

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



JANUARY 2, 2023



We resume our Sunday morning spiritual formation programming this week with an intergenerational Epiphany Workshop. Join us as we make stars and crowns, enjoy some King cake, and learn about Epiphany traditions around the world.

Children's Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m. The Younger Children's Class (Pre-K -3rd grade) will focus on the Epiphany story and the Older Children's Class (4th - 8th grade) will focus on Jonah, their last person from the People of the Old Testament study. Then, they will join the Epiphany Workshop in the Westminster Room for crafts & snacks.

The Nursery will be open from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 .pm.

See you at 9:30 on Sunday!

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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.

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 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



A Message from Our Pastor Rev. Anne H.K. Apple

Pipes burst, water flowed, and paraments caught fire. A colleague in New York knows about burning paraments and many churches suffered broken water pipes all over the country with the polar freeze that descended at Christmas. And for those of us who attended the 5:00 o'clock service at First Tallahassee, we know about free-flowing water because one of our outside sprinkler lines burst Christmas Eve and we just kept going. As Don Winstead, Glenn Laird, and John Guthrie got down to the details of solving the problem, someone whispered to me the line from the movie, Finding Nemo, "Just keep swimming, ... Just keep swimming."

The New York church my colleague serves hosts a "Blue Christmas" service. It is a worship service on the longest night of the year, December 21, that provides a quiet and contemplative worship service for those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss. She texted after Christmas:

"I put a lot of effort and passion into planning our Blue Christmas service because it's my favorite service of the year. And all that planning and guess what? My elaborate candle display on the Lord's Table caught on fire and burned the parament to an absolute crisp. This all happened in the silent reflection period. And, as the silent reflection went along, I did what you do. I asked my colleague to take care of the "issue" at hand, aka fire, and I went on with the service."

She and her head of staff colleague, kept going.

This week I am leading a workshop with another colleague from Virginia at the Montreat College Conference entitled, "The Sensuality of Dust and Explorations of the Spirit." The theme of the conference this year is, "Keep Going!"

In the opening worship service, the preacher Reverend Phanta I. Lansden, the pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Greenboro, NC, began her sermon from Hebrews 12, with a list entitled, "Pastor Phanta's Village. She began by describing her village – and the role each member serves: family, therapist, spiritual director, healthcare team, prayer partner, and friends. And she drove home her desire that college young adults, and all people, know "who" is in their village, their great cloud of witnesses – because it can make a difference in living and dying.

Her sermon then wove together how we "keep going" and that is trusting "We are better together." "Healing comes." Our workshop brought questions from God from five biblical texts:

1. Where are you? (Genesis 3:6-10)
2. Can these bones live? (Ezekiel 37:1-10)
3. Where have you come from and where are you going? (Genesis 16:1-8)
4. Do you know what I have done to you? (John 13:12-17)
5. Where does light live and darkness reside? (Job 38:4-19)

The young adults answered these God questions with vulnerability and candor and how they can struggle to keep going. I wonder how we might answer these questions as we keep going into the new year through the interim period? For certain, we'll begin by celebrating the Lord's Baptism and Epiphany on Sunday! Looking forward to seeing you in worship!

“LET FRIENDSHIP REDEEM THE REPUBLIC”

JANUARY 20, 2023 @ NOON

***GOD SQUAD EDITION**



On Friday, January 20 at noon The Village Square's God Squad will continue the 2022-2023 season with Let Friendship Redeem the Republic: God Squad Edition. In our year-long celebration of the superpower of healthy friendships across differences, you'll meet God Squad's friends who they don't quite agree with (and we'll encourage the audience to bring their own).

Joining us for God Squad are Pastor Betsy Ouelette Zierden of the United Methodist Church, Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, Pastor Latricia Scriven of New Life Community Church, and Retired Rabbi Jack Romberg.

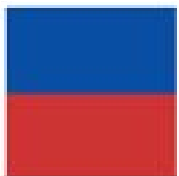
This event will be held at First Baptist Church of Tallahassee. Meet the panelists and RSVP for the January 20th program here:

<https://tlh.villagesquare.us/event/friends/>.

All God Squad forums are free and open to the public.

Lunch is available for \$10 if you RSVP by 1/17 and \$15 with a late reservation or at the door.

Questions? Contact eliza@villagesquare.us or at 850-281-1223.



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

Dogwood Acres Upcoming Events



Pause”, a women’s yoga and mindfulness retreat (January 20 – 22) will be a weekend aimed at helping women in the Presbytery breathe deeply and consider the New Year with new intentions. There will be time to be still, silent, to hike and to enjoy fellowship, to journal, to practice gentle yoga, to take a class or take a nap.

- Dogwood Youth Conference (February 3–5) is a winter retreat bound to set faith on fire! Led by college students at UKirk Tallahassee, middle and high school youth will be invited to consider the Matthew 25 scripture and how it impacts our lives. In-between the keynote addresses, worship, small group discussions and artistic renderings will be bonfires, s’mores, field games and hikes.

Learn more about each event:

<https://www.dogwoodacres.org/events/>.



Point in Time 2023 Count Jan. 24 and 25

The annual count of those who are homeless in Leon County will take place on Jan. 24 and 25. If you wish to volunteer to help, please sign up here:

<https://bigbendcoc.org/pit23/>



**Food Offering
for Elder Care Services and
Second Harvest of the Big Bend
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023**

**OUR FOOD GIFTS ARE GREATLY
APPRECIATED.**

Thank you so much for your wonderful support of our First Sunday Food Collection efforts these past three months! Your food donations are brought alternately to Second Harvest and to Elder Care Services (ECS), and have been converted to literally hundreds of meals for our hungry and food insecure neighbors. We have all seen the increased prices in the grocery store, and ECS food pantry organizer, Linda, recently shared that the need in our community now is even greater than it has been. So please mark your calendars now for our next food collection date on

Sunday, January 8th, 2023,

when our proceeds will be brought to Elder Care Services.

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

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

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. January 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.



SECOND HARVEST

BREAD BOXING

**Friday January 6
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/8050849AAA72DAB9-second>

or

contact Debbie Gibson at gibsond1207@mail.com or 850-656-3659.

We hope you can join us some time soon.



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; 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



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 or (850) 217-2597 or FLAPDAN directly at fla.pdan@pcusa.org or (941) 483-0675.



Sunday Festival Readings

January 8, 2023

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-14

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

MATTHEW 2:1-12

OR

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 42:1-9

PSALM 29

ACTS 10:34-43

MATTHEW 3:13-17

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.

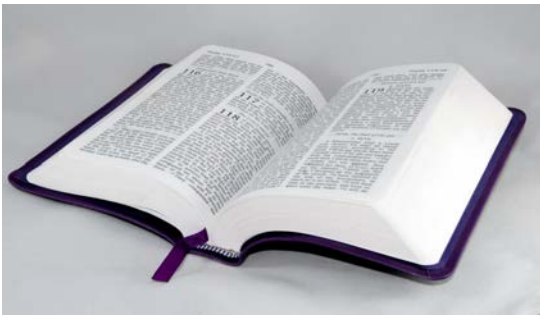
We acknowledge the long history of systemic racism that, through violence, laws, policies, and their implementation, was intended to exclude persons who are not Caucasian from benefits and opportunities - from the first European settlers who considered themselves entitled to land and violently displaced 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 JANUARY 1- 17, 2023

Sunday, January 1

First Sunday of Christmas

Morning: Pss. 98; 150
Evening: Pss. 99; 8
Isa. 62:6-7, 10-12
Heb. 2:10-18
Matt. 1:18-25

Monday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 145
Evening: Pss. 9; 29
Gen. 12:1-7
Heb. 11:1-12

John 6:35-42, 48-51

Tuesday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 146
Evening: Pss. 107; 15
Gen. 28:10-22
Heb. 11:13-22
John 10:7-17

Wednesday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 93; 97
Exod. 3:1-5
Heb. 11:23-31
John 14:6-14

Thursday, January 5

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 96; 110
Josh. 1:1-9
Heb. 11:32-12:2
John 15:1-16

Friday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 148
Evening: Pss. 100; 67
Isa. 52:7-10
Rev. 21:22-27 Matt. 12:14-21

Saturday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; 149
Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114
Isa. 52:3-6
Rev. 2:1-7 John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150
Evening: Ps. 29 Isa. 40:1-11
Heb. 1:1-12
John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34

Monday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Isa. 40:12-24
Eph. 1:1-14
Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Isa. 40:25-31
Eph. 1:15-23
Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Isa. 41:1-16
Eph. 2:1-10
Mark 1:29-45

Thursday, January 12

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Isa. 41:17-29
Eph. 2:11-22
Mark 2:1-12

Friday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Isa. 42:(1-9) 10-17
Eph. 3:1-13
Mark 2:13-22

Saturday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Isa. (42:18-25) 43:1-13
Eph. 3:14-21
Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, January 15

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Isa. 43:14-44:5
Heb. 6:17-7:10
John 4:27-42

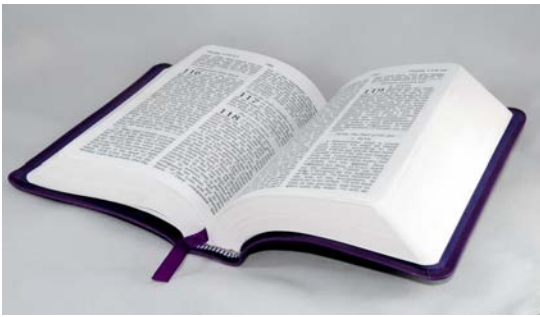
Monday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Isa. 44:6-8, 21-23
Eph. 4:1-16
Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday, January 17

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Isa. 44:9-20
Eph. 4:17-32
Mark 3:19b-35

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



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY 18- 31, 2023

Wednesday, January 18

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 48; 4

Isa. 44:24-45:7

Eph. 5:1-14

Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 19

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 80; 27

Isa. 45:5-17

Eph. 5:15-33

Mark 4:21-34

Friday, January 20

Morning: Pss. 130; 148

Evening: Pss. 32; 139

Isa. 45:18-25

Eph. 6:1-9

Mark 4:35-41

Saturday, January 21

Morning: Pss. 56; 149

Evening: Pss. 118; 111

Isa. 46:1-13

Eph. 6:10-24

Mark 5:1-20

Sunday, January 22

Morning: Pss. 67; 150

Evening: Pss. 46; 93

Isa. 47:1-15

Heb. 10:19-31

John 5:2-18

Monday, January 23

Morning: Pss. 57; 145

Evening: Pss. 85; 47

Isa. 48:1-11

Gal. 1:1-17

Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday, January 24

Morning: Pss. 54; 146

Evening: Pss. 28; 99

Isa. 48:12-21 (22)

Gal. 1:18-2:10

Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday, January 25

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 125; 91

Isa. 49:1-12

Gal. 2:11-21

Mark 6:13-29

Thursday, January 26

Morning: Pss. 143; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 81; 116

Isa. 49:13-23 (24-26)

Gal. 3:1-14

Mark 6:30-46

Friday, January 27

Morning: Pss. 88; 148

Evening: Pss. 6; 20

Isa. 50:1-11

Gal. 3:15-22

Mark 6:47-56

Saturday, January 28

Morning: Pss. 122; 149

Evening: Pss. 100; 63

Isa. 51:1-8

Gal. 3:23-29

Mark 7:1-23

Sunday, January 29

Morning: Pss. 108; 150

Evening: Pss. 66; 23

Isa. 51:9-16

Heb. 11:8-16

John 7:14-31

Monday, January 30

Morning: Pss. 62; 145

Evening: Pss. 73; 9

Isa. 51:17-23

Gal. 4:1-11

Mark 7:24-37

Tuesday, January 31

Morning: Pss. 12; 146

Evening: Pss. 36; 7

Isa. 52:1-12

Gal. 4:12-20

Mark 8:1-10

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