



FPC OCALA

THE SPIRE

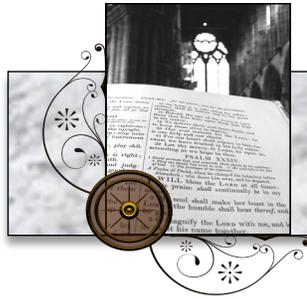
May 2020

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Volume 63 Number 5

*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,*

You may have a lot of questions today. You may be wondering when church is going to restart and what it's going to look like. Me too! I know that's not the answer you're looking for! Our church is working on these issues right now. We are trying to follow the guidelines of our local state and federal leaders in doing so. When we return to "normal Church," we want it to be done safely. This may mean it looks like anything but normal, but it will be as normal as we can make it. All of us want to go back to church soon.

The session is going to meet on May 5th in a Zoom online meeting to hear a report from the worship committee about reopening. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support which has kept us in business.

So today, let us remember the words Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Our newsletter will be a short one this month because what we write about normally is what we are doing, what we have done, and what we will be doing. Right now, that is basically online services and prayer. I hope you're reaching out to each other. Your deacons are working very hard right now to strengthen the ties that bind us. If you haven't heard from your deacon, feel free to call them. They would probably like to hear from you too. If you are not sure who your deacon is, please ask me and I will find out.

When I know more about the future I will share it with you. "Be strong and of good courage. Fear not nor be dismayed, for the Lord God is with you."

Peace, Ron

## Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Walk Jones

Last week I spoke for a few minutes on the church's YouTube page about gratitude. I'd like to expand on my thoughts: I'm grateful to be the new interim associate pastor and especially grateful for the conversations I've had with members and friends by phone and computer. I am especially grateful for a little more time each day to think and pray.

While I like to mail cards and notes to folks, I spent time this month writing my prayers to God. These are not the prayers I've prayed for a worship video, but a personal note to God about Holy Week and Easter. I invite you to try it. Write God on a piece of paper or on your key-

board. Some Christians journal. You may tear it up or delete it after you think about your prayers. It can also be interesting to save it and go back later and see what you were praying about a year or more ago.

I find that being deliberate about my prayers activates a different part of my brain and my spirituality. Silent prayers are important and so are written ones. You may have some extra time this week, try it. If you want to, call or email me and tell me what this prayer experience was like.

wjones@fpcocala.org is my email address.

## PRAYER LIST

**Thomas and Debbie Ault**

**Jim and Jane Bennett**

(brother and sister-in-law of John Bennett)

**Pam Butcher**

**Andy Carlisle**

**Sara Chey, Brenda Jones and family**

**Shirley Cochran**

**Stewart and Diane Edwards**

**Phoebe Escobar** (sister of Evelyn Longo)

**Hank and Maranell Fleming**

**Bill Green** (friend of Richard Grosso)

**Deleah Gomez** (granddaughter of Tola Hass)

**Barbara Gowie**

**Dick Hancock**

**Johnie Johnson** (son of Tommy Johnson)

**Ken Kramer** (brother-in-law of Evelyn Longo)

**Kathy Lance** (daughter-in-law of Lois Lance)

**Lois Lance**

**Grietje Lewis**

**Renate Lipp** (friend of Nita William)

**Kevin Lloyd** (cousin of Lee Ann Drake)

**Celine Mack**

**Skip McDonald**

**Laura Moore and her parents, Bruce and Wendie**

**Jessie Moseley**

**Sue Murphy** (on the death of her husband, Jerry)

**Raul Nieves** (brother of Mina DiGeronimo)

**Zach Pagels** (on the death of his grandfather)

**Joseph Pickard** (on the death of his brother)

**Greg Robinson** (brother of Carolyn Varner)

**Michael Rou** (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

**Janice Schafer** (Palm Garden)

**Deloris, Steve and Keith Shotwell**

**Baldwin Switzer** (on deployment with the Navy)

**Howard Tucker**

**Evelyn Weaver** (on the death of her sister and niece)

**Nancy Wells** (daughter of Shirley Wells)

**Jill Hester Whitaker**

**Bo Williams** (on the death his wife, Sally))

**Nancy Wollett**

# Scholarship News!

## Seven FPC youth receive \$500 scholarship awards from the Edwin Albright or Elton Veal Funds

Earlier this month FPC's Scholarship Committee headed by Chair Kay Yancey, unanimously authorized seven \$500 scholarship awards for the 2020-2021 academic year. The church proudly acknowledges the students' accomplishments and encourages them as they continue their higher education. The seven recipients include the following:

**J.J. Albright**, raised at FPC, is the daughter of FPC members David and Jackie Albright. She plans to attend the University of North Florida as a freshman to major in Hospitality and Business Management. J.J. has been very active in FPC's youth program. Her church life included serving as an installed Elder and as a member of the church's Youth Pastor search committee. She assists in coordinating activities for elementary children attending the "Friday Night Out" events. J.J. also held a leadership role in Vacation Bible School for several years.

**Carter Grodi**, a six-year FPC member, is a son of Jeff and Carolee Grodi. He plans to attend the University of Central Florida as a freshman this fall, where he will major in Political Science. Carter, a participant in the youth program, has been a Vacation Bible School volunteer for the last six years.

**Grant Grodi**, an FPC member since 2013, currently is a sophomore at the University of North Florida majoring in Marketing. Also a son of Jeff and Carolee Grodi, Grant was very involved in the Youth Program at one time. He was a Vacation Bible School volunteer each summer and participated in other mission opportunities.

**Yancey Guest** is currently a freshman at the University of South Florida majoring in Business and Marketing. He is the son of FPC members David

and Heather Yancey. An FPC member since 2013, he's volunteered in the church's Vacation Bible School for six years. Yancey was an active FPC Youth Program participant throughout his middle school years and was very active in local Young Life programs during high school.

**Faith Runyon** is currently enrolled as a freshman at the College of Central Florida's Nursing Program. A daughter of FPC members Bryan and Felicia Runyon, Faith has been an FPC member for six years. She participated in the Youth Program, sang with FPC's Youth Band and also with adults in the contemporary worship service. She has volunteered with our Vacation Bible School since she was in seventh grade.

**Hope Runyon** also is a daughter of Bryan and Felicia Runyon. She, too, currently is a freshman enrolled in the College of Central Florida's Nursing Program. She's participated in FPC's Youth Program and the youth band. She's been a volunteer in the church's Vacation Bible School since she was in seventh grade.

**Joshua Vasquez**, is currently completing his work at the College of Central Florida and will attend Florida State University this fall. His mother, Maria Vasquez, is an FPC member. Joshua is the first person in his family to attend college. He attended church in Marion Oaks as a child and currently attends FPC with his parents when he isn't working.

Congratulations and best wishes to all seven of these fine FPC students!

*FPC's Scholarship Committee members: Kay Yancey, Chair, Todd Carstenn, Elaine Cox, Nancy Livesay, Bonnie Vorwerk, Paul Vowinkel and Tom Weaver.*

# May Birthdays

<b>1</b> Mary Beth Olson Amy Curtis Tyler Sharpe	<b>8</b> Cheryl Fante Anna McCurry Jackie Albright	<b>13</b> Liz Dickmann David Guest	<b>18</b> Sharon Shirley	<b>27</b> Joseph Moseley
<b>2</b> Andie Vorwerk	<b>9</b> Frieda Bovard	<b>14</b> Barbara Wood Barbra Siebert	<b>22</b> Jack Shepherd Kathryn Palmer	Andrew Wilke Parker Labagh
<b>3</b> Robert Moore Stacey Siemons	Wayne Curtis Camryn Johnson	<b>15</b> Patty Schiefer Georgene Nolan	<b>23</b> Mary Jean Ruelf Nancy Reichenbacher	<b>29</b> Bryce Peek
<b>5</b> Victoria Sexton	<b>10</b> Hayley Adair Maggie Davis	Don McCormick Jimmy Kelly	Shep Dozier Hayden Kimball	<b>30</b> Estella Faust
<b>6</b> Joyce Herbert Hannah Evans	<b>11</b> Melanie Slaughter Ryleigh Gladdin	Grant Grodi	<b>24</b> Sue Gordon	<b>31</b> Hank Fleming Kelly Davis
<b>7</b> Mia Palacios	<b>12</b> Carly Albright	Elizabeth Lee Skyler Blair	<b>25</b> Ann VanDenburgh Judd Reed	
			<b>26</b> Jordon Drudge	





**Congratulations**  
**Class**  
**of 2020!**

Please look for a  
tribute to these students  
on May 10th

*Juliana (J. J.) Albright*  
*Maggie Davis*  
*Carter Grodi*  
*Hayden Kimball*  
*Brent Lee*

Attendance Worship services—online	
4/5	796
4/10	683
4/12	1,159
4/19	303
4/26	319

The Out-to-Dinner Group  
is on hold for the month of May.  
If there is any decision to have  
the dinner, we will be in contact  
with you.

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Thank you for your  
understanding during this time.

# Presbyterian Women

## Biddie and Debbie Kirk:

**Mother-Daughter relationship also is now a PW Honorary Life Membership relationship!**

*The Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership program was established to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church.*

The members of Raleigh, North Carolina's Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church know **The Reverend Dr. Debbie Kirk**, as their Associate Pastor for Spiritual Growth and Nurture, but to FPC old-timers, she'll always be Debbie Kirk, a lifelong baptized FPC church member who was very active as she grew up here!



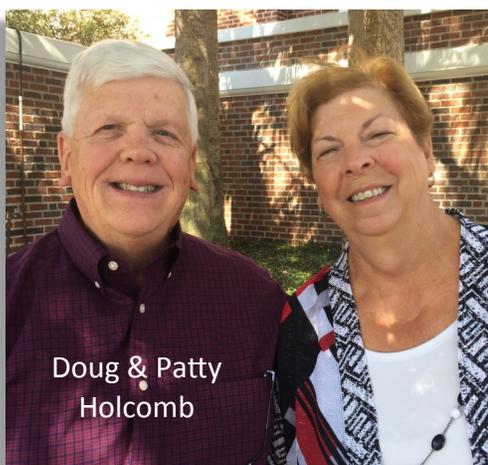
*Biddie Kirk (left) and Debbie Kirk*

Debbie's parents, the late **Jim Kirk** and his widow, **Biddie Kirk**, became members in 1954 and raised Debbie and her three siblings in the church. Both parents were very active in serving the church as Elders, teachers, committee workers—you name it! Biddie was honored many years ago with Ocala's PW Honorary Life Member award.

Debbie writes in *Wide Open Spaces* about growing up in our church and how that "nurturing congregation shaped my call to professional ministry..." She was ordained at FPC and has performed numerous family baptisms and weddings here over the years.

Debbie received her Honorary Life Member award last spring. A lengthy two-page article in her church's newsletter glowingly recounts numerous ways in which she has not only faithfully served the Hudson church, its Diaconate and committees--and PW, but also her Presbytery—on many of its committees and as its Moderator.

Biddie is excited that Debbie and she have received the same PW honor. Also proud, Debbie's father, the late Jim Kirk, always introduced Debbie as "My daughter, the minister".



Doug & Patty  
Holcomb

We apologize  
for the  
misidentification  
of these  
new members  
from the April Spire.



Barbara and Wally  
Savage



**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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**Sent with a prayer to:**

## - YOUTH -

Montreat Youth Conference (MYC) is designed for high school students—  
from entering freshmen through graduated seniors  
— and for their group leaders. We await word from Montreat  
as to if and when we will attend a youth conference there.

Children's Bible School is tentative as of today.  
It is possible it will be held on the last week of July, 2020.  
We will keep you up to date.

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THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of  
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