



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 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

Did you know...We have two separate prayer ministries, and invite you to participate in either, or both. You are not limited to asking for prayers for yourself, but when the prayer requests involves another individual, please get permission from the person concerned before submitting his or her name.

To have a prayer concern read aloud during worship, please call the office during the week (850-222-4504), and Lori will ensure that your request is relayed to both Margaret and the Care and Outreach Team. You can also email Margaret directly at Margaret@oldfirstchurch.org. You may also indicate whether the request should be repeated from week to week.

In addition to prayers read during worship, you can contact Debbie Gibson (gibsond1207@gmail.com) to be placed on a list shared with a group that has covenanted to pray for specific requests. Once Debbie knows of a need, it will be relayed to the prayer chain for the volunteers in that ministry to hold up the specific concerns or celebrations in prayer for as long as is needed. Prayers requested through Debbie will not be read during worship unless you ask for that to happen as well.



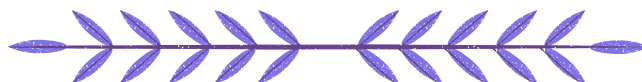
Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

This week's column will be a quick one—just a note to thank you for the support (and the shower curtain!) after my apartment building subsided (settled and developed a crack) in this weekend's rain. Disorienting as the experience is, I'm grateful that Winnie and I had a safe place to land—that's not most people's experience of dislocation in our world today.

I'll keep you posted when I hear from my landlord, and will let you know if I need help moving or if I have a new address. Depending on when I'm able to access my things, I may be dressed a little more casually in the coming days.

We have two memorial services coming up: for Mary Charlotte McCall on Saturday, March 26 at 3 p.m., and for Sara Lamar on Monday, March 28 at 10 a.m.



TRAINING SESSION FOR NEW COMMUNION SERVERS

A training session for new Communion servers - or a refresher training for those who need it - will be held on Sunday March 27th after worship.



"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 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 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 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.

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 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.

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.

SPRING BREAK YOUTH MISSION TRIP IN CHARLESTON MARCH 13-18, 2022

Thank you for your prayers during our recent mission trip. I hope the photos of our experience will help you see what an amazing week we had, both working and playing hard. We learned so much about agencies in Charleston that serve those who are hungry, homeless, displaced by fires to their homes, or lonely and in need of support. We also saw how good, faithful ministry can happen when one person sees a need and acts in faith to serve others. Organizations we worked with like: Picnic in the Park, Stone Soup Cooperative and Ms. Regina's Food Truck were all individuals who had an idea of how to be part of the solution to a bigger problem. Working with them was inspirational! It got us to reflect on how to create solutions to problems we see, no matter how big or how small. We also learned lots about Charleston. Like Tallahassee, its history has been borne on the backs of enslaved people and even in 2022 it is still struggling to create structures that aren't rooted in systematic racism.

With all the work and heavy discussions, we did also have some fun: walking the Arthur Ravenel Bridge, exploring the little downtown Park Circle community ice cream shop, shopping at the City Market, eating seafood on Folly Island and ending the trip with a spooky ghost tour of downtown.

Thanks to these participants for their work and commitment: Jacqueline Cruz, Ethan Tozer, Camille Peterman, Gabi Bynum, LeKayla Griffin and chaperones: Carol Wynn and Christy Williams.







e pluribus unum — out of many, one
the village square

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 In 2 weeks via Zoom

Dr. Theodore R. Johnson: Overcoming Racism and Renewing the Promise of America | March 31 @ 7pm ET

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

In the midst of our deep divisions, it's easy to be overwhelmed and confused about how to move forward as a people together. That's why we're bringing you Dr. Theodore R. Johnson, who lights a path ahead that we might travel together—with a wisdom, clarity and rare hopefulness that draws us in. This is a conversation you will not want to miss.

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](#).

Learn more about this digital program and [RSVP](#) here.

Learn more about the full series [here](#).



5-6:30 p.m.

"Shared Stories"

We will do a de-brief of the mission trip while looking for ways to find common bonds in our shared stories. How does this relate to our shared story of faith? How are we part of the ongoing story of faith? Come join the discussion.



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

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, our Presbyterian Women will host the Spring Mission Workshop live and by Zoom. All people of the congregation are invited to eat a brown bag lunch together in the Courtyard immediately after worship (weather permitting), followed by the speaker and activities in the Westminster Room. The speaker will be available on Zoom if that's easier for you.

- Karen Duncan, 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 Easter, and hope, love and welcome; 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 as we challenge ourselves and others to care better for the Earth.

Please join us and watch the donation table fill up with your generosity! Or send a financial donation if that is better for you! 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 27, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

JOSHUA 5:9-12
PSALM 32
II CORINTHIANS 5:16-21
LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32



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 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