

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Disciplefest 2023: Nurturing the Garden (Luke 13:6-9) Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4

Come to Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, for Spring 2023 Disciplefest, with the theme "Nurturing the Garden." The Presbytery's Committee on Educational Resources has assembled a diverse selection of workshops and trainings to instruct elders, educators and members in ways we can all nurture the church. Stay overnight on Friday and enjoy campfire fellowship, hot dogs and s'mores and a devotional led by Rev. Bill Lamont.

[Register and reserve overnight lodging by Friday, February 24!](#)



Gifts will be accepted throughout February.

First Presbyterian Church
110 North Adams Street
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Phone (850) 222-4504
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email: office@oldfirstchurch.org
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.



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



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

It doesn't have to be the blue iris,
it could be weeds in a vacant lot,
or a few small stones;
just pay attention, then patch a few words
together
and don't try to make them elaborate,
this isn't a contest
but the doorway into thanks,
and a silence
in which
another voice may speak.

Scripture reminds us of the rhythm of creation, "There was evening, then morning, ... the first day." And God looks over all of creation and says, "It was good. Very good." In Mary Oliver's poem, *Praying*, she describes the power of prayer in creation. She welcomes the freedom and the joy found in looking a bit more deeply and finding a new way in prayer. It does not have to be perfect, she says about prayer, "just pay attention."

Since we arrived in December, I have prayed in the courtyard before worship. I am so grateful for this space. Some mornings I circle the columbarium, other mornings I pull out my phone and snap pictures of the steeple, the garden, the view of the street from the covered walkway. One day I came outside to the hose spewing water - and my first thought was not, "Remember your baptism and be glad!"

What I am trying to do with this prayerful ritual is to pay attention.

The courtyard space is holy.

Maybe I am drawn there because it is the space where there is a visible witness to those who have joined the great company of the Saints in Light. It is a good place to pray. I stand in the grass, next to the columbarium, or on the church steps for a different perspective to reflect, to watch and to remember God's work through time in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The courtyard is a place to return, and to remember, that death is not the end, but only a sign of an impending resurrection.

Early on New Year's Day, tucked deeply into the shrubs next to the Education building, as I was praying with my camera in hand, there was a faded plastic egg. It had been left forgotten, yet revealed by the leaves that let go in a freeze. The faded plastic Easter egg was also a marker of a joyful time of the church gathering at play in this holy space and remembering the power of the resurrection. Out of death, comes life and the truth that we are Easter people!

I thought I'd share two images of the delight I found in the courtyard this week. New life in the form of beautiful blooms!



Also, another image from Sunday night when a group of young people gathered to use their God given gifts as vocal performers in a recital in the sanctuary. What a joy to see member, Carla Connors, with her students. These opportunities to share our space plant seeds for gospel ministries not yet born.



Lent is coming - and we will be using the courtyard space in worship.

God's peace and presence to you,
Anne




Adult Church School



Sunday, February 12, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time

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



Mark St. Amand is a freelance graphic designer from South Louisiana. He has 30 something years of professional work and many give and take encounters to share.



FEBRUARY 12, 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 about the good Samaritan called “**The Good Neighbor.**”

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 sheep.

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.



CANNED FOOD, PLEASE

For one of the spiritual practices for Lent, beginning in the Lenten Workshop, we'll have a canned food labyrinth. After Easter, this food will be donated to Second Harvest. Please bring in canned food items to the church office or in the narthex in the sanctuary either next Sunday, February 12th or by Friday, February 17th!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ELEANOR CLEVELAND AT
ELEANOR@OLDFIRSTCHURCH.ORG.

Lenten Workshop

GROUNDING IN FAITH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 9:30AM

Come join us in the Westminster Room for our intergenerational Lenten Workshop as we begin the Lenten Season. We'll explore our Lenten Theme - Grounding In Faith - through various activities for those of all ages. Come walk the labyrinth, paint a pot, build a terrarium, and more. Of course, there will be snacks and coffee. All are welcome.



Please reach out to Eleanor Cleveland at eleanor@oldfirstchurch.org if you have any questions



SHROVE TUESDAY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 6:00PM

The Spiritual Formation Team invites you to celebrate and feast one final time before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Join us in the Westminster Room on February 21st, at 6:00pm, for a pancake (and more) dinner, featuring some pancake games and prizes! Come one, come all, and join us in this fellowship.



February 18, 2023

Gun Violence in Leon County a public forum

Mark your calendars for Saturday Feb. 18 when Good Shepherd Catholic Church will host a public forum on Gun Violence in Leon County and How It is Being Addressed. Sheriff Walt McNeil will be on a panel as well as our own Emily Bruno who will discuss our Guns2Gardens ministry. The event is 9:30-12:30 at Good Shepherd, 4665 Thomasville Road.



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.



Photo credit: Joe Flood.

**FEBRUARY 24, 2023 @ NOON | GOD SQUAD | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
TALLAHASSEE**

GOD SQUAD - LOVE THY NEIGHBOR. NO EXCEPTIONS?

**Does the admonition to love one's neighbor really come without exceptions?
Must churches welcome white nationalists? Gay couples? Trump supporters?
BLM activists? January 6 sympathizers? Is everyone my neighbor? And what
does love really mean?**

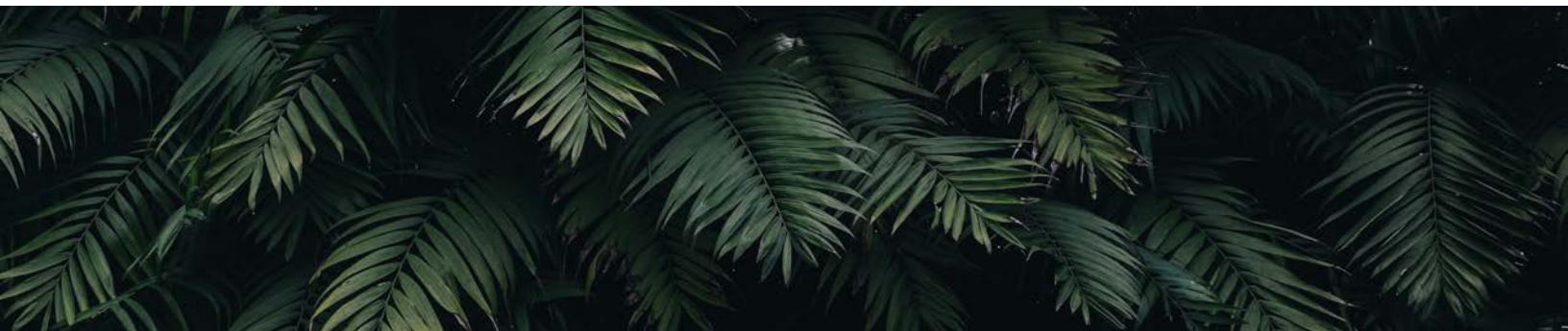
**Joining us for God Squad are Pastor Betsy Ouelette Zierden of the United
Methodist Church, Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, Dr. Gary
Shultz of First Baptist Church Tallahassee, Pastor Joe Davis, Jr. of Truth
Gatherers Community Church, Stefanie Posner of Temple Israel, and Pastor
Latricia Scriven of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church.**

**This event will be held at First Baptist Church of Tallahassee. Meet the
panelists and RSVP for the February 24th program here:**

<https://tlh.villagesquare.us/event/golden-rule/>.

**All God Squad forums are free and open to the public. Lunch is available for \$10
if you RSVP by 2/21 and \$15 with a late reservation or at the door. Questions?**

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





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.



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!**



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



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.



SECOND HARVEST BREAD BOXING

Friday March 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, March 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



Sunday Festival Readings

February 12, 2023

6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

PSALM 119:1-8

I CORINTHIANS 3:1-9

MATTHEW 5:21-37



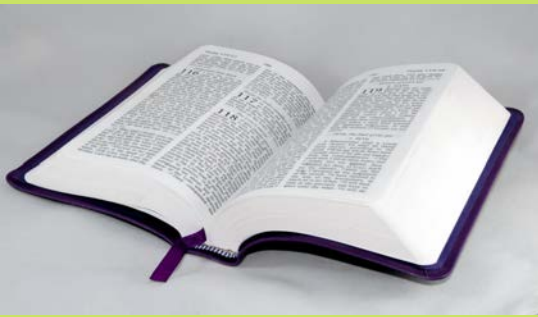
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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

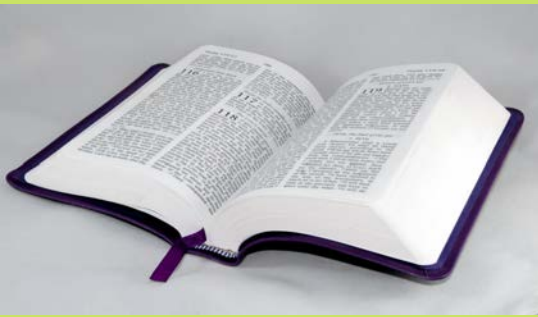
Tuesday, February 14

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](#).