



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 7, 2022

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



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



"(God) shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they
shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against
nation, neither shall they learn war
anymore." – (Isaiah 2:4)

The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces; and have lost power, been cut off from water and fuel. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies. The reports of displaced persons inside Ukraine continue to rise every day, already in the hundreds of thousands. The UN anticipates that as many as 6.7 million will be displaced internally. Likewise, Ukrainians are fleeing to neighboring countries, primarily to Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, while others have moved to other European countries. Again, current estimates from the UN are that the refugee numbers could also reach several million. These borders have remained open until now even as lines are growing.

Partners are raising particular concern for the women and young children who make up the majority of the refugees as many men are now barred from leaving the country. As part of the international humanitarian community, PDA urges that governments and non-governmental organizations provide assistance without discrimination due to concerns for the Roma and people of other nationalities who have also been displaced by the conflict.

In the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Initial assistance being provided includes shelter, food, clothing, blankets, baby food and diapers, other hygiene supplies, flashlights and candles, generators and fuel.

Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing – the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to provide hope, help and relief – was started in response to refugees coming out of Europe.

Our response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" –

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE: Gifts can be made [online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

ACT:

- [Download](#) the bulletin insert
- Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY:

God of mercy, justice and peace
Our spirits are heavy with sorrow, our souls shocked
At the sudden and breathtaking violence,
the invasion of Ukraine by their neighbor, Russia.
We pray for lives caught in the grip of war,
who hear the bombs in the night,
the ominous movement of troops on the road into town
the whistle of incoming shells,
for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning.
For those who huddle in subways and basements
or flee for the borders, clutching their children's hands
We pray for families separated from fathers, brothers and sons
who must remain to fight and protect their homeland.
We pray for neighbors in Eastern and Central Europe
As their hearts and doors open to these refugees
That strained resources will become an abundance of hope
That fears and struggles with racism will yield to a generosity of profound welcome
That communities of faith within Ukraine will be protected from harm
and sustained in their efforts to feed and shelter their neighbors.
That peacemakers and protesters in Russia will be heard and their lives preserved.
May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.
May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly.
May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.
May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.
And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection,
repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

--Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

Thanks for coming out in such strong numbers for this weekend's Refugee Shabbat. I really enjoyed the chance to worship at Temple Israel, and Rabbi Shields gave an incredibly rousing sermon to us here at First Presbyterian, connecting the Deuteronomy and Gospel texts for the day to both the International Rescue Committee's work of welcoming refugees, and our congregation's Lenten theme of examining our own history in the context of race and racism.

PW has already made a connection to the IRC on our congregation's behalf; please keep an eye on the newsletter for more ways to be engaged in helping Afghan refugees resettle here in Tallahassee. And to continue to explore our congregation's history, please come to Adult Church School on Sunday mornings at 9:30, either in-person or on Zoom. Prof. David Levenson will be our guest this coming Sunday.

Last week, a friend invited me to a talk at the state archives—the last of a series of Tallahassee events surrounding the Leon County Public Library's "Big Read" of Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*. The talk, held at the State Archives, was about finding historical records of enslaved people in Leon County, and tracing their lives through emancipation and freedom. Seeing the historian, Johnathan Grandage, at work was inspiring, and afterward I asked if this was something our congregation could do. If we had the names of nineteenth-century white members of the church, is it conceivable that we could find, somewhere in the county records, the names of people they enslaved? Yes, he replied. In the coming month, members of the Healing Racism Task Force will follow up with staff from the state archives, to see if it's possible for us to learn the names of some of the enslaved people who worshipped here. I'm grateful to Christy and the Healing Racism Task Force for engaging our congregation in this important work this Lenten season.

Communion will resume this Sunday, April 13; Rev. Mary Vance will preach and preside. (I'll be at a Board of Pensions meeting in Philadelphia March. 9-13. Bible Study will meet by Zoom on Wednesday night.)

"Bless This Mess"

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.

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 – Matt Frease, 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 17, 31 and April 7.
Older children and youth
are welcome during the
week of Spring Break.
We need 4-8 volunteers
each time.

**Volunteers are still
needed.**

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.

**Spiritual Formation
Team Meeting on Zoom
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
at 7:00 p.m.**

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.**



Lenten Hike, “Into the Wilderness” Sunday, March 6, 2022

Thanks to Allie Snyder and Lucas Heiker who led our intergenerational church group in a hike on Sunday afternoon. We learned a lot about some spring plants that were beginning to bud and saw signs of hope in blooms growing amidst tangled vines.



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.



Dear Church Family,

I am simply overwhelmed and speechless by the outpouring of love, kindness, and care you expressed to me and my family upon learning about mother's death. Your physical presence, the food, the cards, phone calls, and prayers were a tangible acknowledgment of Christian love, of God's love.

With Sincere Appreciation and Love,

Mary and Glenn Hodges (and family)



**ADULT CHURCH
SCHOOL CLASS
WESTMINSTER ROOM
AND ON ZOOM
MARCH 13, 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.

For this Lenten season, Christy Williams and the Healing Racism Task Force prepared a five week program titled, “Repentance & Reconciliation: A path to healing justice.” See page 14 of last week's First Press newsletter for more information about the series. This week, Professor David Levenson (FSU Religion Department, New Testament scholar) will lead a conversation about Matthew 18. Dr. Levenson has visited previously, most recently on the topic of “classical” and “contemporary” anti-Judaism. His classes are always informative and engaging.

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.



March 13-18

High School and College students will attend a Spring Break Mission Trip to Youth Mission Co. in Charleston, S.C. We will do some more typical service work at local agencies but we will also do a racial-justice tour of Charleston juxtaposing what we know of Tallahassee's history with what we learn about Charleston.

Please pray for the participants: Jacqueline Cruz, Ethan Tozer, Camille Peterman, Gabi Bynum, LeKayla Griffin and chaperones: Carol Wynn and Christy Williams.

No youth group on Sunday
March 13 or March 20
Have a happy and safe
spring break.

Old First Church Book Group

MARCH & APRIL 2022



March 31 at 7:00 p.m.
we will discuss the book
The Personal Librarian
by Marie Benedict and
Victoria Christopher Murray.

"An extraordinary tale that is both brilliant historical fiction and an important and timely commentary on racism. By holding up an unflinching mirror and illuminating this little-known chapter in American history, these two gifted authors have penned a work that is a must-read."

April 28 at 7:00 p.m.
we will have author, David Powell, with us to
talk about his recent book,
*Ninety Miles and A Lifetime Away: Memories of
Early Cuban Exiles.*

Bringing together an unprecedented number of extensive personal stories, this book shares the triumphs and heartbreaking moments experienced by some of the first Cubans to come to the United States after Fidel Castro took power in 1959. It is a moving look inside fifteen years of migration that changed the two countries and transformed the lives of the people who found themselves separated from their homeland.

There are copies of both books at the church for borrowing – just email Christy@oldfirstchurch.org for a time to pick one up. These books are also available at Midtown Reader with a 10% discount if you tell them you are a member of our Book Group. Midtown Reader has book group books in a special area of the store. Ask a clerk if you can't find them.



SPRING MISSION WORKSHOP RETURNS ON APRIL 3RD IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM



On Sunday, April 3, Presbyterian Women once again will host live the Spring Mission Workshop. All people of the congregation are invited to attend this Lenten-season event where we will gather together in person and by Zoom to improve our understanding of the needs of others in our community, and to recognize and share the blessings we have received. Among other things, attendees can...

- Learn about refugee families who are resettling in Tallahassee, including Afghan refugees, from speaker Karen Duncan, the Tallahassee Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for the IRC (International Rescue Committee). Karen will tell us about the basic items needed by these families who arrived with little or nothing to start a new life. A Wish List is included below and donations will be joyfully collected at the Workshop (or sooner.)
- Visit the "Sock-Sorting" table to help reuse and recycle unmatched socks; 😊
- Participate in other hands-on activities in person, like finishing lap quilts at the Sewing table; and designing and sending messages of hope and welcome and Easter love at the card-making table; making marble-maze hand puzzles, a calming fidget toy for all ages; and
- See the vegetable seedlings started by our Sunday School children and learn more about our environment at the Care for the Earth table.

We hope you will join us immediately after worship in the courtyard (weather permitting) for a brown bag lunch at Noon, followed by the program and activities in the Westminster Room. Check next week's newsletter for more information about Workshop activities, and contact Jan Bush for questions.

WISH LIST

**FUNCTIONAL LAPTOPS AND
CHARGING CORDS**

DIAPERS, ALL SIZES

BABY WIPES

WOMEN'S HYGIENE PRODUCTS

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

FIRST AID KIT

BABY AND YOUNG CHILDREN'S TOYS

NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS

MEN'S WALLETS

**LINENS FOR QUEEN AND TWIN BEDS -
SHEETS, BLANKETS, COMFORTERS**

POTS AND PANS

KITCHEN UTENSILS

MEASURING CUPS

MIXING BOWLS

CAN OPENERS

CUTTING BOARDS

VISA GIFT CARD

TARGET GIFT CARDS





Sunday Festival Readings

MARCH 13, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 15:1-12,17-18
PSALM 27
PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1
LUKE 13:31-35



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