

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
JULY 25, 2022

Summer Choir



The Summer Choir meets
Sunday mornings at 10:00
in the Choir Room.

All are welcome to sing.
Bring the family!

Contact Judy Arthur or the
church office for more
information, or just arrive
on Sunday at 10:00.

No midweek rehearsals,
no vestments.



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 Summer Schedule

10:00 a.m. thru the end of
Worship Child care for
infants - pre-kindergarten

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.



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



Message from the Session

The Session met July 20th and has several updates to report to the congregation. First, the Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work putting together the "Ministry Information Form" (MIF) for our church. The MIF serves as the job description for our interim pastor search. It will be posted on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection, and the Pastor Nominating Committee will start to receive applications for interim minister candidates. It also will be posted on our www.olfirstchurch.org website.

This summer the Session will be identifying 7 members of the congregation to serve as elders for the Class of 2025 and to fill 1 vacancy in the Class of 2024. Peggy West is chairing the Nominating Committee and is seeking suggestions from the congregation of members whose gifts of leadership and service would serve our congregation in this time of transition. Please send any suggestions to Peggy at pwestdoodah11@gmail.com.

Finally, during this period of transition, the Session is responsible for addressing requests for funerals and weddings at First Presbyterian Church Tallahassee. In the case of weddings, a couple seeking to be married at the church should fill out the marriage application form (posted on the www.olfirstchurch.org website) and submit the application to the Session to reserve the date for the wedding. Couples will need to coordinate with the interim minister, when hired, on satisfying premarital counseling requirements and any use of outside officiants. For funerals, the Session is developing a funeral request form that will be used during this transition period to work with families to identify a pastor to preside over the funeral, address music requests and to select and reserve the time and date for the funeral.

The August session meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18th and a session retreat is scheduled for September 23rd and 24th. Have a great summer, and if you have any questions, please feel to contact Janet Bowman, Clerk, by phone or email.

Serving Meals at Grace Mission

First Pres has volunteered to help serve Sunday dinner at Grace Mission on the second Sunday of every month. The next date is Sunday August 8. We meet at 4 pm and are finished by 6 pm.

If you are interested in helping in this worthwhile effort, please contact Carol Weissert at cweissert@fsu.edu or go to the Sign Up Genius page directly at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-grace1>

Hope you can join us.

Together In Service Sewing Camp

On July 13, nine enthusiastic learners joined five equally enthusiastic Together in Service leaders for a sewing “camp”. During our time together we enjoyed camaraderie with new and old friends as each participant worked on a sewing project. Thanks to our students and leaders for making our first ever sewing camp a success. We look forward to having another one in the future.





Tech Team Training



The church is looking for volunteers to learn to operate the current technology systems we use for classes, hybrid Zoom meetings and streaming worship. We would like to assemble about 10 volunteers on a Tech Team in order to share in the responsibilities during the 9 months of our programmatic year. If you are interested in being part of our Tech Team or at least finding out more about what this entails, please contact christy@oldfirstchurch.org. Chris Corzine will host an informal hands-on training on Sunday, August 14 at 9am - we will meet in the Westminster Room. All are welcome to attend.



Please continue to pray for Ethan Tozer, Camille Peterman, LaKayla Griffin, Grayson Polemus, Jacqueline Cruz, Glenn and Kerry Laird and Christy Williams who are at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina to experience great keynotes, worship and small group discussions while learning how to live in community, deepening our faith and finding joy in the mountains.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MARK YOUR CALENDARS KICKOFF SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 2022

Members attending morning worship will have an opportunity to participate in a special mission project. We will collect supplies for our beloved First Presbyterian Preschool.

Pens

Staples

Glue Sticks

Construction Paper

Card Stock

Crayons

Tape (in all different sizes and colors)

Napkins

Plastic Spoons

Paper Cups

Ziplock Bags

Food Coloring

Circle chairs will distribute new study books and directories following worship.

Zoom Fall Gathering

3:30 pm

The Reverend Greta Reed will introduce our wonderful new Bible Study, Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's gift of Rest and Delight.

Individual circles will have an opportunity to meet for fellowship and planning.

Join Us!!

Don't Miss Out!!

GUNS to Gardens

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares and
their spears into pruning hooks.
Isaiah 2:4*

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's Guns to Gardens ministry is a partnership with RAW Tools, Inc., to safely dismantle firearms and hand-forge the pieces into life-giving garden tools.

PPF is hosting a 6-week training via Zoom on the logistics of this ministry, beginning August 18. Sessions are on Thursdays at either 12:30 pm or 7:30 pm and run through September 22.

The Compassion and Social Justice Committee invites interested church members to participate in this training as we consider ways we might get involved in this work as a congregation.



Please visit the [PPF website](#) to learn more and sign up for training.

Contact Emily Bruno,
bruno.emilyann@gmail.com or
423.360.3026, for more information.



VOTER REGISTRATION Voting is Power

**Would you like to Register Voters?
October 11, 2022 is the deadline to
register to vote in the November 8,
2022 General Election.**

Here are some opportunities.

- 1. Bob Rackleff founded the Big Bend Voting Rights Project. It is a grassroots effort with volunteers walking door to door on weekends in "under registered" Big Bend neighborhoods to register voters. To learn more contact Bob.Rackleff@gmail.com or catch him at church.**
- 2. Join the League of Women Voters. They provide training and opportunities to register voters.**
- 3. Work for a nonprofit like the centerforcommonground.org and volunteer to mail postcards or send text messages about voting or updating voter registration.**

**The deadline to register to vote in the
November 8, 2022 General Election is
October 11, 2022.**



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

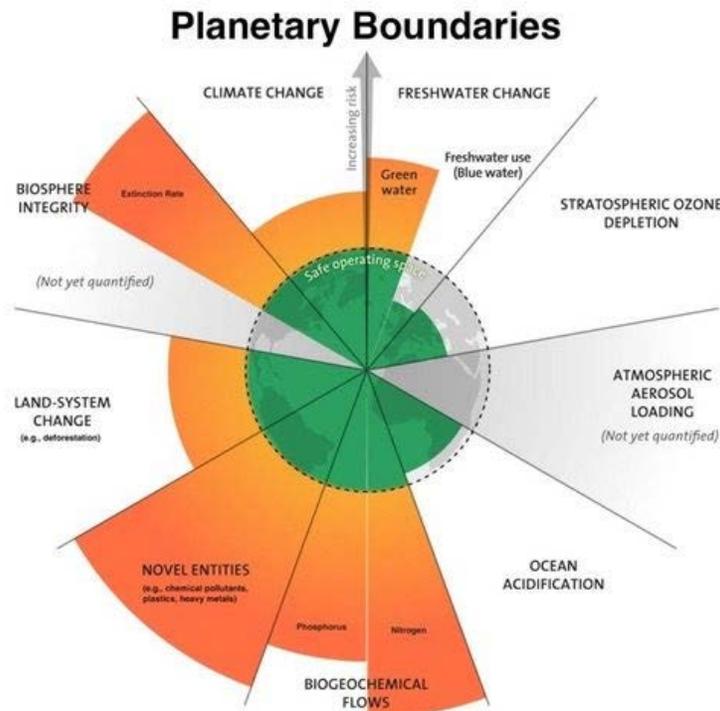
First Presbyterian Friends,

I once again participated in the General Assembly process as an overture advocate for the Fossil Free PCUSA overture that called for categorical divestment. I testified before the Environmental Justice Committee and listened to the plenary consideration of it and all the other environmental overtures.

This year, after 8 years of pushing, the MRTI successfully recommended divestment from five fossil fuel companies out of a possible 200. We are grateful for this, but given the headlines this summer, that the world is overheated and millions are suffering and dozens are dying from extreme heat, the church's insistence on following a 38 year old company by company review process to decide on divestment does not match the urgency of our situation. Here is what I wrote for the Florida Presbytery newsletter on what happened.

The Road the Church is on is Not Safe

There are some really smart scientists warning us that there are limits to how much damage we can do to the planet. The Stockholm Resilience Institute published a warning in 2015 about nine planetary boundaries that we should NOT cross. Studies in [2015](#) and [2022](#) indicate that we have passed 6 of the 9 boundaries, including the climate change boundary.



The nine planetary boundaries beyond which there is a risk of destabilization of the Earth system that would threaten human societal development, April 2022 version. Humanity had crossed out of the green “safe” space across six out of nine boundaries, and was close to crossing one other boundary (ocean acidification). (Image credit: [Stockholm Resilience Institute](#))

Jeff Masters in a recent article in Yale Climate Connections uses an analogy of driving a car really fast when the warning light comes on and the driver has the option to exit and seek assistance, but continues to drive by the exit. This is us. This is the church failing to stop funding the fossil fuel industry and acting like it understands that the warning light is on, but it is OK to continue to drive because “it” understands there is a problem and “it” will decide when to exit.

The church does not know better than the experts, because when it comes to climate change we already passed the safe exit. We are part of the system that is driving an overheated planet into increasingly dangerous territory.

Last month the General Assembly following the advice of the Board of Pensions (BOP) and the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investments (MRTI), voted to divest from five fossil fuel companies. This is good, but it failed to support three overtures calling for categorical divestment and once again endorsed more company by company review to decide on divestment from the fossil fuel industry. This means that the church continues to have investments in the fossil fuel industry when it could have/should have exited in 2014 when thousands of Presbyterians first asked the church to stop funding the fossil fuel industry.

We now may drive faster towards a self-selected exit, but per Masters there is a huge billowing cumulonimbus cloud over head with white lightning forking out of it. The road we stubbornly insist on has taken us into the storm. Torrential rains hammer down with hailstones and the road is flooding.

MRTI says that this is the only road because of a 1984 policy, entitled The Divestment Strategy: Principles and Criteria that requires a review process. The BOP says that its 2019 policy prohibits it from categorically divesting even if the General assembly asks it to and has linked it to the 1984 company by company review process.

The church should pay attention to what scientists are saying, rethink all the “self-imposed” process road blocks and get the heck off the road at the next exit. Given that we are a church an apology is in order to all our suffering brothers and sisters for insisting that staying on our selected road is the only way forward. For this Presbyterian, it clearly is not. We should have exited in 2014.

Pam McVety



Old First Church Book Group

August 25 @ 7:00 PM

What better way to spend a summer afternoon than **READING A BOOK!!**

On August 25 we will meet to discuss, **Becoming Mrs. Lewis** by Patti Callahan.

This is the story of C.S. Lewis' wife, Joy Davidman, also a writer and poet. It is a love story (maybe a little lighter summer fare than we are used to) but we will find many things to discuss about this writer and independent thinker in a time when that was not well accepted by the culture. We will also learn more about C.S. Lewis, theologian and author of many books including the beloved Narnia series.

Christy Williams currently has two books to lend out at the church and hopes to get a few more. Let her know if you need one. With the amount of time we have, we may be able to pass a few copies around before our Book Group on August 25.





Visitation Ministry

Our "visiting" ministry has had to adapt to social distancing restrictions, but we are still trying to keep in touch with members who would appreciate extra care, either because they are home bound or because they are recovering from illness or injury. If you are able to keep in touch with members by phone, text, or email, or if you are aware of a member who would appreciate extra contact with our church family, please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com.



People who live on the streets are at increased risk for dehydration in the Tallahassee summer heat. Hydration for the Homeless is a water bottle drive and outreach event. Start collecting water bottles and join us on July 30th to hand them out to those in need, along with information about our comprehensive emergency services.

[Learn More](#)
[RSVP on Facebook](#)

From Hello to Help, 211 is Here



988 launching as the new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis in partnership with 211 Big Bend

Tallahassee, FL – In July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated 988 as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK). By July 16, 2022, all telecommunications companies will make needed changes so individuals can access the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline using the 988-dialing code. 988 is an easy to remember number that will not replace any of the functions of 911 or 211 but will focus on providing immediate support for those in emotional distress or suicide crisis. The volume of mental health and suicide crisis calls to 988 is expected to significantly increase with the implementation of this easy to remember number.

211 Big Bend has been a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline partner for many years by responding to these calls for 14 counties in Northwest Florida. 211 Big Bend will continue to answer Lifeline (988) suicide and mental health crisis calls as 988 expands. 211 crisis counselors are trained to assist people in emotional distress or suicide crisis regardless of whether they call 988 or 211. In addition to mental health crisis, 211 provides support for finding community resources, such as food pantries and basic needs assistance, as well as care coordination services.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of approximately 180 local- and state-funded crisis centers including many 211 centers. Suicide prevention is a critical need. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among young people and was responsible for more than 48,000 deaths in 2019, resulting in about one death every 11 minutes. According to data provided by Lifeline call centers, approximately 98% of answered Lifeline calls do not require an emergency response which can often be much more costly.

“A call to 211 or 988 provides immediate access to someone trained in crisis response, who can provide immediate support, and connection to resources. 211 Big Bend is pleased to be a Lifeline network crisis center and to work with key mental health partners in the local community including mobile response team units.” Tori Greer, 211 Big Bend.

To learn more about 211 Big Bend, please visit www.211bigbend.org. Call 2-1-1 or 850-617-6333 to be connected to 24/7 free confidential and local support, crisis and suicide prevention, and community resources.

If you are thinking about suicide or are worried about a friend or loved one, please reach out. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).



Summer Nursery and Preschool Childcare

10:00 a.m. – the end of worship

- Infants and children up to three years old – main floor nursery
- Three - Pre-K children – third floor preschool classroom

The Twinkle Toes Agency staffs both rooms. All our sitters are CPR/First Aid trained and have had a full background screening. There are two sitters in each room. Please don't hesitate to contact christy@oldfirstchurch.org if you have questions about our summer childcare.



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The newsletter
of
First Presbyterian
Church

Weekly publication resumes
August 1.

The newsletter is prepared on Mondays, including those Mondays that fall on holidays. Please submit items for publication to: newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org no later than noon on production Mondays.

Presbytery of Florida
produces a monthly electronic newsletter
that you may access using this link:
[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



Sunday Festival Readings

**July 31, 2022
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

**HOSEA II:1-II & PSALM 107:1-9, 43
OR
ECCLESIASTES 1:2,12-14;2:18-23
&
PSALM 49:1-12**

**COLOSSIANS 3:1-II
LUKE 12:13-21**

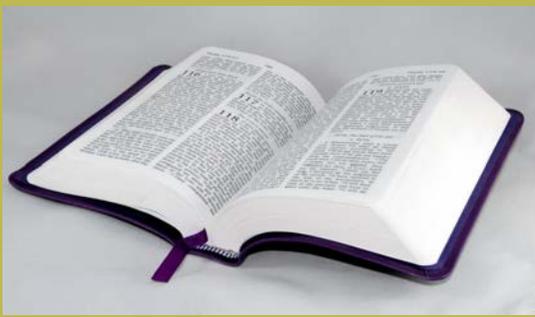


Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 AUGUST 1-15, 2022

Monday, August 1

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Judg. 6:25–40
Acts 2:37–47
John 1:1–18

Tuesday, August 2

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Judg. 7:1–18
Acts 3:1–11
John 1:19–28

Wednesday, August 3

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Judg. 7:19–8:12
Acts 3:12–26
John 1:29–42

Thursday, August 4

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Judg. 8:22–35
Acts 4:1–12
John 1:43–51

Friday, August 5

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Judg. 9:1–16, 19–21
Acts 4:13–31
John 2:1–12

Saturday, August 6

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Judg. 9:22–25, 50–57
Acts 4:32–5:11
John 2:13–25

Sunday, August 7

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Judg. 11:1–11, 29–40
2 Cor. 11:21b–31
Mark 4:35–41

Monday, August 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Judg. 12:1–7
Acts 5:12–26
John 3:1–21

Tuesday, August 9

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Judg. 13:1–15
Acts 5:27–42
John 3:22–36

Wednesday, August 10

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Judg. 13:15–24
Acts 6:1–15
John 4:1–26

Thursday, August 11

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Judg. 14:1–19
Acts 6:15–7:16
John 4:27–42

Friday, August 12

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Judg. 14:20–15:20
Acts 7:17–29
John 4:43–54

Saturday, August 13

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Judg. 16:1–14
Acts 7:30–43
John 5:1–18

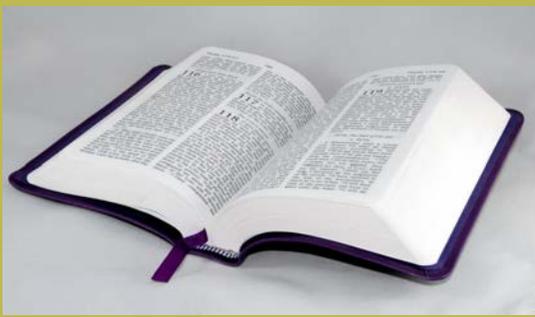
Sunday, August 14

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Judg. 16:15–31
2 Cor. 13:1–11
Mark 5:25–34

Monday, August 15

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Judg. 17:1–13
Acts 7:44–8:1a
John 5:19–29

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



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST 16-31, 2022

Tuesday, August 16

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Judg. 18:1–15
Acts 8:1–13
John 5:30–47

Wednesday, August 17

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Judg. 18:16–31
Acts 8:14–25
John 6:1–15

Thursday, August 18

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Job 1:1–22
Acts 8:26–40
John 6:16–27

Friday, August 19

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Job 2:1–13
Acts 9:1–9
John 6:27–40

Saturday, August 20

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Job 3:1–26
Acts 9:10–19a
John 6:41–51

Sunday, August 21

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Job 4:1–6, 12–21
Rev. 4:1–11
Mark 6:1–6a

Monday, August 22

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Job 4:1; 5:1–11, 17–21,
26–27
Acts 9:19b–31
John 6:52–59

Tuesday, August 23

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Job 6:1–4, 8–15, 21
Acts 9:32–43
John 6:60–71

Wednesday, August 24

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Job 6:1; 7:1–21
Acts 10:1–16
John 7:1–13

Thursday, August 25

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Job 8:1–10, 20–22
Acts 10:17–33
John 7:14–36

Friday, August 26

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Job 9:1–15, 32–35
Acts 10:34–48
John 7:37–52

Saturday, August 27

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Job 9:1; 10:1–9, 16–22
Acts 11:1–18
John 8:12–20

Sunday, August 28

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Job. 11:1–9, 13–20
Rev. 5:1–14
Matt. 5:1–12

Monday, August 29

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Job 12:1–6, 13–25
Acts 11:19–30
John 8:21–32

Tuesday, August 30

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Job 12:1; 13:3–17, 21–27
Acts 12:1–17
John 8:33–47

Wednesday, August 31

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Job 12:1; 14:1–22
Acts 12:18–25
John 8:47–59

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