



**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.

**Dr. D. Ronald Watson, Jr., Pastor**

Friends,

Lao Tsu, and a few others, have been credited for this wisdom saying: "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Yesterday, our elders took a single step in getting us organized for 2019. We all share the goal of becoming a friendly and functional church. We sinners are called by God through grace to redemption and to become the church. In one sense, this is a continuation of 162 years of rich history. But in a another sense, it is a new journey which begins with a single step.

We have made a commitment to be more visible as the leaders of the church. Soon, the Elder of the Day program, which is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, will begin. If you don't know them, introduce yourselves to this elder, who will be easily recognizable in church. We hope, as a church of multiple services, to get to know each other and bridge the gaps, so that our fellowship and common experience at First Presbyterian will define us.

Yesterday, Natasha gave an amazing sermon

which included what it means to be welcoming as a church, to love each other with a full and reckless (prodigal) love as God loves us. We want to bring people "home" to First Presbyterian. We can only do this if we believe in the joy we share as a church, and if we actually invite people! I hope we are the church you talk about in love and excitement rather than the church of "things aren't the way they used to be" church. Data shows that no mainline Protestant churches are what they used to be. The world is changing. Churches are changing too, but God does not change. God is the only thing that doesn't change. What will we, the church, say about that?

I love this church, excited about what it is and what it might become. Your enthusiasm is the one thing that will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, make our church the church of the future!

Pray for your church. Pray for its spiritual growth. Pray for your own growth. I am praying for you.

Yours in Christ,  
Ron



## Rev. Natasha Sudderth, Assoc. Pastor

Dear FPC Family,

I am so pleased to share that starting very soon the ruling elders of our church will become a more visible part of our Sunday morning worship. Each Sunday, one of our session members will serve as *Elder of the Day*, living into their call to leadership. Our *Book of Order*, the book that guides our church polity, government, discipline, and worship, calls Ruling Elders to particular leadership tasks that include their provision for and participation in worship.

Each Sunday, the *Elder of the Day* will be present at all three services, and be responsible for the preparation of communion, preparation of the worship space, and assisting pastors. before/during/after worship. The *Elder of the Day* will also be responsible for handling any problems or questions related to worship. The bulletin will indicate who will be serving as Elder for the Day for each Sunday.

As we begin, we ask you to continue to pray for our church and all of our gifted church leaders, deacons, ruling elders and teaching elders.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Natasha Sudderth

“Ruling elders are called to nurture the common life of the people of God through their gifts of discernment and governance....In a particular congregation, ruling elders shall provide for the church’s worship and encourage the peoples’ participation. Specifically, when serving together on the session, ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament†: make provision for the regular preaching of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments, corporate prayer, and the offering of praise to God in song; oversee and approve all public worship in the congregation, with the exception of responsibilities reserved for the minister of the Word and Sacrament†; determine occasions, days, times, and places for worship; and have responsibility for the arrangement of worship space, the use of special appointments (flowers, candles, banners, paraments, and other objects), and the ministries of music, drama, dance, and visual arts (W-

## David Bedenbaugh, Music Ministries

In addition to our Sunday morning services throughout our church season, we feature some wonderful concerts! In January, The King’s Brass performed for us and we had quite the crowd after a very lovely Wednesday evening dinner. Our attendance continues to grow each year for this wonderful national performing group. In February, Duo Decca will perform. This group consists of Kosumo Morishita (our wonderful staff’s keyboardist) and her colleague, Ariadne Antipa. Videos of this group and much more can be found online at [duodeccapiano.com](http://duodeccapiano.com). In March, The Amazing Steel Drum Ensemble will perform a concert that will bring us plenty of sunshine and smiles. Our Palm Sunday Cantata in April will feature all of our talented musicians who will tell the story of Christ’s Passion leading up to Easter Sunday. And finally in May, our talented string orchestra will round out our season with their annual Spring String Fling. Please join us for some or all of these wonderful events at FPC. We are so happy to have the honor of serving you through music that enhances worship and brings glory to God!

## Elaine Cox, Session Brief

### SESSION BRIEF – DECEMBER 16, 2018

1. Welcomed Tola Hass into membership by Transfer of Letter from Druid Hills Methodist Church.
2. Examined and approved Elders Elect.
3. Approved the transfer of Fran Gilchrist to First Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
4. Approved a motion to suspend the rules of the Policies and Procedures Manual and move the budget approval process to the January Stated Session meeting on January 27, 2019.
5. Approved a motion to schedule a meeting of all committee chairs to review and cut their budget requests before January 4, 2019.
6. Approved a motion to hold one church service on December 30, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
7. Approved a motion to participate in Duke Seminary's ten-week summer internship program, the cost of which will be funded outside the budget.
8. Expressed appreciation to the Class of 2018 Elders.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following who were elected at the congregational meeting on December 2, 2018:

#### Deacons

Class of 2021 – Evelyn Longo  
Alice Russell  
Donna Winfree

#### Elders

Class of 2019 – Van Akin  
Class of 2020 – Bill Futch  
Class of 2021 – Jeff Baker  
Cindy MacKay  
Mary Moore  
Janie Scott  
Joe Vorwerk  
Peggy Wiechmann

Thank you to the 2019 Nominating Committee for their work on preparing the slate of nominees. Committee members are: Rusty Juergens, chair, Savannah Bennett, Elaine Cox, Evelyn Weaver, Nita Williams, and ex officio members Rev. Ron Watson and Rev. Natasha Sudderth.

## Peggy Wiechmann, Session Brief

### SESSION BRIEF – JANUARY 27, 2019

1. Mourned the deaths of Barbara Brown on 12/9/18 and William Shirley on 1/22/19
2. Approved election of Peggy Wiechmann as Clerk of Session
3. Expressed gratitude and appreciation to Elaine for her service as Clerk of Session
4. Approved election of Sheryll Goedert as Treasurer of FPCO
5. Approved adding Peggy Wiechmann as check signer
6. Approved "Simple Guidelines for Sessional Committees"
7. Approved the "Elder of the Day" concept to be used every Sunday
8. Approved the Financial Budget for FPCO for 2019 with minor changes
9. Approved renaming and repurposing the "Policies and Procedures Manual" to "Guidelines Policy"
10. Approved changing future Session Meeting from the 4th Sunday of the month to the 3rd Sunday of the month for 2019.

# A Thank You

..... *Thank you* Like the Wise Men of old, I was “overwhelmed with joy” by your generosity and love on my last day with you all on January 6. I received so many good wishes and blessings, I couldn’t possibly list them all, but please know that I will always treasure them, as I treasure my memories of each one of you.

Special thanks to the Presbyterian Women, who prepared a bountiful reception no less than three times. You are an awesome and powerful group of ladies!

Thanks, too, to Ron and to the Session of this church for trusting in me and for allowing me the opportunity to minister to you. It has been a year of great joy and personal growth for me.

In gratitude and in faith, Ruth

## January 6—A day of celebration and sadness as we say goodbye to Rev. Ruth Elswood



All PW circles combined to provide three between-services receptions to honor the departure of Parish Associate **Rev. Ruth Ellwood**. Ruth—on FPC’s staff since December 2017—now serves as Parish Associate at St. Pete’s First Presbyterian Church. PW Moderator **Pat Greaves, Evelyn Weaver, Debbie Koch, and Lois Clardy** developed and coordinated the receptions. **Tom Weaver**, Ruth’s last FPC liturgist, shared the congregation’s thoughts about Ruth and her ministry at all three worship services.

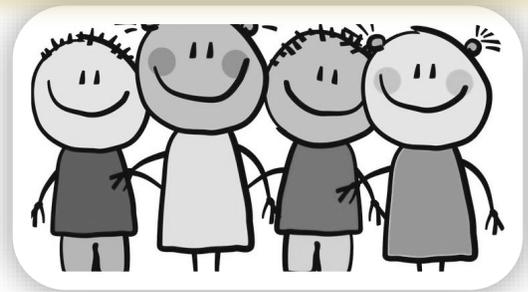


*Thank You!*



# FPC Announcements

Happy Hearts will begin registering for the 2019-20 School Year on Feb. 11th at 8:30a.m. for First Presbyterian Church members and Happy Hearts Alumni.



*On February 19th, registration will be open to the public.*

## Scholarship application deadline approaches!



April 1st is the deadline for FPC scholarship applications for the fall 2019 term. Applications are available in the church office. For information, contact Kay Yancey (629-3552).

Attendance				
Worship services	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27
8:15 a.m.	39	46	32	26
9:30 a.m.	56	87	73	40
11:00 a.m.	111	146	94	108
Total	196	279	238	154

## Our Annual Yard Sale

**March 14<sup>th</sup> (members only)**  
**March 15-16 (open to public)**

As you start cleaning out your closets, kitchens, and garages, please keep us in mind. This has been the major money raising event for the past several years. We especially need the members' contribution this year.

Appliances are always popular but please be sure that they are in clean working order. You can start bringing items to the church on March 10<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 service. Thank you for all your donations. If you have any questions please call:

Lannie Mercer 352-629-3354 or  
 Carol Carpenter 352-816-3065



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to make this Yard Sale a Success!**

# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

A very Happy New Year to all Presbyterian Women. If you're not a member of a Circle, I encourage you to get involved with PW and choose a Circle for Christian fellowship. Select a day/time that suits your schedule and join a Circle at one of the times listed below. We are studying from Horizon's Bible Study book *God's Promise, I Am With You*, by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Study books are available from the contact person listed below or contact Pat Greaves, Moderator, at 236-0716. Come and join in Christian fellowship this New Year.



**RECEPTION FOR RUTH ELSWOOD....**many thanks to all who graciously helped make the Reception for Ruth such a warm and loving token of our appreciation for all she did for our Church during her tenure at FPC. We will miss her love, presence, and support. Thanks to all who provided beautiful baked goods. The morning was chilly by weather standards for Ocala but full of love towards Ruth as she steps out to seek God's Will continuing to minister in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**A THANK-YOU NOTE FROM RUTH ELSWOOD...**

*Dear Presbyterian Women,*

*What a wonderful reception you all prepared yesterday (January 6<sup>th</sup>). I felt so absolutely blessed by everyone's generosity. Thank you! You are amazing women and you do so much for this Church. May God bless you all, Ruth*

**PILLOWS FOR THE SANCTUARY...**a need was recognized by Ann VanDenburgh, Pat Bishop, Ellen Matthews and Martha Petrey, who "tidy up" the sanctuary each week, who noticed the current pillows needed repairing. Some have disappeared. So the Coordinating Team allocated \$400 from PW funds to replenish the pillows which help make the pews more comfy for worship. They are a lovely cream color. Special thanks to Martha Petrey who did the groundwork for the purchase. The PW Coordinating Team hopes all enjoy the new additions to our sanctuary.

**THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY,** was held on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Palm Coast. Attending were Pat Greaves, Elizabeth Diener-Dickmann, and Gera Fleming.

**THE STRESS-FREE BOOK CLUB** has disbanded for now. Thanks to Nita Williams for her leadership.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for February 2019					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	Tues. February 5	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, March 5	7:00 p.m.	Room 1	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 352-362-0013
Circle 1	Tuesday, February 12	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3	Monday, February 18	10:00 a.m.	Cathy Taylor 5192 NW 20 <sup>th</sup> Place	Cathy Taylor	671-3730
Circle 4	February 12	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	MaryBeth Rivers	625-3372
Circle 7	February 12	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	February 12	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thursday, February 28	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	732-6368
WeCare Sewing Ministry	Monday, February 25	9:30 a.m.	Room 1	Evelyn Weaver	622-6028

## Welcome a New Member!

We love it when a new member says “This is my Happy Place!” about our church. This is the way **Tola Hass** describes her time at First Presbyterian Church. Like others who have joined our church recently, Tola was a Methodist who learned about our church through a friend. Previously she attended both Druid Hills Methodist and First Methodist, but she found her church home with us in the fall and joined church in December.

Tola (right) came to Florida from Wisconsin where she did factory work. She is now happily retired, and states that she enjoys traveling and trying to learn how to use the computer. She attends the suppers on Wednesday night, and is still deciding what other church activities she might be interested in. Look for her and welcome her as a new member. You will know her by her sweet smile and gentle ways!



## PRAYER LIST

**Ruth Albright** (*Timber Ridge - no visitors please*)

**Kayla Ali** (*granddaughter of Yvonne Simms*)

**Brian Baker**

**Brent Barber** (*Gera Fleming's son-in-law*)

**Randall & Linda Deyton** (*Pickard family prayer concerns*)

**Noemi DiGeronimo** (*Mina's granddaughter*)

**Kathy and Terry Donovan** (*Nita Williams' friends*)

**Ellen Drummond** (*Brookdale*)

**The Durning Family**

**Maranell Fleming**

**Jamii Fuseler** (*the Pickards' niece*)

**Barbara Gowie** (*The Lodge*)

**David Guest**

**Gary Harward**

**John Heinbockel** (*on the death of his mother*)

**Kathy Lance** (*Lois Lances' daughter-in-law*)

**Gisela Lehner**

**John Longobardo** (*Evelyn Longo's friend*)

**Anna Marie Miller** (*Hawthorne*)

**Gloria Miller** (*Hawthorne*)

**Ray Newhouse** (*Pat Bishop's brother*)

**Brenda O'Quinn** (*Elaine Cox's sister*)

**Charlene Preston**

**Dave Proctor** (*Sue Straub's son-in-law*)

**John Reynolds** (*Suzy Heinbockel's brother*)

**Janice Schafer** (*Palm Garden*)

**Wes Schultz**

**Sharon Shirley** (*on the death of her husband Bill*)

**Betty Jeanne Spencer** (*Lady Lake Specialty Care*)

**Von Hayes Switzer** (*deployed with the Navy*)

**Dr. Michael Thomas** (*Carol Carpenter's friend*)

**Ron & Jules Watson** (*on the death of Ron's stepfather*)

**Sally Williams**

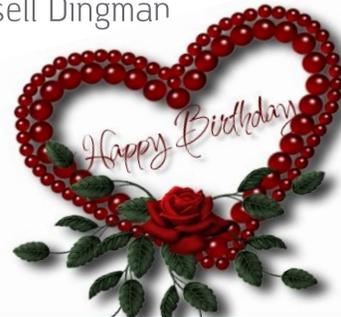


First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the life of **Maria Myers**, a long time member who joined the saints of light on December 19th, **Maxine Heinbockel** who joined the saints of light on January 19th and **Bill Shirley** who joined the saints of light on January 21st.

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.

## February Birthdays

2	8	16	22	26
Floyd Johnson	Wes Schultz	Don Slone	Dick Blagus	Donna Bucy
3	Fran Gilchrist	17	23	Glenda Winfree
Chuck Opitz	9	Ruth Lewis	Shirley Stone	27
Matt Winfree	Marty Smith	18	Luke Lewis	Rachel Bookbinder
4	10	Brenda Dauner	24	28
Jeannette Casler	Ashley Winfree	Tracey Patrick	Deloris Shotwell	Cathy Taylor
Lois Clardy	11	19	25	29
5	Shirley Wells	Don Hutto	Ken Petrey	Florence Tacker
Marguerite Souder	Doug Cone	Rita Miller	Edwina Smith	Heather Guest
Barbara Brown	Adam Black	20	Russell Dingman	
6	14	Ray Charnley		
Bob McClary	John Reiss	Debbie Koch		
Mike Wiechens	15	Liza Taylor		
7	Doug Brown	21		
Curtis Vollmer	Linda Bookbinder	Vikki Hutto		
Smith	Scott Hagood			



## Happy Birthday Grietje

On Sunday, January 20th, FPC's Faith Friends group and Grietje Lewis' family were honored to bless **Grietje** with a party celebrating her 90th birthday! Grietje is a lovely example of God's love and wisdom to all! We thank the Lord for the many ways she glorifies HIM!



# Kaleo Announcements

## Faith in Film

Kaleo youth will soon be participating in a brand new study called Faith in Film facilitated by our Director of Youth, Hannah, and our Associate Pastor, Natasha. In this study we will be watching films together and looking for God in each story in order to become better at discerning God in our own lives. Stay tuned for dates and more details!



## Montreat Fundraiser

Very soon, members of Kaleo Youth that are signed up to go to Montreat Youth Conference this summer will be having a fundraiser that will help in covering the cost of attending Montreat. Keep an eye out for further details of this fundraiser!

Out to Dinner Group will be held at Mimi's 5:30 p.m. on Feb 21st!



*All  
are  
Welcome!*

4414 Southwest College Rd.  
Ocala, FL 34478 (352) 291-8668

Hosted by  
Ella and Ray Charney  
RSVP to 352-694-3810  
by February 20th

Dear FPC Family,

**Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Dinners**

**Please join us!**



Everyone bring a covered dish and join us as we gather together for good food and fellowship. If you can bring a little extra, that wonderful! Each of us will pitch in and do what we can to make this weekly event a success; cook, clean, organize, spread the word, or bring members who cannot drive. Most importantly bring your joy!



What a gift it is to have time to sit together and get to know one another as fellow Disciples of Christ.

Grace and Peace,  
Natasha

FPC OCALA PRESENTS  
2018-2019 CONCERT SERIES

ALL CONCERTS HELD IN THE SANCTUARY

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER SEASON  
OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL TALENT!

JAN 16 *The King's Brass*

6:30 PM

WORLD CLASS BRASS PLAYERS WILL  
BLOW YOU AWAY WITH THEIR DIVERSE  
STYLINGS OF INSPIRED MUSIC & MESSAGE

FEB 10 *Quo Decca*

3 PM

PIANISTS KOSUMO MORISHITA AND ARIDNE ANTIPA  
BRING A COLORFUL ARRAY OF REPERTOIRE TO  
A WIDE-RANGING AUDIENCE, PERFORMING CLASSICS  
AND MUSIC FROM LIVING COMPOSERS.

MAR 24 *The Amazing  
Steel Drum Ensemble*

3 PM

HEAR THE ISLANDS IN YOUR OWN  
BACK YARD. A GOOD SPIRIT FLOWS  
THROUGH THIS TALENTED ORCHESTRA

APR 14 *Palm Sunday Cantata*

11 AM

JOIN US AGAIN AS ALL FPC MUSICIANS  
COMBINE TO TELL THE EASTER STORY

APR 28 *Marion Civic Chorus*

3 PM

MCC RETURNS FOR THEIR  
- SPRING - CONCERT

MAY 20 *Spring String Fling*

3 PM

THIS ANNUAL TRADITION FEATURES  
FPC'S STRING ORCHESTRA

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-22)

When I read this particular passage it plays out in my imagination just as it is written. I imagine the Sea of Galilee with its sandy shores bustling with the activity of a port. The smell of fish fills the air in the heat of the day and the hardworking fisherman do not smell much better. Into this scene, a wise and somewhat stoic Jesus makes his way along the banks. He walks slowly, watching and studying the fisherman as they work, and then he makes his choice. I am not sure what Jesus was thinking or why he chose fisherman for his disciples, but there it is. What is more interesting to me is their obedience to Jesus’ call. They drop their nets, as though under some trance, and follow. In Matthew, they ask no questions. Their nets are simply abandoned, and without knowing either their destination or their new leader they set out for the unknown. The writer of Matthew makes a profound point by leaving out the details. Following Jesus and living in discipleship is a choice that requires a great deal of trust. It is a call to leave the places of self sufficiency and security for life lived in the unknown. If we think back to Abraham’s call in Genesis 12, we see a similar call. God tells Abraham to leave everything behind for the unknown. It sounds rather scary, especially to those of us who are used to being in control of our daily lives. We worked hard and have made a nice comfortable place for ourselves. We work in our homes making them comfortable and welcoming. We have invested time in our work and depend on it for our livelihood. Some have worked for a lifetime and enjoy retirement. If then, for example, Jesus, whom each of us know way better than the fisherman in our passage, showed up in our lives with a call to follow, how easily would we leave our places of comfort for the unknown?

Walter Brueggemann says that to stay in safety is to remain barren. To leave in risk is to have hope. That is to say if we choose to move into life with God it will always require moments of uncertainty the unknown. Like the call of Abraham and Jesus’ call to the fisherman, each of us have a call to believe in what we cannot see. There is always more to what God plans than what is visible and apparent. No one knows or can predict God’s plans, and part of becoming a disciple means learning to live with uncertainty and moving forward into the unknown. This call to leave our security and enter the unknown requires total dependence on God. The disciples trusted Jesus and their lives were transformed. Abraham was obedient and trusted God and he was blessed for it, becoming the father of many nations. That same God extends the invitation to us. Will we choose the security and comfort that we know? Or will we step out into life totally dependent on God; life that is often uncertain, taking us to places unknown, but where we find change, blessing, transformation?

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Natasha Sudderth



First Presbyterian Church  
511 SE Third Street  
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

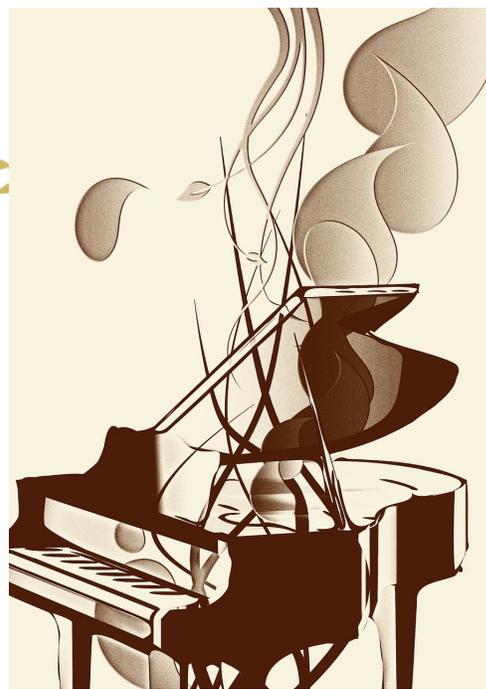
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U.S. Postage  
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Ocala, FL  
Permit #25

Sent with a prayer to:

Part of the FPC Ocala  
2018-2019 Concert Series

*Sunday, February 10th  
at 3:00 p.m.*

Pianists Kosumo Morishita and Ariadne Antipa bring a colorful array of repertoire to a wide-ranging audience. Performing classics and music from living composers.



THE SPIRE IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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