



# The Beacon



April 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood  
203 Barwick Street  
Wildwood, Florida 34785  
Website: [www.fpcwildwood.org](http://www.fpcwildwood.org)  
Phone: 352-748-2530  
E-Mail: [fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com](mailto:fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com)

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Staff Directory**

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

**Elders:**

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

Jim Boring            Mike England  
Sharon Hamilton    Carol Norton  
Fran Simone        Maryanne Scott  
Geoff Littlehale    JoAnn Raddi

**Church Diaconate:**

Nancy Myers, Moderator  
Rev. Susan Takis, Advisor  
Carol Copper        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 25<sup>th</sup> day of the prior***

***month. May’s deadline is Thursday, April 22.*** 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](mailto: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](mailto:fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com).

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



***A Note From Your Pastor:***  
**Seasons**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven....*

As I write my final article for the Beacon, I am reminded of these words above from the writer of Ecclesiastes. For we are nearing the end of a season here at FPC as my time with you is coming to an end. We have worked vigorously, laughed mightily, prayed persistently, and grown spiritually over the past 4.5 years. I am in awe of the faithfulness of each one of you as we have discerned and then enacted in many important and fruitful ways the call to serve Christ through the mission and ministry of this fine church.

It is with heartfelt gratitude for each one of you and with a very full heart for what you mean to me that I write these words. The joy I feel for the work we have done together and the new horizons ahead for this church is tempered with profound sadness about leaving a congregation full of people that I have come to love so deeply in the 4.5 years I have served as your pastor. Although my season of ministry here at FPC was shorter than any of us could have anticipated, and the decision to leave you at this juncture was truly one of the hardest decision I have made in my life, I know that God’s hand was in the decision, and God’s hand will be in not only my future, but yours as well. And even as I say goodbye, I will be forever blessed that you have allowed me into your homes, into your hospital rooms, and into your times of greatest joy and deepest sorrow. I will always be grateful for you, and will carry each one of you deep in the core of my heart.

It has been my profound privilege and honor to serve this congregation. May God continue to bless you and your family and may God continue to bless this great church. May God be with you ‘till we meet again.

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan

## **MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

***In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the March 24, 2021 Stated Meeting of the Session:***

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Elder Sharon Hamilton.
- ~ **Recited** the Session Covenant of Leadership.
- ~ **Welcomed** Rev. Dr. Dan Williams, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Central Florida Presbytery, who explained to the Session the steps in finding an interim pastor, what that interim period would look like, and how the process toward finding an installed pastor worked. He answered several questions from the elders.
- ~ **Approved** a motion, following discussion, to elect Elder Geoff Littlehale, Deacon Nancy Myers, and Deacon Amy Dunigan to serve on the interim search committee, if they agree. (Note: Amy declined, so Session subsequently voted to elect Elder Mike England to serve.)
- ~ **Approved** the request of Bill Bradford to move his church membership to North Lake Presbyterian Church by letter of transfer.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the finance team. Our church finances are in good shape.
- ~ **Approved** a motion from the Clerk of Session to call a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 11:15am for the purpose of concurring with Rev. Susan Takis' request to dissolve her pastoral relationship with FPC Wildwood effective May 31, 2021.
- ~ **Approved** a motion to purchase a new Zoom account for the church once the current one expires on April 20, 2021.
- ~ **Discussed** the urgent need for someone to take the position of Buildings & Grounds chair.
- ~ **Approved** a motion from the Personnel Team for the hiring of Linda Ehrisman as part-time church secretary.
- ~ **Approved** a motion to have the Clow Center and the front of the sanctuary building power washed before Easter.
- ~ **Discussed** plans for the Palm Sunday "dress rehearsal" with the deacons and elders in preparation for the start of in-person worship Easter Sunday.
- ~ **Reviewed** reports from the various teams of the church.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Elder Louise Fahey.

***Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Moderator of Session***

### **CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood calls a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, April 18, at 11:15am, following the 10:30am Worship Service. The purpose of the meeting is to concur with Rev. Susan Takis' request to dissolve her pastoral relationship with FPC Wildwood effective May 31, 2021.**

**Rev. Takis' final Sunday in the pulpit is April 25.**

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PASTORAL TRANSITION

You may be wondering, and even a little anxious about what happens once Pastor Susan steps down as pastor. Never fear; one of the blessings of being Presbyterian is we are not left alone in this process; the Central Florida Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) walks with us every step of the way. In fact, the process is already in motion. At the March 24 Session Meeting, Rev. Dr. Dan Williams, Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk of the presbytery met with the elders and explained the process and answered many questions. The process goes something like this:

- The Session elects an interim search committee to work with the presbytery executive on securing an interim minister. They will be given a few PIF's (resumes) by the presbytery and will interview and select one. The interim search committee has already been elected by the Session: Elder Geoff Littlehale, Elder Mike England, and Deacon Nancy Myers.
- Pastor Susan's last day in the pulpit is April 25. In May, we welcome to the pulpit:
  - May 2: Rev. Dr. Dan Williams
  - May 9: Rev. Lee MacCallum
  - May 16, 23, 30: Rev. Bill Kramp
- By June, the COM will assign a COM liaison to the church who will make sure the process goes forward as it should. Hopefully by June the interim will be hired. If not, the presbytery will assign a session moderator and pulpit supply to cover until the interim is in place.
- Once the interim is in place, they will work with the COM liaison and church leadership to complete the interim tasks such as guiding the church through understanding not only its history but its future, assessing the leadership pool and financial situation of the church, assessing the health of the church, etc, as well as preaching and providing pastoral care.
- The interim pastor and COM liaison will inform the presbytery when it is appropriate for the church to form the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This step cannot be taken without presbytery approval.
- The PNC is a committee of the congregation. Typically, the PNC is elected in much the same way as elders and deacons. The current Congregational Nominating Team, which the congregation elected to serve for 2021-2022 will nominate people to serve on the PNC, getting input from the congregation like they do now when nominating elders and deacons. The names will come to the congregation in a meeting and will be voted on just like elders and deacons. The 2021-2022 Congregational Nominating Committee who will be tasked with this work of identifying nominees for the PNC are: Jerry Emery, Carol Norton (chair), Donna Madison, Ed McCombs, Sandy McKee.
- The PNC will be trained by the presbytery and will accomplish their work confidentially. When they have found the person God is calling to serve as pastor, a congregational meeting will be called to hear and act upon their report.
- There are many other steps in this process, but these are the highlights. Be patient! The process usually takes 12-18 months. But God is guiding this church each step of the way!

**First Presbyterian Church of**  
**Wildwood**

**2021 SESSION**

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

**Class of 2021:**

Jim Boring (717)475-1166  
Sharon Hamilton (631)680-1181  
Fran Simone (352) 553-6296

**Class of 2022:**

Louise Fahey (540)272-0207  
Geoff Littlehale (352)633-9358  
JoAnn Raddi (954)873-8847

**Class of 2023:**

Maryanne Scott (360)305-1577  
Mike England (815)814-4590  
Carol Norton (352)459-1588

**2021 DIACONATE**

**Nancy Myers, Moderator**  
**Rev. Susan Takis, Advisor**

**Class of 2021:**

Nancy Caldwell (248)766-2100  
Carol Copper (540)439-2287  
Amy Dunigan (302)753-4128

**Class of 2022:**

Dru Movizzo (603)425-4054  
Nancy Myers (412)977-4560

**Class of 2023:**

Marilyn Englesbe (352)446-7862  
Kim Stuchell (352)446-8204

**2021 FPC TEAM CONTACTS**

Pastor: Rev. Susan Takis (904)434-6752  
Clerk of Session: Louise Fahey (540)272-0207  
Moderator of Diaconate:  
Nancy Myers (412)977-4560  
Secretary: Linda Ehrisman (352)748-2530  
Choir Director: Connie Emery (630)334-6201  
Accompanist: Eunice Mosier (352)323-5758

**Administration/Personnel:**

Carol Norton (352)459-1588

**Beacon (Newsletter):**

Marge O’Kane (352)259-5181

**Buildings & Grounds: \_\_\_\_\_**

Clow Center: Sharon Hamilton (631)680-1181

**Connection/Fellowship:**

Mike England (815)814-4590

Geoff Littlehale (352)633-9358

Finance: Maryanne Scott (360) 305-1577

**Flower Calendar:**

Linda Ehrisman (352)748-2530

Ladies’ Lunch: Carol Norton (352)459-1588

**Men’s Gathering:**

Mike England (815)814-4590

Geoff Littlehale (352)633-9358

Mission: Suzanne Gordon (479)283-1226

Outreach: JoAnn Raddi (954)873-8847

Dru Movizzo (603)425-4054

Fran Simone (352)553-6296

**PW Circle (Tuesday):**

Shirley Palazzo (352)751-0869

**PW Circle (Wednesday):**

Lona Lunden (724)396-4490

**PW Circle (Thursday):**

Harriet Stein (314)518-6573

Stewardship: Maryanne Scott (360)305-1577

Treasurer: Carol McCombs (352)751-2595

Ushers: Michele Loser (765)620-0310

Worship: Louise Fahey (540)272-0207



**HURRAY!!**



131 towels, 16 hand towels and 64 wash clothes were donated by our church members during March. They have been distributed between the House of Hope, the Haven House, and Forward Path. A card was put in each bag stating a Bible verse and that they were donated by members of our church. The other side of the card contained the church address, pastor's name, phone number, email and an invitation to join us in worship.

The estimated dollar amount of the collection was \$1,401. Thanks to everyone who donated!!

The Mission Team

### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the denomination's single largest way for all Presbyterians to come together at Easter to continue building God's household throughout the world. It offers people everywhere relief from hunger as well as from natural and human-caused disasters.

OGHS is an acknowledgement that the Church has always existed beyond the doors of any building, and it underscores experientially Scripture's call to each of us that the Church belongs to those in need. (See Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25.) Each gift to OGHS helps to improve lives through the implementation of three impactful programs:

- (1) the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program,
- (2) the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and
- (3) the Self-Development of People Program.

This year's offering will be received on Easter Sunday and throughout April. Please give generously and earmark your check for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Suzanne Gordon

### **Best Wishes, Pat and Welcome, Linda!**

We give thanks to Pat Ledoux for her years of faithful service as our church secretary, and wish her well in her retirement. Even as we say a fond farewell to Pat, we welcome Linda Ehrisman as our new secretary. Linda lives in Leesburg, and has many years experience in office management and accounting. She is currently training with Pat in the office. Stop by and say goodbye to Pat and hello to Linda when you have a chance.

## April 2021

Thursday, April 1	Thursday PW Circle Meeting (Zoom)	2:00pm
Friday April 2	Sanctuary Open for Prayer (at 12:00 Pastor Susan will read the Passion Narrative)	11:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday April 4	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	8:30am
Sunday April 4	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	10:30am
Monday April 5	Easter Monday Church Office Closed	
Tuesday April 6	Tuesday PW Circle-Meeting (Zoom)	2:00pm
Wednesday April 7	Worship Team Meeting	9:00am
Wednesday April 7	Mission Team Meeting	10:30am
Sunday April 11	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	8:30am (If Needed)
Sunday April 11	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	10:30am
Tuesday April 13	Finance Team (Zoom)	10:00am
Wednesday April 14	Wednesday PW Circle Meeting (Zoom)	10:00am
Wednesday April 14	Grace Group Meeting (Zoom)	3:00pm
Sunday April 18	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	8:30am (If Needed)
Sunday April 18	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	10:30am
Sunday April 18	Congregational Meeting	11:15am
Wednesday, April 21	Session Meeting	1:00pm
Sunday April 25	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	8:30am (If Needed)
Sunday April 25	Worship Service (Reservations Required)	10:30am
Sunday April 25	Outdoor Fellowship	11:15am



### **FPC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

Do you like to play in the dirt? Do you love to tinker and fix things?

Do you like to lead a group of dedicated volunteers?



We are looking for a person to lead our buildings and grounds team. We need someone with flexible hours during the day to be available to respond to issues as they arise (and to delegate the work to a willing team of volunteers!), to keep our maintenance contracts and contractors on schedule and to oversee our buildings and grounds budget and make monthly written reports to session.

If this volunteer opportunity interests you, please contact Pastor Susan and let's chat!