



TOWER BELLS

July 2026

The Future of First Presbyterian Church of Palatka *A Season of Listening, Trust, and Hope*

Beloved family, Our Session continues to prayerfully consider the future of the vacant lot on 3rd Street—a conversation that has been unfolding since December 2025, when Session voted to place the property up for sale. Last week, Session received an offer from Breck Sloan's development group and spent time reflecting on two important questions:

- Whether to approve the sale and accept the offer.
- How the proceeds might be used in support of our ministry.

After thoughtful discussion and a paper-ballot vote, the offer was not accepted. This decision reflects the care and seriousness with which Session approaches the stewardship of our church's resources and future. With the offer declined, Session turned toward what comes next. After conversation, Session directed the Clerk to form a three-member Task Force to explore options for the sale of the property. At least one member will be from Session and will serve as chair. A list of names will be brought forward at the July Stated Meeting.

This is a moment for us to listen deeply—to one another, to our community, and to the Spirit who guides us.

Another important matter before Session was the consideration of a contract with Terry Albright to support the operational life of our church.

The Strategic Planning Committee—expanded to serve as a selection committee—presented Terry as a candidate after careful review. Following conversation and questions, Session approved entering into a contract with Terry for operational support. Copies of his resume' is in the Gathering Room.

This decision reflects our commitment to strengthening the day-to-day ministry of the church so that our mission can flourish.

Family, these decisions mark an important season of intentional discernment, faithful stewardship, and hopeful imagination. We are balancing the practical needs of ministry with our long-term vision for who God is calling us to be. Terry will be in the office 2-3 days per week and available for prescheduled meetings on weekday mornings.

As we walk forward together, may we do so with open hearts, gentle spirits, and a shared trust that God is already preparing the way ahead. Let us continue to pray for wisdom, unity, and clarity as we seek the future God has in mind for our congregation.

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"

Isaiah 30:21

Listening — God's voice is near, steady, and guiding. **Trust** — We walk forward not because we see everything clearly, but because God does. **Hope** — The promise is that God will continue to lead us, even in uncertain or unfolding paths.

With gratitude and hope,

Your Session/Suzie Cornelio

July Birthdays:

Terry Sunday	11 th	Mackenzie Hutchinson	14 th	BJ Johns	24 th
Sherry Mills	12 th	Tommy Clay	14 th	Cindy Mancino	31 st
				Sadie Kerce-McClenithan	31 st

Session

Ricky Kirby CRE, Moderator

Terry Albright, Lead Elder

Robert A. Mattson, Clerk

Class of 2026 Dave Compton, Wayne Bodiford

Class of 2027 Ron Bloor, Elliott Kane, Tony Marvin, MaryKay Payne

Class of 2028 James Browning, Steve Crowley, Carolyn Faunce, (vacancy)

Deacon Chair Kenia Lopez 386-916-9971 ladybuglady444@hotmail.com

Financial Report / Operating Budget for June 2026:

	Total Received	Total Spent	Surplus (Deficit)
<u>Year to Date</u>	\$73,129	\$69,747	\$3,382
Building Revenue	\$11,150		
Community Outreach	\$3,910 (amount donated for community outreach)		

Church Contacts:

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fpcpalatka.com

Acting Lead Elder

Terry Albright

717-226-2373 call/text

better60@aol.com

Administration Associate

Suzie Cornelio

386-937-7762 call/text

suziecornelio@gmail.com



For giving click on the QR code.

Finance Associate

Judy Guthrie

386-328-7636 call/text

treasurerfpp@bellsouth.net

Building Associate

Casey Taylor

386-972-2329 call/text

Music Director

Tommy Clay, Jr.

470-800-5367

Date	Preaching	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion
5-July-26	Suzie Cornelio	Ron Bloor	James Browning/Nancy Driggers/Mary Kay/Sharon F.	
12-July-26	Ricky Kirby	Rob Mattson	John Poitevent/David Vezzetti	
19-July-26	Terry Albright	Mary Kay Payne	Nancy Van Horn/Carolyn Faunce	
26-July-26	Rick Mills	Sherry Mills	Nancy Driggers/Kim Daley	

(Please remember the schedule may change depending on the volunteers as their date gets closer.)

"...lead a life worthy of the calling... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit..."

Ephesians 4:1-3