



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Ocala



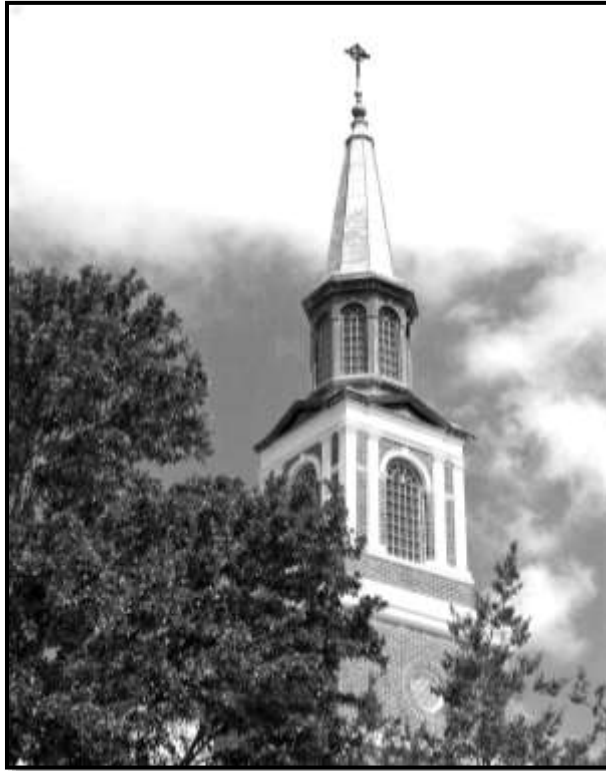
Our Vision

To be a church that shares God's love through Jesus Christ with everyone.

Our Mission

We are an inclusive historic downtown community of Christian faith.

We seek to welcome all people through prayer, meaningful worship, and supportive groups while sharing our talents and resources with those in need.



166 YEARS IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN OCALA

November 19, 2023

Today's Sermon
"A Challenging Parable"
Rev. Ruth Elswood

Rev. Dr. Walk Jones, Transitional Pastor
Phyllis Von Ebers, Choir Director
Dr. Kosumo Morishita, Organist
Leslie Athanason, Vocalist

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

We Gather with Others in God's House

Words of Welcome

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Prelude

"Jesus is Calling"
Handbell Choir

arr. Mitchell Eithun

We Give Praise and Adoration to God

Call to Worship. from Psalm 107

Steve Vincent, Liturgist

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble

**People: and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

Leader: Let those who are wise give thanks,

All: and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

*Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

#367

*Confession of Sin

Eternal and Almighty God, to You is due all our praise and thanksgiving. You are a gracious, loving Lord! But we create false gods we choose to worship. Things of this world motivate us, not Your life-giving Holy Spirit. We put our trust in our efforts, not in Your grace and truth. We value our open ideas and not the clear teachings of Scripture. Forgive us for our idolatry, O God. Help us to live as Your Son's disciples to the glory and honor of Your name. Through Christ we pray. (silent prayer)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

*Gloria Patri

"Glory Be to the Father"

#581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 (NT Pg. 250)

Children's Sermon

Praise Song	“Jesus Paid it All”	Alex Nifong
I hear the Savior say Thy strength indeed is small Child of weakness watch and pray Find in me thine all in all	Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and thine alone Can change the leper’s spots And melt the heart of stone	He washed it white as snow He washed it white as snow
<i>chorus:</i> <i>Jesus paid it all</i> <i>All to him I owe</i> <i>Sin had left a crimson stain</i> <i>He washed it white as snow</i>	And when before the throne I stand in him complete Jesus died my soul to save My lips shall still repeat	Oh, praise the one who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead Oh, praise the one who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead
	(chorus)	(chorus)
		He washed it white as snow He washed it white as snow

Song “Give Thanks” #647

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Anthem “For the Fruit of All Creation” arr. Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

Second Reading Matthew 25: 14-30 (NT Pg. 34)

Sermon “A Challenging Parable” Rev. Ruth Ellswood

Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Depart to Live and Love as Christian Disciples

*Hymn “Let All Things Now Living” #37

*Benediction and Offering
(After service, ushers will be standing by the doors with offering plates to receive your tithes and offerings)

Postlude “Song of Thanks” by Reginald W. Martin



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Dee Owen to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Gene Owen and their son, David Owen.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our preacher today is Ruth Elswood, who worked for many years for the Florida State University System. Later she went to seminary and spent almost a year working as a resident chaplain at Tampa General Hospital in Florida. Her first ordained call was to serve the elderly as chaplain at Palm Garden Health Care Centers. At the same time, she served the First Presbyterian Church in Jasper, Florida as interim pastor for one year. She served as parish associate for pastoral care here at FPC and two others. She is retired and enjoys continuing ministry as a pulpit supply preacher.

We Welcome Visitors - Thanks for worshiping with us! Please complete a yellow card and bring it to an usher in the back after worship.

SCAM ALERT A scam text is being sent asking for gift cards to EBAY for women suffering from cancer. It says it is from Walk. Please delete. Walk will never send messages asking for money.

Griefshare will meet next Sunday, November 26th, for the special 2 hour seminar "Surviving the Holidays" in Room One at 3:00 p.m.

The Giving Tree is in the Narthex! Please take as many of the ornaments as you wish and fulfill the gift requests that are on them. Tape the ornament's typed gift request to the UNWRAPPED gift. The gifts will be distributed on December 6th. Return gifts to the church office by December 4th.

2023 Advent Study The study will begin November 28th on Tuesday evenings by Zoom and Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in Room 1. Books will be available in the office.

PW's Circle 3 will meet on Monday, November 20th at 10 a.m. at the home of Janet Tenhor, 8626 SW 83rd Loop, 34482 OTW. Contact Janet at 609-489-9332. New members are welcome to attend.

Stewardship Please prayerfully consider your giving to our church next year and make a pledge or estimate of giving. If you did not receive a pledge card, or don't have it this morning, ushers have extras. You may place it in the offering plate after worship.

PRAYER LIST

Rev. Ed Albright
Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)
Tania Blackwell
Andy Carlisle
Ella Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest, cancer diagnosis)
Mina DiGeronimo
Bob Dillinger (Uncle of Wendie Moore)
Ruth Fraser
Joe Glenn (friend of Mary Kauffman)
Sharon Grier (mother of Lee Anne Drake)
Dorothy Halliwell (sister-in-law of Pat Interdonato)
Bill and Barbara Harrel
Tola Hass and her daughter Carla (heart issues)
Robert Interdonato (son of Pat, in the hospital)
Andrea Mogg Jacque
Victoria Johnson (great-granddaughter of Christine)
Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)
Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)
Jimmy Kelly (son of Janice)
Celine Mack

The Martin family (Judith, Jason, Nadia, Lisa and Lukas)
Chris and Peyton McLoney Brown
Ron McMillin
Ginny Miller (on the death of her granddaughter)
Gloria Miller
Jodi Miller (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)
Bruce Moore
The Peek family (on the death of Albert)
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Rod Reimer (former member, recovering)
Erik Reiss
Frank Roberts
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Tania Sayre (daughter of Mary Kauffman)
Bob and Renee Timmer
Barbara Tortora and TheTortora family
Ann VanDenburgh
Robert Webber (brother of Ginny Miller)
William Wright
The Williams family (on the death of Betty's grandson Jeffrey Yawn)