



First Presbyterian Church  
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### **Sunday Schedule**

**9:15 a.m. Adult Church School**

**Meet and Greet on Zoom & In Person in the Westminster Room**  
**Program starts at 9:30 a.m.**

**9:15 a.m. Nursery will be open for infants - two year olds.**

**Children's classes will gather for music in room 307.**

**9:45 a.m. Preschool and Elementary School classes will begin in their respective rooms**

**11:00 a.m. LORD'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**5:00 p.m. Youth Group**

**In Person and Live-Stream Worship**

Visit [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org) to download Sunday's bulletin and view the service. Services are recorded and available for later viewing on YouTube @FPCTallahassee. Children and vaccinated adults are welcome in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children younger than kindergarten. We continue to require masks.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

# **FIRST PRESS**

*The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church*

**JANUARY 3, 2022**



## **Volunteers needed for Homeless Count**

The Big Bend Continuum of Care conducts a count of the homeless population in our community once a year. This year's count is scheduled for January 25 and 26. The

Count gives our community a better understanding of how many individuals experience homelessness in our area on a given night, which helps guide strategic planning, policy development, and funding opportunities to acquire permanent, safe and affordable housing opportunities for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Our church has participated in this count in previous years.

You can sign up to participate here:  
<http://bigbendcoc.org/pit-volunteer/>  
If you have any questions, please contact Carol Weissert at [cweissert@fsu.edu](mailto:cweissert@fsu.edu).



## Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

Once again, our timing of anticipated return has been interrupted by another wave of COVID. We had planned to resume our regular communion calendar starting this January, but due to rising case counts caused by the Omicron variant, Session has voted to temporarily suspend it again (we'll look at resuming in February). Although it's disheartening to face yet another wave of COVID, and yet another set of canceled plans, our hope is that this pause will truly be a temporary one. In the meantime, we continue to encourage vaccinations and boosters for all eligible, and for folks to stay home if sick or exposed.

The good news is: if you're worshipping from home, you can now access the church service from our newly redesigned church website! Chris Corzine did a great job transferring our content from our prior Connected Word site to a new WordPress site and will train staff and volunteers in editing on the new platform this week. From a user perspective, the site will have a newer, more modern look, but still be accessible by the same URL: <https://www.oldfirstchurch.org/> Please give it a try, and let us know if you have questions or suggestions for the new site.

My Moveable Feast study leave that was scheduled for this week in Austin has been canceled, so I'll be here this week. Our hope is to reschedule for later in the year. It's disappointing, but the upside is that I'll have some time this week to learn to edit the site and help update the content. There is no Bible Study this week.

This Sunday, our worship will celebrate both Epiphany (Jan 6) and Baptism of the Lord (First Sunday after Epiphany).

Sermon references:

As requested, when my sermon contains references I'll print them in the newsletter. (See page 3.)

## SERMON REFERENCES FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

Last Sunday's sermon included a reference to a fantastic TED Talk by the novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie called "The Dangers of a Single Story" ([https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_ngozi\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en)) and an essay by Lutheran theologian and bishop Krister Stendahl called "Why I Love the Bible" (<https://bulletin.hds.harvard.edu/why-i-love-the-bible/>)

I called the Bible a "Baggy monster," which is what Henry James said (disparagingly, I think) about War and Peace. "And now for something completely different" apparently comes from Monty Python, although I didn't know it when I said it.

And I didn't mention it explicitly, but I was probably thinking about light this way because my vacation read was Anthony Doerr's novel All the Light We Cannot See.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE DEDICATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS, PLEASE LET THE CARE AND OUTREACH TEAM KNOW BY CONTACTING LINDA SMITH AT 7YODANANA7@GMAIL.COM. WE ARE HAPPY FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT IMPROVING OUR OUTREACH TO THOSE WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING MAKING THIS THEIR CHURCH HOME.

## Church School in the New Year!

**Children's Music Class** at 9:30 a.m. in Room 307 – this class will continue to learn songs of our faith, and responses used in worship using voices and instruments. Thanks to Aide Whitaker and Emily Bruno for their leadership with this class.

**Children's Church School** at 9:45 a.m. in Room 304 – this class is for our elementary school aged children, and those older preschool children who would like to participate. On January 9, the children will explore the story of The Magi and discover what Epiphany means in the church. Then, for the next five weeks, the class will participate in a unit of study entitled, People Jesus Met. Stories of Jesus life and ministry will continue through the season of Lent. Each class period has time for a Bible story and then a study of that story through art, craft, prayer, activity and game. There is something for any age student to engage in and learn more about the story of the people of faith. Thanks to Eleanor Cleveland, Mary Kutter, Sue and Chloe Hightower, and Sandy Neidert for volunteering to teach. We would like to train one more volunteer to be part of our Sunday rotation.

**The Adult Class** – 9:30 a.m. in the Westminster Room or on Zoom. Arrive early (9:15 a.m.) for informal chat on Zoom or conversation and coffee in the courtyard. If you have not been getting John's Thursday afternoon emails with the week's topic, background reading, and Zoom link, please contact [office@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstchurch.org) so we can get you on the list.

On January 9 and 16 the Adult Class will complete the ProFuture Faith series. See the "Adult Church School" article on page 6 for details about this week's program. On January 23 the class will start a new series titled, "The Difficult Words of Jesus." Ever wonder what to do with Jesus saying to "sell what you own" or "hate your father and your mother"? Each week we will tackle one of six challenging sayings of Jesus and how we reconcile those with our understanding of Jesus and our faith. We will discover how some troubling passages have been understood over time and how we can interpret them in the context of the gospel of love and reconciliation. This is a six week study facilitated by a variety of our own church scholars and the series creator, Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School.





## **Nursery and Preschool Childcare**

**Sitters from Twinkle Toes Childcare agency are staffing our nursery.**

**These sitters are all: background checked, CPR/First Aid trained and vaccinated. Two additional sitters from Twinkle Toes staff the Preschool class.**

**When we are in-person for church school, 9:15 - Noon, Twinkle Toes sitters will be in the building ready to care for infants through two-years-old in the church nursery. Children aged three - pre-K will be in the preschool class and will be greeted by additional Twinkle Toes sitters.**

## **2021 First Presbyterian Pledge**

**Payments towards your 2021 First Presbyterian Pledge can still be made.**

**Please note that the payment is for 2021.**

**Giving Statements for 2021 will be released near the end of January.**

**Thanks,  
Jim Davis, Financial  
Administrator.**



## **ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS WESTMINSTER ROOM AND ON ZOOM JANUARY 9, 2021**



Meet and greet: Sunday at 9:15 AM  
Program starts: Sunday at 9:30 AM

Everyone is welcome to the Westminster Room OR  
you can connect to the “hybrid” class on Zoom.

As in worship, for your safety and as a courtesy to others, we ask all who attend in person to wear masks, respect social distance and, if eligible, be fully vaccinated.

Our program begins promptly at 9:30 AM and ends by 10:30 AM. After class, those who meet in person can enjoy coffee and fellowship in the courtyard before worship at 11:00 AM.

We will view and discuss the seventh of eight sessions in a series titled, “ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home” ([trailer](#)). The title of this week's session is, “Impermanence and Death as Sacred: Embracing Limits.” Copies of the participants' guides and slides are accessible in our [shared folder](#). If you missed any of the prior sessions, reading the participants' guides or viewing the slides is a good way to catch up.

Everyone is welcome! Each Zoom meeting opens new opportunities to learn and share – whether you've attended previously or not. Be on the lookout for John's Thursday afternoon email with the week's topic, background reading, and Zoom link for connecting online. If you have not been getting the Thursday emails, please contact [office@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstchurch.org) so we can get you on the list.

## **FIRST PRESS**

The newsletter  
of  
First Presbyterian  
Church

**The newsletter is prepared on Mondays,  
including those Mondays that fall on  
federal holidays.**

**Please submit items for publication to:  
[newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org)  
no later than noon on the Monday of  
publication.**



# Climate Up Close

Event co-sponsors:

The Nature  
Conservancy  
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

TEMPLE ISRAEL  
Tallahassee's Jewish Community Center



## Talk with a climate scientist face-to-face.

Where is the boundary of climate knowledge?

How has climate change impacted extreme weather?

What does the future hold?

Meet a panel of climate scientists  
& put your questions to them yourself.

**We're coming to Tallahassee!**

Saturday, January 8th, 11am

Temple Israel

2215 Mahan Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308

Free & open to the public

Register at the below link:



Climate Up Close is a group of climate scientists who believe Americans should reach their own judgments about climate science by seeing the evidence for themselves & putting their questions directly to climate scientists. Our presenters include scientists from NOAA, UC Berkeley, NYU, and Harvard University.

<https://www.templeisraelth.org/form/climate-up-close-2021.html>

[www.climateupclose.org](http://www.climateupclose.org)

[climateuc@gmail.com](mailto:climateuc@gmail.com)



**YOUTH GROUP AT FPC  
JANUARY 9, 2021 FROM 5-6:30 P.M.  
EPIPHANY BLESSINGS AND WHITE  
ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE**

We will be doing a “chalking the room” service after our annual white elephant gift exchange. Please remember to bring your gift wrapped, and **DO NOT BUY ANYTHING!** This should be something you have been given and are done with, want to re-gift or is just hysterically horrible.

**Bring it on!!**

**MONTREAT COLLEGE CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 2-5, 2022**

Five of us will be heading to the Montreat College Conference right after the new year: Abigail Cleveland, Jacqueline Cruz, Molly Kennedy, Yasmyn Gooden and Christy Williams. The theme of this year’s conference is ***What’s Next***. During our time there we will explore “What’s Next” as we discover and discuss what God might be revealing to us during these times of great change and transition, and how we can keep moving forward as the disciples did. Please pray for us as we travel and learn together.

**Old First Church Book Group**  
**JANUARY**  
**and**  
**FEBRUARY**



Many thanks to Tara Reynolds who facilitated the book group meetings during the fall. At our December meeting, we chose the next two month’s book choices.

On January 27 at 7 p.m.  
we will discuss Searching for Sunday by Rachel Held Evans.

On February 24 at 7 p.m.  
we will discuss Anxious People by Fredrik Bachman

Two copies of each book are in the church office for borrowing. Email [christy@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:christy@oldfirstchurch.org) to set up a time to borrow a book.





## Sunday Festival Readings

**JANUARY 9, 2022**  
EPIPHANY  
AND  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 60:1-6  
PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14  
MATT. 2:1-12  
LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

HOLY SCRIPTURE TEACHES US THAT GOD CREATED HUMANKIND IN GOD'S OWN IMAGE. CHRIST CALLS US TO LOVE GOD, WITH ALL OUR MIND, SOUL, AND HEART, AND OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES. WITH THIS COMES THE SACRED RESPONSIBILITY TO TREAT EACH HUMAN BEING WITH THE LOVE AND RESPECT DUE TO A CHILD OF GOD.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LONG HISTORY OF SYSTEMIC RACISM THAT, THROUGH VIOLENCE, LAWS, POLICIES, AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, WAS INTENDED TO EXCLUDE PERSONS WHO ARE NOT CAUCASIAN FROM BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES - FROM THE FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS WHO CONSIDERED THEMSELVES ENTITLED TO LAND AND VIOLENTLY DISPLACED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES, TO THE EQUALLY LONG HISTORY OF SLAVERY WHICH BUILT THE WEALTH OF THIS COUNTRY, TO JIM CROW LAWS TO CURRENT INSTANCES OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND THE OVERWHELMING MASS INCARCERATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

WE DECLARE OURSELVES UTTERLY OPPOSED TO ALL FORMS OF SYSTEMIC RACISM. WE ARE COMMITTED TO STANDING WITH THOSE WHO FIND THEMSELVES ON THE RECEIVING END OF ANY FORM OF RACISM. WE WILL SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO OPPOSE ALL FORMS OF SYSTEMATIC RACISM AND TO ENSURE THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER, AS DO THOSE OF INDIGENOUS, ASIAN, AND LATINX PEOPLE AND PERSONS OF ALL COLORS OR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

OUR FAITH TELLS US THAT WE CAN DO NO LESS, IF WE TRULY AFFIRM THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE.

WE DREAM OF A DAY IN WHICH ALL PERSONS ARE TREATED AS BEARERS OF THAT IMAGE.





# DAILY LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 1-15, 2022

**Saturday, January 1**

Morning: Pss. 98; 149  
Evening: Pss. 99; 8  
Isa. 62:1–5, 10–12  
Rev. 19:11–16  
Matt. 1:18–25

**Sunday, January 2****Second Sunday of Christmas**

Morning: Pss. 48; 150  
Evening: Pss. 9; 29  
1 Kgs. 3:5–14  
Col. 3:12–17  
John 6:41–47

**Monday, January 3**

Morning: Pss. 111; 145  
Evening: Pss. 107; 15  
1 Kgs. 19:9–18  
Eph. 4:17–32  
John 6:15–27

**Tuesday, January 4**

Morning: Pss. 20; 146  
Evening: Pss. 93; 97  
Josh. 3:14–4:7  
Eph. 5:1–20  
John 9:1–12, 35–38

**Wednesday, January 5**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 96; 110  
Jonah 2:2–9  
Eph. 6:10–20  
John 11:17–27, 38–44

**Thursday, January 6****Epiphany of the Lord**

Morning: Pss. 72; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 100; 67  
Isa. 49:1–7  
Rev. 21:22–27  
Matt. 12:14–21

**Friday, January 7**

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 47; 148  
Evening: Pss. 27; 93 *or* 114  
Deut. 8:1–3  
Col. 1:1–14  
John 6:30–33, 48–51

**Saturday, January 8**

Morning: Pss. 46 *or* 47; 149  
Evening: Pss. 27; 93 *or* 114  
Exod. 17:1–7  
Col. 1:15–23  
John 7:37–52

**Sunday, January 9****Baptism of the Lord**

Morning: Pss. 104; 150  
Evening: Ps. 29  
Gen. 1:1–2:3  
Eph. 1:3–14  
John 1:29–34

**Monday, January 10**

Morning: Pss. 5; 145  
Evening: Pss. 82; 29  
Gen. 2:4–9 (10–15) 16–25  
Heb. 1:1–14  
John 1:1–18

**Tuesday, January 11**

Morning: Pss. 42; 146  
Evening: Pss. 102; 133  
Gen. 3:1–24  
Heb. 2:1–10  
John 1:19–28

**Wednesday, January 12**

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;  
147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 1; 33  
Gen. 4:1–16  
Heb. 2:11–18  
John 1:(29–34) 35–42

**Thursday, January 13**

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 16; 62  
Gen. 4:17–26  
Heb. 3:1–11  
John 1:43–51

**Friday, January 14**

Morning: Pss. 51; 148  
Evening: Pss. 142; 65  
Gen. 6:1–8  
Heb. 3:12–19  
John 2:1–12

**Saturday, January 15**

Morning: Pss. 104; 149  
Evening: Pss. 138; 98  
Gen. 6:9–22  
Heb. 4:1–13  
John 2:13–22



# DAILY LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 16-31, 2022

**Sunday, January 16**

Morning: Pss. 19; 150  
Evening: Pss. 81; 113  
Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23  
Eph. 4:1–16  
Mark 3:7–19

**Saturday, January 22**

Morning: Pss. 56; 149  
Evening: Pss. 118; 111  
Gen. 12:9–13:1  
Heb. 7:18–28  
John 4:27–42

**Friday, January 28**

Morning: Pss. 88; 148  
Evening: Pss. 6; 20  
Gen. 17:15–27  
Heb. 10:11–25  
John 6:1–15

**Monday, January 17**

Morning: Pss. 135; 145  
Evening: Pss. 97; 112  
Gen. 8:6–22  
Heb. 4:14–5:6  
John 2:23–3:15

**Sunday, January 23**

Morning: Pss. 67; 150  
Evening: Pss. 46; 93  
Gen. 13:2–18  
Gal. 2:1–10  
Mark 7:31–37

**Saturday, January 29**

Morning: Pss. 122; 149  
Evening: Pss. 100; 63  
Gen. 18:1–16  
Heb. 10:26–39  
John 6:16–27

**Tuesday, January 18**

Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
Gen. 9:1–17  
Heb. 5:7–14  
John 3:16–21

**Monday, January 24**

Morning: Pss. 57; 145  
Evening: Pss. 85; 47  
Gen. 14:(1–7) 8–24  
Heb. 8:1–13  
John 4:43–54

**Sunday, January 30**

Morning: Pss. 108; 150  
Evening: Pss. 66; 23  
Gen. 18:16–33  
Gal. 5:13–25  
Mark 8:22–30

**Wednesday, January 19**

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 48; 4  
Gen. 9:18–29  
Heb. 6:1–12  
John 3:22–36

**Tuesday, January 25**

Morning: Pss. 54; 146  
Evening: Pss. 28; 99  
Gen. 15:1–11, 17–21  
Heb. 9:1–14  
John 5:1–18

**Monday, January 31**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Gen. 19:1–17 (18–23) 24–29  
Heb. 11:1–12  
John 6:27–40

**Thursday, January 20**

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
Gen. 11:1–9  
Heb. 6:13–20  
John 4:1–15

**Wednesday, January 26**

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 125; 91  
Gen. 16:1–14  
Heb. 9:15–28  
John 5:19–29

**Friday, January 21**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
Gen. 11:27–12:8  
Heb. 7:1–17  
John 4:16–26

**Thursday, January 27**

Morning: Pss. 143;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 81; 116  
Gen. 16:15–17:14  
Heb. 10:1–10  
John 5:30–47