



Welcome to
First Presbyterian Church
of Ocala



September 24, 2017

This Morning's Sermon

An Opportunity for the Gospel

Stephen N. Benz, Head of Staff
The. Rev. Cheryl Gans, Interim Associate Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Ray C. Ruark, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
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FAITHFULLY SERVING JESUS CHRIST IN MARION COUNTY AND THE WORLD SINCE 1857 AND STILL GROWING!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2017

8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

The Chiming of the Hour

To meditate upon today during the prelude...

from the *Confession of Belhar*

We believe... that unity in Christ's Church must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

The Prelude

Handbells

We Gather with Others in God's House

The Welcome and Announcements

The Ritual of Friendship

(Please greet your neighbors in worship today with the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.)

The Introit

O Worship the Lord (Psalm 96)

Robert McCutchan
Arr. Donald Moore

The Call to Worship

Sarah Overfelt

One: Remember again the wonderful works of God:
rejoice in the abundance of God's steadfast love.

**All: God has blessed us beyond all deserving;
how wonderful it is to recognize God's presence!**

One: Examine before God the quality of your commitment;
come to worship the one true God.

**All: God promises to dwell with us;
how easily we forget to look for God's signs**

One: The glory of God fills the place where we are;
respond together to God's mighty power.

**All: God, who dwelt with our ancestors, meets us now:
we will feast on God's presence together.**

We Give Praise and Adoration to God

*The Hymn of Praise

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

#396

*The Call to Confession

The people of Israel thought they needed gods they could see, so they fashioned their own idols of gold. Their sin is not foreign to us. The things we accumulate to fill our lives can easily preoccupy us. Do our possessions rule us and become as gods?

*The Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

We confess, Mighty God, that worshiping you is not the center of our lives. We prefer business to quiet contemplation. We reach for artificial excitement instead of the steady pace of faithful service. We are a stiff-necked people who embrace individuality at the expense of community, yet insist on conformity in preference to originality. Forgive us, God, for insisting on our own way. Amen.

(Moments of silence for personal reflection.)

***If able, please stand.**

*The Assurance of Pardon

One: The wrath of God against our sin does not destroy the mercy of God toward all who seek a better way. We are saved for the sake of God's name, in order to make known God's mighty power. Seek to grow in faith, that your manner of life may be worthy of the gospel.

All: Thanks be to God.

*The Gloria Patri

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

#582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

The Anthem

Song for a Bright New Day

Kenneth T. Kosche

Wake up, arise, rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for a bright new day. Wake up, arise, rejoice and give thanks with a song as you go on your way. This is the day that the Lord has made, let all be glad and sing: from the dawn's first light 'til the dark of night, your joyful anthems bring! Wake up, arise rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for a bright new day. Wake up, arise, rejoice and give thanks with a song as you go on your way. Bless the Lord of life my inmost soul, O bless God's holy name; for this gift of love, new from above, let happy hearts exclaim! Wake up, arise, rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for a bright new day. Wake up, arise rejoice and give thanks with a song as you go on your way.

We Hear God's Word Proclaimed

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 16:2-15 (O.T. Page 62)

The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30 (N.T. Page 196)

The Psalter Lesson

(to the tune of *Tallis' Ordinal*)

Psalms 105(b)

**Rejoice, you faithful, in the Lord,
A song of thanks now raise;
For all the goodness to us giv'n,
Unite to sing God' praise.**

**The miracles God's grace fulfills
Are wrought for our avail;
How blessed are they whose hearts confirm
God's love will never fail!**

**The just rewards of unbelief
Are fashioned through our fears;
And nightmares, once imagined, gain
Their flesh when doubt appears.**

**But to the stalwart in their faith
God's blessings are displayed;
They sing with joy, the chosen ones
Whose hope in God is stayed.**

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16 (N.T. Page 21)

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Sermon

An Opportunity for the Gospel

Stephen N. Benz

*The Hymn of Dedication

O Jesus, I Have Promised

#724

We Respond to God's Word

*The Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

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.

The Call to Offering

The Offertory

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

W. Runyan
Arr. by J. Schrader

*The Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

We Depart to Live and Love as Christian Disciples

*The Hymn of Parting

Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah

#65

*The Charge and Benediction

The Response

God Be With You

Jeremiah Rankin,
Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Postlude

Postlude in A Minor

B. Marcello

♦
*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Celine Mack,
in loving memory of her husband Tommy Mack,*
♦

Serving at First Presbyterian Church of Ocala		
Ushers	8:15 a.m.	Tom Michaels, Blue Montsdeoca, Ann Richardson and Chris Richardson
Ushers	9:30 a.m.	
Greeters	11:00 a.m.	
Ushers	11:00 a.m.	John Reiss, Captain, Pat Bishop, Bill Bowen, Hank Fleming, Ellen Mathews, Don McCormick and Joe Simmons.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our church welcomes you today, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are striving to be Christ's people; and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, welcome on your journey; if you are looking for a church home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn with us as we learn from you. We invite all newcomers to join us for faithful worship, Christian growth, fellowship, and mission. Speak with our pastor today if you have pastoral concerns, desire prayer, or would like to know more about getting involved in our church family!

Latin Celebration – FREE concert today! The start of the FPC 2017-18 Concert Series - Latin Celebration has been rescheduled to **today, Sunday, September 24, at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Nino Casteneda & Friends take us on a festive tour of Latin music.

Free Memory Screening – Wednesday, September 27 at 6:45 p.m. following our Wednesday Night Dinner. Forgetful? Trouble Concentrating? Can't recall words or names? This is something we all have a concern about. For yourself and loved ones, this is something you need to attend.

Irma's gone and PW Bible Mentoring keeps moving along...Despite Irma forcing some PW circles to cancel their September meetings and Bible studies, the Bible Mentoring class moves on and will study **Lesson 2** at its 5:30 meeting on Tuesday, October 3 in Room 1. For information contact Tom Weaver at 622-6028.

We have storage for yard sale items. Cleaning out closets? Moving/downsizing or know someone who is? We have storage space for our spring yard sale. If you'd like to donate / have items picked up. Call Lannie Mercer (629-3354) or Carol Carpenter (732-0085).

Interfaith needs for September are **canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly** and **pasta sauce**. Thank you for placing your donations in the narthex or at the back of Fellowship Hall on Sundays or bringing them to the church office during the week.

This Week's Calendar
September 24 – October 1, 2017

SUN.	<p><u>September 24</u> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>8:15 a.m. – Noon 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Worship Services</u> Traditional Worship – Sanctuary Contemporary Worship – Fellowship Hall Traditional Worship – Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Children and Youth Ministries</u> Nursery: (Newborns – 3 year olds) – Nursery Children's Church: (3 years – 5th Grade) – Room 26 Kaleo Youth: (6th – 12th Grade) – Youth Rooms, 20-22</p> <p><u>Adult Christian Education</u> The Dead Sea Scrolls by Prof. Gary A. Rendsburg – Conference Room <i>(Nita Williams, 237-6789)</i> The Blakely Class uses the Uniform Bible Lessons – Room 2 <i>(David Arango-Palencia 786-385-4980 and others as substitutes)</i></p>
MON.	<p><u>September 25</u> 9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PW WeCare (Fran Gilchrist, 454-3155) – Room 1 Art Class (Supplies are provided, Phyllis Craggs 816-1030) - Conference Room</p>
TUE.	<p><u>September 26</u> 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Faith Sisters Class (Elaine Cox) - Parlor Melody of the Psalms Class (Cheryl Gans) – Conference Room Cross & Crowns Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall</p>
WED.	<p><u>September 27</u> 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Disciple Sisters Class (Jeanne Vincent) – Room 2 Disciple XIII Class (Barbara Parks or Tom Weaver) – Room 1 Youth Band Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room Hand Bell Choir Practice – Bell Tower Wednesday Night: Family, Food, and Fellowship – Fellowship Hall Melody of the Psalms Class (Cheryl Gans) – Conference Room</p>
THU.	<p><u>September 28</u> 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Koinoia Class (Fran Gilchrist) – Conference Room PW Prayer Shawl (Liz Diener-Dickmann, 732-6368) – Conference Room</p>

Remember This Week in Prayer

Harriet Berman (Avante), **Bill Blackwell** (Mary Kauffman's brother), **Brenda Bryant**, **Bill Cochran**, **Voncile Dudley** (Avante), **Jamii Fuseler** (the Pickards' niece), **Dan Hallenbeck**, **Mikey** and **Janice Kelly** in the death of their niece Karen Kelly, **Helen Lawton** (Hawthorn Health & Rehab, 237-7776, ext. 289– call her to arrange for visits), **Ted** and **Sunny Low** and **family**, **Amy Mumford** (friend of Marilyn Tucker), **Gene Owen**, **Wendy Owens** (Debbie Koch's friend), **Charlene Preston**, **Bill** and **Carolyn Richardson**, **Norma Rivera** (Sarah Overfelt's friend), **Janice Schafer** (Palm Garden), **Betty Jeanne Spencer** (Lady Lake Specialty Care), **Dawn Sterken** (Bob and Renee Timmer's daughter), **Howard VanDenburgh**, **Bill Wiechmann**, **Bob Wilton**, **Jon Wirono**, HELPS Ministries in India, our sister church in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, first responders and their families, our men and women serving in the armed forces and their families. **Andy Gans** and Pines Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Our Vision Statement

To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and the world

Our Mission Statement

To be an inclusive downtown community of faith that seeks to embrace everyone in growing spiritually

This Week's Daily Bible Readings

<i>God's Faithful Word of Wisdom</i>			Wednesday	September 27	James 2: 1-26
Sunday	September 24	Proverbs 12:1-28	Thursday	September 28	James 3:1-18
Monday	September 25	Proverbs 13:1-25	Friday	September 29	James 4:1-17
Tuesday	September 26	James 1:1-27	Saturday	September 30	James 5:1-20

Wednesday Night: Family, Food, and Fellowship Together September 27, 2017 – New time 6:00 p.m.

Menu: **Ham** with starch, veggie, salad and dessert. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. and is served until 6:45 p.m. The dinner costs are adults and youth **\$6**, **\$3** per child (**10 and under**) and **\$15** maximum per family.

Instruction: Complete this form and place it in the offering plate today, make a reservation on the friendship pad, or call the church office (629-7561). **The reservation deadline is this Monday, September 25.** If you need to cancel your reservation, please call the church office by Tuesday to cancel.

Program: This week at 6:45 p.m., after the dinner, we will have a presenter from Compass Research speaking about Free Memory Screening.

(Tear Off)

Wednesday Night: Family, Food, and Fellowship Together– September 27, 2017

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number attending: Adults _____ Children _____

Yes, I can volunteer on Wednesday nights to help with the supper _____.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala Elaine Cox, Clerk of Session	
Class of 2017	
Steffany Gladdin	Children and Youth - Chair
Mike Kaufman	
Tom Michael	Christian Outreach
Ann O'Hart	Worship - Chair
Becky Schatt	Christian Outreach
Don Slone	Personnel - Chair
Class of 2018	
Pat Brown	Nominating, Scholarship
Jeff Dauner	Building and Grounds – Chair, Nominating - chair
Bill Dolin	Finance, Nominating
Sheryll Goedert	Finance - Chair
John Hagood	Worship
Nancy Livesay	Membership – Chair, Scholarship
Jim Yancey	Personnel
Class of 2019	
John Brawner	Long Range Planning, Stewardship
Fran Gilchrist	Fellowship - Chair
Walter Laseter	Christian Education - Chair
John Reiss	Worship
Alexandra Sexton	Christian Education
Tom Weaver	Personnel, Scholarship

The Diaconate of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala Lannie Mercer, Chair Vicky Honkus, Secretary		
Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Esther Arango-Palencia Nancy Drum Vicky Honkus Ellen Matthews	Pat Bishop Lannie Mercer Marty Smith	Ella Charnley Grietje Lewis Roxanne Schwaller Elaine Sprowles Julia Wirono

The Staff of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala	
Colin Andrews – Assistant to Sound Tech Daniel Adkins – Custodian Danny Arango – Sexton David Bedenbaugh – Director of Music Ministries Steve Benz – Head of Staff Thomas Drake – Interim Youth Ministry Director Cheryl Gans – Interim Associate Pastor Joseph Hare – Kitchen Manager	Brodie Hutcheson – Sound Tech Andrea Mogg Jacque – Finance/Business Administrator Jason Joseph – Organist Sarah Overfelt – Interim Children’s Ministry Director Heather Roberts – Administrative Assistant Kaylin Rodgers - Nursery Dana Rodgers - Nursery Evelyn Yorlano – Nursery