



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 21, 2022



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 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

Our Church School Students will receive your 2-Cents-a-Meal offering **Sunday March 6** if you are worshiping in person; or, you may mail or drop off your gift in the church office with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with a 2-Cents-a-Meal notation in the memo line.

What is 2-Cents-A-Meal?

2-Cents-A-Meal is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat." When members bring their offerings to church on the appointed Sunday, all of those coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated.

These small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$180 a month at two cents a meal. That's \$2,160 dollars a year. A 30,000-member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$1.6 million annually at 5 cents per meal.



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

On the weekend of March 4-6, we will be observing Refugee Shabbat with Temple Israel. They've invited us to join them on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. for worship, followed by a program, led by a representative from the International Rescue Committee's Tallahassee chapter, about ways for individuals and congregations to help with refugee resettlement in Tallahassee, specifically recent arrivals from Afghanistan.

When Rabbi Shields proposed that we collaborate on this, he invited me to come and preach at Temple Israel, and I returned the invitation and asked him to preach here. (Session gave an enthusiastic agreement.) So our worship the weekend of March 4-6 will serve as a pulpit swap. We're invited to their 7 p.m. Friday service and 10 a.m. Saturday service and program, and we've invited them to join us for adult study and worship on Sunday morning. Rabbi Shields will give the sermon.

March 6 happens to be the first Sunday in Lent, and so I wondered how this would all work liturgically. After all, the Gospel for that day is always Jesus's temptation in the wilderness; how would that work for a pulpit swap with a synagogue on the theme of refugee resettlement? But when Rabbi Shields and I sat down to look at the texts together, we were both delighted to find that our respective lectionaries just happened to serve up appropriate texts. The parsha from the Jewish calendar is Exodus 38:21-40:33, a description of the construction of the tabernacle—basically, God providing a way for people to worship and meet God's presence even during their wilderness wandering—a period of dislocation. And our Old Testament passage for Lent 1 this year comes from Deuteronomy 26:1-11, a thanksgiving offering for God's deliverance from Egypt that focuses on Israel's roots as a refugee people, fleeing oppression in Egypt. The lectionary works in mysterious ways.

I'm looking forward to our shared weekend of worship and ministry, and hope you'll join us.

With Session's approval, in response to declining COVID numbers, we will be resuming the regular observance of communion, starting March 13, the second Sunday in Lent. We'll be in Lent, then Eastertide, then Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, so (barring further surges) we'll be celebrating the sacrament every Sunday for most of the remainder of spring.



"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.



March 2- 6 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service with
imposition of ashes in the
sanctuary.
Childcare available.

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).

Join us for the fun!!
All ages invited!

March 6
3:00 p.m.
Lenten Wilderness Hike with
Allie Snyder and Lucas Heiker.
Location TBD.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

**Mission Trip for youth and college students
March 13-18 to Youth Mission Co in Charleston, SC.**



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.



IMAGES OF S'MORE FUN





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:

- 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 the Endowment Fund or be managed under the provisions of the Endowment and Gifts Plan?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



Visitation Ministry

Our "visiting" ministry has had to adapt to social distancing restrictions, but we are still trying to keep in touch with members who would appreciate extra care, either because they are home bound or because they are recovering from illness or injury. If you are able to keep in touch with members by phone, text, or email, or if you are aware of a member who would appreciate extra contact with our church family, please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com.



**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

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
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 27, 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 conclude our DVD study series with Professor Amy-Jill Levine titled, “The Difficult Words of Jesus.” ([trailer](#)). Stan Williams will lead the final (sixth) session, “Your Father the Devil” (see [John 8:31-53](#) where Jesus tells the Jews, “You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires”). We will consider how such Scriptures have been used to prop up prejudice and horrific violence against Jews, and we will hear how to interpret them in ways that promote love instead.

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
FEBRUARY 27, 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 & MARCH 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

**March 31 at 7 p.m. on zoom.
Book choice TBA**



Sunday Festival Readings

FEBRUARY 27, 2022
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

EXODUS 34:29-35
PSALM 99
II CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2
LUKE 9:28-36(37-43A)



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



The Village Square to host “And the Pursuit of Happiness” on March 8 with Arthur Brooks

On Tuesday, March 8, The Village Square will host a discussion titled “And the Pursuit of Happiness.” Join us at St. John’s Episcopal Church for Dinner at the Square at 6:30 pm to explore how to regain happiness in the second half of life (and the first half too). We’re delighted to host esteemed author, Harvard Professor, and former AEI President Arthur Brooks. We’ll talk about how to live our best lives and how happiness is crucial to our democracy. Sally Bradshaw of Midtown Reader will facilitate the conversation. Early-bird ticket prices are available through March 2. For more info, a menu, and purchase tickets, go online to tlh.villagesquare.us, email eliza@villagesquare.us or call 281-1223.