

First Church Women June 8, 2026 Minutes

Attendees: Mary Anne Arico, Rhodella Brown, Donna Caruso, Carol Gavaletz, Denise Gilman, Libby Goens, Lisa Hightower, Denise Miller, Gwen Robbins

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. A special thank you to Denise Miller and Gwen Robbins for providing delicious refreshments. As the ladies enjoyed their tasty treats, we passed the clipboard around for everyone to sign in. I led the opening prayer and led our group in reciting the FWC mission statement:

**“Our Women’s ministry exists to promote spiritual growth!
We seek to serve the church, our community, and support
women and children locally and internationally,
as God leads us in love and grace.”**

FCW Business

Thank you letters: Denise Gilman presented me with two thank you letters that I read aloud to our group. The first letter was from Coastal Choice Women’s clinic for our donation of \$500 on 4/30/2026. The second one was from Will Cobb for our \$200 donation to help support his mission with the Japanese church.

Thank you to all the ladies who brought donations for Judy’s Pantry. Thank you for your supporting the food pantry to help the seniors.

We passed out our new FCW directory. I will need to add a couple of new names and make a couple of minor corrections. I will bring the updated directory to the next meeting.

Financial Report: Our current balance is \$1046. 91. We appreciate the support from the generous women who donate to our funds. Your contributions help us continue to service and support our church and community for future events and activities. Donations may be made during your Sunday offering by writing **166 First Church Women** on the envelope.

Summer Meeting: I know that many people will be traveling over the summer, so I asked the ladies if they would like to meet in July and August. They said they would like to have the summer meetings. Our next meeting will be **July 13th in the LEC parlor at 6:30pm**. Thank you to **Denise Gilman** and **Donna Caruso** for volunteering to be our hostesses for the evening. We also discussed maybe planning to go to lunch or to a movie. It was mentioned that Epic Theater in Deltona has tickets for \$2.00 on Wednesdays, however that is the kids summer camp rate. They do offer senior rates for \$6.10 on Tuesdays, if you enjoy the loyalty club. Please share with me if you have any suggestions.

*** I spoke with Lisa Hightower and Mercy Hour could use our help by donating the following items: summertime socks (both mens and womens size 6-12 dark short ankle or no show), toothbrushes, combs, large straw hats, bandanas, large and extra large men's t-shirts and underwear, women's large sport bras and size 5 and 6 underwear. Please bring your donations to our July meeting.**

Devotions: I read the devotional from The Grandmother Bible, "Band of Sisters" by Leslie Parrott, pp 886-887. The story was about seven women that decided to start a small group many years ago. They called themselves, "Friday Friends." They would meet every three weeks and at each of their meetings would center around only one simple question. One night the question was, "As a woman, how do you make a difference in the world?" The woman that asked the question, found it easier to recognize the difference that her friends were making in the world, than to recognize how she was making a difference. As she needed her friends to help her see how she made a difference in the world, she decided she wanted to help other women on the same path. To quote the story, "A band of sisters who carry deep values and watch over one another in love is stronger than any woman on her own."

As anthropologist Margaret Mead has said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Thank you to all the First Church Women, our band of sisters, that service others with their love, talents, and support to make a difference in our church, community and world. We are truly blessed in faith, fellowship and friendship.

Closing Prayer: As a group, we all contributed to our closing prayers for healing and concerns for our family, friends, church and community.

After our meeting, we went through the several boxes of our things that Lisa Hightower had gathered from building 6. We threw out things that were expired, repacked items we can still use and donated items that were no longer needed. Denise Gilman offered to store the items at her house. If you are hosting an upcoming meeting, there are some plates, cups, napkins, and plasticware available.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Anne Arico