



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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Last month I wrote to you about four new people on our ministry team who have joined us. Let me add two more. The first is **Hannah Batten**. Hannah worked as an intern this summer, and yesterday, the session hired her as our new youth director! Hannah grew up in the church and has earned both her undergraduate degree and her Master's degree in education from the University of Florida. The search committee is now looking for someone to fill the part-time position of Director of Children's Ministries. I had the privilege of getting to know Hannah this summer, working with her and attending the Montreat Youth Conference with her. She has many gifts for ministry and a strong faith. We are blessed to have her on the ministry team here at First Church.

Our other new person is ... (drumroll please)... **David Bedenbaugh!** David is hardly new, but we are so glad to have him back at work. David is "easing into things" until he is back up to full capacity, beginning with the Chancel Choir and the Praise Band. David and Cheri are an important part of this church, and we are so glad that they will be returning to us this fall.

Pianos...We are getting closer to our goal of \$88,000 to purchase our new pianos for traditional and contemporary worship. It was my hope that we could have them in time for the Christmas season which is still an attainable goal. We only have \$27,000 to go. If you have not yet had a chance to make a donation, your contribution would be welcomed at this time. Thanks to all who have already donated! The new Steinway for the sanctuary will be replacing the one that is nearly 100 years old. This new Steinway will be for the next 100 years. Come and be a part of the future history of First Pres!

Montgomery Camp & Conference Center...Our presbytery voted on Saturday, at a called meeting in Orange Park, to continue to support Montgomery for the next five years. A special emphasis will be put on the financial stability of the center, namely,

eliminating debt, and operating without deficit. If, after 5 years, this cannot be done, the presbytery will then put the property up for sale. We can support Montgomery by encouraging our young people to attend camps, our youth to attend retreats, and also finding other ways for groups in our church to use this precious resource. For more information, go to montgomerycenter.org.

Getting to know you...We had a visitor walk out with a coffee mug on Sunday, and he said to me, "I think I should know you. There is something vaguely familiar about you." We talked for a minute and realized that he was a former member of Pine Shores in Sarasota when I was an intern back in 1988! I made a connection, and it feels good to be connected in the body of Christ. You can help me get to know you better in a few ways.

Come by the office and "sit a spell." Or **invite me** to your home. The best way to get to know people is to spend time together.

Wear your name tag on Sunday. It really does help. And it doesn't just help me, but it also helps others get to know you.

Upload your picture to the church directory. Okay, so you missed having your picture made. You can still upload your picture to our directory. It would be so helpful! Call the office, and we will be glad to tell you how to do it.

Speaking of the directory, we will have copies in the narthex available soon.

Our church is alive, vibrant, and boldly moving in the name of Christ. Let us continue to face an uncertain future with the certainty that God is in charge.

Isaiah 40:31 "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Blessings,
Ron

Rev. Ruth Elswood, Parish Associate

What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

This fall we will hold classes to introduce new members to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to the life of this church. On the PCUSA website this statement appears in answer to the question, "What makes us unique?" *In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'* —From "A Brief Statement of Faith"

This is a beautiful statement in its reference to gratitude, empowerment and joy. We are indeed a people of hope who ground that very hope in Christ's promise of the coming of a new kingdom, founded on love for all people and all creation. Our Book of Order claims, "In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God." (Book of Order F-1.0204)

Our classes will take place in two weekly sessions. The first will be a very brief summary of the Reformed Tradition, based on the book, *Presbyterian Beliefs* by Donald McKim. The following session will provide information about the life of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala, and how church members can fully participate in the vibrant mission of this worshipping community. These classes are, of course, open to current members, new and old, as well as those who have been visiting and want to learn more about God's work through this church. The classes will be repeated each month, according to the schedule below.

September 16, 10:00– 10:50 a.m. **Presbyterian Beliefs**, led by Rev. Ruth Elswood

September 23, 10:00– 10:50 a.m. **Our Church Community**, led by Rev. Natasha Sudderth

November 11, 10:00– 10:50 a.m. **Presbyterian Beliefs**, led by Rev. Ruth Elswood

November 18, 10:00– 10:50 a.m. **Our Church Community**, led by Rev. Natasha Sudderth

News from The Membership Committee

We Want Your Help!!

Your Membership Committee is recruiting team members to actively identify and greet visitors and help engage all churchgoers in the activities and events at First Presbyterian Church of Ocala. If you are an outgoing, smiling, friendly person who enjoys interacting with others, this is the thing for you! Growing our church is not just the role of the Membership Committee; it is everyone's responsibility. When you come to church, be friendly and welcoming, answer questions from visitors about our church, get them a name tag, make sure first time visitors return, spread the good news about things that are going on at FPCO, and invite others to join you in church events and activities. That's it! To learn more about becoming a member of your church's **Hospitality Team**, look for us on the website. You may also contact Nancy Livesay, Membership Chair, by email at nlivesay@cox.net

Scholarship News!

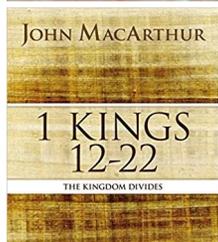
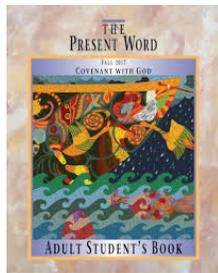
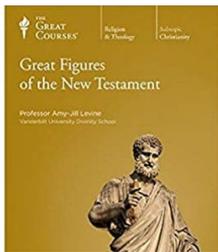
Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

FPC's Scholarship Committee announces November 1st as absolute deadline for applications!



Applications for post-secondary education scholarship funds for the January term will be available in the church office mid-September. The **absolute final deadline** to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on **Thursday, 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, Nancy Livesay, Paul Vonwinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.

FPC'S 2018 Adult Christian Education Classes



Adult Sunday School Classes

The Blakely Class studies the Uniform Bible Lessons. The class will be held at 9:45 a.m. in Room 2 in the Education Building and is moderated by Jean Morse with other substitutes. This class starts September 9.

Great Figures of the New Testament by Amy-Jill Levine. The class is held at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room beginning September 9. The moderator is Nita Williams.

Adult Christian Education Classes

All study books are available in the church office at no cost.

Why Evil Exists, a study with Jeanne Vincent on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room starting September 12.

Faith Sisters will begin studying *The Present Word: Covenant with God* a Uniform Bible Lesson. This class, held on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor, begins on September 11. It is moderated by Elaine Cox (elaine.grammie.cox@gmail.com).

Bible Classes with Steve Vincent will start late September. More information to come.

Disciple XIV's study book is *-1 KINGS: 12-22 The Kingdom Divides*. This class begins its fall meetings on Wednesday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1. Newcomers are welcome to join the group! For information, contact Barbara Parks (854-9269) or Tom Weaver (622-6028).

Rev. Natasha Sudderth, Associate Pastor

What does a family in Christ look like? The question was posed to me some time ago and it made me pause and consider carefully. Perhaps the first image that came to mind was the perfect family portrait. You know the one where all are dressed in their Sunday's best, wearing matching clothes. There is a part of me that wishes that were the case, but it is not. Behind the perfect smiling faces of my family our clothes that are a bit tight, we are wearing mismatched socks, missing buttons and held together with a hidden safety pin or two. We present nothing close to perfection.

I recall loathing the Sunday morning rituals as a child, the chaos that ensued while my family prepared to go to church. There was always a missing shoe, or a large hole in the last pair of tights from the week before. When blue pants were clean the blue socks were not, and always mismatched. It seemed unfair that after working hard in school all week long I had to go church! And, to add to the joyful smiles our family presented as we walked into church, the ride just prior was always filled with parental reminders and stern warnings. However, messy, wrinkled, mismatched or grumpy my brother and I happened to be, entering the church was like coming home. To think of it now is a bit like heaven to me.

Wednesday afternoons the halls were filled with the sounds of laughing children and by dinner time people began to gather with their covered dishes. The smell of fresh rolls wafted down the halls and there was a lot of coffee and conversation. Sundays were much the same. Going to church meant seeing the smiling, loving faces of my family. I had many Christian grandparents, mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles. They scolded me when it was needed. Best of all they spent time with me, taught me about God and loved me well. They all came in their Sunday best, but if I had to guess, I bet their clothes were a bit tight, mismatched and held together with safety pins.

In my own mind the perfect family *in Christ* is one that has Christ at its very center—Christ in the heart. A family where every person is welcome and known. A place they know they are needed and loved by many Christian grandparents, mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory "

September Birthdays



1 Mary McMillin	7 Tom Weaver	15 Cale Russell		25 Benjamin Wollett
2 Graham Garris	John Stabler	Barbara Murphy		Rosalie Wilke
Sheryll Goedert	Edna Oplinger	Eveyn Longo	20 Denise Caskey	Kimberly Vollmer
Karly Westfall	Janice Kelly	Jeffrey Dauner	John Arline	Sara Fitzpatrick
3 Peggy Wiechmann	8 Philip Woods	Patricia Byrd	Debbie Atchison	James Blair
Kim McElhaney	9 Chris Richardson	16 Lauren Meyer	21 Chip Wildy	26 Edgar Tacker
Everett Gee	Ruth Fraser	Janey Munoz	Sandra Owens	Ian Morin
Bruce Foster	10 Charles Newhouse	17 Kathryn McCormick	David Demarest	27 Sharla McElhaney
Charline Drake	11 Rachael Sharpe	18 Charles Hutcheson	Douglas Cone, III	Wilma Andrews
4 Dana Rodgers	Carlanna Mercer	Brian Fitzpatrick	William Bald	28 Katie Schlenker
Carolee Jean Grodi	Alexandra Lehrer	Harris Cannon	22 Katherine Kimball	Bryan Ahl
5 David Bedenbaugh	12 Martha Petrey	Kathleen Cooley	23 Sharon Wiechens	29 Yancey Guest
Daniel J Gilman	13 Larry Waldren	19 Bo Williams	James Schatt	30 Christopher Bald
Rev. George Smith	Christopher Bissett	Jan Merians	Alta Gustafson	
			24 Rev. Ray Ruark	

..... *Thank you* so much for the college gift. That was so kind and thoughtful of you all, it will be super helpful to me as I get ready to move! I will always consider FPC as a second home, and I feel so loved by everyone there. *Thanks again, Katie Schlenker*



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the life of **Rosie Gee**, a longtime member who joined the saints of light on August 17th. We also gives thanks for the life of **Elinor Carr**, Dr. Watson's mother, who joined the saints of light on August 15th and **Nan Edwards**, who joined the saints of light on August 11th.

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.

PRAYER LIST

Ruth Albright[†] (*Brentwood at Fore Ranch, please call before visiting*)
Kayla Ali (*granddaughter of Yvonne Sims*)
Andy Boyer (*Fran Gilchrist's son-in-law*)
Mina DeGeronimo,
Ellen Drummond[†] (*Brookdale*)
Jamii Fuseler (*the Pickards' niece*)
The family of Rosie Gee
Mary Guest (*mother of David Guest*)
Maxine Heinbockel[†] (*John Heinbockel's mother*)
Wells Kilgore (*Dr. Watson's friend*)
Anna Marie Miller
Gloria Miller
Maria Myers[†] (*Hampton Manor*)
Ray Newhouse (*Pat Bishop's brother*)

Annette Pickard
Charlene Preston[†]
Dave Proctor (*Sue Straub's son-in-law*)
Judy Rangel
John Reynolds (*Suzy Heinbockel's brother*)
Janice Schafer[†] (*Palm Garden*)
Bill Shirley
Tom Shurlknight (*Ellen Matthews' cousin*)
Keith Shotwell
Steve Shotwell
Betty Jeanne Spencer[†]
(Lady Lake Specialty Care)
Charlotte Symonds[†]
(Ruth Elswood's daughter serving in Iraq)
Bob Wilton

Session Briefs

SESSION BRIEFS FROM AUGUST 26, 2018

- *Rev. Watson expressed his appreciation to Rev. Sudderth for her leadership during this very challenging summer.
- *Learned that David Bedenbaugh plans to return part-time on August 28, 2018.
- *Approved the motion to hire Hannah Batten as our full-time Youth Ministry Director.
- *Approved the motion to continue to search for a part-time Children's Ministry Director.
- *Learned that Walter Laseter was approved by the Presbytery to serve the Weirsdale Presbyterian Church as a Certified Ruling Elder.
- *Mourned the deaths of: Harriet Berman July 13, 2018, Helen Lawton July 14, 2018, Nan Edwards the last week of July, 2018, Elinor Carr (Rev. Watson's mother) August 15, 2018, Rosie Gee August 17, 2018.
- *Learned of the resignation of Randy Freise from the session and committee assignment.
- *Approved the motion to transfer the membership of Crys Bishop to Fort King Presbyterian.
- *Approved the motion to pay JSA Architects \$2,900.00 for their drawings of the proposed Handicap Ramp.
- *Learned that our newly updated website has received 7,000 "hits" or visits since being updated.
- *Appreciation was expressed to Rev. Sudderth for her on-going hard work on the website.
- *Learned that a church's website is the first place visitors look to learn information about a church.
- *Received information on the membership statistics of our church as of August, 2018: Total membership is 642. Since Jan 2018, we have received five new members, lost seventeen to death, and lost six to transfers.



Greet 'n' Eat Time!

Out to Dinner Fellowship
 set for **Thursday, September 20th**
 This group meets the third Thursday
 of each month at 5:30 p.m. at
 different restaurants in the Ocala area.

The Out to Dinner group will meet on **Thursday, September 20**
At Latino Y Mas
 2030 S Pine Ave, Ocala, FL 34471
Newcomers are urged to attend.
 Make reservations by contacting Mary Beth Olson (352-304-5469)
 by noon Monday, September 17th.

Congratulations

John C. Stabler graduated from The United States Military Academy at West Point, NY with a B.S. degree in Geospatial Information Systems on August 10th, 2018. He is the son of Christine Heagy and Brent Stabler. He will be stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma for Basic Officer Leaders Course.

The Steinway Fund

OUR
 current
 PIANO

**WAS BUILT IN THE 1920s and
 DONATED IN THE 1960s
 ALREADY rebuilt MULTIPLE TIMES
 IS NEAR THE END OF ITS LIFE**

OUR
 new
 PIANO

**WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY and
 CRAFTSMANSHIP WILL LAST TO
 2120 AND beyond!
 WILL ENHANCE worship AND CONCERTS
 and BE MORE DURABLE**

The Steinway Fund to purchase a new Steinway for our sanctuary and a new upright piano for Fellowship Hall has already received **\$60,981.00** towards our goal of \$88,000. The Session is asking the congregation if they would like to make gifts to the fund. If you wish to help us improve our music's sound, please mark your donation "piano."

Thank you for your generosity.

Attendance				
Worship services	8/5	8/12	8/19	8/26
8:15 a.m.	41	35	36	40
9:30 a.m.	78	116	92	92
11:00 a.m.	92	100	84	80
Total	211	251	212	212

This summer was a complete whirlwind for our Youth and Children's Ministries! During the months of June and July, our youth were busy attending two retreats and a mission trip. The even crazier part of this busy schedule is that they all took place in different states! Students traveled to Panama City Beach, Florida for BigStuf Camps; Greenville, South Carolina for Reach Mission Trips; and Montreat, North Carolina for Montreat Youth Conference.

BigStuf Camps are a super fun time for students to learn more about their own faith, listen to wonderful speakers make sense of how to live a Christian life as a teenager today, and also have a blast at the beach! These conferences are a great contemporary experience for students, and worship often has a very concert-like vibe that students really love.

Montreat Youth Conferences are very well-known around FPC and our students become very dedicated to attending Montreat each and every year. Being up in the North Carolina mountains and having a much more acoustic worship means that this camp is quite opposite from BigStuf Camp's style, but this means that each of our students' different personalities are reached with our retreats.

Reach Mission Trips are far less of a retreat and much more of a work camp style trip that our students truly pour themselves into. These mission trips aim to serve those who are struggling, either from income, age, or other circumstances, by offering able-bodied willingness to help others. Students and leaders attending these camps are assigned a person or family and, using resources provided by Reach Mission Trips, are able to clean, repair, and renovate their houses for the week. Our

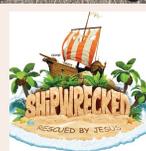
youth gain so much from these camps, not only just enjoying getting to meet students from other youth groups, but also by being given the chance to serve those in need and experiencing the light that they are able to bring to others.

These camps and conferences are dearly loved by our youth here at FPC and we not only had a total blast on each of these trips, but were fortunate enough to be able to get to know each other better, grow in our faith with one another, and serve others together.

As busy as our youth were this summer, our children's ministries stayed just as busy with our annual Vacation Bible School! Our theme for VBS this year was "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus" and our children who attended were able to learn all about how Jesus saves and guides us through each and every trial and tribulation life might throw at us. I would like to thank each and every volunteer that allowed us to make VBS possible this year: Without you it truly would not be possible to minister to these children in the same way each year. I'd

also like to extend a very special thank you to Rhonda Kirk, who did an absolutely incredible job of decorating our fellowship hall to look like Shipwrecked Island. Our Vacation Bible

School is well known for how much time and effort we put into decorating to each theme in order to take our kids to a whole new place for the week, and we would fall very short of that without the help of Mrs. Rhonda. So, thank you to Mrs. Rhonda and all of our wonderful volunteers! We are already looking forward to another exciting summer with our Youth and Children's Ministries!



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women – To all the women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

The Presbyterian Women organization (PW) is actively engaged in many activities and welcomes all women to come and join the fun.

If you are not presently active in a Circle, you are welcome to select a day/time that suits your schedule and join a Circle as we begin with the first meeting in September studying from Horizon's Bible Study book *God's Promise, I Am With You*, by Amy Poling Sutherland. Study books are available from the contact person listed below or contact Pat Greaves, Moderator, at 236-0716.

Won't you give us a try, and join in the fellowship?

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for September 2018 Bible Study and Fellowship with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	September 4	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Coordinating Team Mtg.	September 4	7:00 p.m.	Room 1	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 352-362-0013
Circle 1	September 11	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3	September 17	10:00 a.m.	5623 NW 25 th Loop	Pat Greaves	236-0716
Circle 4	September 11	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	MaryBeth Rivers	625-3372
Circle 7	September 11	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	September 11	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053

The Stress Free Book Club has a new coordinator, Nita Williams. They will not meet in September but will meet in October. Thanks, Nita!

Presbyterian Women's Program Meetings for September 2018 Ways to Serve with your Sisters in Christ					
Program	Date	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Prayer Shawl Ministry	September 27	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	732-6368
Stress Free Book Club	October 23	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Nita Williams	237-6789
WeCare Sewing Ministry	September 24	9:30 a.m.	Room 1	Evelyn Weaver	622-6028



First Presbyterian Church
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Sent with a prayer to:

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



Our Church Directory is Online!

TROUBLESHOOTING

- An email address is required to use our directory. If you do not have an email address you may request a paper copy in early September.
- If you provided **one** family email address and have more family members accessing the app on their phone they must also use the same email login and password.
- If you did not include an email address or wish to make a change or upload a picture, please provide information below.
- Church staff will be available Wednesday evening 6-6:30 and Thursday morning from 10:-10:30 to assist you. Bring your phones, laptops and questions to the church office for assistance.

THE SPIRE IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
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