

FIRST PRESS

*The newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church*

AUGUST 22, 2022



Message from the Session

Our beloved Director of Christian Education, Christy Williams, submitted her resignation to the Session last week to accept a position as the Interim Director of the Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center.

Christy's last day in the office will be August 31; she will be taking vacation days during the remainder of September. The Session and congregation are so grateful for Christy's over 30 years of service where she has brought energy and creativity to providing Christian Education to all ages in our congregation.

For many of us, Christy helped raise our children through memorable trips to Dogwood Acres, Montreat, and Spring Break trips. During the Covid-19 lockdown, she found innovative ways to keep us connected through volunteer opportunities with Second Harvest Food Bank, the work of the Healing and Racism Task Force and book club. In addition, she has played an instrumental role in supporting First Presbyterian Preschool, Dogwood Acres, and the Montreat Youth Conference. Our congregation will continue to benefit from Christy's gifts through her work at Dogwood Acres.

Our fall Christian education programs are on track.

Adult and children Sunday school classes start September 11, the Spiritual Formation team met on Monday, and teacher orientation is Sunday, August 28 (see pages 4 and 5).

The congregation will be holding a reception to honor Christy and will provide the details in a future newsletter.

First Presbyterian Church
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email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**10:00 a.m. Nursery open for
infants - two-year-olds**

**10:45 a.m. Lord's Day
WORSHIP SERVICE**

and beginning

September 11, 2022

**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.**

**Younger Children's Class
Room 306**

**Older Children's Class
Room 301**

**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 our Director of Christian Education,
Christy Williams*

Dear Members,

I write to you after a year of prayerful discernment, to tell you that I have decided to leave my position as the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church to accept the job of Interim Director of Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center. I am glad to be able to help my dear colleague in ministry, Ben Powell, as he must step away from Dogwood's ministry to tend to his health. I am excited about what God has in store for me in a new ministry. I look forward to working with you all as part of Presbytery's staff. But it would be dishonest to say that I wasn't also grieving and coming to you with a very heavy heart.

First Presbyterian Church has been my family: my refuge in life's storms and my joy in life's celebrations. You have raised my children as I have raised you and yours. I am proud of the work we have done together. Under your guidance I have developed as an educator and as a faithful Christian. Together we have been able to provide wholistic, faith formation programs and experiences for all ages at a level atypical of a church our size. I am so proud of the ways you supported outside the box possibilities like: Summer Camp (for 15 years); Friday Night Frolics; Book Group; Civil Rights Bus Tour; Healing Racism Task Force; Sexuality Education; Intergenerational classes; and Fall Enrichment programs that turned into Mid-Week Adult Enrichment year-round.

Throughout my tenure, I have felt the support of my ministry and my calling to this position. I am grateful for every kindness and your grace that was easily given. Even as I write this letter, I honestly can't imagine leaving my position as the educator here and not working with the children, young people or the adults in our church who care so deeply about learning and living their faith. Your lives are entwined in my heart.

Thank you for granting me the privilege of being the educator here for 34 years. It is unusual for church staff to stay in one congregation for as long as the staff here at Old First have done. That is a testament to the caring, faithful people at First Presbyterian. This congregation has been my life's work. All of you have shaped me. Wherever God takes me, you all will go with me. May God's peace be with us all.

Sincerely,
Christy Williams

Old First Church FALL FAMILY PICNIC

September 18th
Immediately following
worship!

**It's time again for our Fall Family Picnic!
Plan to bring your family for a time of yummy food and games.**

The Details

Wear your picnic clothes to worship (in-person or online!) and afterward head to Maclay Gardens State Park. When you enter the Park, give your name and let them know you are a part of First Presbyterian's Family Picnic, and the Care and Outreach Ministry will cover your entrance fee. You will then proceed to the first road to the right where you will see the sign for the swimming and picnic area. In front of you at the end of the road is the lake and the pavilion is to your left behind the playground. Park in the large parking lot located at the end of the road.

This year we'll be reinstating our potluck sides along with fried chicken from Lindy's! We are looking forward to some of our traditional potluck favorites! We will have a table set-up after church for the picnic sign-up. The chicken will cost \$3 per person with no more than \$10 per family. We will have chocolate and vanilla sheet cakes, but feel free to bring your dessert specialty!

Your entrance into the park will include an opportunity to walk through the gardens, swim in the lake, fish (license needed) take your canoe/kayak/boat (no motors allowed) out in the lake, hike the trails, play on the playground, or just sit on the dock or the shaded hillside and delight in all the beauty surrounding you. We are free to stay until the park closes at sunset.

You will also be able to register at [Sign-up Genius](#), or if you prefer by calling the church office at 850-222-4504.

*If you decide to come at the last minute and haven't signed-up, please join us!
We always have extra food and we want YOU there to join your First Presbyterian Family in this special time of fellowship.*

*Looking forward to sharing in this special family time,
Your Care and Outreach Ministry Team*

[Sign-up Genius Link here.](#)



NEEDED: Teachers in our Young Children's Church School Class!

Our Pre-K- 3rd grade class needs two more teachers to be part of a once-a-month, 1-hour rotation. Our program year runs from Sept – May – so this is a commitment of 9 times in a year. The curriculum resources are easy to use, the students are excited to learn, and the benefits are amazing! Please consider this opportunity to deepen our young children's faith formation.

For more information contact: christy@oldfirstchurch.org

Special Thanks to These Volunteer Teachers & Coordinators

Adult Class – Jane Atkinson Diaz, Emily Bruno, Patrick Kennedy and Stan Williams

Young Children's Class – Mary Hodges and Anna Jordan with our regular assistant: Eleanor Cleveland

Older Children's Class – Dan Bruno, Carolyn Bradley and Carolyn Herrington, Sue Hightower and Melanie Meyer with our regular assistant: Jacqueline Cruz

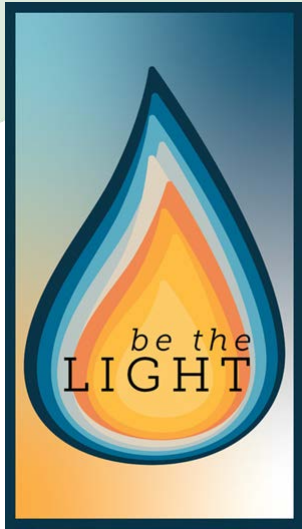
Church School Teacher Orientation

Sunday, August 28 at 10:00 AM

Childcare available.

**Please meet in Room 306 for general information
before we split into two classes.**





Church School Begins: Be the Light

September 11, 2022

9:30-10:30 AM

Adult Class –: Highlights from the General Assembly with our Presbytery's Stated Clerk, Jeannie Dixon.

Younger Children's Class – Room 306: Growing in God's Love

Older Children's Class – Room 301: Re:Form- Ancestors

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 Sept. 11; we meet at 4 pm and are finished by 6 pm. Upcoming dates are:

Sun. October 9

Sun. Nov. 13

Sun. Dec. 11

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.



Disciplefest 2022 will feature 10 workshops, plus prayer trail walks, worship and fellowship, all amid the beauty of God's creation at [Dogwood Acres Retreat Center](#) and Summer Camp, Vernon, Florida.

[Click here for a complete list of workshops with leaders and descriptions.](#)

[Click here for workshop leader biographies.](#)

[Click here for directions.](#)

Event schedule:

9 am CT/10 am ET – Registration/Refreshments
9:30 am CT/10:30 am ET – Morning Worship
10:00 am CT/11:00 am ET – Workshop Session A
12 pm CT/1 pm ET – Lunch
1 pm CT/2 pm ET – Workshop Session B
2:30 pm CT/3:30 pm ET – Closing Celebration

On-site child care will be available.

Stay overnight at Dogwood Acres!

Contact Dogwood Acres Program Director Eric Hearn for information and reservations
(eric@dogwoodacres.org or (770) 378-7289).

[Register NOW!](#)

\$20 per person

includes registration
and lunch

Deadline is Sept. 9

For additional information, contact the Presbytery of Florida at (850)535-2335 or
office@presbyteryofflorida.com.



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!!***



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.



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



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.

Old First Church Book Group

Thursday
August 25
@ 7:00 PM
on Zoom

Join us as we discuss our
summer novel,

Becoming Mrs. C.S Lewis.

There is still plenty of time to read the book if you haven't
started.

Contact Christy@oldfirstchurch.org to pick up one of the
church copies.

A zoom link and some questions for discussion will be sent
to you
on Aug. 22.

September is Banned Book Month and FPC's Book Group
will read one of the many banned books, Lawn Boy by
Jonathan Evison. Peggy Wright-Cleveland will facilitate the
discussion. Join us on Thursday, Sept 22 at 7:00 PM on zoom.
Midtown Reader has these books in for purchase with a 10%
discount. Go to the front desk and ask for FPC's Book Group
books and tell them you are part of the group to get the
discount.

October's Book Group - The Book of Longings by Sue Monk
Kidd. Midtown Reader will also have this book for purchase.





Summer Nursery and Preschool Childcare

10:00 a.m. – the end of worship
Beginning September 11 the nursery
will open at 9:15 a.m.

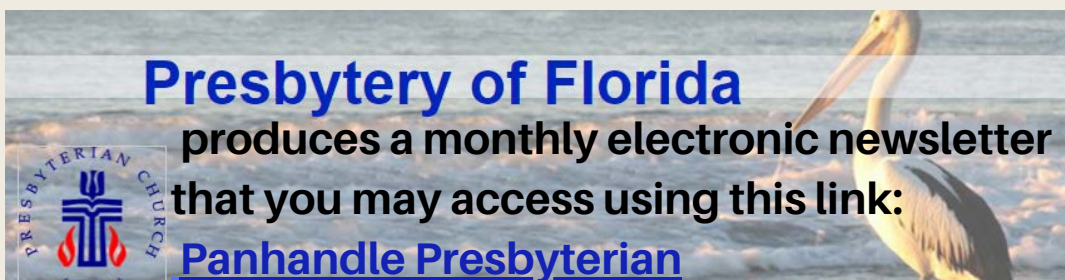
- Infants and children up to three years old – main floor nursery
- Three – Pre-K children – third floor preschool classroom

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.

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter
of
First Presbyterian
Church

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.





Sunday Festival Readings

August 28, 2022
12TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
JEREMIAH 2:4-10

&
PSALM 81:1,10-16
OR
PROVERBS 25:6-7
&
PSALM 112

HEBREWS 13:1-8,15-16
LUKE 14:1, 7-14

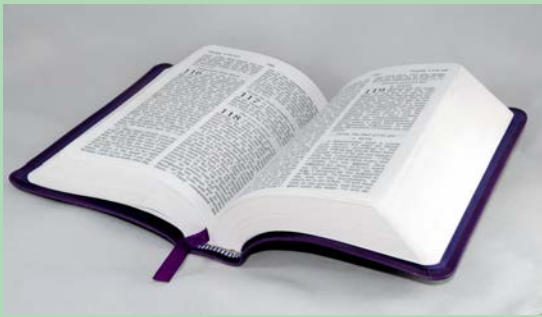


Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 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

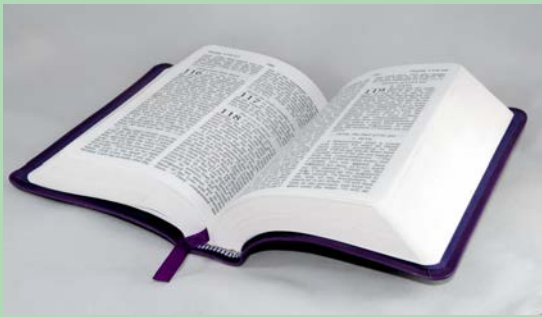
Tuesday, August 30

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

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



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER 1- 15, 2022

Thursday, September 1

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Job 16:16–22; 17:1, 13–16
Acts 13:1–12
John 9:1–17

Friday, September 2

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Job 19:1–7, 14–27
Acts 13:13–25
John 9:18–41

Saturday, September 3

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Job 22:1–4, 21–23:7
Acts 13:26–43
John 10:1–18

Sunday, September 4

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Job 25:1–6; 27:1–6
Rev. 14:1–7, 13
Matt. 5:13–20

Monday, September 5

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Job 32:1–10, 19–33:1,
19–28
Acts 13:44–52
John 10:19–30

Tuesday, September 6

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Job 29:1–20
Acts 14:1–18
John 10:31–42

Wednesday, September 7

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Job 29:1; 30:1–2, 16–31
Acts 14:19–28
John 11:1–16

Thursday, September 8

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Job 29:1; 31:1–23
Acts 15:1–11
John 11:17–29

Friday, September 9

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Job 29:1; 31:24–40
Acts 15:12–21
John 11:30–44

Saturday, September 10

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Job 38:1–17
Acts 15:22–35
John 11:45–54

Sunday, September 11

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Job 38:1, 18–41
Rev. 18:1–8
Matt. 5:21–26

Monday, September 12

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Job 40:1–24
Acts 15:36–16:5
John 11:55–12:8

Tuesday, September 13

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Job 40:1; 41:1–11
Acts 16:6–15
John 12:9–19

Wednesday, September 14

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Job 42:1–17
Acts 16:16–24
John 12:20–26

Thursday, September 15

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Job 28:1–28
Acts 16:25–40
John 12:27–36a