

First Presbyterian Church 110 North Adams Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301 Phone (850) 222-4504 Fax (850) 222-2215 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

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church FEBRUARY 28, 2022



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.



Welcoming Ministry

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.



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

The minute I heard the first notes of the organ on Sunday morning, I thought, "Oh, this is going to be good." It was a joy to be with you to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, when the identity and mission and divinity of Jesus is revealed, in the company of Moses and Elijah, to the disciples on a mountaintop. Worship felt like a mountaintop moment—and left me with the fortitude to return to the chaos in the valley below, trusting that God's glory is also present there.

That evening, I had dinner with a small group that included members of Temple Israel; one of them mentioned that, in her meditation about the Ukraine crisis, the Jewish prayer that stuck with her was the one about God's glory. It felt like a similar juxtaposition to the one we experienced in our worship that day.

This weekend, we'll have a chance for further interfaith collaboration with Temple Israel. They've invited us to Refugee Shabbat, on Friday at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel. I'll preach the sermon, and Karen Duncan from the International Refugee Committee (IRC) will give a short presentation during the service on ways for congregations to help. (Please note the time change: the IRC program had originally been slated for the Saturday service, but has been shifted to Friday evening). Then on Sunday morning, Rabbi Shields will preach at our 11 a.m. service, for the First Sunday in Lent.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday; please join us for worship with imposition of ashes at 6 p.m. The service will be livestreamed; please contact the church office if you are in need of ashes to put on at home. Childcare is available.

With Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent begins. Please look at the newsletter for opportunities for Lenten worship, study, and service, including Tuesday midday worship, Thursday mornings at Second Harvest, and Sunday morning classes that will help us examine, reflect, and wrestle with our own congregation's history in the context of race and racism. Lenten devotionals and bags are also available for use at home.

The Ash Wednesday liturgy includes an invitation to observe a Holy Lent; I like to share this at the start of the Lenten season as a reminder of the sacred time that we're called into together:

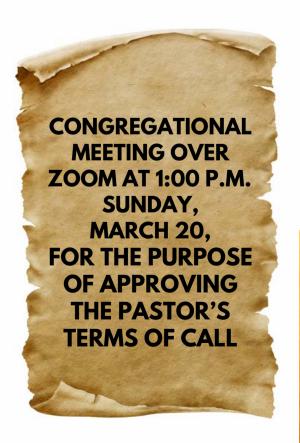
Beloved people of God: every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on Gods word.

Please join us in observing a Holy Lent together.

In Sunday's sermon the passage I quoted at length, on the glory of God held over and against the banality and brutality of human existence, came from Walter Brueggemann's commentary in the New Interpreter's Bible, volume 1.





Communion Preparation Helpers Needed
We have the HAPPY need of people who would
like to be on the list for communion
preparation. Beginning March 13th we will
resume communion (with a few small changes
to accommodate sanitation precautions). If
you'd like to be on a list of people to help with
this, please email Robyn Stevenson at
robyn-stevenson@comcast.net

Ecumenical Prayer Service Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 1 p.m.



Last week the Reverend RB Holmes called upon the faith community to join an Ecumenical Prayer Service to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. He wrote:

We are displeased and disturbed that President Putin would invade and violently attack an independent and sovereign nation. War is bad, ugly and kills innocent people. We are calling upon all Americans to come together and support President Biden and other nations as they stand up against this senseless aggression upon the people of Ukraine!

We need unity now and not political posturing and divisiveness!

You are encouraged to continue these prayers throughout this international crisis.



March 2 - April 17, 2022

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

your impact

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

\$4.1 million

granted by PDA in the United States and 57 countries in the first half of 2020

94

grants impacting 20 countries given by PHP in 2019

50

years of ministry for SDOP

over 17,000

people trained nationally and internationally by OGHS ministries

5.676

PDA work team volunteers served in 2019

234

certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations helped care for creation

51,000

trees planted around the world

over 5,000

projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception

\$190,000

recovered in stolen wages for hospitality workers in the U.S.

1,097

Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods









Shrove Tuesday-Cake Sunday Following worship on Sunday, February 27













LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES



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 at 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes in the sanctuary.

Childcare available.

March 6 at 3:00 p.m. Lenten Hike with Allie Snyder

We will meet at Gate A off Miller Landing Road (this is about a ½ mile past the soccer complex). You will see the sign on the right that notes, Gate A, and a small parking lot that you turn into. There is a porta-potty and several trailheads to take from that meeting spot. Plan on just over an hour, as we may not be power-walking and Allie will be showing us signs of new life in the woods.

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



Midday Moments of Grace & Peace

Tuesdays in Lent – Join us for a quiet and reflective prayer service at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by a brown bag lunch either in the courtyard or the Westminster Room.

March 8 – Latricia Scrivens, Pastor at New Life United Methodist Church

March 15 - Greta Reed, honorably retired PCUSA Pastor

March 22 - Glenn Hodges, Hospice Chaplain, PCUSA Pastor

March 29 - Mathieu Frieze, PCUSA Pastor and UKirk Campus Minister

April 5 - Mary Vance, honorably retired PCUSA Pastor



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.



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.

Children's Church School Class

Our children's class has begun a new unit of study, The Healings and Miracles of Jesus. This past Sunday we learned the story of the man whose friends lowered him down to be healed by Jesus. Following the lesson, the class made "Friendship Soup" for snack. It is wonderful to see church friendships growing stronger each time we gather to learn about God's word.



Presbytery of Florida Disciplefest 2022

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. – Psalm 51:10



DISCIPLEFEST 2022 will feature 11 workshops, worship and fellowship, all amid the beauty of god's creation at dogwood acres retreat center and summer camp, Vernon, Florida.

Click here for a complete list of workshops with leaders and descriptions.

Event schedule:

9 am CT/10 am ET - registration/refreshments

9:45 am CT/10:45 am ET - morning worship

10:45 am CT/11:45 am ET - workshop session a

12 pm CT/1 pm ET - lunch

1 pm CT/2 pm ET - workshop session b

2:15 pm CT/3:15 pm ET - workshop session c

3:30 pm CT/4:30 pm ET - closing celebration

Lunch included:

Full salad bar

Baked chicken/roasted pork

Rolls

Brownies

Drinks

On-site child care will be available.

Stay over at Dogwood Acres Friday night!

ContactDogwood Acres director Ben Powell for information and reservations (ben@dogwoodacres.org or 850-528-3575).

For additional information, contact the Presbytery of Florida at (850)535-2335 or office@presbyteryofflorida.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



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 MARCH 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.

Christy Williams will introduce a five week program she and members of the Healing Racism Task Force prepared for the Lenten season. For more information, see "Repentance & Reconciliation: a path to healing justice" (page ___ of this week's newsletter). This week's topic is "A familiar story, from a different point of view." We will view and discuss excerpts of a drama produced by some long time members of Trinity United Presbyterian Church. It portrays Trinity United Presbyterian Church's relationship with First Presbyterian from a different perspective than the comfortable one with which members of our congregation are more familiar.

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.

Lenten Study Series for the Adult Church School Class Repentance & Reconciliation: a path to healing justice

During this season of Lent, journey with us as we discover things about our church's history and begin to formulate a vision for just ways to live into our church's future. If you know First Presbyterian Tallahassee, you likely have heard some aspects of our story. Whether through Barbara Rhodes' book about our early beginnings or Glenda Rabby's book that devotes time to our role in the civil rights movement, or your own experience in this congregation, there is a story we tell about who we are. What if there is another perspective on that story? What if historical records change our lens? Join us as we wrestle with our own narrative and what we are called to do as faithful people seeking justice.

March 6 - "A familiar story, from a different point of view"

There is a story of our relationship with Trinity United Presbyterian Church that we have heard and told ourselves. Hear that history from some of the long time members of Trinity United Presbyterian Church. What can we learn about ourselves from hearing another's perspective?

March 13 - Is this reconciliation for everyone or just us?

Dr. David Levenson will be with us to talk about Matthew 18.

March 20 - How have other church institutions worked to heal their part in systemic racism?

Richard DuBose, President of Montreat Conference Center will join us to talk about ways Montreat has worked to repair the damage done by its complicity in systematic racism. Richard also serves on the board of Columbia Seminary. The Board drafted a document in 2020 entitled, "Repairing the Breach" as an action following the killing of George Floyd. He will talk about that process for the board and the effect it has had on campus.

March 27 - Members of the Healing Racism Task Force

will offer information gleaned from the church archives about the relationship with Trinity United Presbyterian Church and the session's deliberations during the civil rights era.

April 3 - Focus on reconciliation.

What is it? What is required? Members of the Healing Racism Task Force will lead a discussion of what our congregation might do to heal brokenness and work towards justice.



MARCH 6, 2022 3 P.M. LENTEN HIKE WITH ALLIE SNYDER

We will meet at Gate A off Miller Landing Road (this is about a ½ mile past the soccer complex). You will see the sign on the right that notes, Gate A, and a small parking lot that you turn into. There is a portapotty and several trailheads to take from that meeting spot. Plan on just over an hour, as we may not be power-walking and Allie will be showing us signs of new life in the woods.

Join the FPC crew on the Lenten Hike.

OMarch 31 at 7 p.m.



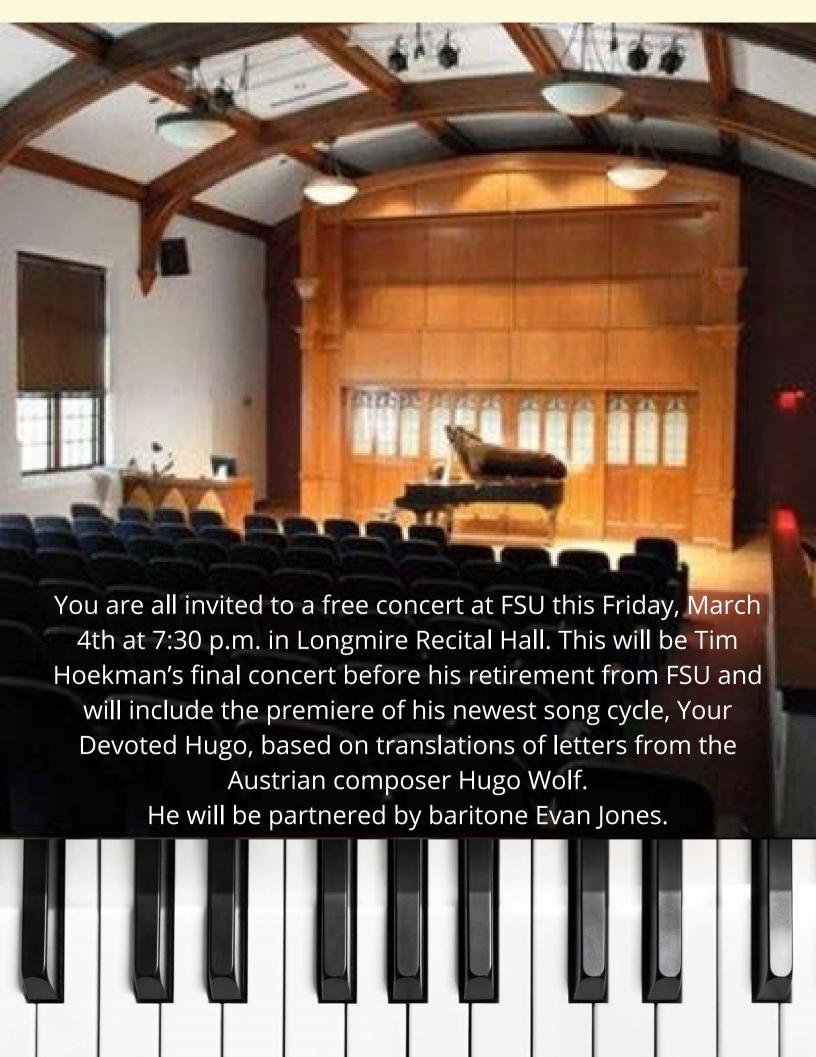
Book to be determined.

Prior to the book group gathering, questions for reflection will be emailed out to the group.

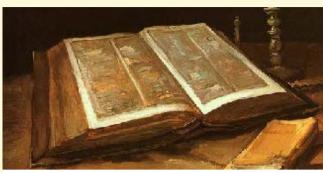
If you are interested in participating, email: christy@oldfirstchurch.org



Presbyterian Women
Mark your Calendars
for the return of the
Spring Mission Workshop
on Sunday, April 3rd, in
person and by Zoom!
Find more information in the
next Newsletter.







Sunday Festival Readings

MARCH 6, 2022 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

DEUTERONONY 26:1-11 PSALM 91:1-2,9-16 ROMANS 10:8B-13 LUKE 4:1-13



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 MARCH 1-15, 2022

Tuesday, March 1

Morning: Pss. 42; 146 Evening: Pss. 102; 133 Prov. 30:1–4, 24–33

Phil. 3:1–11 John 18:28–38

Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Amos 5:6–15 Heb. 12:1–14 Luke 18:9–14

Thursday, March 3

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Hab. 3:1–10 (11–15) 16–18 Phil. 3:12–21 John 17:1–8

Friday, March 4

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32 Phil. 4:1–9 John 17:9–19

Saturday, March 5

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Ezek. 39:21–29 Phil. 4:10–20 John 17:20–26

Sunday, March 6 First Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Dan. 9:3–10 Heb. 2:10–18 John 12:44–50

Monday, March 7

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Gen. 37:1–11 1 Cor. 1:1–19 Mark 1:1–13

Tuesday, March 8

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Gen. 37:12–24 1 Cor. 1:20–31 Mark 1:14–28

Wednesday, March 9

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Gen. 37:25–36 1 Cor. 2:1–13 Mark 1:29–45

Thursday, March 10

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Gen. 39:1–23 1 Cor. 2:14—3:15 Mark 2:1–12

Friday, March 11

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Gen. 40:1–23 1 Cor. 3:16–23 Mark 2:13–22

Saturday, March 12

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Gen. 41:1–13 1 Cor. 4:1–7 Mark 2:23—3:6

Sunday, March 13 Second Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Gen. 41:14–45 Rom. 6:3–14 John 5:19–24

Monday, March 14

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Gen. 41:46–57 1 Cor. 4:8–20 (21) Mark 3:7–19a

Tuesday, March 15

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Gen. 42:1–17 1 Cor. 5:1–8 Mark 3:19b–35



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR MARCH 16-31, 2022

Wednesday, March 16

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Gen. 42:18–28 1 Cor. 5:9—6:11 Mark 4:1–20

Thursday, March 17

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Gen. 42:29–38 1 Cor. 6:12–20 Mark 4:21–34

Friday, March 18

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Gen. 43:1–15 1 Cor. 7:1–9 Mark 4:35–41

Saturday, March 19

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Gen. 43:16–34 1 Cor. 7:10–24 Mark 5:1–20

Sunday, March 20 Third Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Gen. 44:1–17 Rom. 8:1–10 John 5:25–29

Monday, March 21

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Gen. 44:18–34 1 Cor. 7:25–31 Mark 5:21–43

Tuesday, March 22

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Gen. 45:1–15 1 Cor. 7:32–40 Mark 6:1–13

Wednesday, March 23

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Gen. 45:16–28 1 Cor. 8:1–13 Mark 6:13–29

Thursday, March 24

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Gen. 46:1–7, 28–34 1 Cor. 9:1–15 Mark 6:30–46

Friday, March 25

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Gen. 47:1–26 1 Cor. 9:16–27 Mark 6:47–56

Saturday, March 26

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Gen. 47:27–48:7 1 Cor. 10:1–13 Mark 7:1–23

Sunday, March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Gen. 48:8–22 Rom. 8:11–25 John 6:27–40

Monday, March 28

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Gen. 49:1–28 1 Cor. 10:14–11:1 Mark 7:24–37

Tuesday, March 29

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Gen. 49:29–50:14 1 Cor. 11:2–34 Mark 8:1–10

Wednesday, March 30

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Gen. 50:15–26 1 Cor. 12:1–11 Mark 8:11–26

Thursday, March 31

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Exod. 1:6–22 1 Cor. 12:12–26 Mark 8:27–9:1



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 available through March 2. For more info, a menu, purchase tickets, online and go to tlh.villagesquare.us, email eliza@villagesquare.us or call 281-1223.