



FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

APRIL 25, 2022



This year the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering celebrates a 100 years of generous giving. Over the last century, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people in the United States and around the world.

This centennial year two wonderful projects have been selected to receive the PW Birthday Offering gifts.

1. After Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the earthquake in 2020, the Presbyterian Church in Lares, Puerto Rico became the principal location in the community for food, purified water, and personal items. The church is in need of some very essential upgrades. With the Birthday Offering grant they will be able to renovate and refurbish the kitchen. They will be able to buy all new appliances and replace the old wiring, plumbing and lighting. They will also install solar panels and a heavy duty generator to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.

2. The McCleary House in Farmington, Maine is also in need of some significant renovations. With Birthday Offering grant money they will be able to refurbish this home which provides transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness. The home provides a warm, safe place for 3 to 4 families to live over the course of a year while providing psycho-social, education and vocational training.

First Presbyterian Church

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Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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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



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

Thank you for our conversation after worship yesterday. As you'll see from Janet's letter, Session spent a good deal of time yesterday talking about what they heard during that conversation, and are making plans to move forward with help from the Presbytery. I want to extend my gratitude for the care you took in the way you spoke to one another, and my delight in the providential Sunday-morning visit from that couple with a long memory of this place who wandered in the doors.

As of Maundy Thursday, I've been able to access my old apartment again (a fitting end to a Lenten season of simple, pared-down living). Rather than return there, I've transferred my lease to the apartment I've been staying in for the past month—a better and quieter location, walking distance to downtown. Thanks to all those who have helped with the move!

My new address is:
302 E Georgia St, Unit 2-F
Tallahassee, FL 32301

I'll be away for vacation April 29-May 7. Rev. Trinity Whitley will preach and lead worship on May 1; I'll be back May 8.

Message from the Session

Thanks to all who attended the informal meeting of the congregation on Sunday for your heartfelt questions and expressions of concern about Margaret's decision to seek a new call. We heard your requests for more information and regular updates from the Session. After our conversation on Sunday, the Session met. We are working on several methods to keep you informed, including more in-person meetings where additional information will be shared. Feel free to call or email me with any questions and concerns.

Janet Bowman, Clerk of Session

a joyful noise:

**celebrating the ministry and
retirement of Michael Corzine**



Saturday, May 14, 2022

5 pm Hymn Festival at First
Presbyterian

6:15 pm Cocktails and hors
d'oeuvres at St.
John's Episcopal

7 pm Dinner and program
at St. John's
Episcopal

The hymn festival is free of charge.

Dinner tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased:

- By cash or check at the church
- By mailing a check to the church
- Online through Eventbrite* - [Link to Eventbrite](#)

*Eventbrite tickets carry a third party processing fee and cost \$26.95

Children 10 and under are free, and we will provide a meal for them.
The dinner will be gluten-free friendly. Vegetarian/vegan options are
available upon advance request. Tickets to the cocktail hour-only are
available for \$10 and must be purchased in-person or by mail.

Please email Christy (christy@oldfirstchurch.org) or Emily
(bruno.emilyann@gmail.com) for more information, to RSVP for kids-
meals, or request a vegetarian meal.

Please purchase tickets and RSVP by May 9.

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST AND THE PRESENT NEEDED ASAP

**We are collecting photos to show at Michael Corzine's Retirement
Celebration Dinner. If you have some actual photo prints, please
begin to gather them and bring them to the church office. If you
have digital photos, please use this link <https://tinyurl.com/5fk22ba9>**



The church directory and current prayer concerns are now available on our website on a password-protected page for members of the congregation.

You do not have to set an individual password. If you would like to be able to access this information as it is updated, please call Lori Touchton in the church office for the password. We ask that you do not circulate the password outside the congregation.

The majority of our website pages are accessible without a password - in other words, you do not need a password to continue viewing information on the website. The only pages that will require a password, for now, are the church directory and the prayer concerns.



Our meal team provides meals for members and their families during times of celebration and challenge. Although the needs are currently few, it is not impossible that needs will arise while we are still minimizing personal contact. There are ways to help each other that do not involve close interaction, including ordering meals to be delivered. We also have a small group of members who are available to assist with shopping or other errands for those who are trying to avoid leaving their homes. If this would be helpful to you please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith, chair, at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com. Also, this time of lower demand would be an excellent time for you to be sure you can still access the Lotsa Helping Hands website we use to coordinate most meal requests.



Our New Emergency Operation Fund

The pandemic taught that unexpected emergencies can bring major disruptions to personal and church budgets. The federal stimulus package was a one-time deal and it helped our church make it through the worst of the pandemic when pledges and giving declined. Salaries, utilities, insurance, and facility maintenance expenses still needed to be paid. Fortunately, we didn't experience a hurricane with its large insurance deductible. To provide a mechanism to address future emergencies, the Session approved the creation of an Emergency Operation Fund for unplanned events. The purpose of this fund is to allow the church to subsist through unforeseen revenue shortfalls or one-time expenses. A target minimum size of the fund is our three months operational budget or approximately \$150,000. This fund is now part of our Legacy and Gifts Plan that also includes the Endowment Fund, the Outreach Fund, the Facilities Reserve Fund, and the Christian Education Fund. But, we need to get some money into the fund. If you wish to make a contribution, please note "Emergency Operation Fund" on your check, or contact our church accountant Jim Davis for details.



PROTECT YOUR VOTE

Due to a change in Florida law, Supervisor of Elections Mark S. Earley is contacting some voters by mail asking for information missing from your voter registration record.

This is not junk mail!

According to the Supervisor's website, there is no deadline for submission of the information, but your Healing Racism Task Force wants to encourage you to comply. It is important to make sure that our Supervisor of Elections office is not vulnerable to unfounded allegations of fraud or voting irregularities, and it is always important to protect your right to vote.

Fill out the back of your letter and mail it or drop it off at one of the Supervisor of Elections offices.

OR

Go to [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.register-to-vote-florida.gov)

OR

Call the helpful employees at the Supervisor Elections office at (850) 606-8683.



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.

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.**

Presbytery of Florida

**produces a monthly electronic newsletter
that you may access using this link:**

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)





ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL MAY 1, 2022



Adult Church School in Room 206 and on Zoom!
Meet and greet: Sunday at 9:15 AM
Program starts: Sunday at 9:30 AM

While the Westminster Room is under construction (through the end of May), we will meet next door in Room 206.

Everyone is welcome to join us there OR you can connect to the “hybrid” class on Zoom.

This week, Jane Atkinson concludes her two-session series on Restorative Practices. She will help us explore what restoration might look like in our own community. Many who attended on April 24 were struck by the topic's relevance to our current situation as well as to healing the harm discussed during the Healing Racism Task Force's recent program titled, “Repentance & Reconciliation: A path to healing justice.” See First Press, February 28, 2022, page 14 for more information about that series.

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.





MAY 1

(LOTS GOING ON!!)

10:15 a.m. – arrive at church to make bag lunches for our "picnic in the park"

11:00 – worship together

As part of worship, ALL seniors in HS will be honored

Noon – following worship, we will head to Lake Ella

1:30 – finished and home. No youth in the evening.

MAY 8

Mother's Day...treat your mamas well.

MAY 15

Arrive at Grace Mission at 3:45 p.m. to serve dinner. I think we will be done before 6. More details to come.

MAY 22

Celebrating our Seniors Night.



Healing Racism Task Force

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m.
on zoom. If you would like to
join our work, contact Deborah
Whisnant.



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



APRIL 28, 2022
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.



Sunday Festival Readings

MAY 1, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 9:1-6(7-20)
PSALM 30 OR
ISAIAH 61:1-3 AND
PSALM 90:13-17
REVELATIONS 5:11-14
JOHN 21:1-19



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 APRIL 15-30, 2022

Friday, April 15**Good Friday**

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Lam. 3:1-9, 19-33
1 Pet. 1:10-20
John 13:36-38
or John 19:38-42

Saturday, April 16**Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Lam. 3:37-58
Heb. 4:1-16
Rom. 8:1-11

Sunday, April 17**Resurrection of the Lord/Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Exod. 12:1-14
John 1:1-18 or Isa. 51:9-11
Luke 24:13-35
or John 20:19-23

Monday, April 18

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Exod. 12:14-27
1 Cor. 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Tuesday, April 19

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Exod. 12:28-39
1 Cor. 15:12-28
Mark 16:9-20

Wednesday, April 20

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Exod. 12:40-51
1 Cor. 15:(29) 30-41
Matt. 28:1-16

Thursday, April 21

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Exod. 13:3-10
1 Cor. 15:41-50
Matt. 28:16-20

Friday, April 22

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Exod. 13:1-2, 11-16
1 Cor. 15:51-58
Luke 24:1-12

Saturday, April 23

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Exod. 13:17-14:4
2 Cor. 4:16-5:10
Mark 12:18-27

Sunday, April 24**Second Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Exod. 14:5-22
1 John 1:1-7
John 14:1-7

Monday, April 25

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Exod. 14:21-31
1 Pet. 1:1-12
John 14:(1-7) 8-17

Tuesday, April 26

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Exod. 15:1-21
1 Pet. 1:13-25
John 14:18-31

Wednesday, April 27

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Exod. 15:22-16:10
1 Pet. 2:1-10
John 15:1-11

Thursday, April 28

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Exod. 16:10-22
1 Pet. 2:11-3:12
John 15:12-27

Friday, April 29

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Exod. 16:23-36
1 Pet. 3:13-4:6
John 16:1-15

Saturday, April 30

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Exod. 17:1-16
1 Pet. 4:7-19
John 16:16-33

If you wish to read these on your computer you will find them on the PCUSA website [here](#).