FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



FEBRUARY 20, 2023

This Week's Activities At a Glance

Wednesday, February 22 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service Sanctuary

Saturday, February 25

Longview Farm Tour
The tour will be at 10 am. Meet at the church at 9:20 to coordinate carpools.
Please RSVP via Sign-Up Genius.



Gifts will be accepted throughout February.

First Presbyterian Church 110 North Adams Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301 Phone (850) 222-4504 Fax (850) 222-2215

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

Pastor's Letter and Session Report Rev. Anne H.K. Apple

"These are the names of the Israelites who went to Egypt with Jacob, each bringing his family members: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, Dan and Nephtali, Gad and Asher. Seventy persons in all generated by Jacob's seed. Joseph was already in Egypt. Then Joseph died, and all his brothers - the whole generation. But the children of Israel kept on reproducing. They were very prolific - a population explosion in their own right - and the land was filled with them." Eugene Peterson, The Message Exodus 1:1-7

These are the names of the elders at First Presbyterian Church - each serving with the spiritual gifts which they have been given. Emily Bruno, Carol Grondzck, Teresa Heiker, Robyn Stevenson, Tip Tomberlin, Carol Weissert, and Carol Wynn in the Class of '23; Peggy Wright-Cleveland, Chris Corzine, Will Fixel, John Hightower, Martha Kutter, Norma Meier, and Peggy West in the Class of '24; and Jane Atkinson, Donna Barber, Carolyn Bradley, Debbie Gibson, Patrick Kennedy, Sue Safford, and David Strange in the Class of '25. Please pray for this group of leaders whom you elected to serve.

These names from Exodus, and Eugene Peterson's work in the Message, describe some of the beginnings of the People of God. On Sunday, the Elders of First Presbyterian Church gathered after the PW luncheon in the Westminster Room.

Some of the actions the Session took were:

The approval of the Annual Statistical Report. This report goes to the Presbytery and to the denomination and defines data about our congregation. Our membership is 309 people, our average worship attendance is 111 people both on-line, and in person, and our budget is recorded at \$656,449 and our expenses listed as the same.

On this form, a bequest was listed of half a million dollars. First Presbyterian Church received this generous gift from a longtime member of the Deborah Circle, Ann Stevens. Ann was a blue ribbon winner at rose shows, a faithful volunteer at Goodwood Museum and Gardens, and dear to those in her Presbyterian Women Circle. She was born June 23 in Baker, Montana, and died in September of 2021. Ann's undesignated gift to the church, through the Legacy and Gifts plan, will strengthen the ministry and mission of this church. One can view the Legacy and Gifts plan on the First Presbyterian website under the giving tab.

The Session received from the Session recommendations from the Endowment Management Committee for these funds. The Session concurred with the Committee report to distribute the gift in the following ways:

\$150,000 to the Emergency Operating Fund \$250,000 to the Facilities Reserve Fund \$100,000 to the Endowment Fund. Ann's gift will strengthen the witness of this congregation as it serves the Tallahassee community in well discerned, gospel ministry. My prayer would be that if you are making plans for your estate, that you consider an undesignated gift to First Presbyterian Church. The open and affirming witness to the love and justice of Jesus Christ this church offers is stunning. Gifts such as these equip the Session to lead the congregation with well discerned ministries that point to God's work in the world.

The Session also heard a report, and gave feedback, from the Envisioning Restoration Team. This group is continuing their work on one of the three interim goals: The Session will prioritize the work of restoration through intentional practices. After integrating the feedback from the Session, a full report will come to the congregation with invitations to participate in these practices.

AND - speaking of those practices - Lent is upon us.

One of those restorative practices will be a noon lectio divina bible study and brown bag lunch, each Wednesday at noon at the church. If the weather is nice, we hope to do this study in the courtyard. Please mark your calendars to attend.

The Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 this Wednesday. I pray you will come and be marked, as you enter into the season of Lent, remembering how grounded we are in God's goodness - trusting that we are part of that first story of the Children of Israel - from dust we came, to dust we shall return. Thanks be to God.

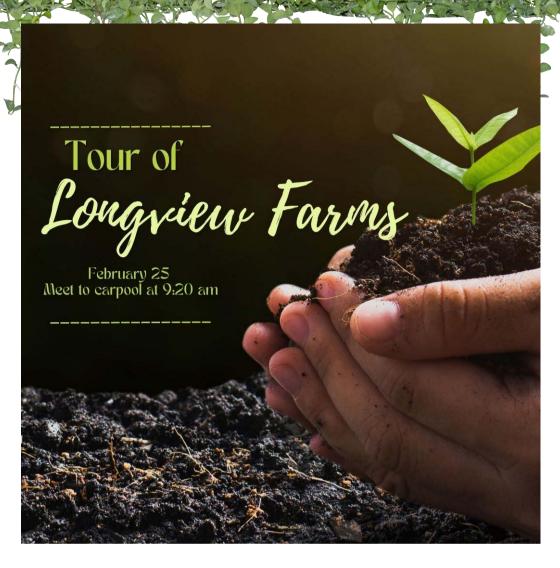
Two ministries that reveal the strength of this congregation were also approved by the Session.

A Church and Community Action Grant Application to support the Guns to Garden initiative was approved. Our Tallahassee partners in this effort are from Faith Presbyterian, Lafayette Presbyterian, Christ Presbyterian, Fellowship Presbyterian, Blessed Sacrament and Good Shepherd Catholic Churches.

The Healing Racism Task Force proposed, and the Session concurred with the hanging of a banner that reads: "As followers of Jesus Christ, we support diversity, equity, and inclusion." The group reported that through their work and research, First Presbyterian is being called to challenge the unjust structures of this regressive action by the Governor and the Florida legislature which seeks to eliminate programs, courses, and bureaucracies dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion and critical race theory at public Florida universities.

In addition, in the work of the church, as change is inevitable, the Session received, and affirmed, a request from Douglass and Gayle Seaton to transfer their letter to The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in the City of New York where they are now worshiping. Please pray for Douglass and Gayle as they make their way in a new place, continuing to serve Christ faithfully through the work of a new congregation.

God's peace, God's presence. Anne



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 <u>Sign-Up Genius</u>.

The tour can accommodate 25 people.

Adult Church School

Sunday, February 26, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time

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

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.



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 *Jesus Gets Ready*.

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301 4th-8th grade

This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament:

Jesus Gets Ready.

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.

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 next 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 .



Donald Dillbeck Execution

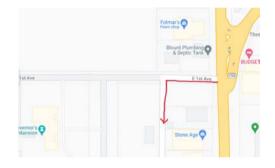


VIGIL THURSDAY, FEB. 23 6 P.M. GOVERNOR'S MANSION

When: Thursday, February 23, 6:00 p.m. (time of the execution)

Where: In front of the Governor's Mansion. New security fences and barriers have been installed since we last held a vigil there in 2019. Please park in the mansion's visitor parking area off of Brevard Street about 1/4 block west of Monroe Street or along North Adams Street across Brevard Street from the mansion.

What: We will provide a paper program and a small candle for each person attending.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE CAPITOL ROTUNDA FRIDAY, FEB. 24 - 12 NOON

Service of Remembrance

When: Friday, February 24, 12:00 Noon

Where: Florida Capitol -- Meet around the Great Seal of the State of Florida in the Capitol Rotunda. Go through the guard station and walk immediately forward to the Great Seal. What: We will provide a paper program for everyone. At the end of the service each person may sign a program that will be taken to the receptionist at the governor's office.





Mark your calendars March 26th Presbyterian Women Mission Workshop Bring a Brown Bag Lunch Dessert and Beverage will be provided

Everyone is invited - men, women, youth and children. Join us on March 26th immediately after Worship in the courtyard and Westminster Room for lunch, fellowship and mission work. Please watch future newsletters for more information about the specific opportunities which will be available to support mission projects.

In the meantime, please consider beginning to collect needed items to bring to the workshop, including:

- 100% cotton briefs for women (sizes S,M,L) and girls (sizes 10, 12, 14, 16) in plain solid colors (no white, please) and without pictures or writing to respect cultural norms.
- solid color washcloths (no white, please)
- small bars of soap

Please mark your calendars now, and plan to join us - look for more details in upcoming announcements.





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.





CALLING FOR COUNTING HELP





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!

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.



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

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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 26, **2023** IST SUNDAY IN LENT

GENESIS 2:5-17; 3:1-7 PSALM 32

ROMANS 5:12-19

MATTHEW 4:1-11





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.

acknowledge the long history 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 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.



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR MARCH1-17, 2023

Wednesday March 1

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Deut. 9:13-2 Heb. 3:12-1 John 2:23-3:15

Thursday, March 2

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12– 20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Deut. 9:23–10:5 Heb. 4:1–10 John 3:16–21

Friday, March 3

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Deut. 10:12–22 Heb. 4:11–16 John 3:22–36

Saturday, March 4

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Deut. 11:18–28 Heb. 5:1–1 John 4:1–26

Sunday, March 5 Second Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 1:1–10 1 Cor. 3:11–23 Mark 3:31–4:9

Monday, March 6

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 1:11–19 Rom. 1:1–15 John 4:27–42

Tuesday, March 7

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 2:1–13, 29–32 Rom. 1:16–25 John 4:43–54

Wednesday, March 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 3:6–18 Rom. 1:(26–27) 28–2:11 John 5:1–18

Thursday, March 9

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 10 Jer. 4:9–10, 19–2 Rom. 2:12–24 John 5:19–29

Friday, March 10

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Jer. 5:1–9 Rom. 2:25–3:18 John 5:30–47

Saturday, March 11

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Jer. 5:20–3 Rom. 3:19–31 John 7:1–13

If you wish to read these on your computer you will find them on the PCUSA website here.

Sunday, March 12 Third Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 6:9–15 1 Cor. 6:12–20 Mark 5:1–20

Monday, March 13

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 7:1–15 Rom. 4:1–12 John 7:14–36

Tuesday, March 14

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 9 Jer. 7:21–34 Rom. 4:13–25 John 7:37–5

Wednesday, March 15

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 8:4-7, 18-9:6 Rom. 5:1-11 John 8:12-20

Thursday, March 16

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 10:11-24 Rom. 5:12-21 John 8:21-32

Friday, March 17

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Jer. 11:1–8, 14–1 Rom. 6:1–11 John 8:33–47