

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 13, 2023



Church School

Sunday, February 19, 2023

All classes will join the Lenten Workshop in the Westminster Room.



February 26, 2023

The Adult Sunday School class Lenten programming will be informed by the book *Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass and the poetry of Wendell Berry, using his *This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems* collection. Neither book is required to participate in and benefit from the program; however, if you would like to follow along more in depth, consider picking up a copy of your own. Children's classes will study how Jesus gets ready using the the Lectionary Story Bible.



Gifts will be accepted throughout February.

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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

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge God
and God will make straight your paths.

Wednesday evening, I will travel to Montreat to meet with two seminary friends who serve in validated ministries. We have studied together for 20 years - through changing calls, marriage, childbearing and raising, divorce, and death. One friend, Jennifer, is the Executive Director and Pastor of Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, SC which is a non-denominational church that seeks to meet physical needs and provide healing opportunities for those most in need of God's justice. The other, Kate, recently left a ministry she created called The Center for the Presbytery of Greater Baltimore to serve as the Director for the Mid-Atlantic trail development for the Rails to Trails Conservancy. Our vocational trajectories reveal how leadership in the church is ever evolving.

Sunday, Glenn Hodges will preach the Transfiguration - a story of God's transformation. At the November 2022 meeting of the Session, Glenn was endorsed for candidacy. He will come before the Presbytery on Tuesday, February 28, to be received as a Candidate for ministry, certified ready to receive a call. It is a privilege for a congregation to support one who is called to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Please join me in praying for Glenn in this process.

Last week I gathered with a group of Presbyterian leaders at Union Seminary in Richmond. The board of the Presbyterian Outlook (a leading denominational publication) has made a commitment to the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and this meeting prioritized time to listen to Black voices. And to then think seriously about acknowledging the need for organizational change. Reflecting on the Board's work, and from prayer, the artist in me was called to create a box that was "full of care." Recycling a box that once held fancy chocolates, my care box was covered with select words cut from the New York Times.



What is God asking of us?

Why might God be asking us into this work of diversity, equity, and inclusion?

How will we respond?

Wisdom literature invokes us to trust God, to acknowledge that in the presence of stumbling blocks all around, it is God alone who will make our paths straight. The guru of family systems theory was a man by the name of Murray Bowen. He purported and highlighted that what makes humans unique is the ability to differentiate. To differentiate means to be distinct, mature, balanced, self-sufficiently separate, while also remaining healthily connected to one's family and other relational systems.

Rabbi and family therapist, Edward Friedman, wrote the book, *Failure of Nerve*. He reveals predictable response patterns in anxious systems that show a failure of self-differentiation. Applying quick fixes and instant solutions are not the pathway to hope, nor healing, in anxiety - but the steady work of self-differentiation. In his work, *The Courage to Teach*, Parker Palmer describes that work this way - "of embracing the profoundly opposite truths that my sense of self is deeply dependent on others dancing with me and that I still have a sense of self when no one wants to dance."

The work of self-differentiation is work that is full of care. Care grounded in trust in God. One of the greatest challenges of the DEI initiatives for all organizations - the Outlook Board, First Tallahassee, any corporation - is navigating the reality of our differentiation, while trusting the Kingdom of Heaven calls for us to trust that we're all created in God's image and worthy and especially to acknowledge our complicity with the brokenness of the world.

Into this "Care" box, each day I have been placing a strip of paper with a written blessing taken from scripture and other sources.

"God binds up the brokenhearted."

"Often torn ground is ideal for seeds that can root disappointment deep enough to yield a harvest that cannot wither."

"Learning to trust is one of life's most difficult tasks."

"Have enough courage to trust love one more time, and always one more time."

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

I do wonder, and pray, how is God inviting us into trust?

God's peace and presence to you,
Anne



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.





Looking
for
ways

to be
salt and light
in the world?

How about painting that makes a difference? Please join us at Home Front, an apartment complex for previously homeless disabled veterans, at 10 am on Saturday Feb. 25 to paint a new rec room for the residents. We are also seeking some furnishings for the room. Home Front is located at 1602 Stuckey Ave. near the universities.

The Compassion and Social Justice Committee has been working with the Big Bend Homeless Coalition concerning their needs. One was to transform laundry facilities into a recreational/meeting space for residents.

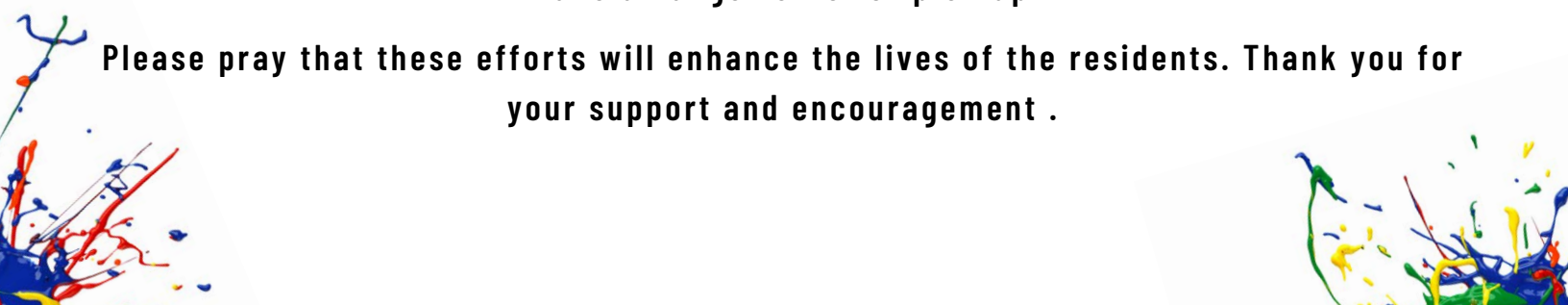
The property manager is completing construction of a new wall and dividers this week. Our own Gary Niblack will spend a couple of days prepping the room so that a group of enthusiastic (and less skilled) painters can use rollers to complete the job. The room will be 18' x 19' so with 4 or 5 volunteers we should be able to knock it out in a couple of hours. If you are able to help Saturday, February 25 at 10:00, please contact Gary at gniblack6@aol.com. If you have good skills and more time, Gary could use help prepping the room as well.

We have purchased a conference table and chairs for the space which will allow for 12 step meetings, PTSD support groups, or whatever is needed. We also hope to provide:

- a large format TV
- a card table and chairs (for chess, jigsaw puzzles, etc.)
- a small bookcase to store these
- a love seat and a couple of armchairs in good condition in neutral colors.

If you have access to any of these and are willing to donate them, please contact Gary Niblack (gniblack6@aol.com) or Debbie Gibson (gibsond1207@gmail.com) and we will make arrangements for pick up.

Please pray that these efforts will enhance the lives of the residents. Thank you for your support and encouragement .





As part of our Lenten programming around the theme of "Grounding," we will interact with the very ground itself with a tour of Longview Farms in Havana, FL. We will learn about the ways they steward the soil through sustainable practices and reflect on the spiritual aspect of getting our hands dirty by engaging in Creation.

From Diana Butler-Bass's book, *Grounded*, "By tending to the soil, we imitate the creative process in Genesis. We can 'breathe' new life into the ground. This reconnects us with both soil and life, opening up to new ways of experiencing God with us in the world."

THE TOUR WILL BE ON **FEBRUARY 25 AT 10 AM**. MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 9:20 TO COORDINATE CARPOOLS.

Please RSVP via [Sign-Up Genius](#).
The tour can accommodate 25 people.

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.



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?**

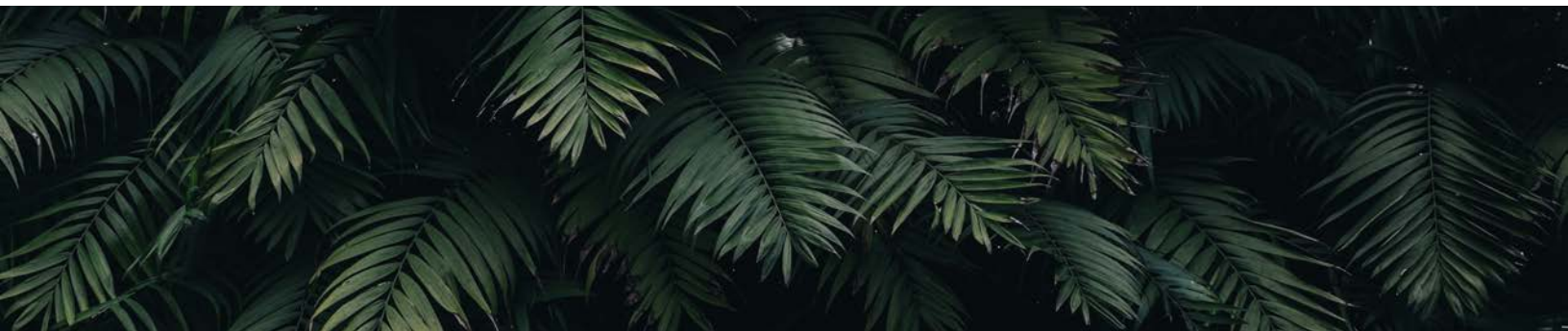
**Joining us for God Squad are Pastor Betsy Ouelette Zierden of the United
Methodist Church, Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, Dr. Gary
Shultz of First Baptist Church Tallahassee, Pastor Joe Davis, Jr. of Truth
Gatherers Community Church, Stefanie Posner of Temple Israel, and Pastor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



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 March, 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. March 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.



**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 19, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

EXODUS 24:12-18

PSALM 2 OR 99

II PETER 1:16-21

MATTHEW 17:1-9



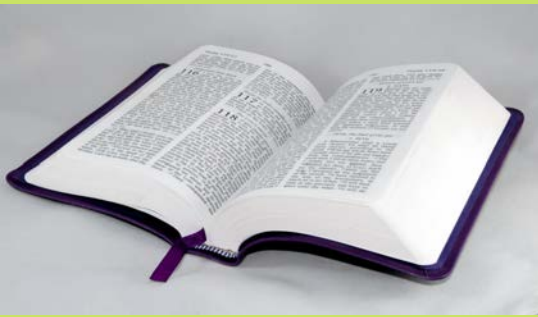
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 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](#).