



TOWER BELLS

June 2026

The Future of First Presbyterian Church of Palatka

As we continue forward, may we keep listening for the Spirit's voice. May we keep choosing one another. And may we trust that the God who has carried this congregation for generations will continue to lead us with wisdom and grace.

Beloved friends in Christ,

As we move through this season of discernment and hope, I want to share with you the work your Session has been faithfully tending. These conversations—some practical, some spiritual, all important—are shaping the future God is preparing for our church.

Over the past month, Session has continued its careful work regarding the Third Street property. The Clerk updated us on the steps required for any potential sale, which include approval by Session, the congregation, and the Presbytery. We are committed to transparency and prayerful decision-making as we move through this process together.

We also spent time reflecting on the meaning of Pentecost. Steve Crowley led us in a rich conversation about the Spirit's power to renew, to guide, and to send. In a time when our congregation is discerning leadership and mission, this reminder felt especially timely. The Spirit is not finished with us.

Steve also shared a resource titled “*10 Things for Elders to Know*” and offered an overview of how the PC(USA) is organized. These moments of elder formation help us stay grounded in who we are as Presbyterians and how our local ministry connects to the wider church.

Session also reviewed the Presbytery Call Commission's responses to our request to form a Pastor Nominating Committee and to commission me for pastoral service. The Moderator helped clarify next steps, and we will continue to keep the congregation informed as these conversations unfold.

Updates from Committees and Ministries

Our Building & Grounds Committee, led by Elliott Kane, shared several updates:

- New non-smoking signs will be installed next week.
- The porto-lets will be relocated at the request of MaryKay Payne, whose family holds the contract.
- Session approved replacing the clock tower lights at an estimated cost of \$1,750. After discussion, we designated part of the \$100,000 gift the church received for major repairs as the funding source.
- The van that has been parked on church property will be moved off-site next week.
- Clarifications were offered about the upcoming increase in memorial brick pricing beginning in July.

Our Presbyterian Women group continues its faithful ministry. We celebrate that Pam Matthews will serve as PW Moderator for 2026–27. They are at recess until September.

The Board of Deacons, represented by Kenia Lopez, shared updates on their ongoing care and service to the congregation.

Finally, Session discussed the question of displaying the national flag in the sanctuary. After thoughtful conversation, Session approved displaying the flag on Sundays and weeks adjacent to Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day, with the understanding that this decision remains subject to the next Pastor. The motion passed with a few dissenting votes, reflecting the diversity of perspectives within our church family.

Friends, these conversations—some spiritual, some logistical, some deeply emotional—are signs of a church that is alive, attentive, and seeking God's future. I am grateful for the honesty, the care, and the hope that shape our life together.

With gratitude and hope,

Your Session/Suzie Cornelio

June Birthdays:

Orediece Boswell 2nd Joel Hutchinson, III 10th Wendy Parson 15th
Gladys Wade 28th Carolyn Faunce 30th

The Brick Opportunity: *Let's get those orders in to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#40)* **For maximum profit all orders must be in by June 28th.** For more details go to our website fpcpalatka.com. **(profits through May \$3,014.63)**

Session

Ricky Kirby CRE, Moderator

Terry Albright, Co-Moderator

Robert A. Mattson, Clerk

Class of 2026 Terry Albright, Dave Compton, Kim Daley, Wayne Bodiford

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

Class of 2028 James Browning, Sherry Tindall, Steve Crowley, Carolyn Faunce

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

Financial Report / Operating Budget for 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)		

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Co-Moderator

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For giving click on the QR code.

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Building Associate

Casey Taylor

386-972-2329 call/text

Music Director

Tommy Clay, Jr.

470-800-5367

Date Preaching Liturgist Ushers Communion

7-June-26 Rick Mills Sherry Mills Ron Bloor/Nancy Van Horn/Kim Daley/David Vezzetti

14-June-26 Suzie Cornelio Elliott Kane John Poitevent/David Vezzetti

21-June-26 Terry Albright Sharon Kohl Nancy Van Horn/Tom Stone-Erdman

28-June-26 Terry Albright James Browning Ron Bloor/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