



The Beacon

June 2020



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
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Staff Directory

Pastor: The Rev. Susan Takis
 Secretary: Pat Ledoux
 Accompanist: Eunice Mosier
 Music Director: Connie Emery

Session Members:

Rev. Susan Takis, Moderator
 Louise Fahey, Clerk of Session

Sharon Hamilton	John Ulrich
Louise Fahey	Chuck Loser
Carol Norton	Fran Simone
Jim Boring	Geoff Littlehale
JoAnn Raddi	

Church Diaconate:

Nancy Myers, Moderator	
Rev. Susan Takis, Advisor	
Jan Coleman	Nancy Caldwell
Dru Movizzo	Marilyn Englesbe
Amy Dunigan	Kim Stuchell



The Beacon is published monthly by the church staff and volunteers.
 Beacon Editor: Marge O’Kane.
Deadline for submitting an article for The Beacon is the 4th Friday of the prior month. The summer issue (July

& August) has a deadline of Friday, June 26. All articles submitted for consideration must include the author’s name, telephone or email, and are subject to editing.

Please submit information for all media sources, to fpcmedia203@gmail.com. If you’d like to have The Beacon sent to you via email, send your address to the office at fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com.

Our Mission is to be welcoming, caring and compassionate, joyfully celebrating the Lord while sharing His love and grace



Dear FPC Family,

There are no words to adequately describe how very much I miss seeing you each Sunday. One of the highlights of my week, and I know many of you feel the same, is the moment we see someone we love in the sanctuary and can run over and give them a hug or a handshake, and catch up on the news of the week. Not to mention the joy of gathering together to praise God in Word, prayer and music.

And yet, we know that those days are gone, at least for the time being. As this pandemic continues to wear us down emotionally, physically and spiritually, I, like you, yearn for those things mentioned above, even as I know most are a long way off and some may never be the same. And that causes sadness, and perhaps anger and distress, at least it does for me. As the Psalmist laments: *“Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress.”* [Psalm 102:1-2a, NRSV]

And yet, please know that even in the midst of so much uncertainty and change, the Holy Spirit is indeed doing a new thing. God will not hide God’s face from us, and the Spirit will indeed make all things new. Maybe different, but faithful and sacred nonetheless.

Your church leadership thanks all of you who have returned the postcard surveys and urges anyone who has not returned them to please do so. We also thank those of you who have been so supportive and understanding of our attempts to provide meaningful worship online during these trying times. For those of you who have wished for more, understand that so have we; however, the health of our staff, choir members and congregation have been at the forefront of our worship decisions. And we know that God rejoices in our attempts, no matter how inadequate.

Your Session faithfully studies data from many sources as it continues the discussion about in-person worship. As of this writing, no decision about a date has been made, but we will get the word out as soon as a decision is made. In the meantime, a group from the Worship Team, along with a few members with medical backgrounds, are looking at all the suggested protocols from various resources and

discerning what will be necessary to be in place as we re-open. Among the protocols being discussed are:

- ~ the wearing of masks
- ~ social distancing - every other pew roped off, six foot distancing in the pews, etc.
- ~ 40 worshippers at any one time to ensure social distancing = two services; maybe more.
- ~ Bibles, hymnals, pencils and envelopes removed from the pews.
- ~ Sanctuary sanitized between services and after final service each week.
- ~ Open doors to allow air circulation and specific entry and exit patterns.
- ~ No choir or congregational singing because of the research regarding moisture droplets.
- ~ Changes to passing of the peace, other interactive parts of the service.
- ~ Communion protocols are being discussed.
- ~ No fellowship following worship until it is absolutely safe to do so.

Friends, this is just a sampling of the things your church leadership is grappling with to address the desire to return to in-person worship coupled with the desire to practice safe worship in the midst of the on-going pandemic. However, we will not offer in-person worship until we feel it is quite safe to do so, and ask you to respect and understand that decision. I invite you to continue to pray for your pastor, elders, and deacons, as they strive to make faithful decisions and to serve you, our beloved congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination and love in this unprecedented time.



God will take care of us!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Susan

GRACE GROUP NOW ON

Much to the surprise of many, getting on Zoom is actually pretty easy. Everyone who tried joining the meeting got on!!!! Though we didn't share our usual pot luck dinner we did share lots of laughs catching up with each other's "new normal". Whether it was hearing about a broken foot, a trip to the hospital, more time for hobbies or communication more with family, we all agreed we have much to be thankful for. Next month will be "Show and Tell Time" as we see the projects we have all been working on. Bill Koster is building a replica of First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood for his miniature railroad village. Can't wait to see it!

If you are wondering about the process and how to get started, please feel free to call me (360-305-1577). Before using Zoom for the first time, download the free Zoom app (from the app store) onto a computer, I-pad or smart phone. It takes about a minute. Pastor Susan will send an email the day before the Zoom meeting with a link to the meeting as well as a password. Shortly before the meeting click on the link, enter the password and you are there. It's that easy!



Maryanne Scott



PLEASE NOTE: Dawn and Neville Cullen have a new email address:

Rustyd1940@msn.com

JOYFUL NOISE



Well, it has been nearly three months since our FPC Wildwood choir has made a joyful noise to the Lord. I miss it, as I'm sure most of you do as well. However, the health of our church family has been uppermost in our minds as we go forward. I hope the music we have been providing has fed your soul, although it's been more like a snack than the 3-course dinner of music you are used to!



Scientists have studied the effect of singing on the spread of the Covid19 virus, and have discovered that the virus travels farther when we are singing or playing a wind instrument because air is being sent out more powerfully. So even after we are back together it will be quite a while before the choir as a group will be singing in our places. We will once again have soloists and small ensembles when possible this summer. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to provide summer music.

Meanwhile, God Will Take Care of You, and know that my prayers and those of the whole choir are with you all.

Love in Christ,

Connie Emery
Music Director



Photo by Jan Coleman

**(l to r): Pastor Susan, Dorothy Breslin,
Lucille Ruth, Carolyn Lindgren**

Oh to be singing again!! It's been such a long time. I hope I have a voice when we finally start. Do voices get rusty when not in use for long time? Well, I guess we'll see.

Since I have some space in this square, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who sent sympathy cards to me when Neil died last month. I received a bunch – at least 75! Cards from friends and family mean so much. They remind you that you're not forgotten.

Hope to see everyone SOON!

Marge O'Kane
Editor, The Beacon



BANK ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICES

A number of people have expressed an interest in “online” donations to the church. As indicated in communications from Rev. Takis, one of the methods being researched is through the church’s website. This is a Stewardship Team project. Another “online” donation capability is currently available to most donors from their banks. Most banks today provide a “Bank Online” payment service. Use of this service requires you to set up online access with your bank enabling you to view your account balances, make transfers between accounts and make online payments.



Once you have accessed your online bank account, look for the payment service or bill payment service. You will be asked for the name and address (see below) of the payee. Account numbers for the church are not necessary as we will see your name on the check we receive from the bank. Because church envelope numbers do change over time, it is best not to use the envelope number as your church account number.

Once you supply the required information, you are often able to make a payment immediately. Also, many of the “bank online” payment services permit scheduling future payments on a recurring basis (weekly, monthly etc.).

The benefits of this “Bank Online” payment service include: you do not have to write a check, use a stamp or travel to the post office and the details of the transaction will be on your bank statement. If you want to make a payment for 2 cents a meal or One Great Hour of Sharing, etc. you are able to annotate that with your “Bank Online” payment. These special donations, as well as all other donations, will be included in your annual giving statement from our church as usual.

As of May 26, 2020, we have received “Bank Online” Payments from the following banks: Citizens, Wells Fargo, Chase, Capital One, Northern Trust and the USAA Federal Savings Bank. Internet review of the following banks reveal that they offer “Bank Online” payment services as well: Bank of America, SunTrust, BB&T, M&T Bank and MidFlorida CU. Now, almost all banks / credit unions offer online payment services.

First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood (or 1st Presbyterian Church Wildwood)
203 Barwick Street
Wildwood, FL 34785

If you have questions regarding “Bank Online” payment services, please let our church secretary (Pat Ledoux) know by calling (352-748-2530) or sending her an email (fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com). She will notify the Finance Team who will call you to provide assistance.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH MINISTRIES TEAM



The only way to combat the uncertainty that lies ahead is by taking care of your health!! Our health is always important but especially now during these unusual times.

There are many ways to stay healthy -- and be creative doing it -- during this pandemic. Read those books sitting on your night stand, or listen to audio books. Learn something new. Get some fresh air and move to the beat of your favorite songs. Take a break from the news and put on a favorite comedy. When they say laughter is the best medicine, they mean it. Find a few moments a day to laugh. Read the comics, watch a funny video or ask Alexa to tell you a joke!



Of course, a healthy diet is essential to having good health and focusing on making interesting and healthful meals is so important. This is a chance to try new recipes, add fresh fruits and veggies into your meal planning, and reward yourself now and then with something yummy!

As we move into different phases of opening the country, use this time to accomplish the needs of your mind, body and spirit. Make self-care a priority. You deserve it!

ST. VINCENT DePAUL FOOD PANTRY, LOCATED IN THE CLOW CENTER, STRIVES TO MEET THE COVID 19 CHALLENGES HEAD ON!



The SVdP Food Pantry has been especially challenged to continue to meet the ever growing demand for Food Pantry Services. High unemployment rates have increased the number of families needing food assistance.

At one point in servicing the increased demand, the SVdP Food Pantry joined in a cooperative effort with the United Methodist Church Food Pantry in Wildwood. Refrigerated trucks from Feeding Tampa Bay delivered pallets loaded with fresh meat and produce to the UMC pantry location every Friday where SVdP and UMC volunteers worked together to distribute the food. Currently, every other Friday and Monday, food is prepackaged by volunteer staff of SVdP and delivered curb side for drive by

client pick-up. They are looking forward to the time when their clients can once again come into the Pantry and select their own items based on food preferences.

The SVdP Food Pantry is open to receive food donations Monday thru Friday from 9-12. Monetary donations are very helpful as they do purchase food items as well as accept food donations. Food items they need the most are as follows: Canned meats such as ham, chicken, spam, chili, beef stew, chicken and dumplings, canned tuna, canned fruits, pork & beans, spaghetti sauce, laundry detergent.



Should you have additional questions, Food Pantry volunteers can be reached by calling 352-748-0778. Donations can be mailed to St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, 5323 East CR 462, Wildwood, FL 34785.

THE FORWARD PATHS FOUNDATION: ONE OF FPCW'S NEWEST MISSION ORGANIZATIONS

The Forward Paths Foundation is an organization that supports young people in the area who have recently been dropped from a Foster Care situation as they turn 18. This organization is dedicated to helping these young adults create individualized successful paths to independence through continuing education and life skills training. They provide temporary housing with adult supervision, counseling and guidance as they transition to living independently.



Studies show that 1 in 4 of aged out foster care youth end up incarcerated because of loss of supportive relationships, resources and life skills to become successful. The Forward Paths Foundation is working to support these vulnerable youth.



The FPCW Mission Team will be planning a towel collection for this organization (a specific item requested) when we are able to come together again after the pandemic passes. We are hopeful and thankful that many of you will be able to participate in this activity.

The Mission Team

UPDATE – HOUSE OF HOPE



Like so many organizations, the men from our Christian Addiction Recovery Ministry have suffered a major disruption in their program and their normal routines. This shutdown has been stressful for everyone, but for those with addictions, the last three months of down time for these young men has been extremely stressful, just when they need to be busy and feeling productive. Thankfully, they are strong in their faith and doing well. We now have seven residents and have openings for two or three more now that the virus is subsiding.

The good news is that Lee Williams has volunteered as our Academic Director and will coordinate reestablishing classes and instructors beginning mid-June. Anyone interested in helping these young men with mentoring, training or classes please advise us by return Email, website or phone at House of Hope.

Special needs for volunteers:

- 1) **Meal planning** – We need one or two volunteers to coordinate healthy meals for our residents. These men will be able to cook for themselves with proper training and planning. Let us know if you or your friends can help us out. Please contact Mary Starkey at 352-348-0840 or email starkeymb@embarqmail.com.
- 2) **Saturday Car Wash** – We will restart our major fundraiser in a few weeks, but need to get more people to volunteer before we can begin. If you or your friends are interested in donating a few hours, please contact Mary Starkey at 352-348-0840 or email starkeymb@embarqmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration, and your prayers, services and support. We pray that you and your families are well and safe during these trying times.

God bless you all,
House of Hope Directors

2020 MID YEAR MISSION REPORT

1 Corinthians 13: 13 King James Version “And now these three remain: faith, hope and charity (love). But the greatest of these is charity (love).”



The Mission Team is pleased to report that, per normal practice, the following disbursements have been made to several mission organizations on behalf of our congregation. We know that we have not been able to be together during this pandemic, and therefore not able to participate in special mission collection activities as we normally do early each year. We did have one project originally scheduled for April, but is now on hold until it is safe to gather together, shop, organize and disburse products. In the meantime, please be assured that your church continues to be in mission on your behalf as best we can. We thank you all for your continued generosity.

Disbursements to date:	
Basic Mission Support to the Central Florida Presbytery	\$5,500
Special Pastor’s Discretionary Fund (Gifts from members)	\$1,400
House of Hope	\$1,000
House of Hope (Shoes were purchased and delivered)	\$ 150
Wildwood Soup Kitchen	\$ 900
Lazarus Free Medical Clinic	\$ 500
Community Medical Care Center	\$ 750
Infant and Toddler Pantry	\$ 100
Forward Path’s Aged Out Foster Care Kids	\$ 550
Gulf Coast Women’s Shelter/Magdalene House	\$ 500
2 cents per meal (Presbyterian’s Answer to Hunger PATH)	\$ 422
Total Mid-Year Disbursements	\$11,772
Sincerely, The Mission Team	

FACING THE LIGHT

By Rosemary A. Rusinko, Contributor, from *The Fishwrapper*



My daffodils budded earlier than usual that year because of the warm weather.

They fully flowered on the eve of St. Patrick’s Day due to 60 degree temperatures. There were thirty-three, in honor of each year Jesus lived on earth (or so I wanted to believe).

Amazingly, the next day it snowed. In the week that followed, more damaging snow and sleet, strong winds and heavy rain flattened the fragile yellow flowers right to the ground.

Eventually I stopped being concerned for their survival. I noticed they would spring right back up again and again in the presence of the sun. The blossoms always faced the sun, fixed on the direct source of slight.

If only we would be like the daffodils, I thought, swaying with His Will, rooted in His Strength, reaching up with His Love and Light.

Contributed by Cheryl Boring

Hello!

Hello Dear CMC's! It feels like FOREVER ago that I last saw you. I pray that you are all doing well. This pandemic has been a different time for sure. We haven't met in a couple of months and I am open to a June CMC Meeting if you feel up to it. Please reply and let me know if you will come or not. Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, June 16, 9:30am, Love INC Conference Room.

There has been a lot going on here at Love INC.

We have a few exciting things coming up that I want you to know about and help spread the word...when we spread the word, those who can and want to will and those who can't or don't want to won't.



Clearinghouse (Help Center)

The Clearinghouse phones continue to ring steadily. If you know someone in your church who may be a good fit for volunteering, please let us know.

Centsible Furnishings

The Store is now open. 10am-5pm Monday-Friday. Those who volunteer and want to return, may. Those who don't feel up to it yet, that's ok.

Donations Center

The Donations Center is now open also. 10am-4pm Monday-Friday.

For information only, due to the backlog of Donation/Furniture pick-ups we are on a waitlist. If you have anyone with twin or full/queen beds, or couches, gently-used, of course, they will get priority as we have need for those items. We are working to prioritize the incoming pick-ups to serve clients as efficiently, as possible. (Not to mention everything is staying in our warehouse over a week before being delivered back into the community.)

6th Annual Clothe-A-Kid

6th Annual Clothe-A-Kid @ Kohl's is happening July 28th & 30th. Flyers for your church (and friends) are available NOW at Love INC. If you reply with the number of flyers you would like for your church I will set them aside for you, or even have them delivered to your church for you (please let me know who to give them to at the church).

Save the date, 8th Annual Trivia Night @ NLPC

Everyone loves a good trivia question! (I didn't know I liked trivia until Love INC showed me the way.) The 8th Annual Trivia Night is set for Monday, September 28th at 6pm at North Lake Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$10. Tickets will be available at the June/July meetings (or at Love INC).

Save the date, 10th Annual Christmas Blessings



10th Annual Christmas Blessings is happening Saturday, December 5th, 10am-12pm. Flyers will be available at the July/August/September meetings (or at Love INC).

We have lots of flyers here in the office so unless your church prints it inside the bulletin, please pick up flyers. We want to be responsible with your church's printing.

Blessings,
Dana Parker