choices we make are shaped in countless ways by how we think about death, about what happens after death, and by what death (and life) ultimately mean. So thinking about death is really an essential element of the reflective human life. That raises many questions. Perhaps we don't have a well-defined understanding of how, as Christians, we "should" think about death and its role in our lives. It might be helpful to know how those living in different cultures and historical periods come to terms with death. This course will be a multidisciplinary exploration of a complex topic and will include the lenses of theology, philosophy, history, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and literature as we look at the problem. We will encounter great thinkers in our studies, reflecting many different approaches in their thoughts about death.

The course is organized around five major questions concerning our relationship to death. It is for everyone old enough to contemplate the subject and will involve topics explored every week on a CD that accompanies the lesson. There are 24 lessons, and there will be discussion about each one. I look forward to studying this topic with you and hope that you will be positively influenced by what we learn. The class will start Sept. 8th in the conference room 9:30 - 10:30 AM. If there are people going to the 9:30 AM service that would like to attend, the materials will be available in the church library when we finish with our use of them for this class OR we can change the time of the class to 12:15 PM on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining us for this interesting topic. The more people who come, the better our discussions will be.

Disciples XV resumes Sept. 18 and will study Mark's 'busy book'

Newcomers as well as old-timers are invited to join the Disciples XV class when it resumes on Wednesday, September 18 from 10:00-noon in Room 1. Co-teachers **Barbara Parks** and **Tom Weaver** will lead the study of John MacArthur's *Mark—The Humanity of Christ*.



Author David Guzik says that the Gospel of Mark shows Jesus as the *Servant of God*—as a *Workman of God*. He says that for this reason, the Gospel is a “busy” book in which Jesus seems the busiest—quickly moving from one event to another. One of the key words in the Gospel of Mark is *immediately*,

that occurs more than 40 times. We see Jesus as a *servant*—busy meeting needs and busy being God's Messiah.

Guzik says the Gospel of Mark, emphasizes the *deeds* of Jesus more than his *words*. Mark's Gospel pictures

Christ in action. Guzik adds, “There is a minimum of discourse and a maximum of deed.”

The Gospel of Mark, more than any other, gives us precious glimpses into Christ's humanity. Jesus amazes His followers—those in the past as well as His disciples today—as He teaches, heals, performs miracles, casts out demons, and raises the dead. Mark's account shows Christ using every opportunity, despite resentment and persecution from His enemies, to show God's awesome power. Through Mark's writings, we follow Jesus' pain, joy, and fervent dedication as He walks the earth, touches lives, and ultimately conquers sin and death through His crucifixion and resurrection.

This Disciples class began in 2004. In its fourteen years its Bible studies have included a wide range of books of both the Old and New Testaments.

Come join us! The study books for this fall are available on the shelves in the conference room.

Wednesday Night Dinners

begin Sept. 4th at 6 p.m. Join us for fellowship and always delicious food! A meat will be provided each week and you are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. If that is inconvenient, a donation would be appreciated. *All ages are encouraged to attend.*

A great way to end the work day – stop on your way home!

Fellowship Committee Meeting – Sept 11, 1 pm

Art Connection

An opportunity for fellowship through art – for all ages – no experience necessary & supplies provided!

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 4-6 pm

Fellowship Hall — dinner to follow!

We'll be making earrings – one pair to keep, one to give away to a cancer patient – also pottery Giving Tree ornaments and small leaf dishes, watercolor and community crayons!

Future dates: Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 4th

Fellowship



Library News

Church Librarian, Ann O'Hart, writes....

I have completed a list of the books in our church library and placed a binder listing the results near the sign-out shelf. We have over 3,000 volumes in the library, and approximately 130 of these are listed as missing. The missing volumes include books that have not been signed out or have been signed out for long periods and are assumed to be lost.

I encourage you to check out our library and see if there is something that interests you. We have a variety of fiction and non-fiction books including best sellers by writers like John Grisham and Mary Higgins Clark. We have large collections of novels in a series such as those by Terry Blackstock and Jan Karon. We even have some classics that are fun to reread such as *Jane Eyre* and *Robinson Crusoe*.

Our non-fiction collection includes Bible references and commentaries, books on prayer, ethics, family relationships, world religions, Christianity, health, death and grieving. We have biographies and

autobiographies and books about Ocala and Florida. One of our most popular authors is John MacArthur who has written numerous Bible commentaries which our disciple classes rely on to assist in their studies. Other favorites are Max Lucado and William Barclay.

Our library has acquired additional space in an area I call the Alcove, across the hall from the choir room and next to our fiction section. The Alcove has several multi-volume sets of Bible commentaries on all the books of the Bible and a 3-volume set by Ernest Thompson entitled *Presbyterians of the South*.

I encourage you to find something in the library to interest you. Just sign the card and leave it in the small green box. When you are finished with the books, return them to the sign-out station. If you have questions or need help in locating a book, please call and leave a message. My number is 368-7067.

HAPPY READING!

Out to Dinner Group will be having Dinner at Ayuttaya



September 19th,

5:30 pm

RSVP to

Susan Raffa

(352)

620-8087

By Sept 16th

2437 SE 27th Avenue, Shady Oaks Plaza Ocala, FL 34471

Donate Flowers for a Sunday Service

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

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

There are envelopes in the back of church or Fellowship Hall. Fill out and put in the offering plate or bring to the office. You can also call the church office 352-629-7561 to arrange the details!





Downtown Ocala moves Historic House

The Ocala City Council agreed to move forward with relocating a historic home from its current location at 121 SE Watula Ave. to a nearby school in order to make way for a planned development of nine three-story townhomes.

The 1913 home will go to Ambleside School Of Ocala at 507 SE Broadway St. and serve as home to its future high school. The building was the former home of the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization. The city owns the property and two other adjacent lots.

Watula South LLC will develop the three lots. Clinton and Angie Lewis are the principals of Watula South, and Angie Lewis' insurance office and home are also adjacent to the properties. The project, on 0.66 acres, will include buildings to match the historic character of the area.

The City had to get FPC's permission to move the house across our property and FPC had to move and reinstall three signs. Parking on August 4th was altered for our services. FPC's west parking lots were partially open but were inaccessible from Watula Avenue.

Another Handsome Ocala Home

Residence Now Being Constructed for Mr. and Mrs. William Wolf, Corner South Second and Watula Streets

These views were taken a few days ago, of the new home of Mr. William Wolf, Watula and South Second street, and show the building in a partially completed state.

This house will be one of the best advertisements Mr. Odell could possibly put out. It will be one of the very handsome and modern homes of the city, and will possess many features, for both comfort and attractiveness not often found in houses of this size. Many people will not believe that Mr. Odell can complete such a house for the contract price of \$4,000, but he can, and will have a safe margin of profit too. This is because he knows his business, watches every point, figures close, buys judiciously and works all the time himself and is his own foreman.

The building will be delivered by Mr. Odell, complete and ready to occupy. He will do the wiring, the plumbing and gas fitting, and both will be the best and most modern. The heating, and this too, is of the best, comprising flues for heating stoves, attachments for gas, open fire places, and best of all, the new Baltimore heaters. The house will be completely finished inside and out. It is one of the best lighted and most generously ventilated houses in the city, with a large sleeping porch upstairs and broad colonial verandas on three sides below.

The material that is used in it,

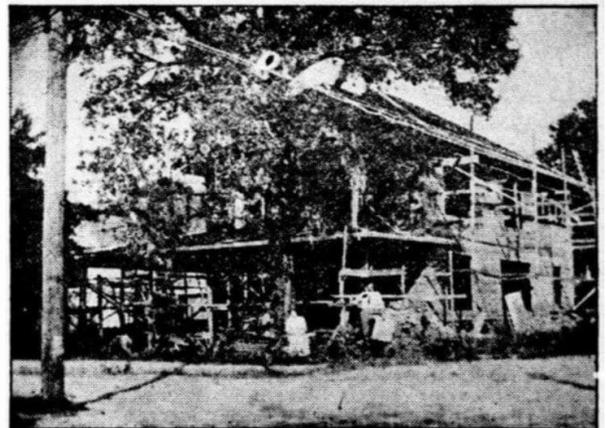
lumber, plaster paint, glass, brick, in fact everything is strictly first-class in ever respect--was selected in person by Mr. Odell and had to pass his inspection.

Mr. Wolf can be justly proud of his home, and can feel that few people have ever secured more for their money in the building line.

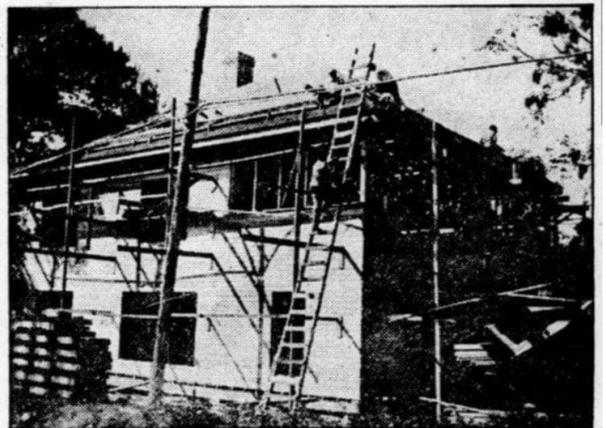
Mr. P. D. Odell has had a good many years experience in the contracting business. He came to this state two years ago from Indiana, and was a thorough carpenter before engaging in business for himself. He helped build the National Bank Buildings in Madison and Lake City, and did some contracting in Jacksonville; came to Ocala in March, 1912, and was foreman in charge for Melver & MacKay in the construction of the Episcopal rectory. He then went into business for himself, and among other jobs, built the handsome two-story brick building for the Carmichael & Son Co., in which Messrs. Hogan & Pedrick are doing business.

Mr. Odell is a competent, reliable, careful contractor, able to carry out all of his obligations, and expects to make his home here, and make a living out of the growth of Ocala, in promoting the welfare of which city he will do his full part.

His address is No. 117 North Sanchez street. Postoffice box 438, Ocala, Florida.



West and South Exposure, Taken from Watula Street

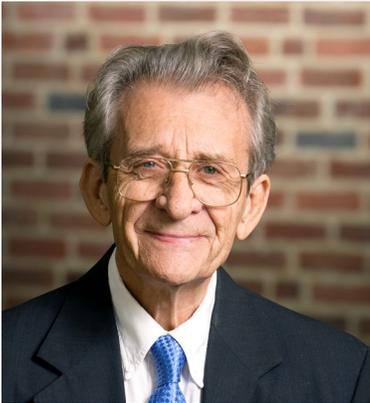


South and East Exposure, Taken from Watula Street.

This was from a Facebook post by Kent Sperring. Ocala Evening Star article dated October 31, 1913.

Shout Out!

FPC's Tom Michael's long-time mission helped reduce landfills while providing much-needed pill bottles for doctors in developing countries



For years, many of us routinely have set aside our used prescription bottles and taken them to church for Tom Michael's dedicated **Matthew 25: Ministries** project. Tom's been very faithful in maintaining

his commitment to this project for seven years. Unfortunately, all good things often must come to an end; Tom has had to discontinue his work.

As part of its mission activities, **Matthew 25: Ministries** makes good use of the thousands of pill bottles it recycles. The organization's website says, "The clean, capped empty pill bottles with labels removed are shipped with other medical supplies to hospitals and clinics in developing countries."

Tom's responsibilities included soaking and removing the labels and cleaning the bottles before shipping

them. In a typical month, Tom worked between 200-300 bottles per shipment—with one or two shipments each month. Tom indicates that over the years, there were approximately 200 bottles in each shipment. Conservatively, that's between 22,000 to 25,000 bottles that he processed over the years!

Well done, good and faithful servant!

Tom, his late wife, Nancy, and their three children, Kristen, Michelle and Kyle, moved to Ocala—and to FPC memberships—in 1981. A mechanical engineer, Tom retired in 2000. A resting elder, he usually attends the 8:15 worship service.



**Is there anyone (or group) at FPC willing to pick up where Tom left off with this vital mission?
Contact the church!**

GIVING TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

It's already that time again! We will be meeting on Wed., September 18 at 11:00 AM at FPC
If you are interested in joining the committee, we would love to have you!
Please call Jarl Hagood, 352-867-9372 for any additional info.

Thank You's to FPC

Dear FPC,
I just wanted to thank all of you for the birthday card. It was a joy to receive it. Also want to thank you for the beautiful flowers, they made my day.

Sincerely, Ellen Matthews

Attendance					
Worship services	7/28	8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
8:15 a.m.	66	34	37	47	31
9:30 a.m.	80	50	74	64	51
11:00 a.m.	91	98	91	120	74
Total	227	182	202	231	162

PRAYER LIST

Brent Barber (Gera Fleming's son-in-law)
Bill Blackwell (Mary Kauffman's brother)
Jeanette Bryant
Randall & Linda Deyton (Pickard family
prayer concerns)
Noemi DiGeronimo (granddaughter of Mina)
Kathy and Terry Donovan (Nita Williams' friends)
Stewart Edwards
Debbie Fenner (Chris and Evelyn Longo's daughter)
Hank Fleming
Maranell Fleming
John Gilkes
Jennifer and Danny Gilman and family
(death of Jennifer's father, Jim Stoneman)
Barbara Gowie
Richard Grosso
Bill Harrel and family (death of his sister, Nancy)
Tola Hass
Betty Ann Jones (Margaret Trump's sister)
Kathy Lance (Lois Lance's daughter-in-law)
Grietje Lewis

Celine Mack
Gloria and Rita Miller
(death of their mother, Anna Marie)
Ray Newhouse (Pat Bishop's brother)
Raul Nieves (Mina DiGeronimo's brother)
Charlene Preston
Dave Proctor (Sue Straub's son-in-law)
Richard and Fritz Rain
(Mary Beth Olson's friends)
John Reynolds (Suzy Heinbockel's brother)
Tania Sayre (Mary Kauffman's daughter)
Janice Schafer (Palm Garden)
Wes Schultz
Delores Shotwell
Steve and Keith Shotwell
Betty Jeanne Spencer
(Lady Lake Specialty Care)
Shirley Wells
Jill Hester Whitaker
Bo and Sally Williams
Diane Wirono

Please also remember in prayer all our church leaders and the missions we support.

Getting to Know Your Outreach Ministries

Project Hope has recently expanded the number of units available to ten which allows us to serve more women and children. We also have plans for further expansion of units this year. Currently all units are occupied with a waiting list for services and supports.



The funding we receive from First Presbyterian has allowed us to “reach out” and touch more lives as we promote positive change and self-sufficiency for our families. Your funding has been used in multiple areas to include but not be limited to:

- *New mattresses and box springs for participants
- *Expanded case management to include training sessions focusing on money management, parenting, life skills and an entire venue of services and supports
- *With your caring and support we have two families getting ready to graduate from the program, one is moving into a home with her two children and has secured a successful job in the medical community. The other is preparing to purchase her own home.

You helped make this possible. Project Hope is mirroring your mission found in Matthew 25:34-40. You have literally provided food to the hungry, housing for the stranger that was homeless and clothing for those in need. For those who were sick, including mental issues and those imprisoned with life choices. Your gift makes a true difference.



First Presbyterian Church
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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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fpcocala.org

Calendar of Events
Live Stream of Services
Music Ministry
Church Life



Weekly Inspire
Monthly Spire
Weekly bulletin
Photos
Youth Ministry
...and more

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511 SE THIRD STREET, OCALA, FL 34471
PHONE: (352) 629-7561 FAX: (352) 629-8066
WWW.FPCOCALA.ORG

