

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

Our Impressive Church

We have a lot coming up this summer. The Buildings and Grounds committee is going to replace the air conditioning system and flooring in the sanctuary and do other upgrades to our beautiful church. In a few weeks you will hear more from me about the plans and how you can help us carry them out.

Our sanctuary will have its 100th birthday in three years. It was built in 1926 and '27. It is a beautiful building, one of the finest houses of worship in Ocala today. Our foreparents built a beautiful church, it is now our responsibility to keep it up.

We have had some gifts this year to make the projects happen, but we still need to raise some money for all the large and small things

we need to do to our beautiful building. Soon we will let you know how you can help.

I'm excited about all the things coming in the next few months, the church picnic on May 19th and other fun events. Our adult Sunday School class is finishing the year with a wonderful study of Ephesians. The youth group is growing and we will be sending more kids to the Montreat youth conferences this year.

I'm impressed with the plans for our Vacation Bible School. Read the article about it later in this newsletter and please volunteer if you can. Tell your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and others about it. We had great attendance last year. Hopefully even more children can come learn Bible stories and some of the old songs June 24-28. Walk

Learning Summer Camp for Adults!

Want to learn a new skill or refresh and old skill? Join us for a practical Spanish class this summer! We will have four, 1-hour weekly sessions starting June 4th. Learn about regional and cultural differences, Spanish sounds, noun genders and everyday phrases. Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1. Please call the church office to enroll by the last week in May. Call Raul Roman with any questions: 727-389-6072.

Session Brief

Session Brief – April 7, 2024

- Approved acceptance of new members Sadia Corral Benkhalek, joining by Reaffirmation of Faith; Mary Lou Jordan, joining by Letter of Transfer from a Methodist Church in Citrus County; Mary Beth Manseau, joining by Letter of Transfer from North Lake Presbyterian Church, Lady Lake, FL.
- Approved removal of Alison Luther and Francis Belisle from our membership rolls.
- Approved a proposal from Campbell Spellicy Engineering for professional services for the design of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in the sanctuary.
- Approved Commissioners Tom Weaver and Jacquelyn Sexton and/or alternate Pat Greaves to attend the Presbytery Stated meeting on May 14, 2024 at Silver Springs Presbyterian Church.

New Members



Marybeth Manseau



Mary Lou Jordan



Sadia Corral Benkhalek



| INCOME AND EXPENSE JAN-MAR 2024 | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS | TOTAL INCOME | TOTAL EXPENSES |
| ANNUAL BUDGET | \$633,000 | \$751,652 | \$755,250 |
| YTD ACTUAL | \$191,127 | \$210,144 | \$141,384 |

| Attendance | 10 am | Online |
|------------|-------|--------|
| 3/31 | 244 | 87 |
| 4/7 | 108 | 76 |
| 4/14 | 111 | 49 |
| 4/21 | 123 | 35 |

FPC Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

Presbyterian Women, Pat Greaves, Moderator

To ALL women of First Presbyterian Church of Ocala

We have come to our last meeting in our study book as we approach Summer vacations. In May we will study Lesson Nine, found on page 77, in *Sacred Encounters: People Encounter Jesus Through the Word of the Disciples*, by Olive Mahabir. The main idea of the lesson discusses how the community of faith relies on the power of Jesus Christ in times of crisis.



THE SPRING GATHERING was held on Saturday, April 20th, 2024. Our guest speaker was Dr. Diane Whallon, the daughter of Rev. Dan and Cary Whallon who went to Taiwan in 1962 as missionaries to the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, where her parents served for 25 years. Her father, Dan, was Parish Associate here at First Presbyter-

ian Church of Ocala from 1987-1989. Diane told about her experiences as a child living with missionaries in Taiwan. It was a great time of fellowship for all participating. Rev. Ray Ruark and Rev. Joe Pickard, both ministering at our church, joined the ladies in hearing about Diane's travel experiences.



Kristen Crawford and Lannie Mercer

PW's HONORARY LIFE AWARD. As the former recipient, Lannie Mercer presented Kristen Crawford PW's Honorary Life Membership award for her commitment to Presbyterian Women over many years. Congratulations Kristen!! Job well done and appreciated.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, May 23rd, 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.

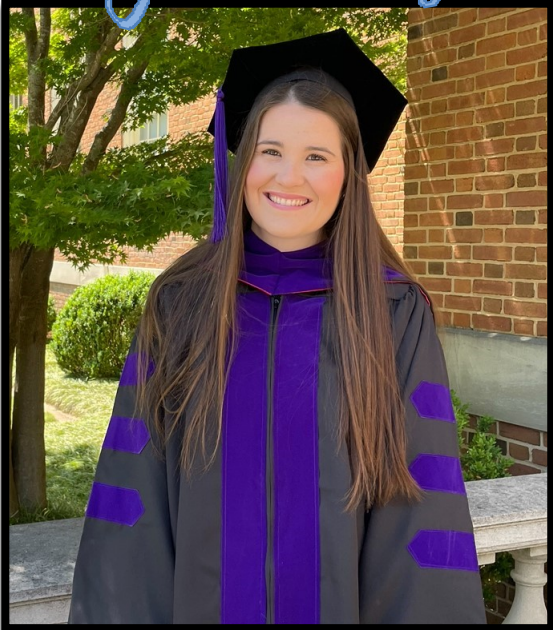
"God, we call thee God because we love thee. We are glad to be called thy children and to dedicate our lives to the service that extends through willing hearts and hands to the betterment of all humankind. Grant us strength, courage, faith, and humility sufficient for the tasks assigned to us. Amen."

Mary McLeod Bethune, 1875-1955 taken from the study book)

| Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for May 2024 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bible Study and Fellowship, and ways to serve with your Sisters in Christ | | | | | |
| | Date | Time | Meeting Place | Contact | Phone |
| Coordinating Team Mtg. | Tuesday, May 7 th | 5:30 p.m. | Conference Room | Pat Greaves | 352-236-0716 or 352-362-0013 cell |
| Circle 3 | Monday, May 20 th | 10:00 a.m. | Pat Greaves 5623 NW 25 th Loop Ocala, 34482 | Liz Dickmann | 352-362-0013 |
| Circle 4 | Tuesday, May 14 th | 6:30 p.m. | Conference Room | Debbie Koch | 352-873-7459 630-254-8844 cell |
| Circle 8 | Tuesday, May 14 th | 12:00 p.m. | Room 1 | Lois Clardy | 352-622-3053 |
| PRAYER SHAWL | Thursday May 23 rd | 1:30 p.m. | Conference Room | Liz Dickmann | |

Youth

Congratulations Graduates



Alexandra Sexton Folsom, above, will graduate from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, AL.



Vacation Bible School

FINDING JESUS

June 24th - 28th

The Word in the Water

First Presbyterian Church Ocala - 511 SE 3rd St
Open to 3 year olds (potty trained) - students entering 5th grade.

REGISTRATION NOW ONLINE
FPCOCALA.ORG/VBS-2024.HTML

May 4 - 8:30 a.m.

We will be serving our neighbors by performing yardwork and light landscaping for foster families around Ocala.

If you would like to participate or would like to contribute yard tools, please reach out to Carter Ullman.
carter.ullman@comcast.net or call (863)651-4863.

OPERATION
LOVE *Thy*
NEIGHBOUR

Caroline Cook, Left, FHS graduate, plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University and major in Psychology and possibly minor in Forensic studies. Activities involved were 4 years Varsity soccer, 2 years Varsity lacrosse, 1 year varsity beach volleyball ,NHS, Young Life, graduating with Highest Honors. Enjoys time on the coast, family and good friends.

Fellowship Committee



Sunday, May 19th

No Cost!

The Fellowship Committee invites you to a picnic! The picnic fare will include fried chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, and a variety of homemade cookies. Coffee, iced tea, and lemonade will be available.

Please bring the kids along! A special craft station will be set up just for them, ensuring they'll have a great time, too.



Join us after church for a great picnic lunch in the fellowship hall with some seating in the courtyard for outdoor enthusiasts!

Thank You

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, visits, and well wishes during my recovery from wrist surgery. My FPC family is so thoughtful and caring and I really felt the love! Julia Wirono



MEAL SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

The Fellowship Committee is exploring ways to provide opportunities for small groups of parishioners to socialize. It was suggested that a version of "Supper Clubs" having small groups gather for meals at different homes might be of interest to members. The meals could be potluck events for either Brunch, Lunch, or Dinner. Groups would be established based on location and time preferences. Please note your interest and return the form to the church office for inclusion in the Fellowship Committee mailbox!

I am interested in exploring meal sharing further. Please contact me:

Name: _____

Address: _____

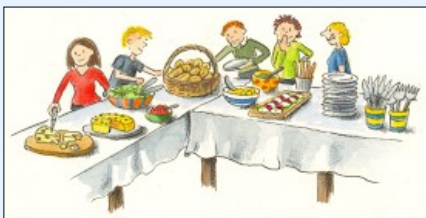
Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Easter 2024



Christian Outreach



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.

May Birthdays

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Mary Beth Olson Amy Curtis | 9 Wayne Curtis Camryn Johnson | 14 Barbara Wood | 24 Sue Gordon | 27 Joseph Moseley Andrew Wilke |
| 2 Andie Vorwerk | 10 Maggie Davis | 15 Patty Ann Schiefer Georgene Nolan | 25 Ann VanDenburgh | 29 Bryce Peek Jr. |
| 3 Robert Moore | 11 Ryleigh Gladdin Melanie Slaughter | Don McCormick Jimmy Kelly | 26 Joanne Woerner | 31 Joan Gennings Kelly Merians Davis |
| 5 Victoria Anne Sexton | 12 Carly Grace Albright | 16 Skyler Blair | | |
| 6 Hannah Evans | 13 Liz Diener- Dickmann | 18 Sharon Shirley | | |
| 8 Jackie Albright Cheryl Fante Anna Black-Curry | David Wayne Guest | 21 Waverly Church 23 Shep Dozier Hayden Kimball | | |

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Prayer List

Pat Bishop
Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)
Tania Blackwell (sister-in-law of Mary Kauffman)
Linda Blount (cousin of Janice Kelly, broken hip)
Andy Carlisle
Ella and Ray Charnley
Shirley Cochran
Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest,
cancer diagnosis)
Linda Deyton (sister of Annette Pickard)
Mina DiGeronimo
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
Chris Hasselkus
Andrea Mogg Jacque
Victoria Johnson (great-granddaughter of Christine)

CJ Jones (nephew of Margaret Trump)
Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)
Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)
John Koch (brother in law of Debbie Koch)
Gloria Miller
Jodi Miller (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)
Bruce Moore (hip surgery recovery)
Annette Morris (friend of Mary Kauffman)
Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)
Ruthanne and John Reiss
Vicki Roberts (on the death of her husband, Frank)
Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)
Becky Schatt (on the death of her brother)
Shelly (friend of Evelyn Longo, cancer diagnosis)
Rev. Ed Tenhor
Bob and Renee Timmer
Ann VanDenburgh
Robert Webber (brother of Ginny Miller)
William Wright



We recently announced that the Rev. David McChesney went home to be with his loving savior. There will be a memorial service to celebrate David's life on May 25, at Fort King Presbyterian Church, at 2:00 p.m. Please continue be in prayer for his family during this time of bereavement.



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

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Sent with a prayer to:

Men's Breakfast
Tuesday
May 14th
7:30 a.m.



Wolfy's
 (2159 E Silver Springs Blvd.)



Happy Mother's Day

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER May 2nd

First Thursday of May

WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



THE SPIRE is a monthly publication of
 First Presbyterian Church
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