



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.



First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Today's Sermon
"Life on the Field of Faith"
Pastor Kenny Ellis

Pastor Kenneth Ellis
Dr. Kosumo Morishita, Organist
Phyllis Von Ebers, Choir Director
Leslie Athanason, Vocalist

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024

10:00 a.m.

We Gather with Others in God's House

Words of Welcome

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Prelude "Away in a Manger" Arr. Glenda Austin

We Give Praise and Adoration to God

Opening Prayer Mike Morehouse, Liturgist

*Hymn "What Child Is This?" #145

*Confession of Sin Mike Morehouse

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We have failed to love you with the wholehearted devotion you deserve. We have thought mostly of our own needs and overlooked the needs of others. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. (silent prayer)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Extending the Welcome and Love of God to One Another

*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 Psalm 73:23-26, 28 (OT Page 657)

Children's Sermon Pastor Kenny

*Songs

“This Is Jesus”
Leslie Athanason, vocalist

We Are Messengers

Night of wonder
Still and silent
Heaven's brilliance from above
Light of glory
Pierced the darkness
Mercy pierced my heart with love

chorus:

*This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all*

Oh the mystery
Who could fathom
God would leave His
Holy throne
For a manger
For a sinner
For us all to be His own

(chorus)

bridge:

Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here
Rejoice He is with us
Rejoice Hope is here

(chorus)

For the hearts so
Prone to wander
For these feet so
quick to flee
God is here and
Love is reaching
For the lost and
least of these

Song

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

#144

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NT Page 275)

Sermon

“Life on the Field of Faith”

Pastor Kenny

Responding to God's Word

We invite you to take a few moments in silent prayers to respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The 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 Followers of Jesus

*Hymn

“The First Nowell”

#147

*Benediction and Offering

(After service, ushers will be standing by the doors to receive your tithes and offerings.)

Postlude

“In Excelsis Deo!”

Arr. Lee Ellis



Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God

**If able, please stand*

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Here? We are so thrilled that you have joined us today for worship. Please review the information below and our website for other ways to connect to the FPC family. If you have tiny ones (birth-4yrs), we have a Nursery in Room 23 of the Education building with an amazing staff ready to care for them before or at any time during the service. If you have older children (K-5th) Sunday School (Room 26). We love little ones and they are always welcome in worship, but we want to provide options that might benefit you and them. Welcome!

Adult and Children's Sunday School will meet again on Sunday, January 12th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1. Children meet in Room 26. All are welcome to the class.

Holey Time - Join us on January 12th after worship in the courtyard for fellowship, coffee, juice, and cookies. The Fellowship Committee will hold these get-togethers on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 5, 2025 immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Mike Morehouse as elder for the Class of 2025 and Cindy Andrews as deacon for the Class of 2027. These officers are being elected under special circumstances.

PRAYER LIST

Esther Arango-Palencia

Pat Bishop

Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)

Suzelle Boisclair (Best Friend of Teresa Poteet)

Martin Cook

Patty Cook

Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest)

Linda and Randall Deyton

(sister and brother-in-law of Annette Pickard)

Mina DiGeronimo

Ruth Fraser

Gabby Gates (friend of Dave Bice)

Joe Glenn (friend of Mary Kauffman)

Dorothy Halliwell (sister-in-law of Pat Interdonato)

Betty Hamilton (neighbor of Evelyn Yorlano)

Bill and Barbara Harrel

Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)

Jose Kornmann (friend of Julia Wirono)

Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)

Chris Longo (cardiac issues)

Lukas Martin (grandson of Judith Martin)

Gloria Miller

Jodi Miller (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)

Bruce Moore (hip surgery)

Kathy Mortenson (sister of Sharon Shirley)

Susan Mulligan (friend of Mary Kauffman)

The Parks family (on the death of Barbara)

Anna Phelan (granddaughter of
Dude & Stephanie Phelan)

Tony Porter

Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)

Ruthanne and John Reiss

Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

Lisa Sherman (daughter of Donna and Nathan
Sherman, in hospital)

Debra Tomkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)

Ann VanDenburgh

Jeanne Vincent

Dan Warner

Judy Weise (chemo treatments)



FPC gives thanks for the life of **Barbara Parks** who passed away December 21, 2024.

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.