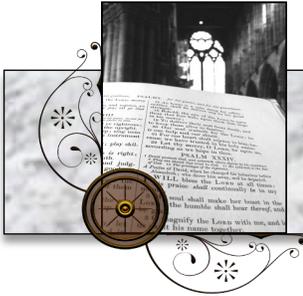




Our Vision - Our Mission
To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and the world.
To be an inclusive downtown community of faith that
seeks to embrace everyone in growing spirituality.



THE REV. DR. D. RONALD WATSON, JR.
PASTOR

Dear Friends,

If you haven't heard the King's Brass, I urge you to come hear these committed ministers of Jesus Christ make a joyful noise! They send a wonderful and musical message of the Gospel. You have my promise and guarantee that you will enjoy their performance. Join us also for supper that night, then stay for the wonderful program. As in years past, a freewill offering will be collected during their performance.

Our church continues the important job of staffing our ministry team. At the end of December, Carol Piatnek McCoy completes her contract as Interim Director of Choirs. I am grateful for her contribution the last six months, especially directing our cantata and getting our children to sing again. A search for a permanent director will begin early in 2020. Our own Pat Greaves will be volunteering with our Chancel Choir and Children's Choir in the meantime. We hope to find temporary leadership for our Bell Choir soon. Our Children & Youth Director, Hannah Batten, will be leaving us at the end of the month. It has been a privilege to work with her, and we wish her well in married life in Auburn, Alabama. We will be looking for help in these particular ministry areas as well.

Your Session is meeting the first Sunday in January to make decisions in seeking additional assistance for me in pastoral duties as well. We will let you know of these decisions when they are finalized. Bill Harrel continues to assist me with visitation and working with our Griefshare Group. It is indeed a dynamic and interesting time in the life of our church as well as a most hopeful one. Like each change of season, God has new and wonderful things in store for us. In the meantime, we continue to receive new members including three new ones in December.

The "20-teens" are almost complete. In 2020, I wish for you a deepening relationship with our Lord and Savior. May you come to count on him more and more. Jesus is our strength, our hope, our salvation, and our friend.

Happy New Year,
Ron Watson



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk of Session

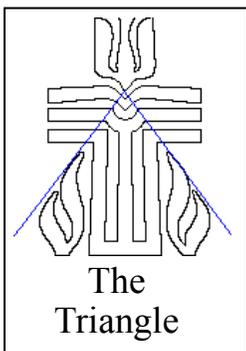
SESSION BRIEF – DECEMBER 1, 2019

Mourned the death of Jeanette Bryant on 11/22/2019.

Accepted Luann Bainbridge into membership by Letter of Transfer.

Approved Pat Bishop, Lois Dolin, Gera Fleming, Jessie Moseley, Joe Moseley, Joe Simmons, and Kay Yancey as Deacons of the Class of 2022.

Approved Todd Carstenn, Elaine Cox, Pat Greaves, Amy Johnson, Dave Schlenker, Donnie Slone, as Elders of the Class of 2022. Approved Caroline Schlenker and Howell Winfree, III as Elders of the Class of 2020.



Sixth in our series on the PC(USA) seal: The Triangle

The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. The triangle also suggests the nature of Presbyterian government, with its concern for balance and order, dividing authority between ministers of the Word and laypersons and between different governing bodies. This understanding of the church was based in part on an important idea in Reformed theology, the covenant, which God establishes with people to affirm God's enduring love and to call us to faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Thank You's to FPC

- ◆ Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your years of dedicated partnership with Marion Senior Services. Over the past year the Meals on Wheels driver group has run 4671 miles and logged over 566 hours of service. Your dedication to our seniors does not go unnoticed. Sincerely, Meals on Wheels
- ◆ A big thank you for always supporting us through the many years. Thornwell
- ◆ Sincere thanks to all of you who participated in the **2019 Advent Readings and Lightings**. This year's volunteers were such a wonderful part of our Advent season. Please thank them yourselves when you see them and encourage more people for next years Advent season to volunteer. It is a fulfilling way to prepare yourselves for Christ's birth. Thank you once again, Evelyn Longo, coordinator.
- ◆ And thank you to all the Meals on Wheels drivers for their wonderful service: David Arango, Joe Dickmann, John and Sue Brawner, Lois Clardy, Gera Fleming, Nita Williams, Ron and Trish Mosby, Bill Bowen and Carol Carpenter. Thank you, Jo Ann Brandt
- ◆ Thank you to Carol Piatnek-McCoy and the wonderful FPC Choir for her direction and their singing of the 2019 Christmas Cantata. Also thanks to Mary Carstenn, Alex Morin and the Strings, as well as Kosumo Morishita and Tom Weaver. -A fan
- ◆ Giving Tree: WOW - ANOTHER GREAT GIVING TREE SEASON! Giving Tree 2019 has come and gone and we are all so thankful for you - FPC members - and the gifting you made possible this year! Your generosity blessed Hands of Mercy, SoZo Kids, Project Hope and the Marion County Domestic Violence Shelter. We were also able to gift a needy family and donate additional monies to Florida Center for the Blind. All of this was made possible by the devotion, energy, and love of an amazing group of women who pitch in where and when help is needed. God's hand is always seen in this generous, loving outpouring of all! Thank you all! Committee members: Margaret Baker, Sue Brawner, Carol Carpenter, Cathy Edwards, Cheryl Fante, Lannie Mercer, Vicki Roberts, Becky Schatt, Ann VanDenburgh and Jarl Hagood.

The Disciples XV Bible study group's fall project provides a bit of Christmas happiness to family battered by Hurricane Dorian



Twice each year, FPC's **Disciples XV Bible study group** contributes funds for special needs projects—either in or out of the U.S. The group decided that its \$400 fall 2019 contribution should be directed to a family affected by last September's Hurricane Dorian in the Caribbean.

The Category 5 storm destroyed the home of the young four-member Jean-Jacques family. FPC members Cindy and Ken MacKay were instrumental in temporarily relocating the family to Ocala during the restoration of the islands through 2020.

According to Cindy, the community continues to see that the family is well cared for with the necessities of life—housing, food, clothing, children's toys, etc. Amazed at the Bible study group's compassionate concern, Cindy saw the possible realization of the dream of a surprise, non-necessity recreational Christmas gift for the family—a trip to Disney World! Based on Cindy's suggestion, Disciples XV concurred and the surprise was revealed on December 23. (We're certain that gift cards for the family (Publix, Wal-Mart, etc.) continue to be gratefully accepted by those working with the family.)

Outreach Ministries

Getting to know beneficiaries that we support

Florida Center for the Blind provides support to individuals who suffer vision loss at no cost and are frightened facing the unknown and uncertain change in their lives. Assistance from FPC has provided over 161 hours of training to 20 individuals in 2019. Continued support for the program is appreciated.



Florida Center for the Blind

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 second 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!

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL the women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

As we begin 2020, let us ever be mindful of the wonderful gifts God has given us. May we be open to share our talents and gifts and support the mission programs of Presbyterian Women 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 many years to come.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

In our January Circle meetings, we will study Lesson Five, "Words of Love: Don't Kill Each Other," in the Horizon's Bible Study book, *Love Carved in Stone* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. The lesson's purpose is to understand the many faces of murder and how the beloved community is to honor life by refusing any and all death-dealing behaviors. Newcomers are always welcomed. 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!

ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – ST. AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY will meet on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Montgomery Conference Center, the cost is \$20. Registration forms are available on their web-site. Contact Pat Greaves if you would like to attend.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED is requesting the School Kits and Personal Care Kits be turned in when your Circles meet in January. If you have questions, please direct them to Gera Fleming at 629-6065.

PRAYER SHAWL...Liz Diener-Dickmann was able to volunteer with daughter, Karen, and granddaughter, Emma, at the distribution center to The Seamen's Church Institute in Newark, New Jersey, to whom we recently sent 16 scarves, 9 hats, 1 pair of socks and 4 ditty bags. Our group is one of many volunteers throughout the country who have knitted and crocheted items for distribution to mariners who are miles away from home during the holidays. Looks like a lot of fun.



If anyone would like to give a shawl to someone whom 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 at 629-7561. We will be sure to get a shawl to you. They have all been made with love and prayers.

Left: Liz Diener-Dickmann with daughter, Karen and granddaughter, Emma.

*Offertory Envelopes
2020 are now available
in the narthex for
you to pick up.*

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for January 2020
Bible Study and Fellowship with your Sisters in Christ

	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	Tuesday, January 7 th	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, January 7 th	7:00 p.m.	Room 1	Pat Greaves	236-0716 or 352-362-0013
Circle 1	Tuesday, January 14 th	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3	Monday, January 20 th	10:00 a.m.	Cathy Taylor's 5192 NW 20 th Place Ocala, 34482	Liz Diener-Dickmann	732-6368 908-377-8913
Circle 4	Tuesday, January 14 th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Joyce Williamson	629-6373 789-0062 cell
Circle 7	Tuesday January 14 th	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	Tuesday January 14 th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053

Presbyterian Women's Program Meetings for January 2020
Ways to Serve with your Sisters in Christ

Program	Date	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thursday, January 23 rd	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	908-377-8913
WeCare Sewing Ministry	Monday, January 27 th	9:30 a.m.	Room 1	Evelyn Weaver	622-6028



Out to Dinner Group will be having its January Dinner on January 16th at 5:30 p.m. *All are Welcome!*
 RSVP to Susan Raffa (352-620-8087)
 by Monday, January 13th

2370 College Road



Church Women United Human Rights Day
to be held January 17, 2020

Church Women United will celebrate Human Rights Day on Jan. 17, 2020 at The Presbyterian Church at Marion Oaks, 279 Marion Oaks Manor, Ocala. Registration and Fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. This year's theme is "The Time is Now! "United to Serve". A luncheon provided by the Board will follow the meeting. All women are invited to attend.

January Birthdays

2 Joyce Heenie	10 Adam Schuler Howell Winfree	16 Sandra Dailey Brooke Dailey	21 Erin McClary	27 Sid Varner
3 Gwen Peterson Marsha Knepp Dick Lewis	11 Rhonda Kirk Michelle McDoniels	17 Judy Judith Claudia Markham-Ahl	22 Sonja Bennett Kelly Evans	Kathy Hart Graham Moore
5 Steve Koch Lauren Hart	12 Leslie Wiechens Austin Adams	18 Sue Brawner Trish Mosby Lora Bennett	23 Randy Briggs 24 Chris Bissett William Cone	28 Mary Moore Shelby Welch
7 Dorothy Behrens Lyn Rainbow	13 Glen Switzer	19 Ramona Gant	25 Gene Wiechens Kelsey Adams	29 Lamar Knepp Russel Dingman
8 Jerry Rost	15 Luella Nazaruk Joyce Baker Lilli MacKay	20 Grietje Lewis Austin Dailey	26 Mina DiGeronimo	30 Roger Mason Bill Futch
				31 Paulette Johnson Aly Bowen

**The church office will be closed on
January 20th in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**

Happy New Year

PRAYER LIST

Bobby Bryant (death of his mother, Jeanette)
Ray Charnley
Sara Chey, Brenda Jones and family
Shirley Cochran (Hawthorne)
Randall & Linda Deyton (Pickard family prayer concerns)
Kathy and Terry Donovan
 (Nita Williams' friends)
Stewart Edwards
Hank Fleming
Maranell Fleming
Barbara Gowie
Dick Hancock
Kathy Lance (Lois Lance's daughter-in-law)
Lois Lance

Grietje Lewis
Renate Lipp (Nita Williams' friends)
Celine Mack
Ray Newhouse (Pat Bishop's brother)
Raul Nieves (Mina DiGeronimo's brother)
Joseph Pickard
John Reynolds (Suzy Heinbockel's brother)
Greg Robinson (Carolyn Varner's brother)
Michael Rou (Dr. David Albright's cousin)
Janice Schafer (Palm Garden)
Delores Shotwell
Steve and Keith Shotwell
Jill Hester Whitaker
Bo and Sally Williams



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the life of Mrs. Jeanette Bryant who joined the saints of light on November 22, 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.

Fellowship

Art Connection

We'll take on a different look in the new year. Our congregation is full of creative folks, but it is hard to collect everyone with different interests on one particular day, so the Fellowship Committee has decided to provide three different opportunities. Every other Monday, Phyllis Cragg will continue with her water color lessons and relaxing crayon art under the name of Art With a Heart. Mariann McClary will be making earrings for cancer patients, and Vicki Roberts will continue her beautiful banner making and sanctuary art. Meeting times for the last two haven't been decided yet, but please leave a message with Mary Moore if you are interested (352-598-2525) . **Be sure to check the Inspire and Sunday Bulletin for updates.**

Fellowship Dinner

Our next Fellowship Dinner will be January 15 prior to the King's Brass concert. Join us for a special evening! Dinner will be provided for \$6.00 – Max of \$15 for family of four.

Shout Out!

On behalf of the FPC Worship Committee, we'd like to send a big THANK YOU to Vicki Roberts and the "Art Connection" group for designing and making our beautiful new banner hanging in the Sanctuary! We are so grateful that you spent your time and shared your amazing talents with our congregation.... we will enjoy this banner for many years to come." Right: Vicki Roberts



Christmas Fellowship Dinner



Thank you to the committee and everyone involved. What a great way to kick off the Christmas season!



Attendance	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22
Worship services	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22
8:15 a.m.	26	/	35	31
9:30 a.m.	54	/	69	61
11:00 a.m.	103	225	115	124
Total	185	225	219	216



First Presbyterian Church
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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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Sent with a prayer to:

THE KING'S BRASS



Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

World class entertainment for the whole family.

The King's Brass have performed over 100 concerts each season with three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, keyboards, and percussion.

A Freewill Offering will be collected.

THE SPIRE IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
511 SE THIRD STREET, OCALA, FL 34471
PHONE: (352) 629-7561 FAX: (352) 629-8066
WWW.FPCOCALA.ORG

