



The Beacon

October 2020



First Presbyterian Church of Wildwood
 203 Barwick Street
 Wildwood, Florida 34785
 Website: www.fpcwildwood.org
 Phone: 352-748-2530
 E-Mail: 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

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. November’s deadline is

WEDNESDAY NOV. 25 (Wednesday because of Thanksgiving). 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.



A Note From Your Pastor:

*Beloved FPC Family,
 A dear friend of mine, Rev. Dr. Hunter Camp, pastor at Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, FL, recently wrote this beautiful and timely prayer. It touches me profoundly as we enter the final month*

before the presidential election, and I share it now with you. May it touch you as deeply as it touches me.

~ Pastor Susan

A Prayer for Election 2020

Gracious God, as we proceed through the 2020 election, help us to remember that no political candidate is our savior—but You alone are our Deliverer.

Help us to remember that allegiance to You and Your ways should be our priorities—not to ideology or political parties. Give us wisdom to admit that just because we believe that You support our positions does not mean that You actually endorse them.

Lord, may we acknowledge that we often make You into our own political image. May we come to realize that You are above and beyond every political yearning we may cast upon your greatness. Realizing this truth, may our opinions be tempered with humility, modesty, and care for those we disagree with.

Redeeming God, help us to remember that no matter how much we disagree with someone’s politics, we are called to love them as we love ourselves. May You bring to our minds the words of Jesus, “They will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

(continued)

[A Note From Your Pastor Continued]

Give us the grace and courage to listen to each other and to seek to understand the other's position without demonizing or assuming the worst of them. May we realize that everyone has arrived at their positions from their own experience and baggage, saddled with their own dreams for tomorrow.

Loving God, may we come to see the biases and shortcomings in ou

Give us the grace and courage to listen to each other and to seek to understand the other's position without demonizing or assuming the worst of them. May we realize that everyone has arrived at their positions from their own experience and baggage, saddled with their own dreams for tomorrow.

Loving God, may we come to see the biases and shortcomings in our own political positions. May You convict us all for digesting media that only reinforces our personal agendas and fears.

Almighty God, help us to rise above name-calling, lie-telling and incivility because such things are not born of You, neither are they pleasing to You. As we rise above the political fray, may we come to stand united in our differences, that our Republic may stand strong for generations to come.

Amen

[by Rev. Dr. Hunter Camp, October 1, 2020]

September Session Highlights

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, below are highlights from the September 16 Stated Meeting of the Session via Zoom:

- ~ **Shared** congregational prayer concerns and participated in an opening devotional and prayer led by Elder Fran Simone.
- ~ **Approved** minutes of the August 19, 2020 Stated Meeting of Session via Zoom.
- ~ **Approved** the request of FPC affiliate members Sharon & Collin Kelly to become full active members pending letter of transfer from Mountain View Church of the Brethren, Mathias, WV.
- ~ **Reviewed** the church financials. We continue to be in good financial shape, even during this pandemic, thanks to the dedication of our church family. Thank you! The 2021 budget process has begun.
- ~ **Approved** a motion from Herb Lunden to cook and sell ribs in the church parking lot as a church fundraiser sometime in October. [Note: the date has now been set for Saturday, October 24]
- ~ **Discussed** the impact of the pandemic and **approved** a motion for the church to continue recorded services on the FPC website until it is safe to return to in-person worship, hopefully early in the new year. [Note: The pastor and worship team will look at ways to provide occasional prayer opportunities in the sanctuary and/or outside gatherings in addition to the weekly video worship services.]
- ~ **Approved** a motion for Rev. Lee MacCallum to preach (online) on September 20, 2020, and September 27, 2020, while Rev. Takis is on vacation.
- ~ **Approved** a motion that a session representative talk with the owner of the north parking lot asking for the "right of first refusal" if/when he decides to sell that property.
- ~ **Closed** the meeting in prayer led by Elder Jim Boring.

Highlights submitted by Louise Fahey, Clerk of Session



MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Meet your Stewardship Team Lead, Maryanne Scott

My husband, Harold “Scotty” and I moved to The Villages, from Bellingham, Washington, and joined FPCW last summer. Scotty had been retired for about 8 years, after working for Northwestern Mutual for over 30 years. I had retired 4 years ago after a career starting as a registered nurse, then a physician and ended my professional career as a full-time healthcare administrator. While working in healthcare my passion initially was providing high quality health care for everyone; however, over time, my passion expanded to include looking for ways to make quality health care easier to deliver with less waste.

Shortly after retiring my former pastor ask me to join the church Finance Team but, oh, by the way, his long-term plan was for me to chair a new Stewardship Committee the church planned to launch. Well, Finance sounded like fun; after all, I always liked numbers, money and planning but I wasn’t so sure about the stewardship role. Really, who likes asking people for money and what did I know about stewardship? But after some deep soul-searching and prayers, it appeared that’s where God was leading me. Thanks to a few wonderful mentors and many books I have developed a deep passion for serving God thru stewardship. So, when we moved to The Villages and joined FPCW, joining the Stewardship Team was the logical next step. And the next chapter of life began, using my passion for stewardship to continue God’s work at FPCW.

Many of us welcome in Fall thinking about cooler temperatures, hurricane season nearing an end, and all things “pumpkin”. I welcome in the Fall with thoughts of the Fall Stewardship Campaign dancing in my head. Life continues to look very different from a year ago. But the mission of FPCW remains the same: *“To be welcoming, caring and compassionate, joyfully celebrating the Lord, while sharing his love and grace.”* As a congregation we will be challenged more than ever to meet the needs of our community and beyond; challenged to take a risk, step outside our comfort zones and go where God is calling us to go.

To make this possible, think “**prayers, passion and performance**”. Start your journey in prayer. **Pray** for guidance. How can you personally contribute to the work of the church? Pray for the church leadership as they plan for 2021 and beyond. Pray for the resources to carry on our mission. Then, spend some time thinking about what you have a **passion** to do. When we are doing what we love, it never seems like work. And finally turn your passion into **performance**. Together, with our combined time, talent and treasures we can ensure the great work of FPCW continues and grows.





LAST CALL FOR PICTURES!!

The **Picture Directory** will be out later this Fall and we want everybody included. Thank you to everyone who has already provided a picture. So far, we have 78 pictures with 112 people. Whether you are a member, regular attendee or snowbird, we want your picture! Help us all stay connected.

If you have not had a photo taken or recently sent in a photo please do so soon.

The ideal picture is:

- Colored photo with good lighting
- Shoulder and head shot
- couples/family together in one photo
- cell phone pictures work well
- portrait view is better than landscape view (makes you look a bit heavier)
- email the picture as an attachment and include your name/names as you wish them to be listed in the directory

Email your picture to Pat Ledoux at fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Maryanne Scott at (360)305-1577 or marsco1005@gmail.com.

Maryanne Scott
Grace Small Group

JOIN THE FUN! ZOOM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS AT 11:30 A.M.



In August we began a new form of after-worship fellowship at FPCW on ZOOM. Each Sunday at 11:30 – when regular worship services would be wrapped up -- Pastor Susan and Geoff Littlehale host virtual “face-to-face” get-togethers on ZOOM to replace the time we used to spend together in Fellowship Hall. The meetings have been wonderful fun and we’re hoping you will join us some Sunday soon.

Every week Pastor Susan includes a ZOOM link in her email with Sunday’s Order of Worship. Open the email, click on the green ZOOM link and, before you know it, you’ll be smiling at the faces you’ve missed since we had to suspend services in March. Just make sure you’re using a computer with a good camera so your friends will be able to see you as we visit.

Fellowship on ZOOM flows just like time in Fellowship Hall – we share events of the week, we get updates on folks’ health issues, we swap reviews of Netflix programs. In short, we have fun just seeing each other again and chatting away the morning.

We hope you’ll join us for fun and fellowship Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on ZOOM. Watch for Susan’s Order of Worship email and click in to see friendly faces and share in the fun. We’ll be looking for you!

THE HAVEN

The Haven has been serving victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault since 1977 in both Lake and Sumter Counties. Their 24-hour domestic violence and rape hotlines provide immediate crisis intervention.



Victims and their dependent children receive temporary emergency shelter, food, clothing, and counseling (both individual and group). Transitional living is available to those victims requiring longer term physical and/or emotional healing. **All services are provided FREE of charge to Haven clients.**

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Legal Advocacy provides victims with referrals and/or legal representation in cases of protective injunctions, child custody and/or support and other legal issues. The advocate can also help secure financial assistance and restitution under the Victims of Crime Act.

Children's Services provides counseling, advocacy, and/or referrals for children through 17 years of age, who are victims of, or witness to domestic and/or sexual abuse, Group counseling and Positive Parenting sessions are available for caregivers of these children to assist in dealing with and caring for troubled kids. The Haven also provides information and referral to other agencies for services needed by clients not offered by the Haven such as Food Stamp programs, Unemployment, Mental and Health services, etc. The Haven helps to provide information and referral for child care or day care services for working parents.

Male victims of domestic violence may also receive Haven services.

VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT:

The Haven has a **24 hour Rape crisis hotline** which provides immediate response to sexually assaulted victims. Their professional staff, with assistance from trained volunteers, provides much needed emotional support for medical examinations and law enforcement investigations.



Post-rape counseling is an integral part of their services, as is legal advocacy for the sexually abused victim. Counseling is also available to the families of the rape victim; as well as victims of incest and dating violence.

TRAINING & EDUCATION SERVICES:

The Haven provides domestic and sexual violence training to law enforcement, health care providers, community partners, and other groups in their service area. Presentations and awareness to the general public have been, and will continue to be powerful tools to combat the epidemic of violence.

FPCW has supported the Haven for a number of years with both monetary and tangible gifts, thanks to so many caring and compassionate people in our congregation. God Bless you all!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

"Peace & Global Witness" PC(USA) Special Offering will be collected during the month of October. If you would like to contribute to this important offering, please send a check made out to FPC with "Peace & Global Witness" in the memo line. Please give generously and thank you in advance.

- **Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, October 24! Herb Lunden will be cooking yummy BBQ ribs in the church parking lot as a fundraiser for our church. Those of you that enjoyed ribs the last time Herb did this for our church family are already salivating!**



- **Please join us each Sunday for "Zoom" Sunday Fellowship from 11:30 - 12:15. Grab a cup of coffee and spend some time in conversation with your fellow church members as we connect through technology. The "Zoom Fellowship Invite Button" is included below. Click on the button and it will take you to the invitation to join the fellowship.**
- **Masks are required in the sanctuary building or fellowship hall if there is more than one person in the building (per Session action on 07/15/2020).**
- **Thank you to all who continue to support our church financially through your offerings. We appreciate you!**

Pastor Susan (fpcwildwood@embarqmail.com)



*WEDDING BELLS RING AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILDWOOD!!*

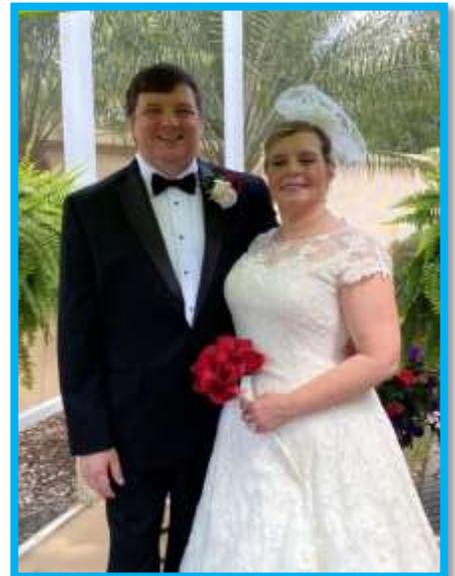


*Gene and
Bernice
Carpenter*

*Married in their front yard
June 13, 2020*



*Brent Morrow & Carolyn Lindgren
Married in their home
Sept 13*



*David and Julia
Patterson
Married March 21,
2020 in Deb Foster's backyard
(David's mom)*

