



# FIRST PRESS

*The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church*

**JANUARY 17, 2022**



First Presbyterian Church

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[www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch)

## 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 open for**

**infants - two year olds.**

**9:30 a.m. Children's classes**

**gather for music in room 307.**

**9:45 a.m. Preschool and**

**Elementary School classes begin**

**in their respective rooms**

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

**SERVICE**

**Children and vaccinated adults**

**with masks are welcome in the**

**Sanctuary. Childcare is available**

**for children younger than**

**kindergarten.**

**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.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday-Friday

**GRACE MISSION**

*Episcopal Church*

*... a transformative ministry of the forgotten*

## GRACE MISSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Compassion and Social Justice Committee is seeking volunteers to serve dinner at Grace Mission on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, beginning February 10.

We need four volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean up for dinners for families of students in the After School program at Grace.

The time is 4:30-6:30 pm.

Please contact Carol Weissert at [cweissert@fsu.edu](mailto:cweissert@fsu.edu) if you are interested in helping and which days. First Pres was actively involved in volunteer efforts at Grace Mission prior to COVID 19, and we hope to see many of you who so graciously participated then engaged in this new effort.



## Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

For the first three months of 2022, Session will be considering proposed revisions to our church's Endowment and Gifts Plan. These revisions come from the Endowment Management Committee (Bob McVety, chair), and arose out of the committee's work receiving the generous bequest from the estate of Margaret Chase. In a separate article, you'll find an explanation from Bob about the rationale for these revisions. I'll just say a few words here about how the process works.

Revising the Endowment and Gifts Plan requires a three-month process involving both Session and the congregation. The proposed amendments must be read at two consecutive Session meetings, with a vote taking place at the third. At the final meeting, 75% of Session must be in attendance, and passage requires a two-thirds vote of those present. Concurrent with this process, notice must be given to the congregation. You'll find a summary of the amendments in this newsletter, and a revised draft of the policy attached to the newsletter email and posted on the bulletin board in the education building.

This is a cumbersome process—but it's set up that way for a good reason. One of the things that most impressed me about this congregation, when I arrived, was the care and deliberateness with which the congregation planned for receiving, investing, and spending its assets in a way that would be in line with the church's values. In December, the Endowment Management Committee received a report from the Presbyterian Foundation on the investment side, including the fossil-free component of the church's portfolio. This process of plan revision will enable the church to think about how to receive and spend.

Please take the time to read the plan and its suggested revisions. If you need a copy of the plan, please contact the church office. If you have questions about the revisions, please contact Bob McVety or me.



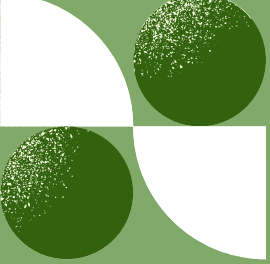
Session also raised the question of whether to resume communion at the end of January. Due to rising case counts in Leon county, consideration of that question has been postponed. For now, we'll continue to hold off on resuming communion.



Sermon references:

In Sunday's sermon I quoted Madeline L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time* and other children's books, as well as books and essays for adults. Her memoir-ish book *Circle of Quiet* is a great meditation on Christianity and the creative life. The quote about the calling of Christian life being "to serve, lavishly, what you have been given" comes from an interview quoted in a preaching resource, "A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series: Thematic Plans for Years A, B, and C." Unfortunately, the author didn't cite the original source of the interview, and I was unable to find it online. The Moveable Feast colleague who calculated the quantity of the water transformed at Cana is Rev. Doug King, my former internship supervisor at Brick Church, NYC who is now Senior Pastor at Ladue Chapel in St. Louis, MO.





# **The Endowment Management Committee Recommends Amendments to the Endowment and Gifts Plan**

**THE ENDOWMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE ENDOWMENT AND GIFTS PLAN. THE PLAN IS OVER 25 YEARS OLD, AND SOME CHANGES ARE SUGGESTED FOR CLARIFICATION AND UNFORESEEN NEED.**

**A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND THE RATIONALE ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1. RENAME THE PLAN TO LEGACY AND GIFTS PLAN. THIS IS TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONFUSION BETWEEN THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE ENDOWMENT AND GIFTS PLAN. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE CHURCH RECEIVES A BEQUEST TO THE "ENDOWMENT," SHOULD THE GIFT GO TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND OR BE MANAGED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENDOWMENT AND GIFTS PLAN?**
- 2. THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND WAS ESTABLISHED BY A CHURCH MEMBER IN 1997 WITH THE PROVISION THAT IT BE MANAGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ENDOWMENT AND GIFTS PLAN. THE AMENDMENTS INCORPORATE THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND AND ITS RESTRICTIONS INTO THE PLAN.**
- 3. AN EMERGENCY OPERATION FUND IS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE A PLACE FOR GIFTS AND BUDGETED FUNDS TO BE HELD FOR UNPLANNED EVENTS. HURRICANES AND THE PANDEMICS ARE EXAMPLES OF DISRUPTIVE EVENTS THAT HAVE SHOWN THIS NEED. THE WORDING IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THIS IS FOR EMERGENCY ONLY.**
- 4. THE SESSION IS GIVEN FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING DECISIONS ON INVESTMENTS. CURRENTLY IT'S UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE EMC ALONE CAN DO SO.**

**SOME MINOR CLEAN-UP CHANGES ARE MADE TO FIX OUTDATED PROVISIONS AND SIMPLIFY LANGUAGE.  
NONE ARE SUBSTANTIVE.**





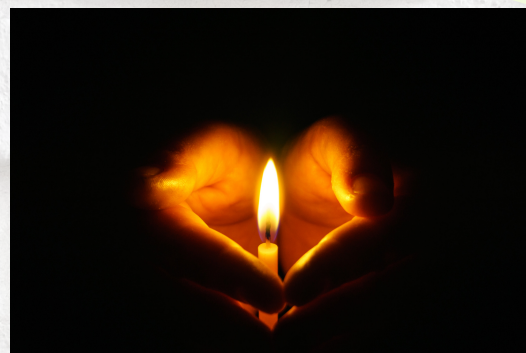


## **Nursery and Preschool Childcare**

**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.**



## **Spiritual Formation Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

**On Zoom at 7 p.m.**

**The zoom link will be sent to current members of the SFT.**

**If you would like to join the group who create, plan and support the spiritual nurture of our church family from infancy through adulthood, please contact**

**[christy@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:christy@oldfirstchurch.org).**

**We would be excited to welcome you to our team of committed volunteers.**





## **ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS WESTMINSTER ROOM AND ON ZOOM JANUARY 23, 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.

This week we start a new DVD study series with Professor Amy-Jill Levine titled, "The Difficult Words of Jesus." ([trailer](#)). Stan Williams will lead the first of the six sessions, "Sell What You Own." We will examine Jesus's call to a would-be disciple to sell all his possessions ([see Mark 10:17-27](#)).

All are welcome! Each Zoom meeting opens new opportunities to learn and share — whether you've attended previously or not.

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.

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.**



**AT FPC  
JANUARY 23, 2021  
FROM 5-6:30 P.M.**

We will begin our series on positive mental health. Over the course of the next few weeks we will explore:

- mindfulness exercises
- tips on what to do when a friend needs help
- what to do when you need help,
- identify people we will reach out to when things are difficult
- alternative ways to give thanks and be joyful and a host of other sub-topics within this study.



# Old First Church Book Group

## **JANUARY and FEBRUARY**



**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 23, 2022**  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

NEHEMIAH 8:1-10  
PSALM 19  
I CORINTHIANS 12:12-31  
LUKE 4:14-24

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.

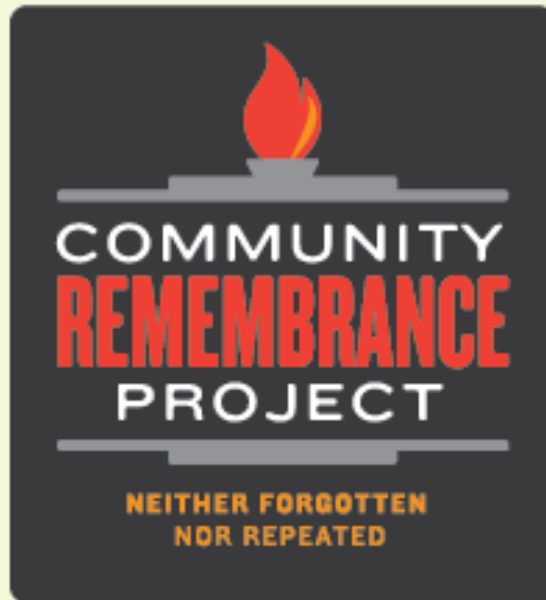
WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LONG HISTORY OF SYSTEMIC RACISM THAT, THROUGH VIOLENCE, LAWS, POLICIES, AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, WAS INTENDED TO EXCLUDE PERSONS WHO ARE NOT CAUCASIAN FROM BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES - FROM THE FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS WHO CONSIDERED THEMSELVES ENTITLED TO LAND AND VIOLENTLY DISPLACED 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.





## **ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE AT LYNCHING MARKER IN CASCADES PARK**

**ON FEBRUARY 29, 2020, THE TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT (TCRP), A COALITION OF 46 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES, LED A SOIL COLLECTION CEREMONY AT THE CORNER OF E. GAINES AND S. MERIDIAN STREETS TO REMEMBER THE FOUR DOCUMENTED VICTIMS OF LYNCHING IN LEON COUNTY: PIERCE TAYLOR, MICK MORRIS, ERNEST PONDER AND RICHARD HAWKINS. ON JULY 17, 2021, A HISTORICAL LYNCHING MARKER WAS UNVEILED AND DEDICATED AT THE SAME LOCATION WITH 400 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. THIS YEAR, ON FEBRUARY 12, 2022, AT 2:00 P.M., THE TCRP WILL HOLD ITS FIRST ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE AT THE MARKER. DR. MAXINE JONES, HISTORY PROFESSOR AND WOMEN STUDIES DIRECTOR AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, WILL SPEAK CONCERNING LEON COUNTY'S VICTIMS. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT REMEMBRANCE, FSU HISTORY PROFESSOR DR. JENNIFER KOSLOW WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL AT ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 211 N. MONROE STREET, CONCERNING SIX MORE LEON COUNTY MEN WHO WERE TAKEN BY LAW ENFORCEMENT TO LAKE CITY IN 1911 BUT WHO WERE REMOVED FROM THE JAIL UNDER FALSE PRETENSES AND LYNCHED THERE, IN COLUMBIA COUNTY. PLEASE ENTER THE PARISH HALL FROM THE CALHOUN STREET ENTRANCE. BOTH EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**





DEAR COMMISSIONER NIKKI FRIED:



FLORIDA YOUTH DESERVE  
BOLD CLIMATE ACTION NOW!



DEAR FRIENDS,

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS. ONE-HUNDRED AND SIXTY YOUTH, INCLUDING SOME FROM OUR CHURCH HAVE SIGNED ON TO **A PETITION FOR RULEMAKING** TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, ASKING FOR A GOAL TO INCREASE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN FLORIDA'S ELECTRICITY SECTOR TO AT LEAST 40% BY 2030, 63% BY 2035, 82% BY 2040, AND 100% BY 2050.

IF YOU ARE 25 AND YOUNGER, THERE IS STILL TIME TO **SIGN ON TO THE PETITION HERE**, AND IF YOU HAVE ALREADY JOINED, GET YOUR FRIENDS ON BOARD TOO!

THANKS.  
PAM MCVETY





**CHANGING THE WAY WE DO FOOD  
WILL SAVE THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT  
A FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP, PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022  
TIME: 7:30 - 8:30 PM EST (4:30 - 5:30 PM PST)**

**ANDREW KANG BARTLETT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATE FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM, WILL PRESENT AND LEAD THIS DIALOGUE ABOUT FOOD AND CLIMATE.**

**WE WILL LOOK AT THE LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT, FROM INNER WORK TO INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, AS WELL AS THE TOOLS AND APPROACHES THAT CAN MOVE US TOWARD JUSTICE AND GOD'S VISION OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY.**

**CLIMATE ACTIVISM NARROWLY FOCUSED ON ELECTRIFYING OUR ECONOMY AND REDUCING EMISSIONS, EVEN IF SUCCESSFUL IN THOSE AREAS, STILL LEADS TO RUIN. ON THE OTHER HAND, BY INTEGRATING CLIMATE JUSTICE AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY INTO OUR CLIMATE WORK, WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THE PLAYING FIELD ITSELF. THIS APPROACH CAN CREATE PATHWAYS THAT CIRCUMVENT AND RESTRUCTURE THE SYSTEMS THAT CREATED THE CRISES WE FACE. AS AUDRE LORDE FAMOUSLY SAID, "FOR THE MASTER'S TOOLS WILL NEVER DISMANTLE THE MASTER'S HOUSE. THEY MAY ALLOW US TO TEMPORARILY BEAT HIM AT HIS OWN GAME, BUT THEY WILL NEVER ENABLE US TO BRING ABOUT GENUINE CHANGE." WE WILL LOOK AT WORK HAPPENING IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, TO HELP ILLUSTRATE THIS APPROACH AND WE WILL HARVEST EXAMPLES OF CHANGE STRATEGIES FROM PARTICIPANTS AND EXAMINE THEM THROUGH THIS LENS. FINALLY, WE'LL CONSIDER HOW TO APPLY THESE LESSONS TO OUR OWN SETTINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS.**

**PLEASE INVITE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CHURCH MEMBERS TO JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING.**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**





No one should live this way.

**FIGHT HOMELESSNESS**

Help change a life today.



## **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).

Dear Friends,

On February 24, 2022,

Greenfaith is inviting people of faith around the world to learn more about how financial industries have authorized and supported the climate's destruction by investing in the fossil fuel industry, and how to hold asset managers and banks accountable.

The event will be entirely on Zoom at a time yet to be determined.

To participate or to learn more about Greenfaith and this campaign, please click here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/multi-faith-climate-finance-campaign-launch?source=email&>

Thanks.

Pam McVety



# 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