



The Beacon

March 2018



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
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Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Staff Directory

Pastor: The Rev. Susan Takis
Secretary: Janet Cressman
Accompanist: Eunice Mosier
Interim Music Director: Connie Emery
Parish Associate: Dr. Howard Newman

Session Members:

Barb England John Ulrich
Louise Fahey Chuck Loser
Tom McKee Carole Norton
Fran Simone

Church Diaconate:

Nancy Myers, Moderator
Rev. Susan Takis, Advisor
Jan Coleman Connie Emery
Dru Movizzo
Janie Kirkpatrick Marilyn Englesbe



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 or sooner if at all possible.** April’s deadline is Friday, March 23. 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:

Soli Deo Gloria: To God Alone Be the Glory

The first question in the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, written in the 1600’s and one of the documents in our *Presbyterian Book of Confessions* goes like this:

Q1: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.



If you have been a Presbyterian for any length of time, you more than likely have heard that question and answer. It gets at the heart of our Reformed theology and informs our behavior and choices in life. As Presbyterians, we focus our lives on God made known to us in Jesus Christ, and respond to God’s grace by glorifying and enjoying God.

I think we do this very well at FPC, and I want to rejoice with you in a few ways that we do indeed glorify God and enjoy God. We honor God through our weekly worship, and your consistent attendance, friendliness to visitors, and the commitment from the choir, liturgists and ushers shows me that God is indeed central in your lives.

We glorify God in other areas too. Our love of and commitment to mission, especially mission to those in the immediate Wildwood area, a poverty-stricken area for sure, is strong. It makes my heart sing to see so many of you involved in the various missions of this church. Mission giving is up both monetarily as well as through your time and talents, and that is Good News indeed. So many of you have given of your time to the Soup Kitchen, Love Inc, Wildwood School initiatives, Haven House, House of Hope, etc. What a gift to our community. We are also well on our way toward our goal of at least 10% mission giving in our budget, thanks to your generosity. It may take a bit longer to get there, but get there we will!

Our commitment to the future of the ministry and mission of this church is another way we glorify God. Our finance team and Session have made the commitment to intentionally grow our Capital Reserve fund so we would be prepared for buildings and grounds emergencies and maintenance. Many of you have also given one-time direct gifts for things like doors, irrigation systems, lighting, bushes, paint, as well as your individual directed mission giving to those in need through our numerous special offerings throughout the year.

As we continue to find more and more ways to glorify God and enjoy God, especially outside these four walls as we reach out to our community and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ far and wide, I invite you to take a moment to thank God for your blessings and to ask God to help you find particular ways that you can glorify and enjoy God in the coming months and years. Imagine what God has in store for each of us and this special church!

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Susan



FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the February 20, 2018, Stated Session Meeting:

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Ruling Elder Louise Fahey.
- ~ **Approved** minutes from the January 20, 2018 Stated Meeting of the Session and the February 11, 2018 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
- ~ **Approved** Fran Simone to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioner at the Stated Meeting of the Central Florida Presbytery on March 3, 2018.
- ~ **Heard** a report from the Session Moderator. She reported that we have had several visitors lately and three have expressed interest in joining the church.
- ~ **Discussed at length** the Annual Congregational Meeting and two letters which the session has received from a church member. John Ulrich led the Session through a very detailed report of our church finances, and especially emphasized our numbers in the areas of mission expenditures and growth, buildings and grounds expenses, and “rainy day funds” such as the Capital Reserve Fund and Memorial Fund. After extended conversation and deep thanks to John and the finance team for their hard work, the Session expressed their continued support for the 2018 budget that was passed at the January 16, 2018 Stated Session Meeting and for the ways the finance team is looking out for our future and the ways in which we are moving closer and closer to the goal of at least 10% mission giving. The Session then discussed at length ways to communicate the state of our finances better to the congregation and we will implement those plans immediately. As always, John Ulrich, finance chair, or any member of the finance team is available and willing to discuss any questions you may have about the current church finances or long-term projections.
- ~ **Heard** a report from Louise Fahey about several Safety Workshops she has recently attended. She will continue to follow through on reporting ideas she learns about.
- ~ **Heard** a report from Rev. Takis about a new insurance policy proposal for the church that could potentially save us money for the same or better coverage. The session will continue to discuss this after some more questions are answered by the agent.
- ~ **Approved** the collection of a mission offering to go to the Wildwood High School in conjunction with a “Faith, Family, and Football” fundraiser where Coach Rolles, football coach of the high school, would come give a talk one evening about his motto and how it plays out in life. Robin Ladd, in coordination with the mission team, is working on this project.
- ~ **Discussed** the Clow Center Task Group which will look at the possibilities for the building once ROA vacates at the end of 2018. Rev. Takis is forming the task group now.
- ~ **Received and discussed** written reports from the various committees of the church.
- ~ **Closed the meeting in prayer** led by Ruling Elder Barb England.

-- Highlights submitted by Rev. Susan Takis, Session Moderator



IT'S MARCH – A TIME OF PREPARATION.

This year, our Lenten season includes the entire month of March, marking it as a month of preparation for the cornerstone of our Christian faith: Easter. Our individual preparations for Easter should help us have a greater appreciation for each of the singular events that make up the “Easter Experience”.

Only through such preparation, can we develop a better understanding of the scriptural significance of the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, the bond created with God through the establishment of a “New Covenant” at the Last Supper, the anguish of giving oneself up as a sacrifice on Good Friday, and the hope that is extended to all believers through the Resurrection.

So it is with becoming good stewards. We must prepare in like manner before deciding how to use our time, talents, and

treasures. We must first become aware of the needs that exist in our personal lives, our families, our church, and our community. Then we can develop a strategy to determine how we can best match our resources to each of the needs we identify.

So, begin your research and reflection. Who or what is in need? What are your skills and resources? Can you make a match? Then make a plan and carry it out! For your time, talents, and treasures are needed.

-- The Stewardship Team



FROM OUR DEACONS

While the Deacons offer prayer and emotional support during times of sickness, etc., good nutrition can also be an important part of healing. Several services are available in our area to help with food needs. You may want to explore the following:

Operation Homebound, working out of North Lake Presbyterian Church delivers hot meals to residents in parts of Leesburg, The Villages, and Spruce Creek Monday-Friday between 9:30 and 11:00 am. This service is available to anyone 90 or older. For those under 90 a request must be accompanied by a note from a doctor stating the reason a client needs this help. The cost of each meal is \$6.00 per day but financial assistance is available. Menus are sent out midweek and clients can select a flexible combination of days depending on needs and/or food likes/dislikes. This service can also be used on a short basis (the first week or two home following surgery, for example) or to provide respite meals to someone in your home should you need to leave the area. To get more information about this program email Vickie@northlakepc.org or call 352-409-0562.

The Wildwood Soup Kitchen provides meals to residents with a Wildwood or Oxford post office address. Hot meals or a bag lunch are delivered Monday-Friday to those who can't cook and are without transportation to get to the soup kitchen. Lunches and social interaction are offered Monday-Saturday between 11-12 in the Fellowship building of our church to those who are able to get there. There is no charge for these services and a financial needs form is not needed as all the food and services are donated. To enroll – or perhaps offer to volunteer – call Barb McManus 352-299-6494.

In service through Christ, Nancy Myers



A JOYFUL NOISE!

News from the Choir

I have been directing the choir for a month now, and am really enjoying it! What a blessing to work with this wonderful group preparing music for our Sunday service!

We have had some new members join us in making our joyful noise. Lizette Murray has joined our tenor section, and newcomer Michele Topolnicki is adding her soprano voice.

Our newest singers are Lee and Louise MacCallum, tenor and alto respectively. They are seasonal residents who are joining us for Lent, and hopefully next year when they return to The Villages! Several of my "talent scouts" in the congregation

"discovered" Lee, and I invited him to join our group. He declined, saying he is a retired pastor and had never been able to sit with his wife in church until now. I told him that would be fine, as long as she could carry a tune! We're happy to have our new voices.

As we prepare our hearts and the church for Holy Week and Easter, music will help us in the journey. I hope the love and work we put into the music will make your Lent more meaningful.

-- Connie Emery

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>March 25, 10:30</i>
	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>March 29, 5:00 Soup Supper; 6:00, Worship & Communion</i>
	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>April 1, 10:30 a.m.</i>

We will begin taking orders for Easter Lilies to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary in March. If you are interested in purchasing a Lily in Memory or in Honor of a loved one, beginning March 4th through March 18th there will be a form in the Sunday bulletin. Simply fill out the form and place it in the offering plate along with your check with a notation "Lily". The cost is \$12.00 for each potted Lily. The flowers will be placed throughout the sanctuary and may be taken home following the Easter Service.

Fran Simone





THE SUPPER CLUB

Twenty-five Presbyterians enjoyed a wonderful meal at Craft Cuisine in Ocala on February 1. From steak to seafood, the tastes were exceptional, presentation was awesome and the staff was attentive. If you could not make that evening, it's a quick drive up 475A to 2237 SW 19th Avenue, in Ocala.

Our next gathering for another delicious food experience is on Thursday, March 15 at 5 p.m. at Mesa de Notte, 2436 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala. This is an outstanding Italian restaurant which we enjoyed about a year and a half ago. After lunching there a few weeks ago, I thought it was time we did dinner there to give new members a chance to enjoy their food.

Please let me know by March 8 if you would like to join us. Call me at 352-751-4432 or send me an e-mail at thelistlady514@gmail.com



-- Rosemary Ganci

SENIORS IN TRANSITION

Please come to the Sunday presentations of the "Bucket List". The next presentation is on Sunday, March 4th, at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Over a four-week period, we will be exploring everything from new living arrangements to medical, financial and emotional needs. Professionals will be available to help us understand the laws of Florida.

Discover the clues to living with peace of mind, safety, love and Christian Fellowship! Plan your future before someone else has to!

Please RSVP. Contact Lynn Barnes with any questions you may have: 2004barnes@thevillages.net, or 484-883-4821



2018 FLOWER CALENDAR The 2018 flower calendar is hanging on the wall by the side door leading from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for a special occasion or in honor/memory of someone, reserve your Sunday on the calendar by signing your name. The procedure for ordering flowers is on the bulletin board next to the calendar.

FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Please take the opportunity to pick a Sunday to provide and serve tasty nibbles for our fellowship time (2-3 people each week, 4-5 on potluck Sunday). The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board just inside the side entrance to the sanctuary. No volunteers? ... no fellowship, and we don't want that to happen. :- (Please contact Bev Eckert with questions at beveckert@yahoo.com.



FPC WILDWOOD EMAIL PRAYER PARTNERS

Would you like to join with Pastor Susan and others in our congregation in praying daily for those in our congregation who ask for prayers? You will receive weekly emails listing the Sunday prayer concerns, as well as other prayer concerns as they arise during the week. As a "prayer partner," you commit to praying daily for those who have requested prayer.

To be added to the prayer chain as a prayer partner and/or to ask for a prayer concern to be sent, please email Pastor Susan at susanfpcw@gmail.com, or Janet at fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com.

WHAT CAN EXERCISE DO FOR ME?



Making exercise a regular part of your daily routine will have a positive impact on your health and your quality of life as you get older. Staying physically active and exercising regularly can improve mood and relieve depression, and prevent or delay some types of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Long-term, regular exercise can even improve health for some older people who already have diseases and disabilities.....*Source, NIH*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.; Sunday Mornings, 9:15 a.m. **[NOTE: new times in effect until after Easter Sunday]**

Blood Pressure Clinic

1st Sunday of each Month, 11:30 – 12:00 noon

2 Cents A Meal Offering

2nd Sunday of each Month

Potluck Fellowship

3rd Sunday of each Month, After Worship

DEADLINE REMINDERS: Beacon and Bulletin Submissions: Remember to submit your articles for the Beacon and/or announcements for the bulletin directly to fpcmedia203@gmail.com. Beacon articles are due by the 4th Friday of the month and bulletin articles are due the Tuesday before the Sunday your announcement will appear. Announcements will run for three weeks, and may be edited for length.

Sunday, March 4	Seniors in Transition Presentation (#2 of 4) Choir Practice Communion Blood Pressure Clinic in Fellowship Hall	9:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am
Wednesday, March 7	Worship Team Meeting Mission Team Meeting Choir Practice	9:00am 10:30am 6:15pm
Thursday, March 8	Soup Kitchen Board Meeting PW Circle	11:00am 2:00pm
Sunday, March 11	Seniors in Transition Presentation (#3 of 4) Choir Practice Two Cents a Meal	9:00am 9:15am 10:30am
Monday, March 12	Deacon's Meeting	2:00pm
Wednesday, March 14	Finance Meeting Session Meeting (rescheduled from 3/20) Choir Practice	10:00am 6:00pm 6:15pm
Thursday, March 15	Communications Team Ladies Luncheon, Havana Country Club. For reservations, contact Carol Norton, cjln540@gmail.com or 352-748-3459 Supper Club	10:00am 11:30am 5:00 pm
Sunday, March 18	Seniors in Transition Presentation (#4 of 4) Choir Practice Worship Potluck Lunch	9:00am 9:15am 10:30am After Worship
Wednesday, March 21	PW Circle Choir Practice	10:00am 6:15pm
Thursday, March 22	Health Committee	9:00am
Sunday, March 25	Choir Practice Worship 	9:15am 10:30am
Tuesday, March 27	PW Circle	2:00pm
Wednesday, March 28	Choir Practice	6:15pm
Thursday, March 29	Soup Supper Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion	5:00pm 6:00pm
Friday, March 30	Good Friday	Church Office Closed



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Ken Myers' picture appeared in *The Sun's* February 10th *Softball Roundup*. He caught the ball "...to record the out against the White Sox' Ed Joseph ... The Royals held on for a wild 13-12 victory in Division 2 action."