



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 31, 2022



First Presbyterian Church

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website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

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 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



Lawn Visits for FPC Families!

During the week of February 14-17, families at FPC can sign up for an afternoon or early evening time to get a fun campfire lawn visit. We will make s'mores, sing a campfire song and tell a story. We will bring the campfire with us (it is small and portable), as well as everything necessary to make a s'more and have some fun right on your front lawn. All you need to do is have a chair or blanket to sit on. Sign ups have been emailed to families on our list. IF you don't receive the email and would like to have a lawn visit, please email: christy@oldfirstchurch.org.

See you on the lawn!!

Nothing could be S'more fun!



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

This weekend was a full but joyful one. I joined (virtually) the God Squad on Friday for a conversation on “silver linings” of the pandemic—the signs we had seen that were hopeful or new amid so much pain, death, dislocation and disruption. Even so, we also talked about the dark clouds, especially ongoing racism and anti-Semitism amplified by a decline in community interaction and increasing online radicalization.

On Saturday we celebrated the marriage of Shirley Zahn and John Hedrick. Shirley and John were married last summer at a time when their families could be together, but wanted a wedding celebration in the sanctuary and in the presence of their local community. It was a joyous occasion, and I’d forgotten how lovely wedding music is. We sang one of the same songs, “The Gift of Love,” in worship on Sunday.

And then Sunday we had a good turnout in worship in spite of temperatures that made me think I was back in Ohio. It was fun to discover that you guys do own winter coats—most people who were with us in person were wearing them for the whole service!

The weekend ended, however, on a more sober note, with a Zoom conversation with former Leon County Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho. He outlined many of the ways in which voting rights are under attack, and the legislation that has already been passed to curtail them. The healing racism task force is continuing to look for ways our community of faith can stand in support of voting rights in our country and state.

My sermon Sunday mentioned Reinhold Niebuhr’s classic book Moral Man, Immoral Society, which is about moral dimensions of individual and group behavior.

I will be in Philadelphia Feb. 3-5 for a Board of Pensions meeting.



Dogwood Acres Conference Center
and Summer Camp is conducting a
search for a Program Director.
This is a year-round, salaried position.
For more information, contact
Brant Copeland
Search Committee Chair
brantscopeland@outlook.com

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

Advocacy and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities are core to our mission, vision and the work our colleagues accomplish 24/7. Our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) helps us to collect the valuable data needed to determine how we can accomplish this.

TAKE THE 2022 CHNA SURVEY

About the CHNA

In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act aimed to utilize not-for-profit hospitals as a resource to address community health priorities by requiring all not-for-profit hospitals to conduct a CHNA and create an Implementation Strategy every three years. These assessments help identify the health concerns, barriers to good health and strengths and weaknesses specific to each community. Not-for-profit hospitals have a unique role to play in improving health and wellbeing as they are often one of the largest local employers, investors and purchasers in their communities.

Our next CHNA is due September 2022. The assessment will include both primary (surveys and focus groups) and secondary (existing public health research) data. This process has already begun and takes about a year to complete.

Why is it important?

Over time we've come to understand more deeply the determinants of health and the interactions between these determinants. Although, access to good healthcare is essential, clinical care is not a major contributor to individual nor population health. In fact, clinical care is estimated to determine about 10 percent of overall health, while socioeconomic factors, such as education, income and employment determine about 40 percent and health behaviors, such as nutrition and physical activity, contribute about 30 percent.



Message from the Endowment Management Committee

Several church members have made provisions in their wills that leave part of their estate to the church. Any undesignated gift or bequest under \$20,000 is divided equally between the endowment fund and the facilities reserve fund. For amounts over that, the Endowment Management Committee evaluates the financial needs of the church and makes a recommendation to the Session as to how best manage the gift. The most recent, and largest ever received was from the estate of Margaret Chase. The Session determined the best use for \$100,000 of the gift is for some of the property committee priorities including: replacing the failing air conditioner in the Westminster Room, remodeling the Westminster Room and the third-floor restroom, upgrading the security system with closed circuit cameras, and repairing several sanctuary windows where daylight can be seen between the window and their frames. Some of this work has already been done. The remaining approximately 80% of the Chase gift is going to the Endowment Fund and will be invested in perpetuity with the annual earnings being made available for church outreach programs and facility needs.



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 p.m.

Please contact Carol Weissert at 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 COVID19, and we hope to see many of you who so graciously participated then engaged in this new effort.

"Hearts Together" Underwear Drive

February 13th

at church if you come for the in-person service or our fabulous Youth Group will host a "drive by/ drop off" collection between 4-5 pm



February is fast approaching as the Care Team is planning our annual Agape Love Fest (*formerly, pre-COVID, a potluck Feast!*) Our theme this year is once again "Hearts Together" and will involve reaching out to our beloved children and our members at Westminster Oaks and other homes with Agape bags and love tokens of our appreciation and care.

For our community, we reached out to Grace Mission who requested men's underwear which is in short supply! More information will be coming, but you can begin shopping for these sizes of Men's Underwear in order of lowest to highest need:

34 waist or Medium

XXL

40 waist or XL

36, 38 waist or Large

2 Bonus items requested:

New/Used Men's jeans same sizes as above

Powdered Gatorade packets or Gatorade or electrolyte/hydration type drinks.

This request was related to many who have been recovering in place from illness recently. (*Water bottles are already available to those who are homeless.*)

Lastly, checks to Grace Mission are always welcome!

The collection will happen on February 13 either at church if you come for the in-person service or our fabulous Youth Group will host a "drive by/ drop off" collection between 4-5 p.m.



Nursery and Preschool Childcare

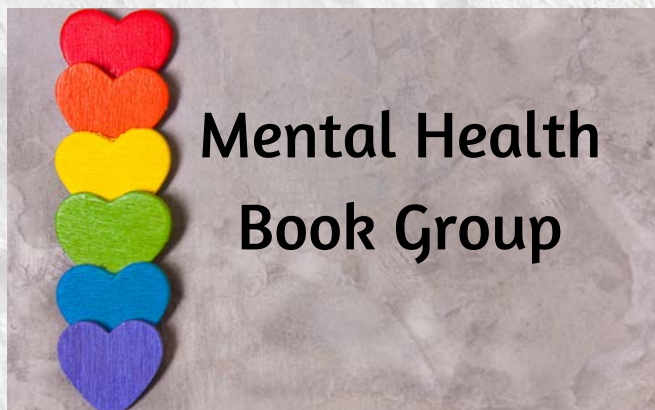
Sitters from Twinkle Toes Childcare agency are staffing our nursery.

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.



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.



Our youth group has been asked to participate in a Youth Mental Health book group on Zoom on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Copies of the book have been ordered for each person in our youth group. The book deals with LGBTQIA+ issues and suicide. It is called *The Visitors: A heartwarming tale of friendship, hard-won truths, and the healing power of forgiveness* by Greg Howard. This will be for PCUSA youth in the southeast.



Healing Racism Task Force

This group of First Presbyterians meets monthly to work on policies/statements, plan events and classes and explore ways to assist our congregation in promoting racial justice in our church, community and country. We suggest books for the monthly Book Group, we also work on liturgy to be used in special services or meetings. If you would like to be part of our task force, please contact Deborah Whisnant or Christy Williams: christy@oldfirstchurch.org.

Next meeting is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 on ZOOM.



ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS WESTMINSTER ROOM AND ON ZOOM FEBRUARY 6, 2022



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 continue our DVD study series with Professor Amy-Jill Levine titled, “The Difficult Words of Jesus.” ([trailer](#)). Miriam Gurniak will lead the third of six sessions, “Slave of All.” We will explore biblical language about slavery, including Jesus's call for his disciples to “become as slaves” to others (see [Mark 10:32-45](#)).

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 so we can get you on the list.

Thank you to all those volunteers who make adult church school happen in a hybrid manner on Sunday mornings: John Guthrie, Carl Morse, Patrick Kennedy and Chris Corzine. It is an amazing amount of work to make our hybrid class happen and it is because of the time these folks are willing to give.

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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
no later than noon on the Monday of
publication.**



**AT FPC
FEBRUARY 6, 2022
5-6:30 P.M.**

We will finish our series on mental health with a conversation about resilience. Books for the denominational book group will be available for pick-up at youth group.

Mental Health Book Group:

Our youth group has been asked to participate in a Youth Mental Health book group on zoom on Weds, March 23 at 7 p.m. Copies of the book have been ordered for each person in our youth group. The book deals with LGBTQIA+ issues and suicide. It is called *The*

Visitors: A heartwarming tale of friendship, hard-won truths, and the healing power of forgiveness by Greg Howard. This will be for PCUSA youth in the southeast.

Old First Church Book Group

FEBRUARY



**On February 24 at 7 p.m.
we will discuss**

Anxious People

by Fredrik Bachman

The two church copies are currently on loan, but books can be purchased at Midtown Reader (remember to mention you are part of FPC's book group and get a 10% discount) as well as online. Prior to the book group gathering, questions for reflection will be emailed out to the group. If you are interested in participating, email:

christy@oldfirstchurch.org



**Church
World
Service**



Give a Church World Service Blanket to Someone in Need

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. In partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, including the U.S., CWS offers opportunities to join a people-to-people network of caring through participation in their Tools of Hope & Blanket Program. Through the generosity of congregations, shelters and vulnerable people around the world are getting supplies like blankets and hygiene kits to keep them safe and healthy. A \$10 blanket (or two for \$20 or five for \$50) is a gift that can make a world of difference in the wake of natural disasters, human calamities and pandemic illness.

These blankets are shipped all over the world, heavier ones for colder climates and lighter weight blankets for warmer zones. They are a tangible representation of love and solace to people in need, and a statement that they are not alone. As a congregation, our heart for mission remains strong. This is one of our opportunities to help make a difference and change lives.

Donations for the Church World Service Blanket Offering are welcomed from those who are able during the entire month of February. Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church noting Blankets in the memo line, or by designating your gift for the Blanket Offering on the Church website's [contribution](#) section. If you have questions, please contact Esther Moring at esthermoring@gmail.com



Sunday Festival Readings

FEBRUARY 6, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ISAIAH 6:1-8
PSALM 138
I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11
LUKE 5:1-11



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.

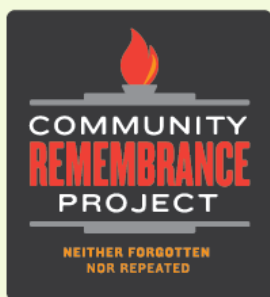
We acknowledge the long history of systemic racism that, through violence, laws, policies, and their implementation, was intended to exclude persons who are not Caucasian from benefits and opportunities - from the first European settlers who considered themselves entitled to land and violently displaced 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.

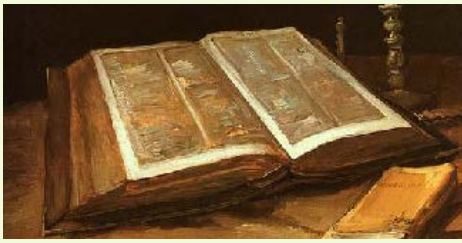


Dear Friends,
On February 24, 2022,
Greenfaith is inviting people of faith around the world to learn more about how financial industries have authorized and supported the climate's destruction by investing in the fossil fuel industry, and how to hold asset managers and banks accountable.

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 FEBRUARY 1-15, 2022

Tuesday, February 1

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Gen. 21:1–21
Heb. 11:13–22
John 6:41–51

Wednesday, February 2

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Gen. 22:1–18
Heb. 11:23–31
John 6:52–59

Thursday, February 3

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Gen. 23:1–20
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 6:60–71

Friday, February 4

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Gen. 24:1–27
Heb. 12:3–11
John 7:1–13

Saturday, February 5

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Gen. 24:28–38, 49–51
Heb. 12:12–29
John 7:14–36

Sunday, February 6

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Gen. 24:50–67
2 Tim. 2:14–21
Mark 10:13–22

Monday, February 7

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Gen. 25:19–34
Heb. 13:1–16
John 7:37–52

Tuesday, February 8

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Gen. 26:1–6, 12–33
Heb. 13:17–25
John 7:53–8:11

Wednesday, February 9

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Gen. 27:1–29
Rom. 12:1–8
John 8:12–20

Thursday, February 10

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Gen. 27:30–45
Rom. 12:9–21
John 8:21–32

Friday, February 11

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Gen. 27:46–28:4, 10–22
Rom. 13:1–14
John 8:33–47

Saturday, February 12

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Gen. 29:1–20
Rom. 14:1–23
John 8:47–59

Sunday, February 13

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Gen. 29:20–35
1 Tim. 3:14–4:10
Mark 10:23–31

Monday, February 14

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Gen. 30:1–24
1 John 1:1–10
John 9:1–17

Tuesday, February 15

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Gen. 31:1–24
1 John 2:1–11
John 9:18–41



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 16-28, 2022

Wednesday, February 16

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Gen. 31:25–50
1 John 2:12–17
John 10:1–18

Thursday, February 17

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Gen. 32:3–21
1 John 2:18–29
John 10:19–30

Friday, February 18

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 149
Gen. 32:22–33:17
1 John 3:1–10
John 10:31–42

Saturday, February 19

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Gen. 35:1–20
1 John 3:11–18
John 11:1–16

Sunday, February 20

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Prov. 1:20–33
2 Cor. 5:11–21
Mark 10:35–45

Monday, February 21

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Prov. 3:11–20
1 John 3:18–4:6
John 11:17–29

Tuesday, February 22

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Prov. 4:1–27
1 John 4:7–21
John 11:30–44

Wednesday, February 23

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Prov. 6:1–19
1 John 5:1–12
John 11:45–54

Thursday, February 24

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Prov. 7:1–27
1 John 5:13–21
John 11:55–12:8

Friday, February 25

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Prov. 8:1–21
Phlm. 1–25
John 12:9–19

Saturday, February 26

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Prov. 8:22–36
2 Tim. 1:1–14
John 12:20–26

Sunday, February 27**Transfiguration of the Lord**

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Mal. 4:1–6
2 Cor. 3:7–18
Luke 9:18–27

Monday, February 28

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Prov. 27:1–6, 10–12
Phil. 2:1–13
John 18:15–18, 25–27