



The Beacon



February 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
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Wildwood, Florida 34785
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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 25th day of

the prior month. March’s deadline is Thursday, February 25. 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



**A Note From Your Pastor:
Why Do We as Presbyterians
Observe Lent?**

When I was a little girl, I was always fascinated when my Catholic friends would come to school with ashes on their forehead on Ash Wednesday or would give up something that was very special to them during the long 40-days of the Lenten season. As an adult, I am very thankful that Lent has made its way back into the Protestant tradition in many mainline denominations. Lent is loaded with possibilities for deep spiritual formation and discipleship. Author Wes Vanderlugt sites three reasons why observing Lent is beneficial to our faith journeys:

Lent structures our time according to redemptive rhythms. The way we structure our time says volumes about what we value. As Eugene Peterson says: “Hours and days, weeks and months and years, are the very stuff of holiness.” Weekly Sabbath is one of the primary ways we can harness our time for holiness and structure our weeks according to redemptive rhythms. Another way is to observe carefully the church calendar, experiencing the passing of time according to the celebration of Christ’s life and the festivals, feasts and fasts of the church. Lent gets us into this rhythm and helps us remember that all time is God’s time, with Jesus Christ at the center.

Lent helps us develop responsive attentiveness to the Triune God. Prayer and contemplation play a central role in observing Lent. Whether individually or corporately, a sustained season of prayer and contemplation enables us to listen to the Spirit speaking through Scripture and others believers. Lent is a time, therefore, to develop responsive attentiveness to the Triune God through prayer and for the purpose of following Jesus more faithfully.

Lent connects our Christian practice with the life of the whole church. We often think of our spiritual formation in individual terms: *my* prayers, *my* Bible reading, *my* fasting. Something important happens, however, when we realize our connectedness to millions of other Christians engaged in the same practices. This testifies to unity of God’s

people: we are one body with one Spirit and one hope because of our one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and one God (Ephesians 4:4-6). So as we begin to restructure our time and develop responsive attentiveness to the Triune God, we are united to Christian around the world.

I invite you to begin this Lenten journey together with your brothers and sisters in Christ on **Wednesday, February 17 at 4pm outdoors in front of our church** as we focus our hearts on Christ, worship together and celebrate communion.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Susan

January Session Highlights

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the January 20 Stated Meeting of the Session:

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Rev. Susan Takis.
- ~ **Recited** the Session Covenant of Leadership.
- ~ **Examined** Carol Copper for ordination as a Deacon in the PC(USA). After a wonderful conversation with Carol, the Session approved her ordination, set for January 31, 2021.
- ~ **Reviewed** the end of the year financial update. We are ending the year on a very positive note.
- ~ **Approved** the 2021 FPC budget. Special thanks to John Ulrich, Maryanne Scott, Carol McCombs and the rest of the finance team for their hard and faithful work in presenting a balanced budget to the Session. God continues to bless this church with faithful stewards to watch over our financial resources.
- ~ **Approved** minutes of the December 16, 2020 Stated Meeting of Session and the December 17, 2020 Called Congregational Meeting.
- ~ **Approved** a request from Rosemary Ganci for her church membership to be transferred to Christ Lutheran Church in Summerfield, FL.
- ~ **Discussed** moderator and clerk expectations for the session's work together this year and discussed new protocols for publicity for bulletin announcements and Beacon.
- ~ **Approved** 2021 dates for the following: Stated Session Meetings, Communion, Special Worship Services, PC(USA) Special Offerings.
- ~ **Approved** 2021 homebound communion to be served by one Minister of the Word & Sacrament and at least one Ruling Elder or Deacon, to be reported at the next Stated Session meeting.
- ~ **Approved** the following people to serve in 2021: Louise Fahey, Clerk of Session; Carol McCombs, Treasurer; Mike England, Assistant Treasurer; Carol Norton, Nominating Committee Chair.
- ~ **Nominated** the following people to serve as FPC Corporate Officers in 2021: President, Sharon Hamilton; Vice-President, Jim Boring; Secretary, Louise Fahey; Treasurer, Carol McCombs. This slate will come before the congregation at the January 31, 2021 annual meeting.
- ~ **Approved** asking the congregation for donations of \$19.25 each toward the denominational per capita
- ~ **Discussed** the impact of the pandemic, concerns of the congregation and concerns of the leadership. No new actions were taken at this time. Louise Fahey, worship chair, will prepare an article for the February Beacon describing protocol for re-opening.
- ~ **Reviewed** reports from the various teams of the church.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Rev. Susan Takis.

Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Moderator of Session

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP



We are all anxious to return to in-person worship. Your Session, as well as our special Covid Response Team (Amy Dunigan, Louise Fahey, Chuck & Michelle Loser, and Rev. Takis) have worked tirelessly over the past 9 months reading articles from the CDC, WHO, the PC(USA) and many other sources, discussing pros and cons of when to reopen, and how to do it safely.

As we move closer to that time, we want to let you know about the protocols that the Covid Response Team has been working on to provide a safe worship experience for everyone. At first, worship will look quite different from when we last worshipped together in the sanctuary on March 8, 2020. However, as time goes by, we will lift protocols as it is safe to do so.

Here is what worship will look like at first:

- In order to keep a safe 6' distance, the sanctuary will hold about 35 people. So reservations will be required and there will more than likely be more than one service.
- The doors will open 15 minutes before the start of the service through the side doors and once seated you are asked to stay in your seat for the length of the service.
- Wearing masks which cover your nose and mouth and social distancing will be required. You will be asked to use hand sanitizer before an usher shows you to your seat (so you may not be sitting in "your" pew).
- At first, there will be no "active" passing of the peace or responsive readings or congregational singing. It is found that these activities are super-spreaders. As soon as we learn otherwise, we look forward to adding these liturgical elements back into the service.
- The service will last approximately 30 minutes, which is the length of time the CDC recommends for indoor gatherings.
- We will exit through the Narthex and the ushers will release the rows one by one. Those with walking challenges will be accommodated through the side doors as necessary.
- Special protocols will be in place for collection of the offering and for communion.
- We will not be able to gather in the fellowship hall after worship for quite some time but look forward to the day we can do so.

We will continue to follow CDC and other official guidelines regarding masks and social distancing as well as singing and gathering in larger groups. I know this is not what we'd like to hear, but rest assured your Session, Covid Response Team, and Worship Team will continue working to ensure a safe return for everyone.

We are in God's hands and trust God will continue to guide us during this trying time.

Louise Fahey,
Worship Team Chair



To Pastor Susan and the Congregation:

I want to thank you all for the thoughtful, caring beautiful condolences on the passing of our dear Debbie. For 17 years she fought the battle of breast cancer with grace. A sweet soul with always a smile facing each day unafraid. Please continue to keep Mike, her husband, Keri, her daughter, Everly, her granddaughter, Stan, Bobby and Josh, her brothers, her father Stan and me in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to heal.

*Thank you,
Margaret Clarke*

FPC Wildwood

PUBLICITY MADE EASY



Write Article:

Be sure to include who, what, where, when, how, and any cost involved.
(Articles may be edited due to space constraints.)

Submit:

Email to fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com



Indicate which media to use:

Weekly E-Mail, Sunday Bulletin and/or Beacon



Media	Deadline	Limits of Publication
Weekly E-Mail and/or Sunday Bulletin	Tuesday before 1:00 p.m.	3 weeks
Beacon	Beacon is due the 25 th of the month (by noon) <u>prior</u> to publication.	3 weeks



A FRIENDLY GUIDE FOR UNDERSTANDING OUR CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

subtitled: "Which One Do I Use When?"

fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com - This is the church office email. Any general church communication and/or specific communication with Pat Ledoux goes to this email. This is also where any announcements or articles for the Beacon or weekly email announcements/bulletin announcements are, and Pat will disseminate to the Beacon editor or put in weekly announcements, etc. This is a "public" email account that the secretary, pastor and clerk of session have access to.

susanfpcw@gmail.com - This is Susan's pastoral email and you will receive emails directly written by her to you from this email address. Anything emailed to this email address comes directly to her and no one else sees it.

fpcwclerk@gmail.com - This is the email that is used for Session business, minutes and reports for Session packets, etc. Team leaders are asked to use this email to send in their monthly minutes and reports. Both the clerk of Session and moderator of Session have access to this email.

fpcmedia203@gmail.com *is no longer in use.* Please use the church office email to send any articles for the Beacon or weekly announcements, as explained above.

(Continued)

Mailchimp - Any "all church" emails like the weekly emails with prayer concerns or announcements of a member death, etc. come through an email program called "mailchimp." Even though the sender line usually says either "Pat Ledoux" or "Pastor Susan" it is really not a direct email but more like a mailing list, so even though an email would get back to Pat if you reply, it is not recommended that you use this to send emails to the church.



A FRIENDLY GUIDE FOR UNDERSTANDING ZOOM LINKS

subtitled: "Does It Matter Which Link I Use?"

Hopefully, it won't be too much longer until Zoom is a thing of the past and all our church meetings and fellowship events are in person rather than over the computer. But until then, here is one helpful hint: A link from one event won't work for another event. In other words, a link for a PW Circle meeting won't work for the Sunday fellowship time or a team meeting, etc. Each link is unique to that particular event.



JOYFUL NOISE



On our way home from the annual meeting, I puzzled over why people in our church feel so strongly about getting back to in-person worship. I truly think our congregation has a special bond with each other. In a large, anonymous church, members may be perfectly content to have virtual services. But we literally miss the closeness, the camaraderie, the FAMILY that is FPC Wildwood.

Pastor Susan shared with me an article that came from the Wisconsin Council of Churches just this January. It's called "Holding Our Plans Loosely, Returning to Church 2.0." The primary things to look for, the study says, are Vaccination rates (at least 50%) and Transmission rate (5-10 per 100,000). Current vaccination rate in Sumter County is 12%. Transmission rate is 39.3 per 100K. This info is from the website covidactnow.org, updated 1/31/21.

I want to thank all the members who have helped lead worship over the last year: Dorothy Breslin, our faithful friend, always willing and eager to help, Lucille Ruth, Ken Myers, Nancy Myers, Richard Barnes, Dru Movizzo, Scotty Scott, Lee & Louise MacCallum, and Jerry Emery. Please know my wish is to see all the choir and congregation back in their places, SAFELY!

Until then, I pray that we all stay healthy.

With Love,
Connie Emery, Music Director



Small Group Luncheon – On Thursday, January 14th, this Small Group had lunch at Wolfgang Puck Restaurant in Brownwood..

THE MISSION TEAM'S TOWEL COLLECTION

The Mission Team is organizing a bath towel collection during February to support three Mission organizations: the **House of Hope**, the **Haven** and the **Forward Paths Foundation for Aged Out Foster Care Youth**. We recently learned that bath towels are needed for the men, women and children supported by these organizations. We hope you can donate at least one new or gently used bath towel during the month of February.



Many of you are familiar with the ministries of the **House of Hope** (men participating in a 12-month faith based program to help them recover from substance abuse) and the **Haven** (women and children surviving domestic abuse). **The Forward Paths Foundation** supports young people that 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.** The Forward Paths Foundation is working to support these vulnerable youth. One way we can help is with this simple towel collection.



Please drop off your towel donation at the church on Tuesday-Thursday between 9:00-1:00. Or at the home of Suzanne Gordon at 1701 Bugle Terrace in The Village of Sable Chase. There will be a bin on her front porch.

Thank you for your participation!



Blessings to all,
The 2021 Mission Team

PICTURES FROM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 31, 2021 (Photos by Richard Barnes. More On Following Page.)





FEBRUARY 2021

Tuesday, Feb. 2	Tuesday PW Circle Meeting (Zoom)	2:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 3	Mission Team Meeting (Zoom)	10:30am
Thursday, Feb. 4	Thursday PW Circle Meeting (Zoom)	2:00pm
Sunday, Feb. 7	Fellowship (Zoom)	11:30am
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Finance Team Meeting (Zoom)	10:00am
Wednesday, Feb. 10	Wednesday PW Circle Meeting (Zoom)	10:00am
Wednesday, Feb. 10	Grace Group (Zoom)	3:00pm
Sunday, Feb. 14	Fellowship (Zoom)	11:30am
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Stated Session Meeting	2:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Ash Wednesday Outdoor Service (Communion)	4:00pm
Sunday, Feb. 21	Fellowship (Zoom)	11:30am
Sunday, Feb. 28	Fellowship (Zoom)	11:30am

We were so fortunate to have beautiful weather. It was clear and the temperature was moderate; there was a breeze, but not enough to make a difference. And it wasn't 40 degrees as it is today (Tuesday)!

