

# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF  
First Presbyterian Church

NOVEMBER 28, 2022



## Caroling Sunday, December 18

Join us for a box lunch and caroling at Westminster Oaks and other locations on Sunday, December 18, immediately following worship! Just let us know to order a box lunch for you either on [Sign-Up Genius](#); by calling the church office; or sending Peggy an email at [pwestdoodah11@gmail.com](mailto:pwestdoodah11@gmail.com). We'll have water to drink but you can bring your favorite drink, if you prefer. If you need a veggie option instead of a meat sandwich, just let us know when you RSVP. We'll see you in the Westminster Room following worship on Sunday, December 18th. We'll have song books and plans, come and let's make a Joyful Noise together!

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website: [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch](https://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.

Younger Children's Class  
Room 306

Older Children's Class  
Room 301

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary.  
Childcare is available for children younger than kindergarten.



In Person and  
Live-Stream Worship  
Visit [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://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

Joy to the world



# A Message from Our Pastor, Anne H.K. Apple

## ADVENT THEME - LONGING FOR HOPE

During Advent we will look with hope for Christ's return and for the full realization of God's vision for the world and it seems like a theologically fitting time to begin the work of transitional ministry. Together, with Christ's help, we will seek God's vision of hope, peace, joy, and love.

This Advent, First Presbyterian, Tallahassee, will explore the theme of "Longing for Hope." Some of us in this season long for loved ones who are not with us; some of us long for healing and wholeness; some of us long for justice and truth. Even in our longing, we remember, Jesus is Lord and we hold onto the hope found in Jesus' birth.

## PRAYER PRACTICE INVITATION

The refrain from hymn #314, "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" is as follows.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church, gathered today.

As a community practice, with an Advent intention, I invite you into a daily prayer practice. I am setting a daily cell phone alarm with the reminder to pray this refrain. I invite you to find a cue that works for you, and to join me in prayer. The intention is to pray this hymn refrain together as Christ's body gathered at First Presbyterian, Tallahassee, trusting God hears our collective prayers. If you have small children, or if you are a child at heart, maybe you could draw a prayerful picture. If you are one who journals, maybe you could write an entry born out of praying this refrain. And, simply, asking the Spirit of a Living God, to hear our prayer together, speaking the refrain, is enough. The church is at work during Advent with many opportunities to give God praise and to practice faith in Christ. Please see the Advent brochure that shares all the programs of ministry teams who have worked diligently to craft opportunities to be formed in hopeful expectation during the Season of Advent.

# Longing for Hope

Week One: Hope - The Already and the Not Yet

Wednesday, November 30th

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag

Week Two: Peace - The Promise of Potential

Sunday, December 4th

11:00am Worship

Wednesday, December 7th

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag

5:30pm Las Posadas ([Sign-Up](#))

Week Three: Joy - The Journey Towards Joy

Sunday, December 11th

11:00am Worship

Wednesday, December 14th

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag

5:30pm Christmas Carols and Trivia ([Sign Up](#))

Week Four: Joy - The Gift

Sunday, December 18th

11:00am Worship with Box Lunch and  
Caroling following the service ([Sign-Up](#))

Wednesday, December 21st

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag



# Wreath Installation at Old First Church

Hanging the Advent wreaths on the front of the church is a multi-step process performed on Saturday, November 26.

What you can't discern from these photos is the instability of the extension ladder upon which Ryan is perched. Our wreath hangers are in need of a replacement for the rickety extension ladder currently owned by the church. They need one at least 22 feet long. A 24 footer would be better.





Las Posadas Dinner  
Wednesday,  
December 7th  
5:30 pm  
beginning in the  
sanctuary

Please join us for our annual Las Posadas dinner!

Las Posadas commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.

We will learn about the history of this tradition, take a similar journey as Mary and Joseph did through the grounds of the church, and will conclude with a celebration of tacos and a pinata!

Please RSVP through the following link so we know how many tacos to order:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4EABA62BA0FE3-lasposadas>



## **Advent Sign-Up Links**

**December 7  
Las Posadas  
Sign-Up**

**December 11  
Christmas Carols and  
Trivia  
Sign-Up**

**December 18  
Caroling  
Sign-Up**



# LIGHT *of* *the* WORLD

## *Adult Church School*

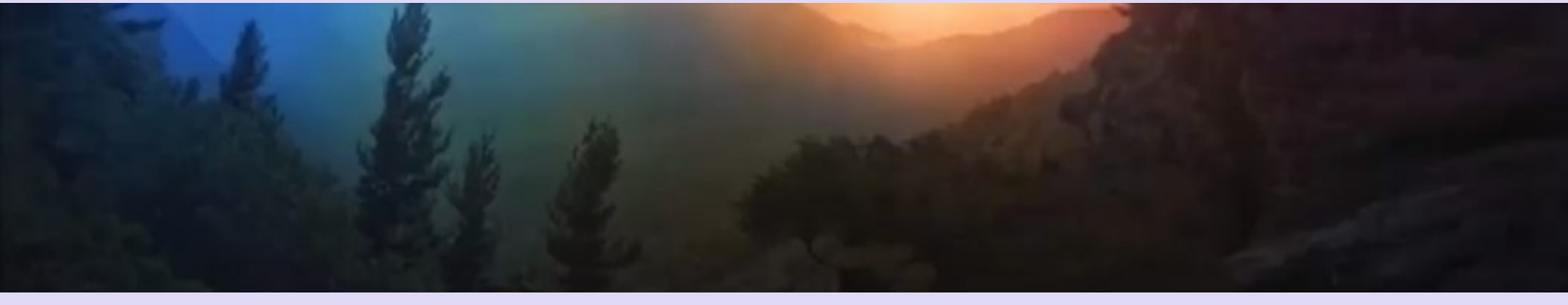
Sunday, December 4, 2022

9:30 a.m. start time

(9:15 a.m. meet and greet)

This Sunday, 12/4, the Adult Sunday School class continues our study of Amy Jill "AJ" Levine's "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent." This 4-week series traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. AJ Levine is a Bible scholar who describes herself as "an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who until 2021 taught New Testament in a Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt."

Our program this week, entitled "The Promise of Potential," invites us to explore the connections between Mary and Hannah through their songs of praise, think about the pregnancy of Mary and the physicality of Jesus' birth in new ways, consider what it might mean for Mary and Elizabeth to be the mothers of children who will both do extraordinary things and be executed by political authorities, and reflect on time in a new way.



# Sunday Church School



**DECEMBER 4, 2022**

## **Younger Children's Class**

9:30am Room 306

The Younger Children's Class (Pre-K - 3rd grade) will start exploring the beginnings of Jesus for this Advent season.

## **Older Children's Class**

9:30am Room 301

The Older Children's Class (4th-8th grade) will continue to explore the people of the Old Testament, focusing on Solomon this week.



## **Nursery and Preschool Childcare**

9:15 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 Eleanor Cleveland at [eicleveland18@gmail.com](mailto:eicleveland18@gmail.com) about childcare.



## Old First Church Book Group

December  
8  
@ 7:00 PM  
on Zoom

**November's Book Group  
Rescheduled to December 8,  
2022**

**No Cure for Being Human  
by Kate Bowler**

There are multiple copies of both these books in the church office to borrow now. Start reading!!

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.

The Public Library also has copies.

Book Group discussions are on Zoom. Look for the link in your email box the Monday before book group.

## PRAYER. *conversations with God*

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 our pastoral care team and the Care and Outreach Team. 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.



## Food Offering for Elder Care Services and Second Harvest of the Big Bend Sunday, Dec. 4th

We will receive donated dry and canned food in the narthex on the first Sunday of the month. The items we collect will be given to Second Harvest of the Big Bend and Elder Care Services to support their much-needed efforts to feed the hungry in our community and the surrounding service area. Please consider including in your grocery list some items for those food-insecure neighbors around us. For questions, please contact Jan Bush. A list of the most-needed items is provided here for your convenience.

**Cereal**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Canned: Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, and**  
**Hearty Soup/Stew**



**The Choir meets at 10:15  
a.m. on Sundays and 7:00  
p.m. on Wednesdays and we  
are open to all singers.**

**Contact Ethan Murphy or  
the church office for more  
information.**



### Join the Tallahassee Guns to Gardens Movement

Guns to Gardens is a grassroots ministry that safely and legally dismantles and destroys unwanted firearms. The remaining metal pieces are then forged into life-giving garden tools.

Interested in doing this prophetic work with us? All are welcome in the movement! We are especially looking for volunteers with any of the following skills and/or equipment:

- Comfort and experience with power tools
- Firearms safety training and comfort handling firearms
- Blacksmithing
- Welding
- Owns a metal-cutting chop saw
- Pastoral care



**Contact us at:**

**[gunstogardens@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:gunstogardens@oldfirstchurch.org)**

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

## **Hear Ye, Hear Ye Presbyterians!**

Our community is switching to 100% renewable energy and your input is needed. You are encouraged to attend one of the City's November meetings on its development of a Clean Energy Plan. You probably received an invitation in an email that explains the importance of these meetings. In case you didn't the invitation is below.

This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the development of the Clean Energy Plan and to share your input with the city.

One vitally important area to our congregation is Environmental Justice. You are encouraged to let the city know of your interest in making sure as our community transitions to renewable energy, that special attention is given to helping "the least of these" make this transition without unfair costs or new burdens. This segment of our community already pays a disproportionate amount for their heating and cooling costs. Please note that you need to register.

Thanks for your interest and support in our community switching to 100% renewable energy.

Pam McVety

### **Plug into the Clean Energy Conversation Community-wide Meetings Scheduled**

The City of Tallahassee is a long-standing leader in protecting and caring for our natural resources. The City underscored its commitment with the adoption of its Clean Energy Resolution, which set a target of achieving 100 percent net, clean renewable energy. A plan is being developed to guide the way forward, and continued community input will ensure it reflects local values and needs while maintaining affordability, equity, reliability, safety and more.

Since beginning the planning effort, the City has engaged thousands of residents through surveys and community meetings as part of ongoing conversations about achieving these clean energy goals. To keep the conversation going, the City is hosting another series of community meetings. To provide ample opportunity for participation, multiple dates and venues are available (both in-person and virtual). Residents are encouraged to pick the single time and date that works best for their schedules.

Virtual: November 29 at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Virtual: November 30 at 6 p.m.

Visit [Talgov.com/CleanEnergyPlan](https://Talgov.com/CleanEnergyPlan) to learn more and RSVP in advance.

Links for the virtual meetings are available on the website.

Clean, renewable energy means cleaner air, healthier residents, new green jobs and a stronger, more resilient community. To help chart the best pathway for our community, plug into the clean energy conversation.

To learn more and RSVP for an event, visit [Talgov.com/CleanEnergyPlan](https://Talgov.com/CleanEnergyPlan), send an email to [CleanEnergy@Talgov.com](mailto:CleanEnergy@Talgov.com) or call 850-891-4968.

# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



## 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 **Sun. Dec. 11**; 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](mailto: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.



## SECOND HARVEST

### BREAD BOXING

**Friday December 2  
from 9:45 - Noon**

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in December, you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-second>

or

contact Debbie Gibson at [gibsond1207@mail.com](mailto:gibsond1207@mail.com) or 850-656-3659.

We hope you can join us some time soon.

## Presbytery of Florida

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

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



# 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](mailto:newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org) **no later than noon** on production Mondays; or, if possible, earlier the previous week.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**



**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

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

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

### Post-Hurricane Ian: Disaster Relief



**FLORIDA  
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE  
NETWORK**  
In Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)



1. Write checks to First Pres and designate FLDAPDAN or PDA US Hurricane Response.
2. Send funds directly to FLAPDAN at: Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc, 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609. Earmark your donation with Hurricane Ian. To give with a credit card you can click the page's "Give Now" link at [FLAPDAN's](#).
3. Send funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) marking your check with DR000169 for US Hurricane Response at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 64370, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Call PDA with a credit card donation at 800-872-3283 Or give with your credit card through the [PDA US Hurricane Response web page](#).
4. If you have or want to put together a mission team to go to the affected areas to help with recovery efforts, information found at [FLAPDAN Volunteer](#) will get you started.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact Presbytery FLAPDAN liaison Tim Crawford at [tcrawford@cox.net](mailto:tcrawford@cox.net) or (850) 217-2597 or FLAPDAN directly at [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org) or (941) 483-0675.



## **Sunday Festival Readings**

**December 4, 2022  
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

ISAIAH 11:1-10

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

ROMANS 15:4-13

MATTHEW 3:1-12

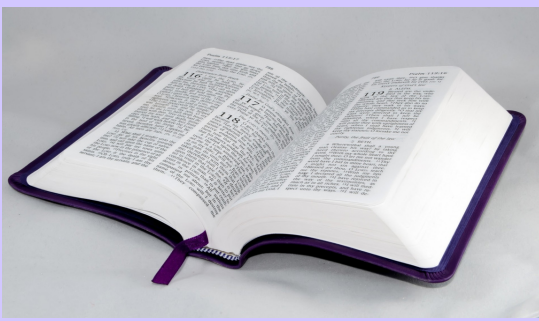


Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 DECEMBER 1-15 , 2022

**Thursday, December 1**

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
Isa. 2:5–22  
Thess. 3:1–13  
Luke 20:27–40

**Friday, December 2**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
Isa. 3:1–4:1  
Thess. 4:1–12  
Luke 20:41–21:4

**Saturday, December 3**

Morning: Pss. 90; 149  
Evening: Pss. 80; 72  
Isa. 4:2–6  
Thess. 4:13–1  
Luke 21:5–19

**Sunday, December 4****Second Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
Evening: Pss. 25; 11  
Isa. 5:1–7  
Pet. 3:11–18  
Luke 7:28–3

**Monday, December 5**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
Evening: Pss. 40; 6  
Isa. 5:8–17  
Thess. 5:1–11  
Luke 21:20–28

**Tuesday, December 6**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
Evening: Pss. 85; 94  
Isa. 5:18–2  
1 Thess. 5:12–2  
Luke 21:29–38

**Wednesday, December 7**

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 53; 17  
Isa. 6:1–1  
2 Thess. 1:1–12  
John 7:53–8:11

**Thursday, December 8**

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
Isa. 7:1–  
2 Thess. 2:1–1  
Luke 22:1–13

**Friday, December 9**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
Isa. 7:10–2  
2 Thess. 2:13–3:5  
Luke 22:14–30

**Saturday, December 10**

Morning: Pss. 90; 14  
Evening: Pss. 80; 72  
Isa. 8:1–15  
2 Thess. 3:6–18  
Luke 22:31–38

**Sunday, December 11****Third Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
Evening: Pss. 25; 110  
Isa. 13:1–13  
Heb. 12:18–29  
John 3:22–30

**Monday, December 12**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
Evening: Pss. 40; 6  
Isa. 8:16–9:1  
2 Pet. 1:1–11  
Luke 22:39–53

**Tuesday, December 13**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
Evening: Pss. 85; 9  
Isa. 9:2–7  
2 Pet. 1:12–21  
Luke 22:54–69

**Wednesday, December 14**

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 53; 1  
Isa. 9:8–17  
Pet. 2:1–10  
Mark 1:1–8

**Thursday, December 15**

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
Isa. 9:18–10:4  
2 Pet. 2:10b–16  
Matt. 3:1–12

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