



TOWER BELLS

May 2026

**Prayer and shared trust reinforce peace,
unity, and dependence on God.**

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...”

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Palatka, Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Session Highlights & Congregational Updates from Sunday, April 12, 2026.

Session appointed **MaryKay Payne** to serve as our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the **Spring 2026 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine**. We are grateful for her willingness to represent our congregation.

Steve Crowley, on behalf of the **Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)**, presented a proposal to request permission from the Presbytery to **advertise for a part-time, temporary pastor**, similar to the role previously held by Rev. Cliff Lyda.

Session discussed the status of our earlier request to form a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**. The Presbytery’s Call Commission has **not approved** that request at this time.

After discussion, Session **approved the SPC’s motion** to send a notice to the Presbytery Call Commission requesting authorization to advertise for a **part-time, temporary pastor**.

Session approved an amended motion allowing the SPC to:

- Interview candidates for the part-time, temporary pastor position
- Recommend a candidate to Session and the Presbytery Call Commission
- Add **two at-large members from the congregation** to assist with this work

These additional members may serve only for this task or continue on the SPC if they choose.

Session revisited the church’s financial picture, including:

The sale of the Third Street property. The Clerk read the December 2025 minutes confirming that Session previously approved listing the Third Street property for sale, with proceeds designated to **grow the mission of the church**. (sale of the property has not been approved.)

- The \$100,000 gift received last year for the endowment fund
- The question of whether non-recurring funds should be used to support pastoral leadership.

This conversation will continue as Session seeks a sustainable path forward.

The SPC brought a motion inviting the congregation to **pray intentionally for our church, our Session, and our mission**.

An amendment was offered by Sherry Tindall to **open the sanctuary one day each week for prayer**.

The full motion, as amended, both passed.

This will create a weekly space for quiet reflection, discernment, and hope.

Session welcomed **Kenia Lopez** as the new Chair of the Board of Deacons. We celebrate her leadership and the ministry of our deacons.

This season of discernment is stretching us, but it is also clarifying who we are and what God is calling us to become. Session is committed to transparency, prayer, and faithful leadership as we navigate the months ahead.

With gratitude and hope,

Your Session/Suzie Cornelio

May Birthdays:

Ron Bloor	1 st	Chris Schmitz	1 st	Charli Browning	4 th	Sharon Proctor	7 th
Sandra Roberts	9 th	Nancy Van Horn	4 th	Bill Dixon	11 th	Susan VanEpps	15 th
Cathie Tinney	18 th	Lanie Hutchinson	21 st	Charli McCullough	31 st	Rusti Simonds	21 st
Tony Davis	23 rd	Becky Spettel	23 rd	Vincent McKeever	27 th	Hank Prichard	31 st

The Brick Opportunity: *to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time.*

Profit through April (#37) \$2,868. We need to get our bricks ordered. Volunteers needed for marketing this opportunity. For more details go to our website fpcpalatka.com.

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>	\$ 56,914	\$ 53,628	\$ 3,286
Building Revenue	\$ 8,500		
Community Outreach	\$ 3,190 (amount donated for community outreach)		

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Co-Moderator

Terry Albright

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Suzie Cornelio

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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
3-May-26	Suzie Cornelio	Rick Mills	Jimmy Browning/Carolyn Faunce/Mary Kay/Sharon Flatter	
10-May-26	Terry Albright	Rob Mattson	Carolyn Faunce/Ron Bloor	
17-May-26	Ricky Kirby	Kenia Lopez	Nancy Van Horn/Kim Daley	
24-May-26	Dr. Grayson	Mary Vezzetti	Nancy Driggers/Jimmy Browning	
31-May-26	Ron Bloor	Mary Garcia	David Vezzetti/Tom Stone-Erdman	

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

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart... and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6