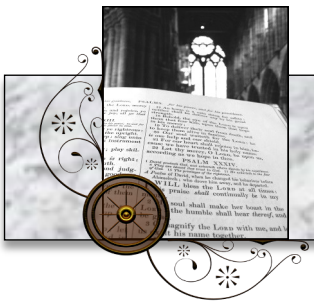
FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

November 2019 Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Volume 62 Number 11

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

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart…"

Dear Friends,

As the church liturgical year closes and Advent draws near, we are at that ever familiar time to protestants everywhere, namely, Stewardship Season. If I have been stealthy enough, you may not have realized that I have indeed been preaching about stewardship for months. (I started in August). But I am announcing in this article that the Session has invited the Reverend Dr. Bob Shettler, recently retired pastor of First Presbyterian, Gainesville, to bring our final stewardship sermon.

Our theme this year, is, "Our First and Our Best." It is based on the biblical tradition of bringing God our first fruits as on offering and an action of trust in our God. November 10th will be Stewardship Sunday. Pledge cards will be distributed. They will also come in the mail that week. You will be asked to bring your pledge card the following week to church on November 17th, Dedication Sunday. At all three services, during the last song, you will be invited to bring your pledge card forward and place it on the communion table.

Pledges are a personal covenant between you and God. Sharing this information with your church assists us greatly in the budget process. I encourage all of our members to participate.

Yours in Christ,
Ron

Stewardship 2020
Our First and Our Best"

November 10th Stewardship Sunday - Stewardship Message

November 17th Dedication Sunday - Pledge Cards Returned

Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk of Session

Session Brief – October 6, 2019

-Approved a letter of transfer for Alta Gustafson to The Presbyterian Church of Marion Oaks.
-Authorized the baptism of Theresa Floyd and she became a new member of our congregation.
-Approved the "Giving in Action Project" where anonymous donors contribute money to the congregation to "pay it forward," and then congregational members share their stories on how they paid it forward.
-Approved a Congregational Meeting to be held on October 27, 2019, at 10:55 a.m. for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for 2021 and 2022.
-Approved Rev. Bob Shettler, retired pastor from First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, to be the guest preacher on Stewardship Sunday, November 10, 2019.
-Approved the purchase of car magnets to be given to those who hand in their pledges on Pledge Sunday.

Attendance Worship services	9/29	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
8:15 a.m.	35	38	37	26	33
9:30 a.m.	51	54	55	63	53
11:00 a.m.	108	115	98	90	87
Total	**194**	**207**	**190**	**179**	**173**

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS - 2019		
Actual Jan. - Sept. 2019	**Budget** Jan. - Sept. 2019	**Difference**
$557,449	$620,768	-$63,319

The Fish

Fifth in our series on the PC(USA) seal: The Fish

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.

Looking more closely at some of the visual components of the design, viewers may discover elements that seem to fuse with some of the more obvious theological symbols. In the shape of the descending dove, for example, one might also discern in the body of the bird, the form of a fish, an early-Christian sign for Christ, recalling his ministry to those who hunger.

FPC's Scholarship Committee Friday, Nov. 1st is the absolute deadline for applications!

Applications for post-secondary education scholarship funds for the January term are now available in the church office.
The **absolute final deadline** to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on **Friday, 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.

Don't forget! Friday, November 1st—deadline for scholarship applications to be submitted!

Security Update

Almost 2 years ago a meeting was hosted by the First Baptist Church of Ocala to address Church Security. Seventeen of our members joined with 120 others from many churches in our area. There we were introduced to staff from Strategos International a leading company in providing training in Church Security. All were there because of concern about the increasing number of violent acts against places of worship.

Following the two-day training by Strategos FPC organized a Security Committee chaired by Elder John Reiss. We developed a mission statement which reads: "Develop a security ministry that provides for the comfort, peace, and protection of First Presbyterian Church members, visitors, and staff during attendance at worship services, other church sponsored functions, and office hours".

The major types of incidents that our Security Committee is concerned about include: Medical Events, Fire Evacuation, Active Shooter

Something to remember is that our Security program does not replace First Responders or Law Enforcement….We buy time for our Church Family until the First Responders and Law Enforcement arrive, once they arrive they take over.

Who is security ? How do we identify them ? Both good questions. First, our security team wears small lapel pins. Secondly some are wearing ear pieces that indicate two way radios, and finally all ushers are security members. Important IF YOU SEE SOMETHING…SAY SOMETHING.

What has the Security Committee Accomplished?

-Held monthly meeting to plan strategy

-Attended various trainings to enhance capabilities either individually or in groups

-Provided 1st training at FPC on "Situational Awareness" and Exterior Security which was attended by 30 interested members

-Planned 2nd training is scheduled for 10/26/19 @9:00AM to teach basic first aid, CPR (technique not to receive certification), the AED Defibrillator, and Oxygen tank use to be taught by John Heinbockel and Debbie Koch

-Controlled access by securing specific doors after services begin and unlocking prior to end of service while directing those arriving late to the main entrance door(s) that will always remain unlocked

-Expanded Video capability/coverage of church campus which is monitored during office hours by volunteer in office and during worship by Security

Finally what's next ?

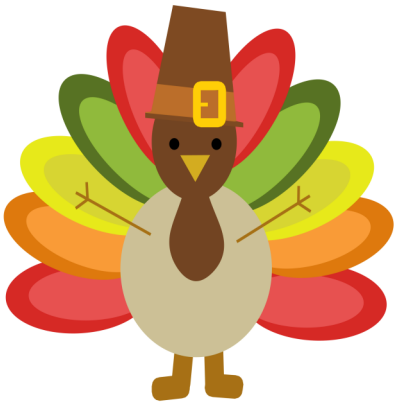
Additional Security Staff Training, Drills including Evacuation, Review of Security plans and perhaps an external audit of plans by local Law Enforcement, Laminated info cards attached to wall next to all phones to provide instructions and address info to be used in case of emergency call.

Respectfully Submitted
Howell Winfree III

Hannah Batten Youth and Children Ministries

FPC's Fall Festival, BBQ, and Bluegrass Extravaganza 2019 was a success! We had such a wonderful time celebrating the fall season and spending time together both with our church family as well as with people from our community. (At the time of this publication) I'd like to thank all the volunteers that took time to make this event possible: All those that donated the use of their cars and time for the Trunk or Treat, as well as our event volunteers, Sue Brawner, Peggy Wiechmann, Elaine Cox, Rusty Juergens, Trish Mosby, Nancy Livesay, Nita Williams, Dave Schlenker, Jackie Albright, Amy Johnson, Derek White, Emma Andrews, Caroline Schlenker, and JJ Albright. *Thank you all for making this such a fun community event!*

We are calling kids of all ages to come explore and engage in fellowship. Join us Friday November 15th from 5-9pm for a evening of games, crafts, feasting, and friendship at our Thanksgiving Celebration. This is the fifth installment of our Kids' Night Out program which will take place the second Friday evening of every month. Middle and High Schoolers are welcomed to come to receive dinner and community service hours. To RSVP contact Carly Albright at 352-362-7120 or carlyalbright55@gmail.com.



Featured Acolyte of the Month

Zane

son of Carrie and Larry

3 special things Zane likes to do:
***Sports *Crafts *Fishing**

Zane

Zane wanted to be an Acolyte because:
He wanted to be involved and contribute to his church.

Music News

Carol Piatnek—McCoy

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord…" (Psalm 100:1)

"I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live" (Psalm 104:33)

Choir Schedule

- Special Performances by the Handbell Choir will be during the 8:15 and 11:00 services on Nov. 10

*Special Performances by the Children's Choir will be November 24 and December 22

*The Christmas Cantata will be December 8, 2019.

After a long intermission, a newly formed FPC Children's Choir once again brings joyful music to worship services. The small— but enthusiastic and spirited—group already has sung beautifully during two services this fall. They do, indeed, make and share a much-appreciated "joyful noise"!

Get ready for Christmas Music here at FPC! Christmas Cantata on December 8, 2019 at the 11:00 a.m. service

Thank You's to FPC

Dear FPC,
What an awesome church family! I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, flowers and food, and especially your prayers. My recovery has been slower than I anticipated, but I am beginning to venture out more and getting back to my old self. May God continue to bless First Presbyterian. *Sincerely, Vikki Hutto*

Dear FPC, Many thanks for the fall flower arrangement, prayers, calls and concerns. *Your friend, Tola Hass*

Dear FPC, Thank you for the lovely flowers sent from the church. What a wonderful surprise. My church family continues to amaze me with their love and kindness! *Sincerely, Cathy Hancock*

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.

In our November Circle meetings, we will study Lesson Three, "Words of Love: Keep Sabbath," 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. Come and join in Christian fellowship. Many thanks for Tom Weaver who spends countless hours preparing the handout that goes with the lesson and holds the mentoring sessions each month. THANKS TOM!

Seven ladies attended a Tea at Countryside Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 12th. Attending were, Liz Diener-Dickmann, along with her granddaughter Kalie, Gera Fleming, Ann O'Hart, Sharon Shirley, Esther Arango-Palencia, and Pat Greaves. We enjoyed Dee Collier's enactment of the Samaritan Woman Jesus met at the well.

Church Women United World Community Day will be held on Friday, November 1st, 2019 at the Zion Methodist Church located on Martin Luther King Blvd., between SR 40 West and US 27 on the west side of the street. The theme is "Resolve to Love." Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and services begin at 10 a.m. Questions may be addressed to Gera Fleming.

The PW FALL GATHERING will be held on Saturday, November 9th, from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no cost to attend, but please register with your Circle Leaders so we know how to plan. The "Thank Offering" will be collected. Mark your calendars and plan to attend a fun time of fellowship with our Sisters in Christ.

"Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me you will find me if you seek me with all your heart."....Jeremiah 29:12-13.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for November 2019
Bible Study and Fellowship with your Sisters in Christ

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	Tuesday, November 5th	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, November 5th	7:00 p.m.	Room 1	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 352-362-0013
Circle 1	Tuesday, Novem-ber12th	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3	Monday, November 18th	10:00 a.m.	Sharon Shirley 8591C SW 93rd Place Ocala, 34481	Sharon Shirley	304-8529 248-345-3058
Circle 4	Tuesday, November 12th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Mary Beth Rivers	625-3372
Circle 7	Tuesday November 12th	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416

LOST are several of the PW oblong tablecloths. If you have knowledge of any oblong tablecloths that belong to PW, would you please advise Debbie Koch, (630-254-8844) about them. We need them for the receptions we host for memorials or any other functions. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

PRAYER SHAWL…Besides making prayer shawls for distribution throughout the year, our group has been making hats, scarves and socks for the seamen/mariners. We were able to send 16 scarves, 9 hats, 1 pair socks and 4 ditty bags to The Seamen's Church Institute for their "Christmas at Sea" program. Our group is one of many volunteers throughout the country who have knitted and crochet'd items for distribution to mariners who are miles away from home during the holidays.

We were also busy making hats, scarves and mittens that will be sent to Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. We decided to continue this project since the children so enjoyed receiving our items last year.

We welcome all knitters and crocheters of any level to join us the fourth Thursday of each month. We meet in the Conference room at 1:30. In November, we will meet the week before Thanksgiving (Nov. 21) and we do NOT meet in December. . Contact: Liz Diener-Dickmann, 908-377-8913.

If anyone would like to give a shawl to someone who you feel needs comforting by feeling God's love through a shawl, please be in touch with one of us or call the church office. We will be sure to get a shawl to you. They have all been made with love and prayers.

SAVE THE DATE…DECEMBER 10th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for our Christmas lunch in Fellowship Hall. Tom Weaver will lead Lesson 4 and we will have a catered lunch. More information and sign-ups will be available at the Nov. Circles.

Presbyterian Women's Program Meetings for November 2019
Ways to Serve with your Sisters in Christ

Program	Date	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thursday, November 21st	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	908-377-8913
WeCare Sewing Ministry	Will NOT meet in November			Evelyn Weaver	622-6028

Presbyterian Missions Quiz (ans. on inside back page)

1. Advanced Education
2. Special Needs
3. Missionary Furlough Home
4. Ladies Only
5. Children/s Home
6. Summer Camps
7. Nearby Seminary

a. Mission Haven
b. St. Augustine
c. Columbia
d. Montgomery
e. Eckerd College
f. Presbyterian Women
g. Duval Home

Happy Birth-

November Birthdays

5
Victoria Bishop
Gerry Gramer
Vicki Roberts

6
Skye Caskey

7
Jean McDoniels
Donna Winfree

8
Travis Tull
Kyle Kimball
Malcolm Dunn
Angie McCurry

9
Robyn Carlisle
Jill Fuller
Doug Sullivan

10
Bryan Fennessy
Marilyn Arline

11
Dana Richardson

13
Deb Cone
Cindy MacKay

14
Todd Dailey
Hope Hasselkus

15
Keith Morin

16
Leah Shae Drake

17
John Scott Hagood

18
Sharon Jank
Austin Albright II
Laura Fowler

19
Sandy Almazan
Esther Arango-Palencia
Sue Straub

20
Ellen Drummond
Annette Pickard

21
Judson Baker
Suzy Heinbockel
Mike Sharpe

22
Sonja Bennett
Kelly Evans

23
Michael Hart
Lanford Slaughter

23
Chris Johnson

26
JJ Peterson
Jane Smith

27
Alice Russell

28
Hannah Batten
Bruce Moore
Rod Reimer

29
Holly Townsend

30
Garrett Fleming
Scott Fleming
Albert Peek
Zain Smith

Congratulations

Katherine & Derek White are very excited to announce they will be welcoming their first baby early April 2020!

PRAYER LIST

Jeanette Bryant
Randall & Linda Deyton
(Pickard family prayer concerns)
Mary Dingman (death of her mother)
Kathy and Terry Donovan (Nita Williams' friends)
Stewart Edwards
Hank Fleming (AdventHealth)
Maranell Fleming
Fran Gilchrist
Barbara Gowie
Dick Hancock
Bettie Haupt
(illness and death of her husband Paul)
Kathy Lance (Lois Lance's daughter-in-law)
Grietje Lewis
Celine Mack
Ellen Matthews
Earl McNeel (Pat Greaves' brother)
Ray Newhouse (Pat Bishop's brother)
Raul Nieves (Mina DiGeronimo's brother)
Ken Petrey
John Reynolds (Suzy Heinbockel's brother)
Ann Richardson and family
(death of her husband, Bobby)
Greg Robinson
(Carolyn Varner's brother)
Michael Rou (Dr. Albright's cousin)
Tania Sayre (Mary Kauffman's daughter)
Janice Schafer (Palm Garden)
Delores Shotwell
Steve and Keith Shotwell
Jane Smith
Jill Hester Whitaker
Bo and Sally Williams
Eleanor Willis (Ocala Health & Rehab)
Diane Wirono

Please also remember in prayer all the people affected by natural disasters.

First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the lives of Dr. Bobby Richardson who joined the saints of light on October 10, 2019 and for former member Charlene Preston.

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

Wednesday Night Dinners

Join us for fellowship and always delicious food! A meat is provided each week and you are asked to bring a side dish or desert 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!

Art Connection

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

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 4-6 p.m.

Fellowship Hall — dinner to follow!

We'll be making Advent Wreaths

Thanksgiving Dinner - *WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR CHURCH FAMLY!*

We will gather together in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, Nov 20th at 6:00 pm** for a special congregational Thanksgiving dinner!! If you haven't been able to get to Fellowship Dinners, this is one not to be missed! Our traditional turkey meal will be fully catered, but we are asking for a donation of $5 per person with a $15 limit per family. Children under 12 are free! *To reserve your turkey leg, please make a note on the Friendship pad by Sunday **Nov 10, or** call the office (352-629-7561) by Thursday, **Nov. 14.***

Shout Out!

REMEMBER

This year's homecoming football game at Forest High School was the first game played in MIKEY KELLY STADIUM. The stadium was named to honor the school's first principal. Just about everyone at First Presbyterian Church knew Mikey, (his real mane), a former University of Florida football player, a tight end and a long time, big time Gator supporter. Some will remember he was also an Elder here at FPC. Janice, his wife is always in attendance at our 11:00 a.m. service. If you come a little early, Janice can be seen making her rounds visiting their many friends, old and new. Mr. Kelly, (Mikey) began his career in Duval County and came to Marion County in 1970. The only thing that would have made the event "extra special", would have under his name… "member, Ocala First Presbyterian Church". Thank you Mikey and family.

Outreach Ministries

Getting to know beneficiaries that we support

Take Stock in Children®

Take Stock in Children, Inc. is a nonprofit organization, transforming Florida one student at a time. Working in every county throughout Florida, our mission is to break the cycle of poverty for low-income, academically qualified students by providing opportunities for a post-secondary education. We offer college scholarships to students, provide caring volunteer mentors, and instill hope for a better life. Our comprehensive services begin in middle school, continue through high school, and include students' transition into college and career.

Interfaith Supper Sign-Up for 2020!

Thank you all who participated in 2019 from individual families to Sunday School Classes, Bible Study Groups, PW Circles, Friends, and Deacons. We have many openings available for 2020! FPC always provides a dinner on the 2nd Thursday of each month. If you or your group are interested, please call or text Jarl Hagood at 352-867-9372 or jarlhagood@aol.com. Thank you for sharing your blessings and being a blessing!

FPC's 2019 Mission Fair and SERRV Sale

serrv
creating connections
fair trade • handmade • nonprofit

Sunday, November 3
9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Come and meet the people who represent the benevolence organizations we support and purchase wonderful products from around the world (All proceeds go to SERRV)

Stop by the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Nov 3, 9:00-12:15 for our annual **Mission Fair** to learn more about the agencies that we support through the church members' generous donations. You can also do some **Christmas shopping** for others or for yourself at the ***SERRV Sale*** (a fair trade organization) to support artisans and farmers in third world countries, help break the poverty cycle, and build stronger worldwide communities. 100% if the profits go back to the organization, so you will be contributing to a wonderful cause!

Refreshments will be provided by Presbyterian Women

Coming Soon - 2019 Christmas Giving Tree!

Our 2019 Christmas Giving Tree Project is again an ambitious one! There are so many needs in so many parts of our community and indeed the world, but we have decided to donate to: Project Hope, Domestic Violence Center, Hands of Mercy and Sozo Kids, which helps children living in abject poverty in the Ocala National Forest.

This year's project will start on Sunday, November 24 and the deadline for turning in gifts will be December 9.

As always, there will be two Christmas trees, one in Fellowship Hall and one in the Narthex, full of beautiful ornaments made by our children and youth and several volunteers. As always, you keep the ornament(s) and fulfill the gift request on each ornament. Please take as many as you wish.

Each gift item should be UNWRAPPED and each check made out to First Presbyterian Church earmarked "2019 Giving Tree".

Thank you! We look forward to working together to help make this year's Giving Tree as generous as those in the past. Please let us know if you have any questions: Sue Brawner, Carol Carpenter, Margaret Baker, Cheryl Fante, Cathy Edwards, Lannie Mercer, Becky Schatt, Ann VanDenburgh, Jarl Hagood, Katie White, Vicky Roberts.

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Hurricane Maria was a deadly Category 5 hurricane that devastated Dominica, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico in September 2017. It is regarded as the worst natural disaster in recorded history to affect those islands. FPC is in the planning stages of a mission trip to Puerto Rico from (tentatively) May 26-June 3, 2020. We will provide non-skilled and semi-skilled labor (though skilled is great too!) and work out of El Guacio, a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. If you are interested in taking this journey, email the pastor or call the church office. We hope to have up to 15 workers and may partner with other local PCUSA congregations to achieve this. The minimum age to take the trip is 15. There is no maximum age! We need people to sign up by calling the church office. We also need a lay leader who will make the journey.

Answers to Presbyterian Missions Quiz (Pg 7)
1/e 2/g 3/1 4/f 5/h 6/d 7/c 8/I 9/b

1-3 You call yourself a Presbyterian?

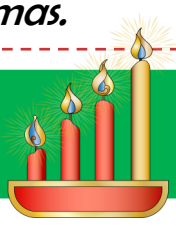
4-6 You attend Sunday School

7-9 Currently a deacon or elder

Out to Dinner Group

There will be no Out To Dinner in November and December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We are looking for Advent readers for all services during Advent. Please contact



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