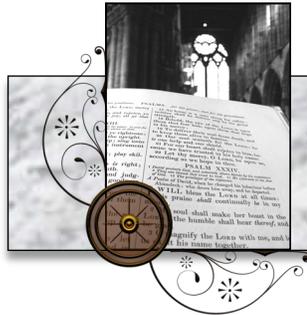




Our Vision - Our Mission

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

Why Easter Isn't Over

Have you ever found life's passages defined by trips to CVS or Walgreens? These stores are meant to help us get through the physical challenges of everyday life with their over the counter and prescription drugs, bandages and supplies. But I also am referring to the bright holiday displays which fill up half the store 2 months before the event, and then what follows, the sad collection of looked over items on sale for 75% off for quick sale. We see leftover Halloween candy in November, leftover Christmas candy in January, and right now, leftover Easter candy.

The leftover candy is put on special display table that each day becomes smaller and sadder, a diminished tribute for public viewing that says, "Something important happened here, but it is over. It is time to move on to the next thing."

But they are wrong. A pile of unsold confections cannot define Christ's triumph over the grave and what it means to people of faith. Every Sunday, we Reformed Christians are celebrating Easter, the first day of the week, that the women went to the empty tomb and encountered the risen Lord. Each Sunday, we marvel with Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, that death could not hold him, that Christ conquered the grave for us.

Join me in living Easter joy each and every Sunday, knowing and repeating those words: "Why do you seek the living among the dead. He is not here. He is risen!" And he offers to all believers the opportunity to share eternal life.

Walk briskly past the leftover candy.
It's Easter every Sunday!

He is Risen! Ron

DAVID BEDENBAUGH MUSIC MINISTRIES



Seasons Change...

In July of 2011 I began working at FPC with a passion for contemporary service music that quickly expanded to include the traditional music as well. Moving down from Nashville, I found a place where I could be needed and appreciated, a place where I could grow and give in a nurturing congregation. FPC has been a family of loving people who have inspired eight years of music and service, and given me so many wonderful relationships and memories.

This has been a season of some major changes in my life. You all kept me going through a traumatic summer and months of recovery with prayers, food, and a treasure trove of get-well cards and financial assistance. This summer another Bedenbaugh will be in the hospital for a life-changing event, and you all have been just as supportive and excited for this new arrival. Cheri and I are filled with gratitude and so appreciative of the church's overwhelming love and support. But things often come in threes it seems. So it is that a few months ago I began to sense God's still small voice calling me to consider that my time at FPC is coming to a close and a new chapter is beginning.

A prayer for God's guidance was answered very quickly as I became aware of an opportunity to lead contemporary worship at First United Methodist here in town. What began as merely exploratory developed into a very clear God-inspired open door. After all the church has become for Cheri and me, this has not been an easy decision. There is a bit of faith involved in making this step, but I feel confident that this is the right decision not only for myself but also for FPC. I know that God has someone and something wonderful in mind for the music here.

My last Sunday at First Pres will be Sunday May 5. As I begin this new chapter at First Methodist, I would welcome the chance to stay in touch with you all and keep a connection to FPC. Thank you for being so wonderful. Your kindness, generosity, and the many moments we've shared will always be remembered fondly. You all will always be a part of who I am.

God Bless You!
David Bedenbaugh

Hannah Batten Youth and Children Ministries

VBS 2019



VBS is such an incredibly important event within our church and our community, but we can't pull it off without tremendous support! Please prayerfully consider donating some of the following items

to be used throughout VBS. If you are available and willing, please also consider volunteering that week. Registration is on fpcocala.org for participants and volunteers now! Please bring donations to FPC office any time before June 10th.

Donation List

- | | |
|---|---|
| Stretchy bracelet string (thin-medium thickness) | Gift Cards (Walmart, Publix, Hobby Lobby, etc.) |
| Fun, colorful beads | Paper towel tubes |
| Small letter beads | Washi tape |
| Key chain clips | Duct tape (fun colors) |
| Clear plastic cups (9 oz. - the short, squat ones) | Yellow and orange fleece |
| Colorful yarn and Brown yarn | Cotton (stuffing) |
| Yellow and orange tissue paper | Rice |
| Scotch tape | |
| Toilet paper tubes | |

Five FPC students receive church-sponsored scholarships during May 5th worship service

The church is proud of these students and is happy to encourage their post-high school educational pursuits. Each of the following students received \$500 from donated church scholarship funds: **Lisa Arango, Savannah Bennett, Yancey Guest, Hope Runyon and Faith Runyon.**

FPC scholarship funds are not budgeted church items and therefore are dependent upon contributions to the Scholarship Committee. For further information, please contact Committee Chair **Kay Yancey, Todd Carstenn, Elaine Cox, Nancy Livesay, Bonnie Vorwerk, Paul Vowinkel, or Tom Weaver.**

Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk of Session

SESSION BRIEF – APRIL 7, 2019

Mourned the death of Henry W. Dennis, Jr. on 3/24/2019.

Approved to accept the following new members to our congregation: Jordon Drudge, Kayla Higgason, Katherine White, Derek White, Barbara Whit, and Edward Davis.

Approved the wedding of Jordon Drudge and Kay Higgason in our sanctuary on 9/28/2019.

Approved to reactivate the membership of Kaylin Yancey Davis and transfer her membership to First United Methodist Church, Ocala, FL.

Approved \$3,000 of the 2019 budget to cover the cost of the 2018 financial audit.

Approved a cleaning service contract for \$300/week.

Approved the Security report so that the Security team can begin training.

Received with deep regret the resignation of David Bedenbaugh.

Approved formation of a committee, headed by Rev. Dr. Watson, and to include Rev. Natasha Sudderth, one ruling Elder, one member of the Worship Committee, and one more member to assess our needs for the Music Ministry.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 5, 2019 AT 10:55 a.m.

This meeting is to hear a report from the Nominating Committee to elect an Elder to the class of 2021.



Out to Dinner Group will be having May Dinner at

All are Welcome!



2370 SW College Rd

On May 16th, 5:30 p.m.

RSVP to Susan Marta
(352) 304-5416



Attendance			
Worship services	4/7	4/14	4/21
8:15 a.m.	-	-	48
9:30 a.m.	-	-	92
11:00 a.m.	180	262	189
Total	180	262	329

FPC Welcomes 6 New Members



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Jordon Drudge and **Kayla Higgason** (left) joined by reaffirmation of faith. Jordon is the son of Tara Petenbrink who teaches at Happy Hearts. He is a dental technician in Ocala and Kayla works at Ocala Family Medical. They are engaged and plan to marry this year, with Rev. Natasha Sudderth officiating.

Katherine (Katie) and **Derek White (right)** joined by reaffirmation of faith. Both Katie and Derek were born and raised in Ocala. Derek is a fire fighter for the Orlando Fire Department. Katie is a chiropractor with Back to Health Chiropractic. Katie's mother, Tracey Jenkins has visited First Presbyterian and is considering membership as well.

Barbara Whit, who joined by reaffirmation of faith, is originally from North Carolina. She has lived in Ocala for three years. Barbara's daughter, Dr. Amy Johnson, and her husband,



Tommy, are members of First Presbyterian Church. Barbara, a retired school teacher, volunteers with both Meals on Wheels and at the hospital and she also helps care for her grand kids. She enjoys visiting a son who still lives in North Carolina.

Edward Davis joined by reaffirmation of faith. Ed is the fiancé of our very own Rev. Natasha Sudderth. They are planning to marry this summer in North Carolina.



Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

Thanks to all who support Presbyterian Women's' mission programs. In 2019 PW celebrates its 31st anniversary through ministry as well as making 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 May Circle meetings we close the year with the study lesson, "God with Us", in the Horizon Bible Study, *God's Promise, I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun. We will resume in September after taking a June through August summer break. All PW circles 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.



IN OUR SPRING GATHERING held on Saturday, April 6th, we enjoyed fellowship time and the dedication of our Birthday and Least Coin Offerings. A recommitment of Officers, Program and Circle Leaders was held. **Rev. Robert Greaves** provided a time of reflection of the Easter story through the eyes of the Apostle Peter.

2019-2020 Officers: Pat Greaves, Moderator; Esther Arango-Palencia, Vice Moderator; Kristen Crawford, Treasurer; and Sharon Shirley, Secretary

Program Coordinators: Bereavement, Debbie Koch; Together in Service & Missions, Lois Clardy;

Church Women United, Gera Fleming; Spiritual Life and Worship, Valeria Curry
Circle Leaders: Circle 1, Esther Arango-Palencia; Circle 3, Liz Diener-Dickmann; Circle 4, Joyce Williamson; Circle 7, Susie Marta; Circle 8, Lois Clardy

MISSION HAVEN was unable to take the clothes for our missionaries coordinated by **Liz Diener-Dickmann** and **Pat Greaves**. At the last minute Mission Haven decided they could not take the clothes. We then divided the clothing which was divided and delivered to Interfaith and Hospice of Marion County. Thanks to everyone who have been so generous in sharing for this mission cause.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED's 2019 May Friendship Day, is scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2019 at Ft. King Presbyterian Church, 13 NE 36th Avenue, with the theme THE TIME IS NOW! "Agree to Differ". Registration and Fellowship take place at 9:30 a.m. with Celebration beginning at 10 a.m. Bring a salad or dessert to share and plan to remain for lunch. If you have questions, contact Gera Fleming (629-6065).

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

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	Tuesday, May 7	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, May 7	7:00 p.m.	Room 1	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 352-362-0013
Circle 1	Tuesday, May 14	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3			Will not meet in May		
Circle 4	Tuesday, May 14	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Mary Beth Rivers	625-3372
Circle 7	Tuesday May 14	11:00 a.m.	Craft Cuisine 2237 SW 19th Ave Rd	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	Tuesday May 14	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053

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

Program	Date	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thursday, May 23	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	732-6368
WeCare Sewing Ministry	Will not meet in May			Evelyn Weaver	622-6028

**The Amazing Steel Drum Ensemble's
 'happiest music in the world' livens up FPC's sanctuary!**



Once again FPC welcomed the Good Spirit Foundation's spirited steel drum musicians for a lively and moving afternoon concert. The Amazing Steel Drum Ensemble is one aspect of a multi-leveled program of service provided by the not-for-profit Good Spirit Foundation. The foundation's purpose is to provide training and guidance to young people and their families through a structured series of programs. Its desire is "to teach and encourage

Godly principles, which will help equip them to make quality decisions in their lives." The foundation's offerings include spring and summer camping experiences, counseling services, and an "innovation academy" in addition to the popular steel drum ensemble. It is located in Florida's Citrus County.





May 2019

"We were born to die and we die to live. As seedlings of God, we barely blossom on earth; we fully flower in heaven."

Russell M. Nelson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 Disciple XIV 5:00 Choir 7:15 Bible Study Natasha	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4 1:30 PW Spring Gathering
5 8:15 am Service 9:30 am Service 10:55 Congrega- tional Meeting 11:00 am Service Session meeting after service 3:00 Spring String Fling	6 10:30 Grief Group 5:00 Building & Grounds	7 10:00 Faith Sisters 5:30 PW Bible Mentoring 7:00 Coordinating Team	8 10:00 Disciple XIV 5:00 Choir 7:15 Bible Study Natasha	9	10 12:00 Faith Friends	11
12 8:15 am Service 9:30 am Service 11:00 am Service	13 10:30 Grief Group 2:00 Art Class 5:15 Worship Committee meeting	14 7:30 Fin Comm 10:00 Faith Sisters 11:00 PW Circle 7 2:00 PW Circle 1 2:00 PW Circle 8 3:30 Membership 5:00 Christian Ed 5:30 Cross & Crn 6:30 PW Circle 4	15 10:00 Disciple XIV 5:00 Choir 7:15 Bible Study Natasha	16 5:30 Out to Dinner Group	17	18
19 8:15 am Service 9:30 am Service 11:00 am Service	20 10:30 Grief Group 4:30 Deacons meeting	21 10:00 Faith Sisters 5:30 Cross & Crown	22 9:00 Spire mailing 10:00 Disciple XIV 5:00 Choir 7:15 Bible Study Natasha	23	24	25
26 8:15 am Service 9:30 am Service 11:00 am Service	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 10:00 Faith Sisters 5:00 Security Mtg 5:30 Cross & Crown	29 10:00 Disciple XIV 5:00 Choir 7:15 Bible Study Natasha	30 10:30 Fellowship meeting	31	

FPC Fellowship

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners will be taking a rest for the summer, but will return with a "WOW" event in September. We are grateful to Beth Futch and Deb Cone for making those delightful events possible. Special thanks also to Eileen Demarest for her faithful service and surprise treats each week!



May Birthdays

1

Mary Olson
Amy Curtis
Tyler Sharpe

2

Anderson Vorwerk

3

Robert Moore
Stacey Siemons

5

Victoria Sexton

6

Mildred Herbert
Hannah Evans

7

Mia Palacios

8

Cheryl Fante
Anna McCurry
Jackie Albright

9

Frieda Bovard
Wayne Curtis

10

Hayley Adair
Maggie Davis

11

Julia Slaughter

12

Carly Albright

13

Liz
Diener-Dickman
David Guest

14

Barbara Wood
Barbra Siebert

15

Patty Schiefer
Georgene Nolan
Don McCormick

James Kelly

Grant Grodi

16

Elizabeth Lee
Skyler Blair

18

Sharon Shirley

19

Camryn Johnson

22

John Shepherd
Kathryn Palmer

23

Mary Jean Ruelf
Nancy

Reichenbacher

G Dozier

23

Hayden Kimball

24

Susan Gordon
Ann VanDenburgh

Judd Reed

Gordon

27

Andrew Wilke
Parker Labagh

29

Albert Peek

30

Estella Faust

31

Hank Fleming
Kelly Davis



Thank You's to FPC

Thank you for all the beautiful flowers and your prayers. I am gradually improving and hope to be back soon.
---Sally Williams

Thank you so much for the opportunity to perform for you. We are grateful for the donation of \$1,002 which will provide scholarships to camp or will be used in helping our college students with tuition. However the funds are distributed, know that you have been a large part in helping a young person.
---Sue Messer, Director of "Amazing" Steel

Thank you. We are grateful to Beth Futch and Deb Cone for making the delightful events possible. Special thanks also to Eileen Demarest for her faithful service and surprise treats each week!
---FPC Fellowship Committee

PRAYER LIST

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

Howard and Dorothy Behrens

(on the death of their daughter)

Bill Blackwell (Mary Kauffman's brother)

Paula Brown

Jeanette Bryant

June Dennis (on the death of her husband)

Randall & Linda Deyton (Pickard family prayer concerns)

Noemi DiGeronimo

(granddaughter of Mina)

Kathy and Terry Donovan

(Nita Williams' friends)

Maranell Fleming

Barbara Gowie

Gary Harward

Betty Ann Jones (Margaret Trump's sister)

Brian Kuhn (Rusty Juergens' friend)

Kathy Lance (Lois Lance's daughter-in-law)

Gisela Lehner

Grietje Lewis

Celine Mack

Anna Marie Miller (Hawthorne)

Gloria Miller

Ray Newhouse (Pat Bishop's brother)

Raul Nieves (Mina DiGeronimo's brother)

Brenda O'Quinn (Elaine Cox's sister)

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

Jack Shepherd (on the death of his wife Marlene)

Delores, Steve and Keith Shotwell

Betty Jeanne Spencer

(Lady Lake Specialty Care)

Von Hayes Switzer (deployed with the Navy)

Dr. Michael Thomas (Carol Carpenter's friend)

Evelyn and Tom Weaver (on the death of Evelyn's niece)

Sally Williams

Please also remember in prayer all of the missions we support.



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the life of **Marlene Shepherd** a long time member who joined the saints of light on April 16, 2019.

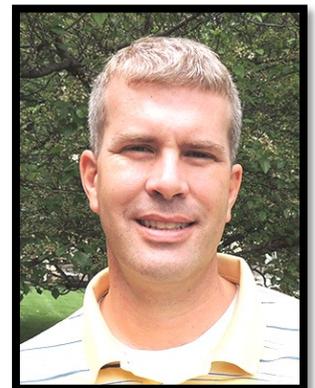
With believers of every time and every place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Getting to Know Your Ministries

Outreach—Another of the four missionary families FPC supports:

Josh Heikkila – Serving in West Africa

Josh Heikkila serves in Ghana and works with the Kwahu Praso Presbyterian Health Centre. Recently, the clinic was able to work with Living Waters for the World (“LWW”), which installs simple water purification systems and teaches about water-related health and hygiene issues. LWW was able to provide a water purification center to the health clinic in Ghana. This will help significantly at the clinic and throughout the community as more systems are being installed as they have generously been funded from many different Presbyterian churches across the US.





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

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Ocala, FL
Permit #25

Sent with a prayer to:

Part of the FPC Ocala 2019 Concert Series

Spring String Fling
May 5th at 3pm

This annual tradition features FPC's String Orchestra

