

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church

MARCH 6, 2023



Old First Church March Activities At a Glance

Wednesday, March 8

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard

Thursday, March 9

Moms Demand Action
See page 6

Sunday, March 12

Serving Meals at Grace Mission
See page 10

Wednesday, March 15

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard

Sunday, March 19

Congregational Meeting
following worship

Wednesday, March 22

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard

Sunday, March 26

Presbyterian Women Mission
Workshop
See page 8.

Wednesday, March 29

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard

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

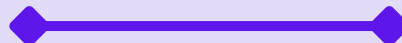
Older Children's Class
Room 301

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



When you arrive at church, you will find a banner that proclaims, “As followers of Jesus Christ, we support diversity, equity, and inclusion.” (picture sent) Vocal and Visible. When the church makes a public witness, it takes a stand, makes it clear, and speaks the truth to power. Vocal, visible, and non-violent.

The prophetic work of social justice is not new to First Presbyterian.

And the prophetic work of social justice is new to First Presbyterian.

A small group, the Racial Justice Task Force, chaired by Deborah Whisnant, has been studying the history of First Presbyterian, and looking inward, that we, as the church, might serve outwardly with awareness of our complicity in racism. Looking inward means facing the truth of some of our history. First Presbyterian Church was built on the backs of enslaved people. We have profited as the body of Christ, by white supremacy.

At the February Session meeting, the Racial Justice Task Force brought a proposal for this banner which will hang while the legislature is in Session. This sign is one way we will make a public witness.

The field of DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) has its roots in the 1960s, beginning because of the anti-discrimination legislation of that decade – the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967. Efforts were focused on Affirmative Action and non-discrimination.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are three closely linked values held by many organizations that are working to be supportive of different groups of individuals, including people of different races, ethnicities, religions, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations.

Our Governor announced on January 31, a legislative proposal to eliminate programs, courses, and bureaucracies dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory at public Florida universities on the grounds that taxpayers shouldn't be forced to subsidize harmful, divisive ideologies.

A Statement from the PCUSA Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation states: “As followers of Jesus Christ, who loves all and calls us to challenge the unjust structures of church and society, we are called to work for justice and peace for all God’s People.”

We believe that our church is being called to bear public witness and to challenge this regressive action by our Governor and the Florida Legislature that is so hateful to our brothers and sisters. On Sunday, March 26, we will complete worship outside, by leaving the sanctuary, encircling the banner, as the choir sings a departing anthem. We are grateful for the work of this Task Force for their leadership.

We celebrate with Glenn Hodges who became a candidate at the Presbytery of Florida meeting in Marianna, Florida, on Tuesday, February 28. After a statement on his calling, and entertaining questions from the body, and receiving affirmations for the ways in which he has served this presbytery, Glenn was received as a candidate. Glenn shared that a scripture which has guided his life is that “We walk by faith, not by sight” and that a calling to the ordered ministry of Word and Sacrament is a strong pull on one’s heart. I had the privilege of offering prayer over Glenn. Mary, Glenn’s wife, and Rod Westall, Glenn’s liaison to Session, along with Brant Copeland, joined in the prayer over this joyous occasion!

God’s peace,
God’s presence.
Anne



Adult Church School

Sunday, March 12, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time

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

**This Sunday, we continue our
"Grounding" Lenten series.**

**Jim Apple will lead us as we discuss
the theme of "sky."**

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for all the love, prayers, and support during Jacob's dad's (Dan Beychok) illness and death. We greatly appreciate all of it.

Thank you for supporting us through both this tough time of sadness and the upcoming joy in our upcoming marriage.

Lillian Cleveland and Jacob Beychok



Children's Church School

MARCH 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 Very Thirsty Woman*.

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301

4th-8th grade

This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament:
Sadducees & Pharisees.



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.



During the March 6 Town Meeting at Westminster Oaks, Al and Darlene Oosterhof were announced as the Legendary Volunteers of the Year. They have contributed in so many ways to make life at Westminster Oaks so enjoyable. A most recent project was to improve the safety on Dempsey Mayo Road! In the past two other First Church members held this honor - Joan Custis and Patsy Kickliter. The staff are great great, but resident volunteers do so much for the community!

Moms Demand Action

is a national organization working to prevent gun violence and support common sense gun regulation. On March 9, the organization will host their Florida Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Prior to going to the Capitol to lobby their Representatives/Senators, they will gather at First Presbyterian for a general meeting and training in advocacy.

The Big Bend Homeless Coalition recently ran an article thanking First Presbyterian for their work on a recreation room for HomeFront, a residential program for formerly homeless, disabled veterans. Gary Niblack spent a day with Jack Frazer preparing the room for a larger group to come out on Saturday and paint the walls. Thanks to Gary for spearheading this project and to Jack Frazer, John Mayo, Jack Straub, and Peggy Wright-Cleveland for their participation.

Thanks to Janet Fixel for her donation of a card table and chairs and ECHO for a large screen TV. We are ordering a couple of chairs to finish out the project and then Gary has some great ideas on how we can continue this partnership with Home Front. Watch future newsletters for details in how you can be involved.



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



Our canned food meditation labyrinth needs more canned goods. Please continue to bring your donations to the room, formerly known as the parlor, on the southeast side of the Westminster Room throughout Lent. All donations will be given to Second Harvest of the Big Bend.



March 26th
Presbyterian Women Mission Workshop
Speaker: Rev. Anne H.K. Apple
Experiences of Encounters of Mission
as a Presbyterian Woman

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. We are excited that our guest speaker, Rev. Anne Apple, will speak with us about her encounters with mission as a Presbyterian Woman. If you can't attend in person, you can watch and hear Rev. Apple on Zoom after lunch as well!

Thank you to those who have begun collecting items to bring to the workshop, or to bring in advance to the John Calvin Room, 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

For another Workshop project, PW is accepting donations of pre-wrapped packages of peanut butter crackers and breakfast/energy/or fruit bars to pair with a bottled water to make small snack bags (decorated by Workshop children) for interested congregation members to share from our cars with hungry people on our streets. Donations may be brought in advance to the Church office. Other Workshop tables so far include a Care for the Earth information table with plant seeds or seedlings available and our table to send greetings to those who deserve a hug. Please mark your calendars now, and plan to join us - look for more details in upcoming announcements. For questions, please call Jan Bush.





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](#)



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, April 2, 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 April 7 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.



Sunday Festival Readings

March 12, 2023

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

EXODUS 17:1-7

PSALM 95

ROMANS 5:1-11

JOHN 4:5-42



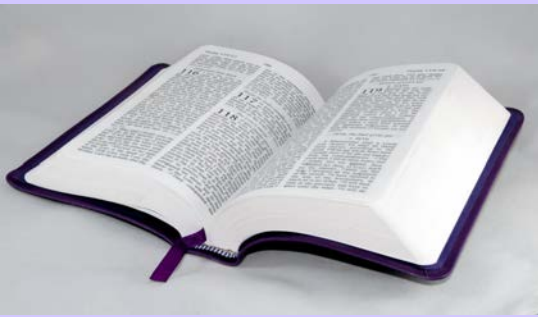
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in God's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 MARCH 1-17, 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

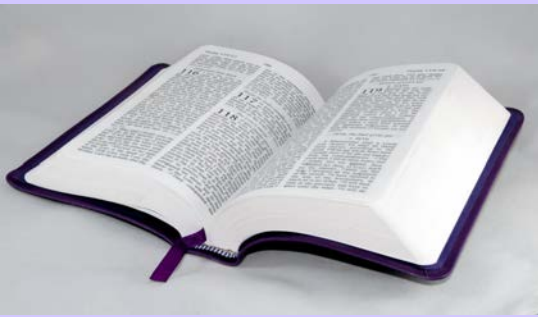
Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Jer. 8:4-7, 18-9:6
Rom. 5:1-11
John 8:12-20

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



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR MARCH 18-31, 2023

Saturday, March 18

Morning: Ps. 43; 149

Evening: Ps. 31; 14

Jer. 13:1-11

Rom. 6:12-23

John 8:47-59

Sunday, March 19**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Morning: Ps. 84; 150

Evening: Ps. 42; 32

Jer. 14:1-9 (10-16) 17-22

Gal. 4:21-5:1

Mark 8:11-21

Monday, March 20

Morning: Ps. 119:73-80; 145

Evening: Ps. 121; 6

Jer. 16:(1-9) 10-21

Rom. 7:1-12

John 6:1-15

Tuesday, March 21

Morning: Ps. 34; 146

Evening: Ps. 25; 91

Jer. 17:19-27

Rom. 7:13-25

John 6:16-2

Wednesday, March 22

Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Ps. 27; 51

Jer. 18:1-11

Rom. 8:1-11

John 6:27-40

Thursday, March 23

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Ps. 126; 102

Jer. 22:13-23

Rom. 8:12-27

John 6:41-51

Friday, March 24

Morning: Ps. 22; 14

Evening: Ps. 105; 13

Jer. 23:1-8

Rom. 8:28-39

John 6:52-59

Saturday, March 25

Morning: Ps. 43; 149

Evening: Ps. 31; 143

Jer. 23:9-15

Rom. 9:1-18

John 6:60-71

Sunday, March 26**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Morning: Ps. 84; 150 Evening:

Ps. 42; 32

Jer. 23:16-32

1 Cor. 9:19-27

Mark 8:31-9:1

Monday, March 27

Morning: Ps. 119:73-80; 145

Evening: Ps. 121; 6

Jer. 24:1-10

Rom. 9:19-33

John 9:1-17

Tuesday, March 28

Morning: Ps. 34; 146

Evening: Ps. 25; 91

Jer. 25:8-17

Rom. 10:1-13

John 9:18-4

Wednesday, March 29

Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Ps. 27; 51

Jer. 25:30-38

Rom. 10:14-21

John 10:1-18

Thursday, March 30

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Ps. 126; 102

Jer. 26:1-16 (17-24

Rom. 11:1-1

John 10:19-42

Friday, March 31

Morning: Ps. 22; 148

Evening: Ps. 105; 130

Jer. 29:1 (2-3) 4-14

Rom. 11:13-24

John 11:1-27

or

John 12:1-10

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