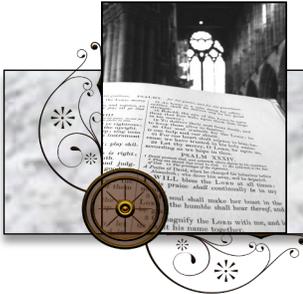




Our Vision - Our Mission

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

*I miss Morrison's.
And Piccadilly.
And S & S.*

- Interim Associate Pastor
- Youth Director/Children's Coordinator
- Choir Director for Chancel, Bells, and Children
- We are looking to potentially add a contemporary worship leader/guitarist to join Cross & Crowns

Most of my readers will know these, but if not, these were some of the great Southern cafeterias that Presbyterians raced Baptists and Methodists to every Sunday after church. People went there during the week, of course, but Sunday seemed to be their biggest day. And forget trying to go into one of those places on Mother's Day! Having those friendly people behind the glass asking you about each part of your meal was somehow soothing. And then, of course, there was dessert. Some cafeterias slyly placed those first, so you wouldn't turn it down when you saw how much food your tray had already accumulated. When your plate was handed to you at the end, you realized, too late, that you simply had too much on your plate. You would silently shake your head and vow not to over order next time.

I say this because, lately, in addition to missing those old cafeterias, I can say that we have a lot on our plate! As of February 1 (and publication of the *Spire*), we now have the following job openings:

Your session is busily interviewing people to fill these positions. In the meantime, we have many wonderful staff and volunteers keeping things moving here. I am grateful for all of them. Please pray for all those people who "make church happen."

And Lent is coming. We will most likely have a service which will begin with silent meditation at 12 noon followed by the Service of Ashes at 12:15 on Wednesday, February 26th. We will be preparing to examine our lives once again as we making our annual journey to the cross, and finally, the empty tomb of Easter. I leave you with these words from Paul's letter to the Philippians from Chapter 4: ⁴"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Peace, Ron

Peggy Wiechmann, Clerk of Session

Session Brief – January 5, 2020

Mourned the death of Eleanor Willis on 1/2/2020.

Accepted Sharon Shirley into membership.

Approved election of Peggy Wiechmann as Clerk of Session.

Approved Sheryll Goedert as Treasurer of FPC.

Approved the election of the following Corporate Officers for 2020:

President, Donnie Slone; Secretary, Peggy Wiechmann; Treasurer, Sheryll Goedert; Directors, Bill Futch, Joe Vorwerk.

Approved the following check signers for 2020: John Peterson, Jeff Baker, Sheryll Goedert, Donnie Slone, Peggy Wiechmann.

Approved Session Committees and Chairpersons for 2020.

Approved the formation of a search committee for an Interim Associate Pastor.

Approved the formation of a search committee for a Choir Director.

Approved Dr. Watson to search for an Interim Part Time Parrish Associate.

Approved a Cost of Living Allowance increase for all employees of First Presbyterian Church by 1.2%.

Approved the 2020 Income and Expense budget.

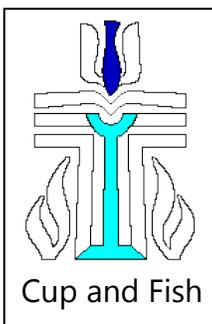
Approved a change to a monthly themed dinner once a month starting in January 2020, and request reservations.

Approved all Stated Session meetings be held the first Sunday of every month except July at 12:15 p.m.

Approved a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020 for the purpose of approving Dr. Watson's Terms of Call and sharing the 2020 Income and Expense Budget.

Thank You's to FPC

- ◆ Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to work, learn, and grow here as your Youth and Children's Ministries Director. While it's been very challenging at times, the spiritual, professional, emotional, and overall personal growth I have gained through my relationships with all of you has been completely worthwhile. It is difficult to be leaving the church that I have grown up in for 25 years, but I am very excited to be getting married here and to be starting my own marriage off in the same place that my parents did 27 years ago. I am blessed to know FPC as a second home, and you, the congregation, as family, and so I know with absolute certainty that you will still be seeing me around, far more than you'd probably like to.
With love, Hannah Batten
- ◆ Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your years of dedicated partnership with Interfaith. Over the past year you have donated 306 lbs. of food to Interfaith. *Sincerely, Interfaith Emergency Services*
- ◆ How thoughtful of you to send me a lovely bouquet of bright flowers. I have been suffering with back problems and the flowers certainly brightened my day and lifted my spirits. Thank you again. What a thoughtful gesture.
May God Bless You, Jeanne Vincent



Seventh in our series on the PC(USA) seal: The Cup

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 has always been used in Christian art to symbolize the Trinity. The Trinity is ultimately a mystery, but the concept is crucial in describing the nature of God as one God—"Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" known to us through God's creating, redeeming, and sustaining power over all life. This mystery of three "persons" (or three ways of knowing God), unified in one reality, is at the heart of the idea of the Trinity.

Membership

"New" Member – Sharon Shirley

Sharon and her husband, Bill, were Affiliate members of our church for about fourteen years. They would spend part of the year in Michigan and travel to Florida as "snowbirds." Sadly, Bill passed away in January, 2019, and on January 5, 2020, Sharon was welcomed into full time membership in our church. She is an active and valuable member of our congregation, singing alto in the choir, serving as secretary of Presbyterian Women, and as a member of Circle 3. She is also a resting elder. Her hobbies include reading and walking. We are glad you are here, Sharon!

Welcome to our Church



Outreach Ministries



Getting to know beneficiaries that we support

Responding to the needs of those suffering from extreme poverty, Open Arms Village, located in Ocala, is on a mission to change the lives of homeless individuals in Marion County. The parishioners at St. Mark's United Methodist Church agreed to open the doors to their facility, allowing us to provide the basic need of shelter and welcome those who desire to work toward self-sufficiency. Open Arms Village is a local non-profit focused on ending homelessness and restoring dignity to those who find themselves in this desperate situation.

Open Arms Village is more than a shelter. It's a restoration program. Through collaboration with other local agencies and ministries the program includes many vital services to our residents. They receive case management and other supportive services to help them overcome the challenges that keep them homeless. Most importantly, Open Arms Village focuses on the restoration of dignity and self-worth in residents by empowering them with responsibilities and duties within the program.

Open Arms Village desires to give hope and restoration to single men who have nowhere else to turn. With the help and partnerships of others in the community, we can end homelessness one person at a time.

Interfaith Supper Sign-Up for 2020!

There are Interfaith Supper sign-up openings available for March, June, November and December 2020... FPC always provides a dinner on the second Thursday of each month. If you or your group (Sunday School Classes, Bible Study Groups, PW Circles, Friends, Deacons, etc.) are interested in signing up to provide dinner, 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



Now that we are officially into 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.

In our February Circle meetings, we will study Lesson Six, "Words of Love: Hold your Marriage Sacred," in the Horizon's Bible Study book, *Love Carved in Stone* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. The lesson's purpose is to understand God's desire for deep and faithful relationships in the human family and how behavior that has no boundaries can devastate people and communities. 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!



L to R: Gera Fleming, Bonnie Purdy, Liz Dickmann, Pat Greaves on January 25th PW gathering at Montgomery Center.

ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – ST. AUGUSTINE PRESBYTERY met on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Montgomery Conference Center.

THE PW SPRING GATHERING has been changed from April 4th to **Saturday, May 2nd, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be included.** Please mark your calendar to note this date change. Original date was April 4th. The theme will center around Mother's Day.

BLANKET FUND...we will once again support the Blanket Fund which is coordinated by Church World Service. Last year we collected over \$600.00 from our congregation. Let's see if we can outdo this generous donation to provide blankets to those

without homes when they need them most. God Bless each one for your faithfulness to this mission endeavor to help the needy when they need it the most. If you have questions, please contact **Gera Fleming** at 629-6065.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for February 2020 Bible Study and Fellowship					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Bible Moderator Mentoring	Tuesday, February 4 th	5:30 p.m.	Room 1	Tom Weaver	622-6028
Circle 1	Tuesday, February 11 th	2:00 p.m.	Conference Room	Esther Arango-Palencia	732-6626
Circle 3	Monday, February 17 th	10:00 a.m.	Louise Kail's 2361 NW 51 st Terrace Ocala, 34482	Liz Diener-Dickmann	732-6368 908-377-8913
Circle 4	Tues., Feb. 11 th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Joyce Williamson	629-6373 789-0062 cell
Circle 7	Tues., Feb. 11 th	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Susie Marta	304-5416
Circle 8	Tues., Feb. 11 th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	622-3053

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

Program	Date	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thursday, February 27 th	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	908-377-8913
WeCare Sewing Ministry	Monday, February 24 th	9:30 a.m.	Room 1	Evelyn Weaver	622-6028

Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder... but absence doesn't deter Fran Gilchrist's determination and sewing machine productivity!

Intensive brain tumor surgery last fall didn't keep **Fran Gilchrist** down for long! Our former very active *WeCare* leader and expert seamstress recently sent 130 sewn, ready-to-stuff animals to Ocala for the **PW WeCare** ladies to stuff and complete! It won't be long before these clever animals are in the hands of local children. Fran now resides in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, close to her son and daughter. She may be away from us, but much of her heart remains here at FPC and the *WeCare* sewing group and its commitment to provide many sewn articles for distribution to ten diverse community service organizations.



Fran Gilchrist



ABOVE: This may look like only a short pile of cloth (or a stack of colorful pancakes!), but it's actually cloth cut from patterns, ready to be stuffed, sewn and turned into 130 stuffed animals!

WeCare welcomes volunteers! They meet on the last Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

RIGHT: The little green puppy with yellow ears (upper right) rests on a stack of 130 ready-to-stuff-and-sew animals that PW's *WeCare* group will complete. Fran Gilchrist provided the sewing skills and patience to provide all 130!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 is the DEADLINE to apply for FPC Post-secondary school education SCHOLARSHIPS!



Applications for the fall 2020 term are available in the church office. **The absolute final deadline** to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on **Wednesday, April 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 Vowinkel, Bonnie Vorwerk or Tom Weaver.

Out to Dinner Group will be having its February Dinner on February 20th at 5:30 p.m. at **Lakis Greek & Italian Restaurant**, located in the Colours Plaza 3405 SW College Road, Ocala. *Everyone's welcome!*



RSVP to The Weavers (352-622-6028) by Monday, February 17th

February Birthdays

2 Rick Meyer Floyd Johnson	9 Marty Smith	16 Donnie Slone	22 Dick Blagus	26 Donna Bucy
3 Linda Meyer Chuck Opitz Matt Winfree	10 Ashley Winfree	17 Ruth Lewis	Cary Siemons	Glenda Winfree
4 Jeannette Casler Lois Clardy	11 Shirley Wells Doug Cone Adam Black Heather Bookbinder	Madison Sprowles	23 Shirley Stone Luke Lewis	27 Rachel Bookbinder
5 Marguerite Souder	12 Adella Barrineau	Brenda Dauner	24 Deloris Shotwell	28 Cathy Taylor
6 Bob McClary	14 John Reiss Maren Kimball	Tracey Patrick	25 Ken Petrey Edwina Smith Russel Dingman Taylor Robinson	29 Heather Guest Florence Tacker
7 Curtis Vollmer Smith	15 Doug Brown Linda Bookbinder Gavin Robinson	18 Vicki Hutto		
8 Wes Schultz				



PRAYER LIST

Ray Charnley
Sara Chey, Brenda Jones and family
Shirley Cochran
Randall & Linda Deyton
 (Pickard family prayer concerns)
Stewart & Diane Edwards
Gera Fleming
Hank and Maranell Fleming
Bill Green (Richard Grosso's friend)
Richard Grosso
Barbara Gowie
Dick Hancock
Jordan Kaufman (applying for medical school)
Ken Kramer (Evelyn Longo's brother-in-law)
Kathy Lance (Lois Lance's daughter-in-law)
Lois Lance

Grietje Lewis
Renate Lipp (Nita William's friend)
Kevin Lloyd (Lee Ann Drake's cousin)
Celine Mack
Jerry Murphy
Family of Ray Newhouse (on his death)
Raul Nieves (Mina DiGeronimo's brother)
Greg Robinson (Carolyn Varner's brother)
Michael Rou (Dr. David Albright's cousin)
Janice Schafer (Palm Garden)
Delores, Steve and Keith Shotwell
Marty Smith
Howard Tucker
Nancy Wells (Daughter of Shirley Wells)
Jill Hester Whitaker
Bo and Sally Williams



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the lives of **Eleanor Willis** who joined the saints of light on January 2, **Charles Hutcheson** on January 7 and **Ray Newhouse** on January 9, 2020.

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

Bring your Valentine to our Fellowship Dinner on February 12!

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Come a little early, or stay a little late to ice a cupcake or make a Valentine magnet to give to your special one. Reservations are important and can be made by calling the church office or signing up on the friendship pad on Sunday. Cost is \$6 or \$15 for a family. Children under 12 are free.

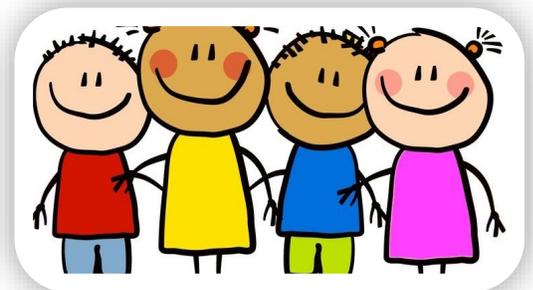
Wear something festive and come for all the fun!

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 bulletins for updates.***

Announcements

Happy Hearts will begin registering for the 2020-21 School Year on Feb. 3rd at 8:30 a.m. for First Presbyterian Church members and Happy Hearts Alumni. *On February 10th, registration will be open to the public.*



Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

FLPP is a lay-led, three day spiritual retreat in which the main goal is learning about God's love for you. Through many expressions of listening, learning, singing, laughter and surprises you learn to know His Will for your life.

Experience has shown that attendees return home with a renewed commitment to serve in the work of the church as a result of their newly refreshed knowledge of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The 2020 retreat will be held April 23 to April 26 at The Retreat at Silver Springs. It is not an evangelical retreat but for committed Christians who desire a closer relationship with God. Dress is casual. Married couples may attend together, and it is co-ed. For more information visit www.FloridaPresbyterianPilgrimage.org or call (352) 615-2262.

Attendance	12/29	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Worship services					
8:15 a.m.	/	34	38	32	29
9:30 a.m.	/	62	69	71	66
11:00 a.m.	117	150	107	146	104
Total	117	246	214	249	199



First Presbyterian Church

511 SE Third Street
Ocala, FL 34471-2284

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ocala, FL
Permit #25

Sent with a prayer to:

Don't forget to visit our website for all the updated news!
fpcocala.org

- Calendar of Events
- Live Stream of Services
- Music Ministry
- Church Life



- Weekly Inspire
- Monthly Spire
- Bulletins
- Photos
- Ministry
- ...and more

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

