

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



JANUARY 29, 2023



PLEASE COME!!

Presbyterian Women's Winter Luncheon

Sunday, February 19, 2023
immediately after church
Westminster Room and on Zoom

***** POTLUCK Salad Buffet*****

Bring a favorite salad to share.

Drink and dessert provided.

**Linda Smith will give a message
guaranteed to inspire!**

First Presbyterian Church
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Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone (850) 222-4504
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website: www.oldfirstchurch.org
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 to
download Sunday's bulletin and
view the service. Services are
recorded and available for later
viewing on YouTube
[@FPCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/@FPCTallahassee).



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday



A Message from Our Pastor

Rev. Anne H.K. Apple

Columbia Presbyterian Church, adjacent to the Seminary, enjoyed a time when faculty members and students' families filled the pews. Over time, that narrative changed. In the few years that our family lived and studied in Decatur, Georgia, we observed and participated in some of that change. The change was neither good nor bad - it was just change - which is inevitable. A waning preschool closed and a Waldorf School began to partner with the church in sharing space. The Session granted permission for the seminary to produce Godspell in the sanctuary. A refugee resettlement ministry began. Reverend Joan Gray, a former Moderator of the PC(USA) was a leader of this church and over time, her leadership style has become a mentoring presence.

I witnessed her leadership in this church season in how she set a tone that invited collaboration, and her willingness to make clear decisions. She encouraged self-expression and established boundaries. One of her overarching constructs was watching for (and quickly shutting down) anything that threatened the integrity of the whole, anything that would be more likely to fragment the community. She was particularly wise in helping keep the church aligned with God's call to service and has written two books that describe some of this work: *The Sailboat Church*, and *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers*. At Columbia Presbyterian, there were so many changes including leadership, programs, worship styles and use of space.

During my years at Idlewild, as three associates who worked well together, we were often frustrated by the inability to get a clear understanding about our small group ministry. Where did it fit? Who was responsible for it? Why do we need small groups? When the small groups we had in place seemed to become more like social clubs, we really had to take a hard look at what was going on. We asked more questions. We put together a small study group, with three faithful elders committed to "figuring out" what might be next for this ministry and three associate pastors. The "figuring" was research from other churches, interviews with congregants, surveys of needs, and lots of prayer. And one day, one of those gathered elders said, "We need to stop and pray, right now. Please. And then each one of us will take one minute to reflect back what we heard." So, we stopped figuring, (or rowing in Gray's language), and prayed and listened with one another. We discerned together.

That specific prayer led to a new idea and process for discernment. Oddly enough in our small Presbyterian world, the Reverend Roy Howard, who has connections with First Presbyterian from his family's time in Tallahassee, had posted something on Facebook about using Joan Gray's work in his congregation.

The Spirit led us in this direction and we reached out to Roy to listen and to learn how Gray's work shaped the congregation he served. All that praying and listening led to a specific ministry with the Idlewild Session and Deacons. We studied Joan Gray's book, *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers*. After the church leaders studied the book, we moved into the congregation with her book, *Sailboat Church*.

At the heart of the work, we learned how to listen for the Holy Spirit, and to follow. And, it is hard work. We were fond of saying in those days of change, "We can do hard things." At the heart of her work Gray says that the three components for being the church in a new way are: passion for God, faith in God's provision, and a willingness to let go. First Presbyterian - we can do hard things with God's help!

God's peace,
God's presence.

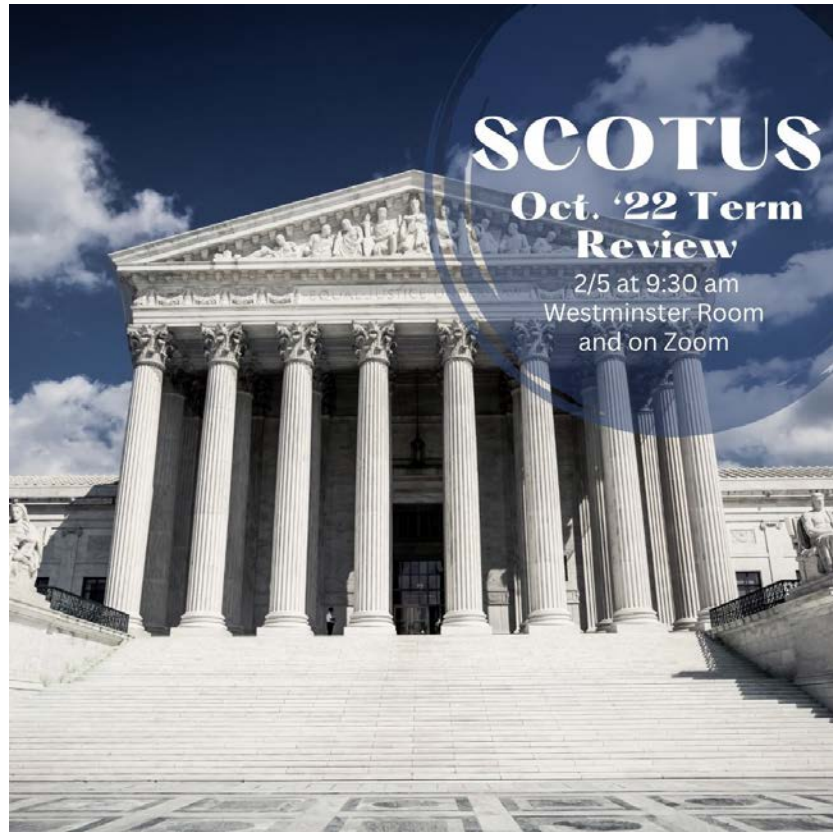
Anne



Dear FPC Family,

We cannot thank you enough for the care, love and compassion you gave our mother, Janet Gurniak, throughout the last few years, months and days of her life. We are also so grateful and humbled by the love and support you have given each one of us since her death earlier this month. We rejoice in the gift of her, and our, communal life with you.

Miriam Gurniak, Chris and Jonathan Witmer, Rachel and Nick Easton



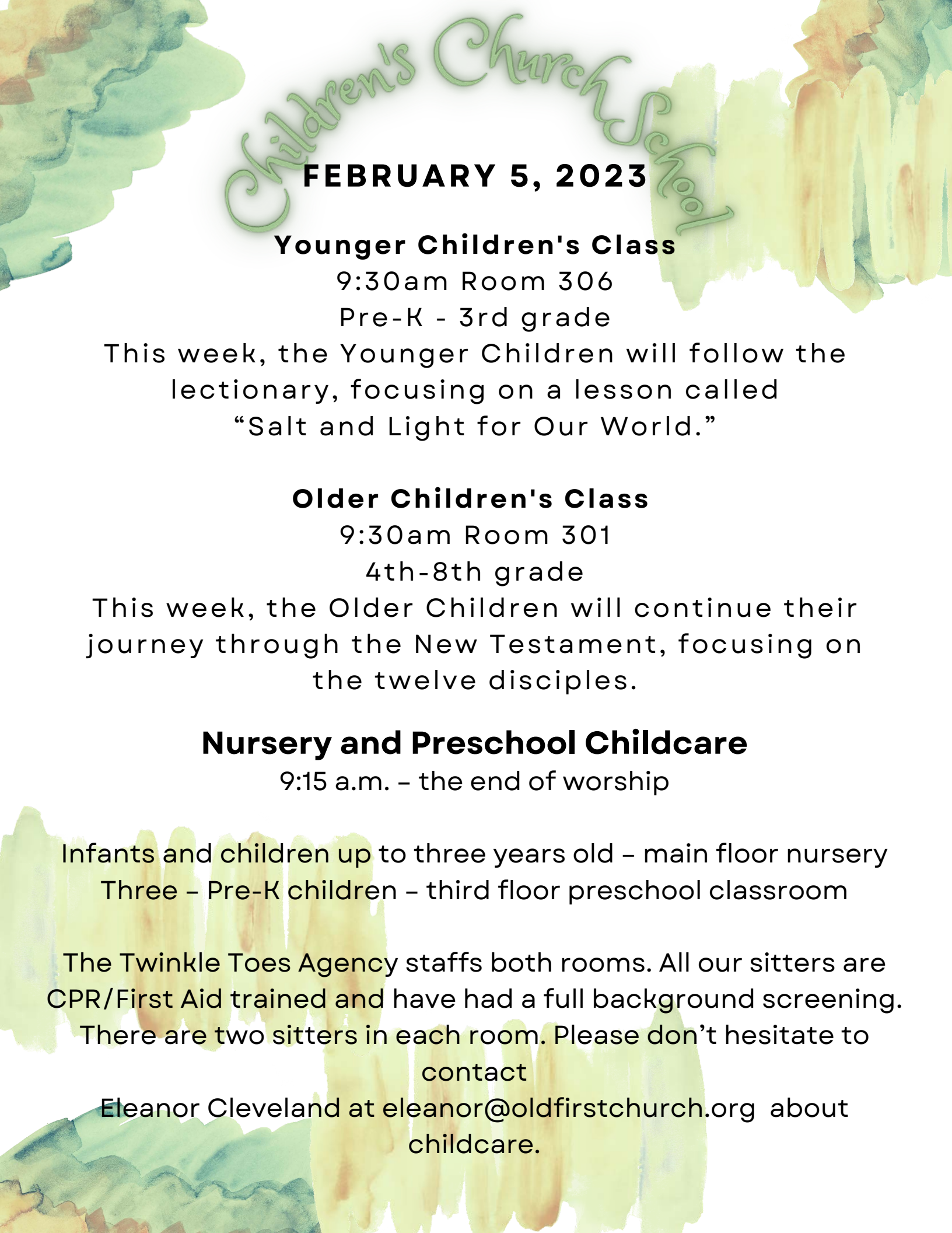
Adult Church School

Sunday, February 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time

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

Barbara Busharis talks to us this week about the current US Supreme Court term: what is the Court considering, what has happened so far, and what might we see going into the spring and summer as opinions are released? Barbara shares her knowledge and expertise as an appellate lawyer at the Public Defender's Office and leads us in considering how to faithfully respond to the legal landscape.



Children's Church School

FEBRUARY 5, 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 "Salt and Light for Our World."

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 the twelve disciples.

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.



CWS Blanket Sunday

February 5, 2023

Gifts will be accepted throughout the month.

How can we meet our sisters and brothers in their greatest moment of need? Every day, someone in the world experiences hard times. When difficulties happen, a simple act of kindness can make a difference and be the miracle someone was praying for.

You can be a part of that miracle. By partnering with CWS through our Blankets program, you can respond to neighbors in their greatest moment of need in a practical and hands-on way.

For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.



\$10 CWS Blanket

\$25 CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit

**\$30 Three CWS Blankets
(two wool and one fleece)**

\$45 Three CWS Blankets and a CWS Hygiene Kit

**\$60 Blanket Bundle! Three wool CWS Blankets
and three fleece CWS Blankets**



Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty gather at the capital rotunda after an execution for a Service of Remembrance.

Oppose The Death Penalty!

For decades our denomination and the Session of our congregation have consistently called for the abolition of the death penalty. We have rejoiced as support for capital punishment has declined, both in Florida and in our country.

Another opportunity is coming to take a stand against the death penalty. Governor DeSantis has signed a warrant for the execution of Donald Dillbeck. The execution is scheduled to take place on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023.

Efforts continue in the courts to preserve Mr. Dillbeck's life. If these efforts fail and the execution takes place, there will be services to lament both Mr. Dillbeck's violent acts and the violent action of the state in taking his life.

At this point, plans for these services are incomplete. Be on the lookout for more information. Plan now to join with Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty and others to protest this violent action of the state of Florida, being done in your name.



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.

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 newsletter that you may access using this link:

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



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.



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.



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



**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.



Sunday Festival Readings

February 5, 2023

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ISAIAH 58:1-12

PSALM 112:1-10

I CORINTHIANS 2:1-16

MATTHEW 5:13-20



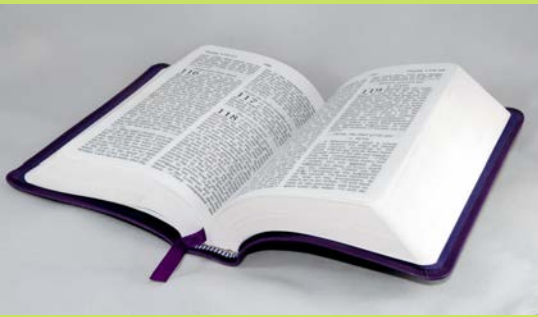
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 FEBRUARY 1-15, 2023

Wednesday, February 1

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 132; 134

Isa. 52:13-53:12

Gal. 4:21-31

Mark 8:11-26

Thursday, February 2

Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 26; 130

Isa. 54:1-10 (11-17)

Gal. 5:1-15

Mark 8:27-9:1

Friday, February 3

Morning: Pss. 84; 148

Evening: Pss. 25; 4

Isa. 55:1-13

Gal. 5:16-24

Mark 9:2-13

Saturday, February 4

Morning: Pss. 63; 149

Evening: Pss. 125; 9

Isa. 56:1-8

Gal. 5:25-6:10

Mark 9:14-29

Sunday, February 5

Morning: Pss. 103; 150

Evening: Pss. 117; 139 Isa.
57:1-13 Heb. 12:1-6 John

7:37-46

Monday, February 6

Morning: Pss. 5; 145

Evening: Pss. 82; 29

Isa. 57:14-21

Gal. 6:11-18

Mark 9:30-41

Tuesday, February 7

Morning: Pss. 42; 146

Evening: Pss. 102; 133

Isa. 58:1-12 2

Tim. 1:1-14 Mark 9:42-5

Wednesday, February 8

Morning: Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 1; 33

Isa. 59:1-21

2 Tim. 1:15-2:13

Mark 10:1-16

Thursday, February 9

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 16; 62

Isa. 60:1-22

2 Tim. 2:14-26

Mark 10:17-31

Friday, February 10

Morning: Pss. 51; 148

Evening: Pss. 142; 65

Isa. 61:1-9

2 Tim. 3:1-17

Mark 10:32-45

Saturday, February 11

Morning: Pss. 104; 149

Evening: Pss. 138; 9

Isa. 61:10-62:5

2 Tim. 4:1-8

Mark 10:46-52

Sunday, February 12

Morning: Pss. 19; 150

Evening: Pss. 81; 11

Isa. 62:6-12 1

John 2:3-11

John 8:12-1

Monday, February 13

Morning: Pss. 135; 145

Evening: Pss. 97; 11

Isa. 63:1-6

1 Tim. 1:1-17

Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday, February 14

Morning: Pss. 123; 146

Evening: Pss. 30; 8

Isa. 63:7-14

1 Tim. 1:18-2:8 (9-15)

Mark 11:12-26

Wednesday, February 15

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11

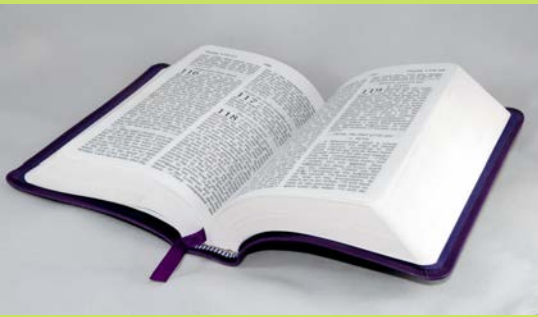
Evening: Pss. 48;

Isa. 63:15-64:9

1 Tim. 3:1-16

Mark 11:27-12:12

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



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 16-28, 2023

Thursday, February 16

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 80; 27

Isa. 65:1–12

1 Tim. 4:1–16

Mark 12:13–27

Friday, February 17

Morning: Pss. 130; 148

Evening: Pss. 32; 13

Isa. 65:17–25

1 Tim. 5:1–25

Mark 12:28–34

Saturday, February 18

Morning: Pss. 56; 149

Evening: Pss. 118; 111 Isa.
66:1–6 1 Tim. 6:(1–5) 6–21

Mark 12:35–4

Sunday, February 19**Transfiguration of the
Lord**

Morning: Pss. 103; 150

Evening: Pss. 117; 139

Dan. 7:9–10, 13–14

2 Cor. 3:1–9

John 12:27–36a

Monday, February 20

Morning: Pss. 5; 145

Evening: Pss. 82; 29

Deut. 6:1–15

Heb. 1:1–14

John 1:1–18

Tuesday, February 21

Morning: Pss. 42; 146

Evening: Pss. 102; 133

Deut. 6:16–25

Heb. 2:1–10

John 1:19–28

Wednesday, February 22**Ash Wednesday**

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 27; 51

Jonah 3:1–4:11

Heb. 12:1–14 Luke 18:9–14

Thursday, February 23

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 126

102 Deut. 7:6–11

Titus 1:1–16

John 1:29–34

Friday, February 24

Morning: Pss. 22; 148

Evening: Pss. 105; 13

Deut. 7:12–16

Titus 2:1–1

John 1:35–42

Saturday, February 25

Morning: Pss. 43; 149

Evening: Pss. 31; 143

Deut. 7:17–26

Titus 3:1–15

John 1:43–51

Sunday, February 26**First Sunday in Lent**

Morning: Pss. 84; 150

Evening: Pss. 42; 32

Jer. 9:23–24

1 Cor. 1:18–31

Mark 2:18–22

Monday, February 27

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145

Evening: Pss. 121; 6

Deut. 8:1–20

Heb. 2:11–18

John 2:1–12

Tuesday, February 28

Morning: Pss. 34; 146

Evening: Pss. 25; 9

Deut. 9:(1–3) 4–12

Heb. 3:1–11

John 2:13–22

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