

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 16, 2023



First Presbyterian Church
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GUNS TO GARDENS TALLAHASSEE



Meet and Greet/ Informational Session

Saturday, January 21
10:00 am - noon
First Presbyterian Church
Westminster Room



**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.**

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

In his book about church leadership in trying times, *Canoeing the Mountains*, the pastor-theologian, Tod Bolsinger, says that “Without trust, there is no travel.”

After worship, on the MLK holiday weekend, the Session met and as moderator, I tried to deliver a weekend retreat’s worth of information to the Session. I did not do a good job. Shoving tons of information into a short period of time without space for reflection does one thing for sure, heightens anxiety!

Here’s what I know.

I will NOT do that again.

And, what I also know is missing the mark is part of the messiness of adaptive change. And when systems go through change, they adapt, or don’t, depending on the ability to navigate anxiety triggers. The current Session is a group of leaders committed to studying, discerning, and leading together. We are learning to trust one another so that we might travel well together.

This column will serve as the Session Update for January and I hope, help to bring you, the congregation members, into some awareness of what our goals are for the interim year.

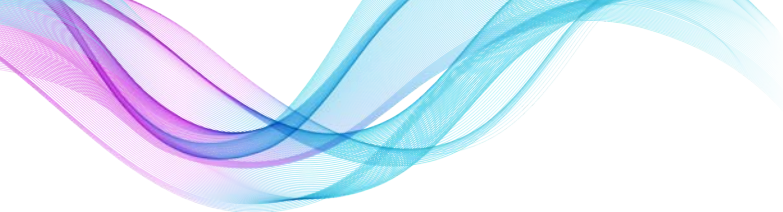
Three large goals will guide our interim year together. The goals, and several examples of objectives, though by no means inclusive, for the interim year are:

The Session will sustain, explore, and encourage worship and program practices that increase connectivity and Spiritual Vitality.

1. The Worship Ministry Team will introduce a practice of visual art which invites all members, at every age and stage, to participate in Advent worship. These individual contributions will be transformed into an Epiphany worship reminder.
2. The Worship Ministry Team will work to grow connectivity between the Worship and Music ministries of the congregation as a new model of music ministry staffing unfolds.
3. The Spiritual Formation Ministry Teams for adults and children will explore, design and implement programming which seeks to increase connection between congregation members and Spiritual Vitality.

The Session will analyze, redevelop, revise and begin to implement an organizational structure working from the Session Manual adopted August 16, 2020.

1. Each Ministry Team will consider and revise (as necessary) their definition, meeting schedule, and current membership and bring it to a designated Session meeting.
2. A review/audit/compilation of the financial fitness of the congregation will be implemented by the Session in conjunction with the retirement of the financial administrator.
3. A communications audit will be performed by an outside vendor in the 1st quarter of 2023.



The Session will prioritize the work of restoration through intentional practices for themselves as spiritual and organizational leaders. Each elder will encourage and confirm similar engagement through intentional practices for the congregation.

1. The interim pastor will create a small envisioning team to develop a restorative justice model which includes, and is not limited to, compassionate listening sessions for identified groups within the congregation and a series of worship services for Wholeness and Healing.
2. The envisioning team will apply for a Thriving Congregations grant from Columbia Theological Seminary for the collective work of restoration following a significant season of congregational anxiety.
3. The Personnel Ministry Team will work with the Interim Pastor to secure a Davidson College Fellow for a Summer Internship.
4. The envisioning team will create opportunities to explore the Lessons from Loss which is an intentional model of processing grief.

Within each goal, there will be measurable objectives and an accountability structure. The Session is being guided by scripture, practices of faith, and organizational leadership borrowing from:

Congregational Leadership, Steinke

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, Lencioni

Gottman, Four Horsemen

The envisioning team for the Restoration process will begin meeting regularly. That team includes the Reverend Dr. Greta Reed, Jane Atkinson, and Stan Williams.

At the Session meeting, the sitting Clerk, Tip Tomberlin, reported to the Session communication from Kathee Winstead, about her decision to step down from her role as editor of the church newsletter effective May 31st. As a congregation, Kathee has been a model of consistent leadership - editing a newsletter can be like herding cats. Please join me in prayerfully thanking God for Kathee, and in asking God to bless not only Kathee and Don, but the church through this transition.

God's peace to you, and here's to catching the winds of the Spirit as we travel together.

Anne





Adult Church School

Sunday, January 22, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time

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

This week, we continue our Art and Scripture series around the theme of Tension and Discord. We will hear from local artist, Kristen Summers, about her artistic process and then examine art relating to scriptural passages on this week's theme. As with last week, art supplies will be available for optional creative engagement during the class.

Children's Church School

JANUARY 22, 2023

Younger Children's Class

9:30am Room 306

Pre-K - 3rd grade

This week, the Younger Children will follow the lectionary, focusing on a lesson called "Follow Me."

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301

4th-8th grade

This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament, focusing on John the Baptist.

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 eleanor@oldfirstchurch.org about childcare.



“A Brief But Spectacular Take on Climate Action” is a four-minute PBS-TV video presentation by Bill McKibben, an environmentalist and founder of Third Act (an organization that encourages people over 60 to take action on climate change). Our webinar will start with the video followed by live talks by three well-known environmental leaders in the Church followed by a time for questions and answers.

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2022

Time: 7:30 pm Eastern (6:30 Central, 5:30 Mountain, 4:30 Pacific)

Presenters:

Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull

Rev. Dr. Jim Antal

Dr. Dan Terpstra

Rev. Bruce Gillette

Please use the link below to see more about this webinar and register for this FREE webinar. You will be emailed a Zoom link prior to the workshop date.

[older-adults-climate-change](#)





CALLING FOR COUNTING HELP



Every Sunday our financial offerings get counted, recorded and deposited in the bank. We have a dedicated group of members who perform this service, some of whom have been on counting teams for more than thirty years. But time and illnesses have taken their toll and we are in need of some new volunteers. We have four teams of two or three that rotate serving for a month each quarter. On most days the task can be accomplished in approximately 30 minutes or less. Please consider volunteering to serve on a team or as a backup. If you have questions call Jim Davis at the church or Norma Meier at 850-443-9925.



If you need reserved parking, please call Lori at 222-4504, or email office@oldfirstchurch.org.



Upcoming Events

- 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 this event:

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

And we aren't just planning and facilitating retreats around Dogwood Acres! As the new year began, we have begun work on a new, ability-friendly, prayer/nature trail near the outdoor chapel, have had the road repaired, and have begun the process of renovating 4 more of our cabins! Many thanks to the hardworking staff and to volunteer James Vance for jumpstarting these projects in the new year. Thank you also to all of those in our Presbytery who generously supported Dogwood Acres in this past year.



Food Offering for Elder Care Services and Second Harvest of the Big Bend



OUR FOOD GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Thank you so much for your wonderful support of our First Sunday Food Collection efforts! Your food donations are brought alternately to Second Harvest and to Elder Care Services (ECS), and have been converted 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, February 5, 2023.

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



SECOND HARVEST BREAD BOXING
Friday February 3 from 9:45 - Noon

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in February, 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.



**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. February 12**; 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.



**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**

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.

Presbytery of Florida

**produces a monthly electronic news-
letter that you may access using this link:**

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)





Sunday Festival Readings

January 22, 2023

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ISAIAH 9:1-4

PSALM 27: 1, 4-9

I CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

MATTHEW 4:12-23



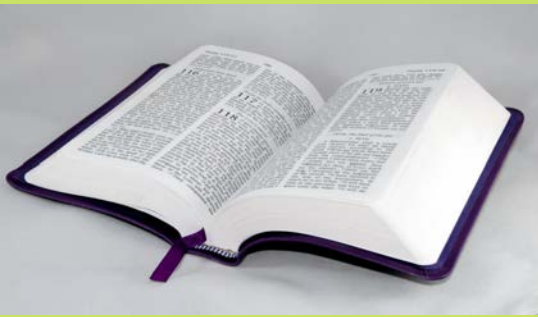
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 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](#).