

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

An Easter Greeting

March will be a busy month for us at First, Ocala. Most of the month will be taken up by activities of Lent, with a wonderful culmination during the last days. The last full week of the month is Holy Week when we go from waving the fronds on Palm Sunday to the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and the quiet of Good Friday, finally Easter Sunday will be upon us.

Easter means so much to me in part because of the time before it, Lent and Holy Week. I like the seriousness of the Maundy Thursday service when we remember Jesus' Last Supper. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words "I give you a new commandment."

Do you remember what that new commandment is?

Jesus told us to love one another. It is not hard to do, until we meet someone who is not very loveable.

Some people are like that, by their actions or their words. But we are to love them, our neighbors. I'm working on this this year during Lent. Trying to love the neighbors who are hard to love.

Look through the rest of the newsletter, we have a lot coming up this month, a fun luncheon on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday the 17th. We'll have an Easter Egg Hunt with games and a lot of fun on Saturday, March 30th. Tell your friends and neighbors about these fun events and invite them to church.

Walk



It's Time to Start Planning Vacation Bible School



Summer will be here before we know it and the CE committee has big plans for our VBS this summer. We're going to write our own curriculum around favorite Bible stories our kids need to know and we are going to sing some of the old favorite songs. VBS will be expected to be June 24-28.

It is time to form a VBS committee, why don't you plan to come, join and help plan this exciting week for kids! Call the church office if you want to volunteer. The committee's first meeting will be soon scheduled. Come help us make this a special summer for the children of our church and neighborhood.

Session Briefs

Session Brief – February 11, 2024

- Dr. Burt and Hazel Perinchief joined as members of our Church by Letter of Transfer from the Presbyterian church in Lake Mary, FL.
- Marcia Dove was ordained as a Ruling Elder and Bob Drake was installed as a Ruling Elder.
- Check Signers for 2024: Jeff Baker, Elaine Cox, Todd Dailey, Donnie Slone, Peggy Wiechmann.
- The 2023 Statistical Report was approved and sent to the Office of the General Assembly.
- Approved funds from the Mission and Benevolence Fund for a Mission Trip to Cuba by Derek White.



Hazel and
Dr. Burt Perinchief

Hazel and Burt are natives of New Jersey where they graduated from The College of New Jersey. Burt's heritage includes a grandfather and father who were Methodist preachers in New Jersey. Hazel earned a master's degree from Stetson University and Burt received a master's and Ph.D in music from Michigan State University.

They have been married for more than 63 years and have two children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, all of whom have lived in Ocala for many years. They have lived in Florida since 1967 when Hazel taught in Lake Mary Elementary School and Burt began the music program at Seminole State College.

They bring their church documents from Markham Presbyterian Church in Lake Mary, Florida where Burt served as Director of Music Ministries for 30 years and where they were founding elders.

We are so happy that you have decided to become a great part of our church!

Presbyterian Pilgrimage



There will be a wonderful Christian retreat weekend in Ocala

from April 11-14
at The Retreat.

Pilgrimage is a spiritual renewal weekend to renew and invigorate your faith in Jesus Christ and to build a greater understanding of God's love for you and His will for your life. The retreat is a long weekend, from Thursday at 4:00 p.m. until Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Three days to celebrate and express Christ's love for you. It will be held at The Retreat 6455 East Silver Springs Blvd.

For more information visit:
floridapresbyterianpilgrimage.org/

2023 INCOME AND EXPENSES

As of	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
12/31/2023	CONTRIBUTIONS	INCOME	EXPENSES
BUDGETED	\$604,000	\$609,219	\$706,719
ACTUAL	\$606,602	\$649,945	\$624,307

The finance committee would like to thank you for your continued support of our church. The 2024 First Presbyterian Church budget is available in the church office upon request. Question can be sent to ajaque@fpcocala.org

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

We are now into Lent; 2024 is moving right along. I pray you are enjoying your time with Circle members and invite anyone you know who doesn't participate in PW, to come and join you in Christian fellowship and Bible study as Women in Christ in Presbyterian Women. CIRCLES will study Lesson Seven, found on page 61, in March of *Sacred Encounters: An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus*, by Olive Mahabir. The main idea of the lesson is that the Word God is an essential tool for expanding the reign of God.



40th ANNUAL GATHERING, PW in the Presbytery of St. Augustine, on January 27, 2024, held at the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center in Starke, FL. (Photo from L to R) **Paralee Johnson, Andrea Mogg Jacque, Pat Greaves and Liz Dickman** attended the event and heard a wonderful message delivered by Rev. Olive Mahabir, author of this year's PW Bible Study. The process of creating the study takes a period of 3 years. Olive came from India to Trinidad to a PCUS Mission to the US then did her seminary work here in the US. She now has a church in St. Augustine Presbytery. What a testimony and witness of her life. We also met up with someone quite special to our church, Andrea Mogg Jacque.



THE SPRING GATHERING will be held on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and save the date. More information will be available when you meet in your Circles in March.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, March 28th, 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 have given \$1,130 to Interfaith Emergency Services/Food for Kids as we have sold 113 of the cookbooks to date. We only have 20 cookbooks remaining. All monies will be donated to IES/Food for Kids program. Won't you help us finish this task? Thank you for your support of this wonderful endeavor. 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.

"In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, But you know the way for me. Amen."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945 (taken from the study book)

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for March 2024					
Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ					
	Date	Time	Meeting Place	Contact	Phone
Coordinating Team Mtg.	Tuesday, March 5 th	5:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Pat Greaves	352-236-0716 352-362-0013 cell
Circle 3	Monday, March 18 th	10:00 a.m.	Cathy Taylor 5192 NW 20 th Place Ocala Palms, 34482	Liz Diener-Dickmann	Cathy Taylor 352-209-5841
Circle 4	Tuesday, March 12 th	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Debbie Koch	352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell
Circle 8	Tuesday, March 12 th	2:00 p.m.	Room 1	Lois Clardy	352-622-3053
PRAYER SHAWL	Thursday March 28 th	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Liz Diener-Dickmann	

Youth

A blue poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. At the top, there are several colorful Easter eggs with various patterns (stripes, polka dots, zig-zags) in shades of green, orange, yellow, and red. In the center, there is a yellow cross. Below the cross, the text reads: "YOU ARE INVITED TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S Easter Egg Hunt SATURDAY, MARCH 30th AT 10:00 A.M. 511 SE 3RD STREET, OCALA, FL 34471 ALL ARE WELCOME — BRING YOUR OWN BASKET". At the bottom, there are more colorful Easter eggs.

YOU ARE INVITED TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, MARCH 30th
AT 10:00 A.M.

511 SE 3RD STREET, OCALA, FL 34471

ALL ARE WELCOME — BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

We would love donations of plastic filled eggs. And we would like to encourage everybody to join us for a fun morning celebrating Easter with the children of the church.

Individually wrapped non-chocolate candies should be delivered to the church by March 24th.

THANK YOU!

**SAVE
THE DATES**

Montreat Retreats

High School June 9-16 \$400/person

Middle School July 17-21 \$250/person

\$100 deposit is due by April 1st
to guarantee a spot.

Scholarships available if needed.

Contact Carter Ullman for
additional information.

(863) 651-4863

Christian Education



Monday, April 1st is the **DEADLINE** to apply for

FPC Post-secondary school education

SCHOLARSHIPS!

Applications for the fall 2024 term are available in the

church office. **The deadline to submit applications to the church**

office is by the end of the workday on Monday, April 1st. FPC members and their member dependents or children may apply for scholarship assistance. Applicants may apply once in a calendar year. Direct questions to Scholarship Committee members--Chair Kay Yancey, Cindy Andrews, Todd Carstenn or Tom Weaver.



Announcements

Happy Easter from FPC

The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 1st



Attendance	10 am	Online
1/28	116	52
2/4	131	58
2/11	123	48
2/18	112	10
2/25	142	24

St. Patrick's Fellowship Lunch

Join us after worship for a "Luck of the Irish" lunch that will include Shepherd's Pie, Waldorf Salad, Irish soda bread, assorted Irish cookies, and various beverages. Yes, the lunch is free, but donations towards the Montreat Youth Conferences will be much appreciated! And, the youth group will be helping to set up the room and serve the food.

"For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way - Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day."



Sunday, March 17th

First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

Holy Week 2024

Palm Sunday ~ March 24 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28 7:00 p.m. with Communion

Good Friday ~ March 29 12p.m.-1p.m. Church Open for Prayer

Easter Egg Hunt ~ March 30 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday ~ March 31 10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary (bring flowers for the living cross)

511 S.E. Third Street, Ocala, FL 34471 | Phone: (352) 629-7561
www.fpcocala.org [YouTube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchOcalaFL](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchOcalaFL)

Christian Outreach

Left to right: Dave Schlenker, Carter Ullman, Declan Caskey, Kay Yancy, Alex Johnson, Camryn Johnson, Judson Baker, Lillian Baker. Kay Yancey's granddaughter **Kaylyn Guest** and her friend **Kirby Smith**. Not pictured are Bentley Johnson, Skye Caskey, Austin Dailey, Lea Dailey and Gracyn Ullman who all helped.



Dinners for Interfaith

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 if you or your group would like to sign up.

Thank you to everyone who helped and donated much needed items in The Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive. FPC donations added up to 1,801 lbs. of food and hygiene items, and an additional \$555 in monetary donations. Interfaith Emergency Services always needs donations and FPC always comes through. We have helped tackle hunger in our community in our special way. Also, thank you to all of our members who support Interfaith throughout the year.
The Outreach Committee

*One Great Hour Of Sharing
Special Offerings for Hunger,
Disaster and Development will be
collected at FPC on
Palm Sunday, March 24th*

*Join with Presbyterians worldwide in
sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by
providing relief from natural disasters,
food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.*

*Visit www.pcusa.org/give-oghs to
donate online, or,
You may text OGH5 to 91999 to give*



75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

March Birthdays

1

Julia Wirono
Alison Luther

2

Lee Anne Drake

3

Jeanne Vincent

4

Neil Townsend

6

Timothy Byrd

7

Becky Schatt
Rhonda Slone
Debbie Vincent
Dan Woerner

8

Christie Bald

9

Carrie Waldren
Jack Carlisle

11

Jarl Hagood
Bonnie Vorwerk

12

Bill Russell
Joshua Gillum

13

Ron Mosby
Joe Vorwerk
Cody Wilke

14

Harry Batten

15

David Arango-
Palencia

16

Amy Schlenker
Doug Gordon
Caroline Kimball

17

Mariann McClary
Margaret Baker
Tineke Eve Lewis
Joseph Pickard
Weston Cook

18

Elaine Spowles
Bill Crawford
Larry Waldren, Jr.

19

George Tomynt

20

Larry Spowles
Eileen Demarest

23

Diana Briggs

24

Jordann Blair
Morgan Evans

25

Casey Miller

27

Al Nolan
Weldon Albright
Benjamin Luther
Harrison White

28

Christopher Barrett

29

Devon Wiechens
Zachary Johnson

30

Rebecca Essick



Prayer List

Pat Bishop

Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)

Tania Blackwell (sister-in-law of Mary Kauffman)

Andy Carlisle

Ella Charnley

Shirley Cochran

Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest,
cancer diagnosis)

Linda Deyton (sister of Annette Pickard)

Mina DiGeronimo

Bob Dillinger (Uncle of Wendie Moore)

Ruth Fraser

Gabby Gates (friend of Dave Bice)

Joe Glenn (friend of Mary Kauffman)

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

Bill and Barbara Harrel

Andrea Mogg Jacque

Victoria Johnson (great-granddaughter of Christine)

Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)

Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)

John Koch (brother in law of Debbie Koch)

The Mack family (on the death of Celine)

Cordelia Bree McCully (granddaughter of
Mike and Teresa Poteet)

Gloria Miller

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

Bruce and Wendie Moore

Annette Morris (friend of Mary Kauffman)

Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)

Ruthanne and John Reiss

Frank Roberts

Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

Janie Scott

Rev. Ed Tenhor (blood pressure)

Marion Thomas (fall)

Bob and Renee Timmer

Ann VanDenburgh

Phyllis VonEbers (pneumonia)

Robert Webber (brother of Ginny Miller)

William Wright




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

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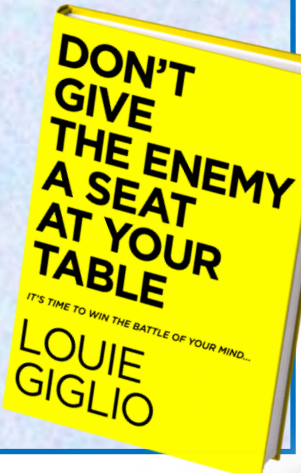
Men's Breakfast
Tuesday
March 12th
7:30 a.m.
Wolfy's
(2159 E Silver Springs Blvd.)



Sunday March 3 we will start a
six week Sunday school series

**This series will
include a video
presentation by
Louie Giglio
followed by a
class discussion.**

9:00 am Room 1



THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
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