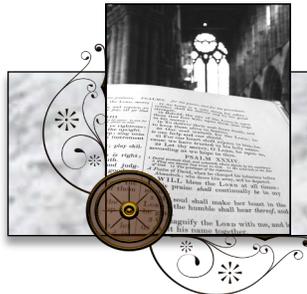




Our Vision - Our Mission

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,

We have taken another step into the unknown with re-suming our Sunday service. It is a very different experience from what we have known in the past. The speakers and singers are behind plexiglass just like the checkout in Publix. Everyone except the person speaking or singing behind glass is wearing mask. Attendance the first Sunday was 28 plus the five leaders. Calling the experience surreal is surely an understatement.

You may ask yourself, "Should I go?" The answer is complex. No one in a risk group should feel compelled to attend. Likewise, no one uncomfortable being indoors because of the epidemic should feel that way either. We are in uncharted waters, and the Holy Spirit is leading us.

You may say, "I like worshipping at home. Should I feel guilty about it?" Absolutely not! Church worship began at home. The early church started in persecution and stayed

that way in many regions for hundreds of years. Home worship was a necessity. Sound familiar? The church did what it had to do. We are doing that again, plain and simple. If you are enjoying worshipping at home, then praise God!

You might say, "I didn't watch Sunday but did later in the week. Is that okay?" Sundays are indeed special for it is the day of Resurrection, the first day of the week. But yes, you can also worship other days. Worship, like prayer, should really be an everyday part of your life. Weekly worship draws us back in when we start to drift. Some people are watching Saturday nights if we post early. That is certainly fine.

We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord. Let us celebrate our unity in Christ and our commitment to his mission even when are joined electronically. Even from a distance, we are truly one in the Spirit.

Peace, Ron

Session Brief

Session Brief – June 7, 2020

- Approved a letter of transfer for Michele Burgess to Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Indiana.
- Approved a letter of transfer for Roger Hileman from First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, Illinois to First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, FL.
- Approved First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, FL to resume a modified Sunday worship schedule beginning June 21, 2020. In addition, the pre-recorded "YouTube" service will continue until further notice.

THESE DAYS devotional booklets are available in the fellowship hall. Members who are unable to attend worship may call or email the church office and request one. Often there are booklets on the door to the church office, but since the office is not staffed regularly the supply may run low.

Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Walk Jones

I'm enjoying my time in Ocala, getting to know the town and to some extent the people, especially members of the church. This time of physical distancing has become tedious, but it is medically necessary. I've only met face-to-face with a few members and spoken with some of you by phone or zoom conference.

I could write a whole newsletter article about my surprise at the many parks and conservation areas in and around the city, the beauty of the farms in Marion County, the hills and history I've seen so far. But you know all that and my recounting it doesn't tell you much about me.

One of the biggest surprises is how much I'm enjoying being an associate pastor. It may be the team at First, the fine people who have become my colleagues, even though most of us only hear voices on the computer or phone and see tiny images of one another on a screen. I'm convinced God has called me here to be with this church, in this season of my life and the life of the world. I hope my being associated with your church and being your pastor can bring God's hope and comfort.

I did not expect to be writing, filming, editing, and uploading video for the church. In March, before I started, Ron asked me to shoot a short weekly devotional and the task has grown on me. I have learned so much about computers and video that I had not expected to use in this new call. Ten years in a Toastmaster's speaking club taught to write and speak more clearly. My education as a minister and continuing study of chaplaincy and spirituality has helped me know what to do and say in difficult, even awkward situations. God was preparing me for this difficult time. These devotionals have become a way to give pastoral care, even if it is only one-way.

Take a look at my Wednesday words, I'm in the middle of a series on Christian Spirituality and the connection between prayer and action that has always been a part of our faith. I'm finding my voice with this Wednesday practice and wonder what God will do with this in the coming months. The Sunday worship service and Wednesday Words are on the church webpage, Facebook page, and YouTube page. You can do a search for each, or just start at fpcocala.org. The archive of old services and devotionals is on the YouTube page.

PRAYER LIST

David and Danny Arango and families

(on the death of their father)

Jim Bennett (brother of John Bennett)

Pam Butcher

Andy Carlisle

Jimmy Cazin (Covid 19)

Shirley Cochran

Martin Cook

Stewart and Diane Edwards

Hank and Maranell Fleming

Norma Giles (on the death of her husband, Jim)

Bill Green (friend of Richard Grosso)

Barbara Gowie

Dick Hancock

Johnie Johnson (son of Tommy Johnson)

Brenda Jones and family

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

Ellen Matthews (pacemaker surgery recovery)

Skip McDonald

Jessie Moseley

Christian Myers (friend of Julia Wirono)

Raul Nieves (brother of Mina DiGeronimo)

Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

Steve and Keith Shotwell

(on the death of their mother, Deloris)

Baldwin Switzer (on deployment with the Navy)

Nancy Wells (daughter of Shirley Wells)

Nancy Wollett



First Presbyterian Church Ocala gives thanks for the life of **Deloris Shotwell** who joined the saints of light on June 26, 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.

A Tribute



FPC, Interfaith and Marion County say ...well done, good and faithful servant...Sally Williams...

When FPC's Sally Williams passed away on April 29, the church and the Marion County community lost a faithful Christian and a dedicated leader. In its June 2020 edition, Interfaith Emergency Services celebrated Sally's life in its Good News Letter. In 1983—spearheaded by FPC's Pastor Edwin Albright—the county's pastoral community saw a need to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families in crisis. Sally was in the small group that developed what eventually became Interfaith Emergency Services. For several years, this new service was housed in FPC's Room 1. For more than three decades, Interfaith has continued to serve the people of Marion County with sincere Christian love and caring devotion.

Interfaith's newsletter article wrote, "On April 29th, we lost one of our founders, Sally Williams. Sally was a very special person who did a great deal for the local community in addition to her involvement with Interfaith. She served on the Habitat for Humanity Board, the Vision Board—which became Meals on Wheels, and was the first president of Children's Home Society, which assisted her in the adoption of her three children. She also served on the FAFO board and the Ocala Housing Authority Board. She was a member of the Pioneer Garden Club, PEO, and a local book club. "She was an active member of Ocala's First Presbyterian Church, where she served as a teacher, a deacon, an elder and a devoted member for 62 years. Sally was well-loved in this community and her legacy lives on in all of these organizations and programs that she impacted. We are so grateful for her leadership and we offer prayers for her family and friends for their loss. To those who have made donations to Interfaith in Sally's memory, we are so very grateful. What a beautiful way to acknowledge a life so well lived by continuing the work she started. Thank you."

July Birthdays

1 Carolyn Murray Mark Brinker	7 Joyce Williamson Carol Carpenter Sally Crafts Josh Gilman	14 Lisa Waldren Harrison Bucy Madison Sharpe	19 Skyler Smith Roxanne Schwaller Alexander Johnson Bentley Johnson	26 Staffeny Gladdin
2 June Dennis	8 Ted MacKay	15 Bo Rainbow	20 Jessie Moseley	27 H.L. Winfree Roger Brandt Audrey Peek Camden Diuguid
4 Jim Yancey Margaret Trump	9 Vann Wilke	16 Scott Bourne Brooke Tucker	21 Ann Richardson Sofia Arango	28 David Fuller
5 Bill Dolin Barbara Savage Jonathan Bryant Hunter Townsend	11 Sandy Clardy Carolyn Varner	17 Jacquelyn Sexton	22 Steve Vincent Chris Longo Lisa Arango	29 David Cook Kaiden Winfree
6 Stuart McElhaney Adam Kelly Sarah Kirk	12 Jean Morse Kyle McElhaney	18 Logan Smith	23 Mary Kauffman	30 Ellen Matthews
	13 Ron McMillin			31 Joey Gladdin



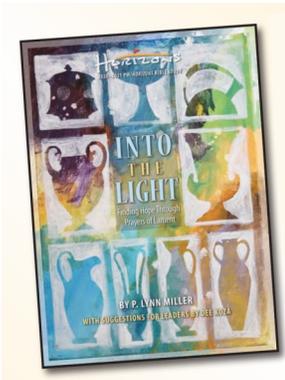
Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL the women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

As I write this article for July I pray everyone is staying healthy. I miss not being able to meet together as we grow stronger in our faith by being encouraged by one another. As the pandemic seems to be rising again, I do hope and pray you are doing well and staying in to keep yourselves safe from this pandemic. I continue to pray for wisdom in leading Presbyterian Women as we look towards planning for the Fall and getting back together in our Circles in September as we normally would do following our Summer break.



OUR NEW STUDY BOOK, for the Fall is entitled, *“Into The Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.”* P. Lynn Miller, author and artist, is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She received her MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia), and DMin from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. In the Introduction we are asked “Why Lament?” Lament as defined in the study book: “is communication with God; broadens our prayer lives; connects us to the world and the God who loves it and us; helps us focus on the actual situations that lead us to lament; and is an opportunity to confess our faith in God whose promises are trustworthy.”



For anyone who doesn't participate in a Circle and would like to order a book, please contact Liz Diener-Dickmann at 908-377-8913. Anyone who is a member of a Circle has already placed their order with their Circle Leader.

As always, newcomers are welcomed to attend any Circle. If you're interested in joining a Circle please feel free to contact Pat Greaves, Moderator, at 362-0013. Plan to come and join in Christian fellowship in September.

Many thanks to Tom Weaver who has already started working on our handout for the Fall lesson series; and to all of our dedicated Circle Leaders and members of the Coordinating Team who play vital roles in keeping Presbyterian Women strong in our church. God bless each one and thanks for your commitment.

THE COORDINATING TEAM will meet next on Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to plan for the Fall.

THE PW FALL GATHERING will be held on October 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will include lunch. As we approach September you will be given an opportunity to sign up. We will conduct any business and take up any offerings (Birthday, Least Coin and Thank Offerings) that we were unable to do in the Spring.

2020-2021 Officers and Program Coordinators: Moderator, Pat Greaves; Vice-Moderator, Elizabeth Diener-Dickmann; Treasurer, Kristen Crawford; Secretary, Sharon Shirley; Church Women United, Gera Fleming; Together in Service-Missions, Lois Clardy; Bereavement and Hospitality, Debbie Koch; **Circle Leaders:** Circle 1, Esther-Arango-Palencia; Circle 3, Elizabeth Diener-Dickmann; Circle 4, Mary Beth Rivers; Circle 7, Susie Marta; and Circle 8, Lois Clardy.

ALL Circle meetings, WeCare Sewing Ministry and Prayer Shawl Ministry meetings and gatherings are cancelled until we resume in September.

Thank You



Thanks to everyone who brought food, hygiene products, and monetary donations to our Drive By Food Drive for Interfaith June 29th. We were able to donate 1,165 pounds of goods and over \$250.00 in monetary donations! It was a great opportunity for us to help our community as well as have some socially distant fellowship.

Thanks to all the youth and adult volunteers who came out to help collect and deliver everything to Interfaith: Jim Yancey, David Guest, Robyn Guest, Yancey Guest, Brooke-lynn Gilkes, Caroline Schlenker, Maren Kimball, Caroline Kimball, JJ Albright, Joshua Vasquez, Hope Runyon, Faith Runyon, and Grant Grodi.

Thanks to Pastor Ron for showing up for support, and an extra thanks to Kay Yancey and Casey Miller for Coordinating and putting the food drive together. We look forward to doing another drive-by food drive in the near future.



Dear Ocala family,

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of my beloved community and the ministry God has called me to. We are honored you've chosen to partner with us and pray God's blessings on FPC Ocala as well.

Love and Thanksgiving, Holly Reiner and Mercy Community

Church

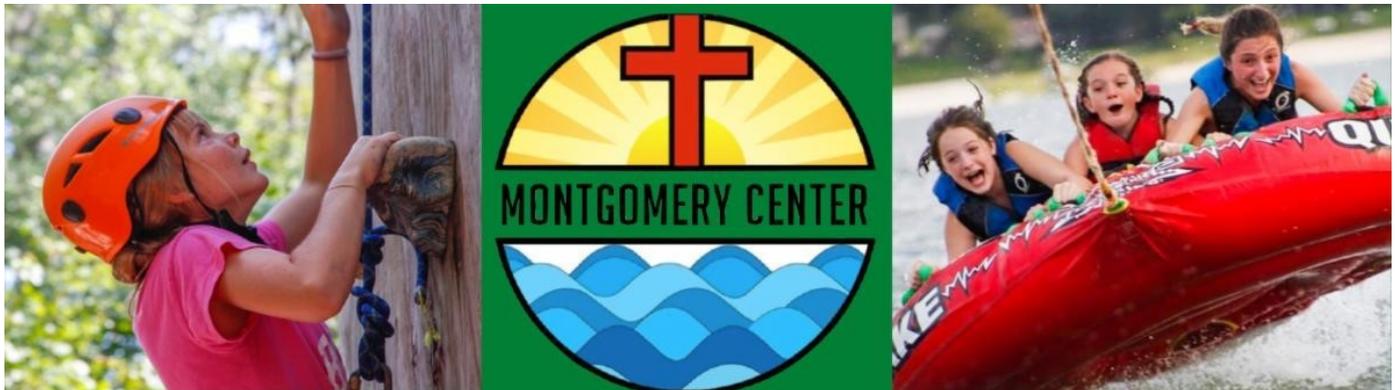
Dear church loved ones,

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers. When you are well, you love the flowers very much. But when your whole family is not well, they are extra special.

Love Deloris and family

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers for my brother Greg Robinson. He is home after 8 months of recovery and doing well. Appreciate all the prayers.

Carolyn Varner



Summer Camp Starts July 5!

Montgomery Summer Camp is opening on July 5 following CDC guidelines (linked below). Montgomery has five weeks of Summer camp.

Camp begins on July 5 and there are a few spots left to fill up cabins for this first week. One of our churches is willing to provide a grant to fill the camp for the week of July 5 and will provide **\$180 sponsorship for each camper that registers between today and July 2** thereby reducing the cost of camp to only \$290 for the week.

Please contact Zach at Montgomery Center to register and receive this sponsorship.

Montgomery Center

88 SE 75th St, Starke, FL 32091

office@montgomerycenter.org

(352) 473-4516

<https://montgomerycenter.org>



First Presbyterian Church
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Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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Sent with a prayer to:

**STAYCATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
2020**

Feet that follow:
"Awesome are YOUR feet! They carry God's love wherever you go!"

Staycation Bible School is happening the week of **July 27-31!** Each day an interactive video will be posted to the church's YouTube page. Please be looking for more announcements to come via the Inspire and during Sunday services. We look forward to sharing the Message with children in the community this summer!

THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
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www.fpcocala.org

