



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 14, 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.

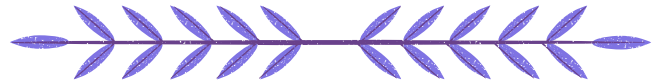
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday



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





Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

Last week, I found myself in the unanticipated position of offering the Senate prayer on the day they voted on the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. The prayer is a straightforward formality, a way of convening the body prior to their business for the day. They slot in local pastors on days when no one is coming in from out of town, and so by some quirk of the calendar I happened to be scheduled for the day of the final vote on HB 1557.

I only figured it out about 24 hours in advance that this was on the calendar, and I struggled with what I should say. This was something I felt strongly about on a personal level, and yet I was called to perform a public function. I wished I could deliver a stinging sermon, but what was called for was a prayer—and those are different things. A sermon is addressed to people, but a prayer is addressed to God, on behalf of the people. What could I say to God out loud that day? How could I pray for and with the state senators, rather than say something to them? How could I pray something even on behalf of those with whom I disagree.

It helped that the Bible study was in the middle of the psalms—Psalm 143, a favorite, came to mind: “teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.” So I prayed, as I have in the past, for the senators, and for all the people of Florida who their choices would affect—the teachers, the parents, and the children. I tried my best to craft a prayer that all of us could say—a prayer for guidance in the midst of a divided world, a prayer for those whose job it is to love and nurture in a world so full of fear.

The vote went the way that I’d expected, although not, of course, the way I’d hoped. But the prayer I delivered remains my prayer, both for the legislature and for the people of this state:

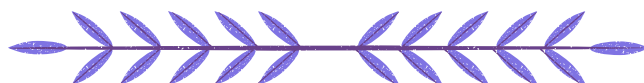
Mighty and merciful God, we praise you for this day, which you have made. We thank you for the great trust of our democracy, and we pray for the members of the Florida Senate—for the people you have called to serve and for the work you have called them to do. Equip these Senators with the skill and virtue to fulfill this calling. Help them to listen with openness, to speak with clarity, and to lead as servants of the public good.

Almighty God, we lift before you the people of Florida in all aspects of their life and work that will come before this body today. We pray especially today, O God, for teachers. We thank you for their service to our children and for their role shaping citizens for public life. We thank you for their sacrifice and for their sensitivity. We pray for them as they guide our children through an increasingly divided world.

We pray especially today, O God, for parents. We thank you for the gift of family life, its joys and possibilities. We acknowledge and lift before you the ways in which family can also be a place of brokenness and a source of pain. We pray for parents whose kids don't fit the mold and who fear for the safety of their children. And we pray for parents who fear that the mold has been abandoned and that the order of things is under threat. God, we pray for everyone whose job it is to love and nurture in a world so full of fear.

Finally, O God, we pray for our children. Help them to grow in stature, intellect, and spirit. Provide for their nurture and their flourishing. Challenge them as they learn about the world they live in, and keep them safe from harm. Uphold them in the curiosity and playfulness of childhood. Guide them through the discovery and the turbulence of adolescence. Grow them into people of commitment, creativity, and hope. You know them each by name and the number of their days. Hold them as they discover who they are and who you have called them to be.

Teach us, O God, to live in a world that is broken and divided. Teach us to love in a world that's full of fear. Guide us as we fulfill our common calling. Guide us as we seek to serve the people of this state. Grow us as citizens of this state and as your beloved children. Grow us in faith, in hope, and in love. God bless this body, and bless the State of Florida. God bless and keep the people of Ukraine. Amen.



Please keep in your prayers our own youth as they serve this week in Charleston, South Carolina with Youth Mission Co. And please pray for their adult leaders, Christy Williams and Carol Wynn!

"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.



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 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.**



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.**



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

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 First Press, February 28, 2022, page 14 for more information about the series.

This week we will consider efforts by other church institutions to heal the effects of systemic racism. Richard DuBose, President of Montreat Conference Center, will talk about Montreat’s initiatives to repair the harm done. Richard also serves on the Board of Columbia Theological Seminary, and he can explain the the Board’s deliberations behind its public statement titled, “Repairing the Breach” and the effects the policy has had on campus.

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.



God Squad: Lonely & Extreme

Friday, March 25, noon-1 pm, First Baptist Church

Given the dangerous rise of political extremism in America, it's well past time we stopped wagging our fingers and do a bit of soul searching of our own about why our society is producing so many citizens unmoored from the connections that support moderation.

Many experts point to the epidemic of loneliness or mass loneliness, what Hannah Arendt called "the seedbed of tyranny." Others believe changes in relationships between men and women in the digital age contributes. We'll speak especially about our young men on campus and off, who seem especially susceptible to the kind of loneliness that can drive extremism.

[Register](#) to join us for this important discussion at our next God Squad program on March 25, noon-1:00 pm at First Baptist Church downtown.

We're delighted to gather in person with God Squad regulars Pastor Gary Shultz of First Baptist Church, Dr. Dan Leshem of FSU Hillel, Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, and Pastor Joseph Davis, Jr. of Truth Gatherers Community Church.

An optional lunch is available for advance purchase. Otherwise, the program is free to attend. Please [register](#) in advance so we can plan accordingly.

Democracy Reignited returns on March 31

When the Stars Begin to Fall: Overcoming Racism and Renewing the Promise of America

"We can be different and united—the value of the American experiment is contingent on the truth of this proposition."

—Theodore Roosevelt Johnson III

Dr. Theodore R. Johnson sees both an American Promise "big enough for all of us," and an existential threat if we cannot somehow find each other to live into it. And at a time when it's easy to be overwhelmed and confused, he lights a path forward that we might travel together—with a wisdom and clarity that draws us in.

Join us as Dr. Johnson makes an invitation—and a challenge—to all of us, born of lived experience as a black son of the American south and love of this country he took an oath to preserve. Johnson is a military veteran who served as a White House Fellow and speechwriter to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is currently a Senior Fellow and Director of the Fellows Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law. The conversation will be facilitated by Executive Director of Florida Humanities, [Dr. Nashid Madyun](#).



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 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 will host the Spring Mission Workshop live and by Zoom. All people of the congregation are invited to attend a brown bag lunch in the Courtyard immediately after worship (weather permitting), followed by the program and activities in the Westminster Room.

- Speaker Karen Duncan, the Tallahassee Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for the IRC (International Rescue Committee) will tell us about the basic items needed by refugee families who are arriving in Tallahassee with little or nothing. A Donation Wish List is included below.
- Bulk bags of identical socks will be sorted and paired into ziplock bags for distribution to those in need by Beyond the Pantry, a Tallahassee-based non-profit that shares basic needs products.
- In-person participants can also assemble beautiful handmade cards that send messages of hope and love and Easter; and do other hands-on activities, like finishing lap quilts at the Sewing table; or making marble-maze fidget toys that are calming for every age; see the vegetable seedlings started by our Sunday School children; and learn more about our environment at the Care for the Earth table.

Please join us and watch the donation table fill up with your generosity! Check next week's newsletter for more information about Workshop activities, and contact Jan Bush for any questions, 850-443-1271.

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
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

ISAIAH 55:1-9
PSALM 63:1-8
I CORINTHIANS 10:1-13
LUKE 13:1-9



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