



*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.

## From the Transitional Pastor's Desk

The Rev. Dr. Walk Jones

### *It's Going to be a Great Year!*

It is going to be a great year! Have you made a resolution? My grandmother used to go around the New Year's Day table and ask each of us what our resolution for the new year was. She was very southern, so we ate black-eyed peas and turnip greens for good luck in the new year. She told stories of her father killing a hog each New Year's so they had meat the rest of the winter. She wanted to hear our resolutions so she could ask us a month later if we were still keeping them.

I hope you'll use the turn of the year to make a resolution or a plan to improve your life in the new year. Even if your resolution only lasts into February it could be a great thing. Maybe you'll come to our adult Sunday School or another program at church, maybe you'll plan to read your

Bible more. Maybe your plan is for eating healthier (or less) or exercising more. Good luck!

We have several exciting events coming up. Later in the newsletter you'll read about our Kirkin' of the Tartans worship service with Scottish traditions like a bagpiper. If you have a kilt dig it out and plan to wear it January 21st. A few days later we'll host The King's Brass, a group of Christian men who play brass instruments in very entertaining ways. They come Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Then before you know it, Lent comes early this year and we'll set our faces towards Jerusalem and Holy Week.

Walk



# Session News and Announcements

## Session Brief – December 3, 2023

- Approved new members Donna Thurman and Janet Tenhor both joining by Letter of Transfer.
- Approved reinstating membership of Paul and Jane Miller.
- Reports were heard from all the committees and they are hard at work.

Attendance	12/3	12/10	12/17
10:00 a.m.	128	195	109
Online	41	144	40

## New Members of FPC



Rev. Ed and Janet Tenhor



Donna Thurman



Lea Dailey



Curt and Bobbie McBride

The best part of First  
Presbyterian Church is YOU!

We are so glad you found us!



Judith Martin

# Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala



**HAPPY NEW YEAR** each one. I pray you had a blessed Christmas and as we approach 2024 that we will all be blessed by friendship as Women in Christ in Presbyterian Women. CIRCLES will study Lesson Five in January of *Sacred Encounters: A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus*, by Olive Mahabir.

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. The group includes both knitters and crocheters and welcomes anyone who is interested in this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Coordinator, Liz Diener-Dickmann.

**UPDATE ON THE FPC COOKBOOKS**...we gave \$440 at year end to Interfaith Emergency Services/Food for Kids and in early October we gave \$540. So the grand total from the sale of 98 cookbooks is \$980. We are closing in on selling the remaining cookbooks. We will continue to sell the remaining cookbooks until they are all sold. There are less than 29 remaining!!! All monies will be donated to IES/Food for Kids program. Won't you help us? Thank you for your support of this wonderful endeavor. I urge you to think of someone who might enjoy this beautiful production so that we can be good stewards of the monies spent in printing them. They make very nice gifts. You can find copies to purchase on the tables in the narthex of the church or contact Pat Greaves. Thanks for supporting this mission project.

*“Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.*  
*Martin Luther, 1483-1546 (taken from the study book)*

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for January 2024					
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
<b>Coordinating Team Mtg.</b>	Tuesday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	352-236-0716 352-362-0013 cell
<b>Circle 3</b>	Monday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Chris Schuler 9290 SW 89 Terrace, Unit A (OTOW) Ocala 34481	Liz Diener-Dickmann	231-620-2488
<b>Circle 4</b>	Tuesday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
<b>Circle 8</b>	Tuesday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	352-622-3053
<b>PRAYER SHAWL</b>	Thursday January 25 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	231-620-2488

## Music News

FPC's  
**Kirkin'  
of the  
Tartans**

January 21, 2024  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service

Free-Will  
Offering

## The King's Brass

*Wednesday, January 24th at 6:30 p.m. FPC*

The King's Brass present you with a variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, from Handel to jazz spirituals, to Patriotic marches. Their extraordinary shows feature inspirational tunes from the oldies, the popular and the classic while they use all corners of the church to lift hearts and inspire you!

*We need nine Host Homes to house our musicians. Breakfast and return transportation to the church on Thursday morning. Contact Pat Greaves at 352-362-0013 if you can help. Thank you!*

[http://www.kingsbrass.org/videos/  
a\\_mighty\\_fortress\\_with\\_diane\\_bish.mp4](http://www.kingsbrass.org/videos/a_mighty_fortress_with_diane_bish.mp4)

## Deacon's Corner

As 2023 has closed, your Deacons ask you to join us in finding a few minutes of quiet contemplation and prayer as we look ahead to our future. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones in 2024!

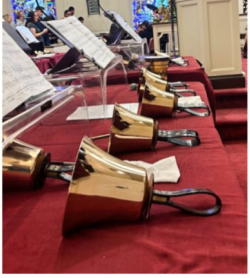
*Speak, Lord, for your servant hears. 1 Samuel 3:9*

Almighty God, we dedicate this year, 2024, to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. The Hebrew meaning is "to walk attentively." So, we commit our minds and hearts to listen attentively to You. Speak to us so that what we speak may be an echo of your voice. Help us to seek to know and do your will for what is best for those around us.

*You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for your name's sake, lead me and guide me. Psalm 31:3*  
Lord, we pray for a fresh flow of strength to think clearly, serve creatively, and endure consistently.

*Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, "Here I am." Isaiah 58:9*  
Almighty God, You have assured us through the prophet Isaiah that while we are speaking You hear us and that You will answer. May each day be one continuous conversation with you. We ask this not just for our own peace and security, but for our responsibility to loved ones and friends around us. We commit this year to seeking that which makes You, our Heavenly Father, happy while giving You the glory for all we have and are, for the opportunities to serve You by being a servant to others and caring for what You have entrusted to us. To You be the glory! Amen.





# Music Sunday December 2023



# Outreach



## THE GIVING TREE PROJECT



Thank you FPC for all your generosity this Christmas season! Another successful Giving Tree this year! Thank you all for making this possible. Thank you to all of those who helped prepare and thank you Youth Group for unloading and organizing gifts.

We received over \$2,000 in monetary donations and gift cards which made even more shopping possible! We were able to provide all 25 mothers at Project Hope gifts this year and contributed to the 2,500 youth and teens that SoZo kids serves in the poverty areas of the Ocala National Forest population.

Thank you, Katherine White



*THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY and KINDNESS!!*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*Soup-er Bowl  
Food Drive  
for Interfaith*  
**Sunday,  
February 11, 2024  
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

### **Interfaith Emergency Services**

It's that time again! We are signing up participants for dinners in 2024. First Presbyterian does this on the second Thursday of each month. Those who have done it say it's always a blessing, and we know it's a blessing to those we serve. Thank you to all members who participated in 2023! Call or text Jarl Hagood at 867-9372 or email [Jarlhagood@aol.com](mailto:Jarlhagood@aol.com)

# Thank You

Thank you to all of our members who so generously gave their time to ring bells, and to all who gave donations to The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. Throughout the United States and across the world, contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who might otherwise be forgotten. THANK YOU and BLESSINGS TO ALL! Kay Yancey

**The church office will be closed Monday, January 1st. It also will be closed on January 15th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**

# January Birthdays

**3**

Pat Interdonato

Gwen Peterson

Dirk Lewis

**5**

Steve Koch

Lauren Hart

**7**

Dorothy Behrens

Lyn Rainbow

**9**

David Berndt

John Berndt

**10**

Adam Schuler

**12**

Leslie Wiechens

**13**

Glen Switzer

**15**

Lilli MacKay

**16**

Sandra Dailey

**17**

Judith Judy

**18**

Sue Brawner

Trish Mosby

Lora Barrett

**19**

Connor Patrick

**20**

Austin Dailey

**21**

Erin McClary

Gray Barrineau

**23**

Randy Briggs

**24**

William Cone

**25**

Gene Wiechens

**26**

Mina DiGeronimo

James Kirk

Laura Moore

**27**

Sid Varner

Kathy Hart

Graham Moore

Elle Barrineau

**28**

Mary Moore

Shelby Welch

**29**

Lamar Knepp

Russel Dingman

**30**

Bill Futch



# Prayer List

**Bill Blackwell** (brother of Mary Kauffman)

**Tania Blackwell**

**Alice Bush** (mother of Van Akin, hip replacement)

**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**

**Gabby Gates** (friend of Dave Bice)

**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**

**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)

**Mary Kells**

**Jimmy Kelly** (broken hip, son of Janice)

**Celine Mack**

**The Martin family** (Judith, Jason, Nadia,  
Lisa and Lukas)

**Chris and Peyton McLoney Brown**

**Ron McMillin**

**Gloria Miller**

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

**Bruce and Wendie Moore**

**Fritz Rain** (friend of Marybeth Olson)

**Rod Reimer** (former member, recovering)

**Frank Roberts**

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

**Janie Scott**

**Bob and Renee Timmer**

**Barbara Tortora and The Tortora family**

**Ann VanDenburgh**

**Robert Webber** (brother of Ginny Miller)

**William Wright**



**First Presbyterian Church**  
 511 SE Third Street  
 Ocala, FL 34471-2284

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**Sent with a prayer to:**

Beautify our sanctuary with



*Flowers*

Each Sunday  
 what a blessing  
 to see some of  
 God's natural beauty.  
 Remember you can  
 dedicate a lovely and  
 meaningful bouquet to  
 someone your love, even our Lord.  
 Call the office (352) 629-7561



**Men's  
 Breakfast  
 Tuesday  
 January 9, 2024  
 Wolfy's  
 (2159 E Silver Springs Blvd.)  
 7:30 a.m.**

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