

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Scripture is replete with words of comfort, many of them you know – some even by heart, but one of the most beautiful to me, particularly in times of change, is Psalm 46. I wholeheartedly urge you to spend time in the coming days with this Psalm, but here are a few of the words that comfort and inspire me:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

I was reminded a couple of weeks ago that this weekly email blast is meant to INSPIRE us, not simply to share news. So, let me share one very meaningful moment from the last few days.

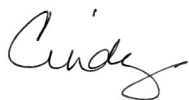
On Monday, I scheduled a time to take home communion (called the “extended serving of communion”) to one of our members on Wednesday morning. By the end of the day Tuesday, I had yet to contact an elder to accompany me (we go two-by-two). A phone call was made and less than thirty seconds later – at the last minute – there was someone, in fact, a “resting” elder, willing to drop everything and participate in this very important, life-giving ministry. It took barely over an hour to drive out, have a lovely visit, celebrate the Lord’s Supper together, and get back to the church. That hour stands out as the highlight of my week. To be with someone who is suffering, and yet so upbeat in the midst of it, was a pure joy and privilege. It also help me put all the trivial annoyances in my life in their proper place as the miniscule distractions that they are. It also made me extraordinarily grateful for those in this precious congregation who, as we continue in transition, are willing to step up and step in to help serve. (That elder was Steve Vincent – he deserves hugs!)

The First Presbyterian Church has been serving Ocala, Marion County, and the worldwide community faithfully and well for many, many years, and it is not going to stop now just because there’s a shuffle of staff in the office. I feel supremely confident that God has faced much bigger challenges than this, and has never skipped a beat. In the celebrated words of Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich:

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Thanks be to God!

In Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cindy'.

Continued on the next page...

See Sunday’s bulletin at fpcocala.org

Remember this Sunday
one worship service

The logo for 'HYMN SING' features the words in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Above the text is a decorative line of musical notes in various colors (yellow, orange, red, blue, green).

at 10:00

in the sanctuary

Come to church, it’s going to be wonderful!

Special music and two new members!

Don’t miss it!

A red rectangular poster with a white crown at the top. Below the crown, the words 'KEEP CALM AND TRUST GOD' are written in a white, bold, sans-serif font, arranged in four lines.

Next week’s daily Bible readings:

July 30 – Psalm 103

July 31 – Psalm 113

August 1—Philippians 1:1-30

August 2—Philippians 2:1-30

August 3—Philippians 3:1-21

August 4—Philippians 4:1-23

August 5—Philippians 1:1-23

A NOTE FROM DAVID B

This Sunday our organist **Jason Joseph** will accompany his father **Watson Joseph**, a talented veteran tenor, for a very special treat at our **10:00 Hymn Sing service**. We will enjoy this special time as all of FPC comes together to make merry music to our Father. You won't want to miss this!

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.**

A NOTE FROM SARAH O....

This week there will be no Children's Church due to the wonderful Hymn Sing we have this Sunday!

We will be celebrating our relaunch **AUGUST 6!!!!** So bring your children for the 9:30 service and be prepared to celebrate AFTER with FOOD and FUN! We will be giving a surprise away during children's time at the 9:30 service. Again we will be partying AFTER the 9:30 service. I can't wait to see everyone on the 6th!!!

Next week I will be in the office:
Monday: 9:00-10:30 a.m., Tuesday: 9:00-10:30 a.m. , Wednesday: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

THOMAS D....

Hello FPC!

There are some wonderful opportunities this August!

Coming back from our camps, the Kaleo youth are fired up to be more involved in the church.

1. Our youth will be volunteering to help members, so please keep an eye out for more info!
2. We have a new discipleship program starting which will encourage our youth to stay connected all week long.

As always thank you all for your prayers and support for the next generation of First Presbyterian Church.

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.**

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.