FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF

First Presbyterian Church



MARCH20,2023

Old First Church At a Glance

Wednesday, March 22 Noon Bible Study Brown Bag Lunch

Sunday, March 26

Presbyterian Women Mission Workshop after Worship - See page 7.

Wholeness and Healing Service 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 29

Noon Bible Study Brown Bag Lunch

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday Communion Service 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 5

Noon Bible Study Brown Bag Lunch

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Communion Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Friday, April 7

Simple Meal & Writing Exercise in Letting Go - See page 6.

5:00 p.m. - Westminster Room Good Friday Worship Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Saturday, April 8

Easter Vigil Communion Service 5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room Easter Morning Communion Worship Service

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

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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.

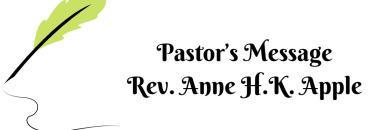
Worship in the Sanctuary.
Childcare is available for children younger than kindergarten.



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



Yesterday in worship, we concluded with the hymn, *Blest be the Tie That Binds*. Elizabeth's leadership in that moment, led us to sing the last stanza acapella. For me, it was a gift of grace, to hear and to hold the congregation in song. It was also a relief to share in person some of the details with the congregation after the pastoral letter was sent last week for a vision about how we move forward with an intentional process of healing.

In 1942 theologian Paul Tillich spoke to the 50th Church Congress of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He responded to the disintegration he was seeing in Western Europe and referred to what he believed were the contributing forces. In "Storms of our Times," Tillich names four forces: a cloud of indefinite anxiety, uncertainty, loneliness, and a rise of meaninglessness. Today, historian Martin Marty calls those same forces the impact behind what we are experiencing as "cultural disintegration."

One thing we know with certainty in the church is that in life and in death, we belong to God and that with the Holy Spirit's work, Jesus meets us where we are. Throughout the gospel lessons in Lent, we witness different encounters with Christ. Nicodemus comes by night and a Samaritan woman meets Jesus at the well, and he asks her for a drink; a blind man follows Jesus' command to "go wash" and this week we will see Jesus weep and hear his command to unbind Lazarus. The gospel never gets old and I have found it to be a profound experience to study scripture with congregants on Wednesdays with Lectio Divina. The process, and listening with one another is meaning making and connective work. And, speaking of meaning making and connective work, the remainder of this article is a report from the March 2023 Session Meeting. The Session you have elected is serving faithfully.

March Session Meeting Update

Sue Scribner met with the Session, described her calling to become a member and disciple at First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. Sue shared a song with the Session which describes the rhythms of God's grace, "Come to Me" by Sandra McCracken. Sue will join Easter Sunday by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Treasurer, David Strange, moved, and the Session adopted,

- A stub budget be approved for 30 days until a refined budget could come before the Session at the April meeting.
- That a letter of agreement be issued to Nichols, Cauley & Associates to perform a review of financials for \$15,000.

Financial Administrator, Jim Davis, responded to questions regarding contributions which were given to the Michael Corzine Music Fund. Those funds did not appear on the Special Funds Report. In the future, the amount will be noted on the report. The Worship and Music Ministry Team will write a newsletter article reminding congregants that contributions can still be made to this fund.

Worship and Music Ministry Team had no report.

Spiritual Formation Ministry Team reported the joy of welcoming new teachers in the Inquirer's Class and that they were meeting later this week.

Care and Outreach Ministry Team will be coordinating a simple supper on Good Friday before worship; and providing for a reception for Jim Davis on April 30, 2023.

Compassion and Social Justice Ministry Team reported on the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from Florida Presbytery for the ministry of **Guns to Gardens**. They also have completed some work with **Home Front**, which is for formerly unhoused disabled veterans. The date has not been secured yet, but look for an ice-cream social hosted by First Presbyterian with **Home Front** in May.

Personnel Ministry Team reported on the application for a Davidson College Fellowship for this Summer; that Jim Davis will formally retire and be recognized on Sunday, April 30th and that a search has begun for a part time financial administrator; and that technology assistant, Owen Nichols will graduate from FSU in May.

Property Ministry Team brought a motion for the approval up to \$50,000 for bathroom renovations.

A time for reflection on the meeting of the congregation was entertained. Pastor Apple explained that Presbyterian polity did not allow for a Congregational Meeting for an informational report from the interim therefore the report from the interim became a part of worship in response to the Word proclaimed. And that a clear feedback opportunity was provided at <a href="mailto:reflection-needle-left-style-time-l

To close the meeting, Pastor Apple invited elder Lauren Wellford Deming from First Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, to testify at the close of the meeting. On a schedule, moving forward from this meeting, third year elders will be asked to give their testimony to end each Session meeting.

God's peace, God's presence. Anne

HOLYWEEK & EASTER AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TALLAHASSEE

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Sunday, 2 April, 2023

Palm Sunday Communion Service 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

Gather in the courtyard for the procession of the palms

Wednesday, 5 April, 2023

Bible Study Luncheon Series Noon

Thursday, 6 April, 2023

Maundy Thursday Communion Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Friday, 7 April, 2023

Good Friday Simple Meal & Writing Exercise in Letting Go

5:00 p.m. - Westminster Room

Good Friday Worship Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Saturday, 8 April, 2023

Easter Saturday Vigil Communion Service

5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

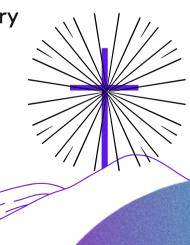
Easter Sunday, 9 April, 2023

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room

Easter Morning Communion Worship Service

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary





MARCH 26, 2023

Younger Children's Class

9:30am Room 306 Pre-K - 3rd grade This week, the Younger Children will follow the lectionary, in a lesson titled: Lazarus is Alive!

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301 4th-8th grade This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament: Pontius Pilate

Adult Church School

Sunday, March 26, 2023 9:30 a.m. start time (9:15 a.m. meet and greet) This Sunday, we continue our "Grounding" Lenten series.





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.



Simple Supper and An Exercise in Letting Go Good Friday 5:00 p.m. Westminster Room



Do you ever find yourself pondering, fretting or even agonizing about the distant or recent past over words exchanged, things done to you or by you or left undone? Things that cannot be changed can weigh us down and steal our joy; but, how do we let them go? One ritual approach to this involves writing the grievance down and then burning the paper upon which it is written.

At our supper on Good Friday you will be asked to write a brief statement that begins,

This is what I need to let go, and let Christ take to the cross, that I might be born anew.

These writings will be nailed to the cross, and then at Saturday's Easter Vigil service – they will be put into the bonfire in the Garth.

For those unable to participate in Friday's Supper, if you get your statement to the church office by Thursday, April 6th it will be included. You do not need to identify yourself on the statement.





This Sunday March 26th Presbyterian Women Spring Mission Workshop Bring a Brown Bag Lunch and a Sun Hat Dessert and Beverage will be provided

Join us immediately after Worship in the Courtyard (weather permitting) and Westminster Room for lunch, fellowship, mission work, and **our guest speaker**, **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**. If you can't attend in person, Zoom coverage will begin after lunch around 1 P.M. and you can watch and hear Rev. Apple on Zoom. The Zoom link is available through PW Circles and in this coming Saturday's Church announcements email.

Our hard-working Together-In-Service members have lots of sewing and non-sewing projects for you to help with, and our local UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Office has contributed many, many different kinds of seeds for us to take home to plant to encourage a healthy environment. And while you are there, be sure to send a card to someone who would appreciate being remembered!

Thank you to those who are already dropping off in the Calvin Room(206) donated items for our workshop projects! Among the items still gratefully accepted:

- pre-wrapped packages of peanut butter crackers
- breakfast / energy / or fruit bars
- new toothbrushes and small toothpastes
- small deodorants
- dental floss
- solid color washcloths (no white, please)
- · disposable pads for school-age girls
- cotton briefs for women (S, M, or L) and girls (10, 12, 14, 16) (no white, please)

It is always a pleasure to join together at this Workshop. Please plan to join us this Sunday and help turn our energy into results for others. For questions, please call Jan Bush.





The Compassion and Social Justice Ministry Team has received a grant from the Presbytery of Florida to support our Guns2Gardens ministry. Guns2Gardens is a national grassroots effort supported bν Presbyterian Peace Fellowship which works to reduce gun violence by reducing the number of guns in homes and communities. Unwanted firearms are surrendered, dismantled, and turned into garden tools. We are working with four other Presbyterian churches and two catholic churches in Tallahassee to hold a community event where firearms will be dismantled on June 10. The congregation blessed the saw to be used in the dismantling effort in November 2022. If you are interested in participating in planning and/or volunteering at the event, please contact Carol Weissert at cweissert@fsu.edu.

God Squad

Friday, March 24th @ Noon First Baptist Church of Tallahassee

Political Football, Inc.

These days politicians aren't the only ones who have to state their opinion on every single political disagreement du jour. It seems like practically every religious, nonprofit and for-profit company has to do the same, with everyone from mom-and-pop operations to Fortune 500 companies forced to run the gauntlet through our cold civil war. Are you "us" or are you "them"? We'll talk about just how advisable this situation is and if there might be a better way.

Joining us will be Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, Pastor Joe Davis, Jr. of Truth Gatherers Community Church, Stefanie Posner of Temple Israel, and Dr. Gary Shultz of First Baptist Church of Tallahassee.

Register below for free or to purchase a delicious lunch!

REGISTER HERE



Are you interested in electric vehicles but confused by all the myths and misinformation?

Join us on April 11th, 2023 at 2 PM EST/11 AM PST to hear from a leader in electric vehicle consumer advocacy, Vanessa Warheit of Plug In America!

Topics will include EV electricity generation, the EV supply chain, and electric vehicle safety.

Register here to sign up for our "Changing the Conversation" webinar on April 4th at 2 PM EST/11 AM PST!

If you can't be at the live webinar, you can still register to receive a link to the webinar recording.

Join IPL on April 4th at 2 PM EST/11 AM PST to learn how to change the conversation on electric vehicles in your community and beyond!

Thank you for all you do to support changing the course of climate history; we hope to see you at the webinar!



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



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 provided hundreds of meals for our hungry and food insecure neighbors. 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 April, 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.



EASTER DINNER AT GRACE MISSION

First Pres is slated to help serve Easter dinner at Grace Mission on April 9th.

Please consider helping out our neighbors in need on this special day. We meet at 4 pm and are finished by 6 pm. If you can serve, 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.



Dogwood Acres has plenty of excitement in store in the coming months, with registration now open for six different summer camp options, including a

week of camp specifically for high schoolers.

Wondering what camp life is like?
Join in DWA's Open House
Saturday, April 15,

to experience a typical day in the life of a camper.

Click here for a shareable flier about the open house and summer camp. The first 10 interested families also can enjoy an overnight experience on Friday, April 14.

Find summer camp program details and online registration at www.dogwoodacres.org/summer/



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



Sunday Festival Readings

March26, 2023
5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
EZEKIAL 37:1-14
PSALM 130
ROMANS 8:6-11
JOHN 11:1-45





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 MARCH18-31, 2023

Saturday, March 18

Morning: Ps. 43; 149 Evening: Ps. 31; 14 Jer. 13:1-11

Rom. 6:12-23

KUIII. U.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

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