



First Presbyterian Church of Ocala  
August 3, 2017

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia M. Benz

Visit our website: [fpcocala.org](http://fpcocala.org) Phone: (352) 629-7561 Fax: (352) 629-8066 511 SE Third Street Ocala, FL 34471

Dear First Presbyterian Church sisters and brothers,

The members, life, and ministry of any congregation are among the most important relationships we have. We have lifelong friends and we make new friends. We involve ourselves in life-giving ministries that fulfill and sustain us. Once in a while, we go through times of change and transition that make us scratch our heads wondering what's next. One of the names we interims call ourselves – and hope that we ARE – is “non-anxious presence,” and I hope I have been that for you over this last year. I have had many, many wonderful conversations, waaaaaaay too many meals (yes, I have put on weight!), and have probably had a lot more fun than I should have (I'm not too sure about the theology of that). And, I cannot thank you enough for the privilege of having served you.

There is another change on the horizon when I will leave and a new head-of-staff will come, and I may be a little biased, but I think you will be well cared for. Steve Benz will join the church staff on September 5, bringing a wealth of knowledge and great, great love for the Church of Jesus Christ. The choice of Steve as one to help lead this congregation may be one of those instances that has left you scratching your head, and we all (i.e., the session) understand that. There will be another communication coming to you in the same way the *Spire* and *Inspire* do in the next week that will tell you how it all came about that will very likely answer all your questions, and I believe it will make you feel quite confident that the First Presbyterian Church will not miss a beat in the coming weeks and months. Please be on the lookout for it! We will also have print copies available in the narthex and the Fellowship Hall beginning next Sunday, August 13. In the meantime, pray, rest easy, and remember the words of Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection ...

“Remember, I am with you ALWAYS, to the end of the age.”  
Thanks be to God!

I always look forward to seeing you when we gather together to worship, but especially when we have the joy of celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as we will this Sunday. See you then!

In Christ's love,

Continued on the next page...  
See Sunday's bulletin at [fpcocala.org](http://fpcocala.org)

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
God's Faithful Word of Encouragement			Wednesday	August 9	Colossians 4:2-18
Sunday	August 6	Colossians 1:24-2:5	Thursday	August 10	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Monday	August 7	Colossians 2:6-19	Friday	August 11	1 Thessalonians 2:1-16
Tuesday	August 8	Colossians 2:20-3:17	Saturday	August 12	1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

## A NOTE FROM DAVID BEDENBAUGH... MUSIC MINISTRIES

Come celebrate a special communion service this Sunday, with special guest soloist Addison Burgess. She is certain to bring some sunshine to your day as she sings, "This is My Father's World" at all three services!

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My office hours next week will be: Monday: 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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## A NOTE FROM SARAH OVERFELT... CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

**This Sunday we will begin celebrating the relaunch of our children's ministry at the 9:30 service!**

Some may ask why would we relaunch our children's ministry when we have been active all summer long??.

The relaunch is to reintroduce our children to the desire of learning more about Christ and growing in their relationship with Him in a fun and fresh way! We want to kindle those SPARKS that have been set in the hearts of our children to worship and draw near to our Creator. Please be in prayer for our children as we embark on this journey together! I am looking forward to seeing all the kids and their families **THIS Sunday at the 9:30 service wearing their comfy clothes in preparation for the fun that will follow in the field!**

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Next week I will be in the office:

Monday: 9:00-10:30 a.m., Tuesday: 4:30-5:00 p.m.(5:30-6:30 meeting), Wednesday: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

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## THOMAS DRAKE... YOUTH MINISTRIES

Hello FPC Ocala!

Our first week of the "Kaleo Discipleship" was a blast! ... (This is when our youth have a chance to help our church community.) They not only worked on revamping of the youth room, but also helping out our beloved pastor Cindy with the transportation of boxes.

Stay tuned..... **we will be having a back to school party before everyone heads back to school...** the date and time of the event will be revealed shortly.

As always thank you for your prayers and support. Be blessed!

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Next week I will be in the office: Tuesday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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The church office is open  
Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.