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.
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 God's 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.

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A memorial service for Mary Charlotte McCall will be held on the afternoon of March 26, 2022. Time not yet set.

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

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OVER ZOOM AT 1:00 P.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 20, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING THE PASTOR’S TERMS OF CALL
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.

Refugee Shabbat-Service and Speaker

Friday, March 4, 2022 • 1 Adar II 5782
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
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

“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 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.
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!

Contact Dogwood 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

**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.

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

**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.

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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.
Old First Church Book Group

March 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.

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 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.

Join the FPC crew on the Lenten Hike.
You are all invited to a free concert at FSU this Friday, March 4th at 7:30 p.m. in Longmire Recital Hall. This will be Tim Hoekman’s final concert before his retirement from FSU and will include the premiere of his newest song cycle, Your Devoted Hugo, based on translations of letters from the Austrian composer Hugo Wolf. He will be partnered by baritone Evan Jones.
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.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 42; 146</td>
<td>First Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 22; 148</td>
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<td>Evening: Pss. 102; 133</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 84; 150</td>
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<td>Prov. 30:1–4, 24–33</td>
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<td>Gen. 40:1–23</td>
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<td>Phil. 3:1–11</td>
<td>Dan. 9:3–10</td>
<td>1 Cor. 3:16–23</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11</td>
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<td>1 Cor. 4:8–20 (21)</td>
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<td>Mark 3:7–19a</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 34; 146</td>
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<td>Evening: Pss. 25; 91</td>
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<td>Gen. 42:1–17</td>
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<td>1 Cor. 5:1–8</td>
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<td>Mark 3:19b–35</td>
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### 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 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.