



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 14, 2022



First Presbyterian Church
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Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone (850) 222-4504

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email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

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!

Presbyterian Women Winter Gathering

on Zoom February 20

after church and after lunch 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

The Rev. Susan Gage,
Parish Priest of Saint Barnabas Episcopal Valdosta,
will be our speaker. Rev. Gage studied at Virginia
Theological Seminary and has a background in
public radio journalism.

Music by Carla and Tim Connor

For those unable to take part via Zoom, you may view
Rev. Gage's presentation on YouTube using this link:

<https://youtu.be/1hYtl4bci7Q>



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

On Saturday, the Community Remembrance Project organized a gathering in Cascades Park to bear witness to African Americans from Leon County who died by lynching—extrajudicial killing at the hands of a mob, often with the complicity of law enforcement officials who had been responsible for their safety while in custody. The event began with a brief service of remembrance in Cascades Park by the historical marker, followed by a lecture at St John's.

The ceremony was a powerful act of public witness. Blan Teagle, a leader of the Community Remembrance Project, opened the event and introduced the speakers. Dr. Maxine Jones of FSU told the stories of the four (known) men who were lynched in Leon County: Pierce Taylor, Mick Morris, Ernest Ponder and Richard Hawkins. Marcus Smith gave a rendition of "Over My Head, I Hear Music in the Air" that invoked the very phenomenon of which he sang—the experience of the powerful presence of God through song. Dr. Dan Leshem of FSU Hillel put the day's events in ecumenical perspective, and drew connections to the broader experience of human suffering and resistance. I got to deliver the opening prayer, which was fortunate for me because it meant I got to sit back and just experience the rest of the program.

The lecture that followed at St. John's was a powerful act of public history. Dr. Judy Koslow shared her recent research into extrajudicial killings associated with Leon Country, and her discovery of six additional names of men from Leon Country who were kidnapped from the Lake City jail and killed at the city limits there. Her presentation was a testimony to the lives of those men (what she was able to uncover about them) and to the power of public institutions to keep (or lose) records of the past.

In an age when so much news coverage focuses around what teachers are NOT allowed to share about the history and presence of racism in this country, Saturday's events were a powerful counter voice. Thanks to all who organized and participated.

From Sunday's sermon: I was reminded of the idea that "woe means woe" (rather than curse) by listening to the Sermon Brainware podcast by Working Preacher, a conversation among four Biblical scholars who teach at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis. But Matt Skinner, the professor who brought it up in the podcast, said he learned it as the guest at the Moveable Feast a few years back... so it's one big game of Presbyterian Biblical Studies telephone.



"Bless This Mess"

The last three years have taught us more about finding hope and being resilient in the face of the chaos of the world. This coming season of Lent, we invite you to join us in finding ways to be still, to search for hope and to renew faith. Even in the mess of this world, we recognize God with us.
Blessings in the midst of mess.

**Mark your calendar for our
3:00 p.m. March 6
Lenten Wilderness Hike with
Allie Snyder and Lucas Heiker.
Location TBD.**

Midday Moments of Grace & Peace

in the sanctuary of FPC on
Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m.
Tuesday March 8, 15, 22, 29 and
April 5.

All are welcome to join us for prayer, reflection, song and stillness. We will provide space for a brown bag lunch in the courtyard (weather permitting) or the Westminster Room following the service.

Shrove Tuesday-Cake Sunday
Following worship
on Sunday, February 27
- in the courtyard -

Cake, masks, beads, photos, activities and even things to take home!

During the middle ages, in England and other parts of Europe, it was tradition to eat pancakes on the day before Ash Wednesday. By preparing these delicious treats, families were able to deplete their supply of milk, eggs, fat and butter so they would not be tempted to have them while observing Lent (when they were expected to fast).

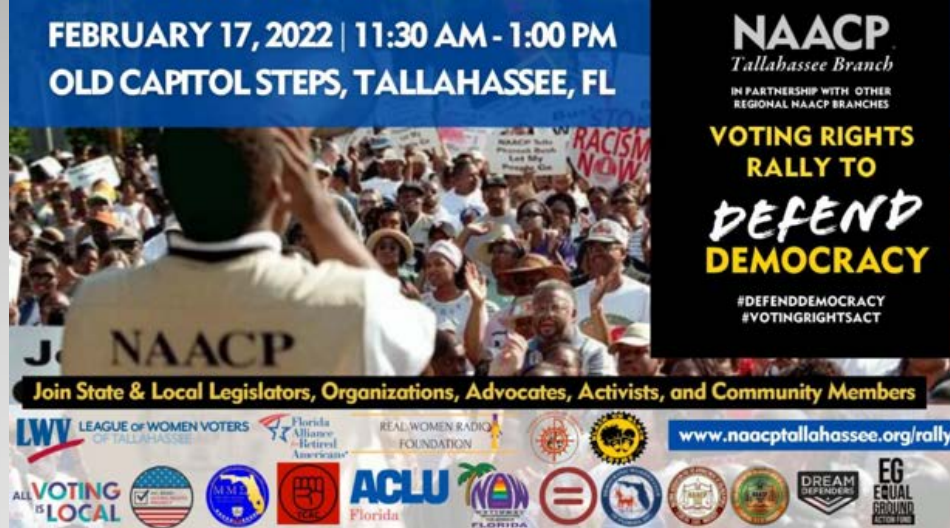
This year we will be observing Shrove Tuesday on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday when we can enjoy the daylight hours and hopefully some warm sunshine.

Join us for the fun!! All ages invited!

Lenten Volunteer Opportunity at Second Harvest's Warehouse:

Thursdays from 9-Noon
March 3, 17, 31 and April 7.
Older children and youth are welcome during the week of Spring Break.
We need 4-8 volunteers each time.
Volunteer by emailing
christy@oldfirstchurch.org.





The Healing Racism Task Force Acts to Address Voter Suppression

Our denomination and church are part of a national theological pushback to the growing number of voter suppression bills showing up in state legislatures. For the second year in a row, the Florida legislature is considering bills that will make it more difficult to vote.

Many faith leaders across the country believe that “each person, and therefore each voter, is made in the image of God and that any effort to discourage or suppress their vote assaults their human dignity and undermines our democracy.”

Thanks to all of you who joined the February 7, Zoom call with Ion Sancho, the retired Supervisor of Elections for Leon County to learn about voter suppression in Florida. In response to what we learned and after reviewing pending election bills in the Florida legislature, the Healing Racism Task Force and Reverend Fox sent the letter below to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. It states our opposition to election bills, CS/SB 524 and HB 7061, and notes that last year’s HB 90 and the current bills suggest a pattern of voter suppression by the Florida Legislature.

We also sent it to Ukirk as well as Faith, Christ and Trinity Presbyterian Churches encouraging them to write letters.

The task force is having a banner made for the front of our church which we can legally hang with a city permit for two weeks. Subject to Session approval, we are suggesting that it read, “Protect Voting Rights.” It is a simple, direct message that people driving by can easily read.

Thursday the League of Women Voters is hosting a voter suppression rally at the old capitol from 11:30 to 1:00. Please join the Healing Racism Task Force members to walk to the Capitol. We will leave the church promptly at 11:30. Mask up for safety and signs are welcome.

Finally, we ask that you contact your friends and relatives around the state about these pending election bills and ask them to write their republican representatives about voter suppression. This Online Sunshine link connects you to legislators.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/cgi-bin/View_Page.pl?File=contact.html&Directory=Info_Center/help/&Location=app.

Together, we can make a difference.



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February 10, 2022

Honorable Wilton Simpson
Senate President
The Capitol Suite 409
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Honorable Chris Sprowls
Speaker of the House
The Capitol Suite 100
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Gentlemen,

The Healing Racism Task Force of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, writes you in opposition to CS/SB 524 and HB 7061, on elections, that have been widely interpreted to suppress voting in Florida. As Presbyterians, we believe that neither the Church, as a body of Christ, nor Christians as individuals can be neutral or indifferent toward oppression in the world and are compelled to speak out when our government is using its great power to harm others.

These bills are harmful to democracy and to the most vulnerable in our community, people of color, women and senior citizens for the simple reason that it makes it harder to vote. They also undermine our collective faith in democracy by creating a false narrative that something is wrong with our existing voting system.

Further, this legislation appears to be part of a systemic approach to make it harder for minorities and others to vote as evidenced by your passage of HB 90 in 2021, that has been challenged in court by the League of Women Voters of Florida, Black Voters Matter Fund, Florida Alliance for Retired Americans and several individual voters, who all call it a voter suppression bill.

The Presbyterian denomination has a long history of opposing voter suppression. In 2014, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A produced a study guide titled, *We Shall Not Be Moved – Advocacy in the New Age of Voter Suppression* that documents a long history of actions similar to those proposed in the current legislation that result in voter suppression. The report states that it is a sin to deny anyone a fair vote and that voter suppression is contrary to Presbyterian ideals.

Thus, we strongly and publicly call upon you to withdraw these bills immediately.

Sincerely,

The Healing Racism Task Force and Reverend Margaret Fox at First Presbyterian Church


Deborah Whisnant, Chair	Sue Hightower	Walter Moore	Ann Westall
Donna Barber	Ann Hingst	Esther Moring	Aide Whitaker
Joyce Crawford	Pam McVety	Ali Orange	Christy Williams
Debbie Gibson	Marian Moore	Greta Reed	Carol Wynn

Margaret O. Fox
Pastor


Michael L. Corzine
Organist & Choirmaster

Christy L. Williams
Director of Christian Education

Jim Davis
Financial Administrator



Estate Planning and the Church from your Endowment Management Committee



Estate planning offers the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith. Even a small asset can be turned into a gift which will support your church or program choices in perpetuity. A method used by several First Church members is purchasing a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust through the Presbyterian Foundation. When you make this purchase, you name a charitable organization as beneficiary. The annuity will provide you a lifetime income, after which the remainder value will go to the charity. Plus, you receive a federal income tax benefit at the time of purchase. In 1999, the church received a notice that an anonymous donor had purchased one of these annuities for over \$130,000, designating whatever remains after their death to go to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund. Fortunately, the donors are still alive and receiving income, but they also have the knowledge that the gift will continue beyond their lifetimes at Old First. If you'd like to learn more about this, or other similar ways to make a charitable contribution that includes lifetime income, contact Bob McVety or the Presbyterian Foundation at 800/858-6127, or visit the website: presbyterianfoundation.org.



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. Pew envelopes are provided for your convenience. 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

"Hearts Together" Underwear Drive February 13th



See what we can do when we put our Agape love to work and our "Hearts Together! "

Our Care and Outreach team got the whole church involved in reaching out to our dear Westminster Oaks members, our children, and other members who are in need of our Agape love. 40 Agape bags were compiled and prepared by Care and Outreach members, Preschool children under the direction of Miss Tasha, the Together in Service team lead by Aide Whitaker, delivered to children in church, WMO residents and members in other facilities and homes. Our Agape community service project to assist Grace Mission in their needs especially in this time of COVID-19 was a tremendous success!

Thank you for your steadfast generosity!

You brought to the church collection and dropped off to our fabulous youth group at the drive-by :

- 356 Pairs of Men's Underwear
- 30 Pairs of Men's Jeans/Pants+ various other clothing
- 120 packets of dry hydration/electrolyte packets
- plus a case of liquid electrolyte fluids
- AND \$200.00 in checks and cash donations

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

The men and women who are served by Grace Mission will surely be helped by your gifts of Agape Love.

God Bless you!

Care and Outreach Team





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.

Our meal team provides meals for members and their families during times of celebration and challenge. Although the needs are currently few, it is not impossible that needs will arise while we are still minimizing personal contact. There are ways to help each other that do not involve close interaction, including ordering meals to be delivered. We also have a small group of members who are available to assist with shopping or other errands for those who are trying to avoid leaving their homes. If this would be helpful to you please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith, chair, at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com. Also, this time of lower demand would be an excellent time for you to be sure you can still access the Lotsa Helping Hands website we use to coordinate most meal requests.



**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

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



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 20, 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](#)). Mary Vance will lead the fifth of six sessions, “Outer Darkness.” See [Matthew 25:30](#): “As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” We will consider:

- How ideas about hell developed,
- Some of Jesus’s sayings on the subject,
- Whether the Gospels speak of a literal hell, and
- Whether the idea helps or hinders how we think and how we act.

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.



**AT FPC
FEB 20, 2022
FROM 5-6:30 P.M.**

“The Good Life” – what does it mean, how do we get it, why do we want it and who is a model for living it? Join us as we consider these questions and examine what the good life looks like to us and to the world.



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

Old First Church Book Group

**FEBRUARY
2022**



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

Anxious People

by Fredrik Bachman

**Peggy Wright Cleveland will
be our guest facilitator!!**

There is one more book for February's book group in the office for 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.org



Sunday Festival Readings

FEBRUARY 20, 2022
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GENESIS 45:3-11,15
PSALM 37:1-11,39-40
I CORINTHIANS 15:35-38,42-50
LUKE 6:27-38



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 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