FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER $\bigcirc F$ First Presbyterian Church



MARCH 27.2023

Old First Church At a Glance

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 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 9 Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room Family Photo Op - Courtyard Service

Easter Morning Communion Worship 00 a.m. - Sanctuar

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.

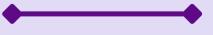
Adult Church School Meet and Greet on Zoom & In Person in the Westminster Room Program starts at 9:30 a.m.

> 9:15 a.m. Nursery open for infants - two-year-olds. 9:30 a.m.

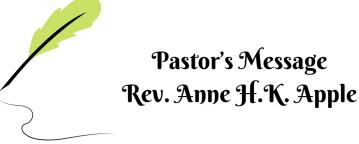
Younger Children's Class Room 306 Older Children's Class **Room 301**

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



Sunday morning we sat, sang, prayed, and listened for God in scripture, and through the musical gifts of Dawson Coleman and Elizabeth LaJeunesse. It was like learning to breathe in a new way as they moved through the three movements of "Come As You Are." At the end of the service, we rose up and moved out of the sanctuary onto the portico, flowing into the streets, to make a public witness to God's justice.

From the portico, I witnessed hopeful expressions as the choir sang, "We Shall Overcome" and "Plenty Good Room." Looking outward, saints stood under umbrellas and flowed into the street. Three generations stood together in the grass and responded to a litany that claims God's providence and care for ALL people, especially in the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the State of Florida.

As we move toward Holy Week, the worship staff has been rehearsing our liturgy together. Waving our palms we will sing, hosanna! "Pray save us, God." After the prayer of confession and the assurance of pardon, we will sing our loud hosannas.

Sunday evening at the Wholeness service, that sentiment was our collective praise, "Pray save us, God." In our conflicts and disease, our sleeplessness and discernment, pray save us, God.

An email was the first notice I had of another school shooting this week. I picked up the phone and called my college roommate, a pastor in Nashville. She hadn't heard. As the day went on, the connections to victims of the violence deepened. Sitting at a rally against gun violence and for affordable housing in Tallahassee, my phone buzzed. The buzz on my phone was a notification that one of the little girls, nine years young and a pastor's daughter, was the niece of previous congregants of mine.

This is a place of discomfort. Violence all around. With Jesus, we are staring down the road towards Jerusalem. This Sunday we will parade from the courtyard into the sanctuary. We will wave palms. Who knows, some of us might even shout Hosanna, as we make our way from palm waving to passiontide. We enter into the solemnity of Holy Week, with the shout, or the whisper, Hosanna, on our lips.

I have a thousand questions and I will leave you with the two I am praying through this week. What will this world look like for our children's children? What does it mean to trust that God will save us?

Pray save us, God. Pray, save us.

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

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

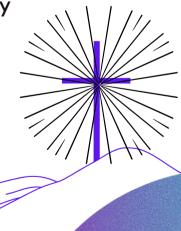
Easter Sunday, 9 April, 2023

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room

Easter Morning Communion Worship Service

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary





APRIL 2, 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:
Jesus Goes to Jerusalem.

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301
4th-8th grade
This week, the older children will
focus on Holy Week through the
Biblical lens, particularly
focusing on Judas and Pontius
Pilate's role.

Adult Church School

Sunday, April 2, 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.







Easter Morning in the Courtyard Weather Permitting

You will have the opportunity to have your individual and/or family photo taken standing with a cross covered in flowers and greenery. If you have blooming flowers in your yard, you are encouraged to bring one to add to the cross. Photographs will be used to update our pictorial directory.

A Very Successful Mission Workshop

The PW Spring Mission Workshop was a wonderful success thanks to the amazing, collaborative work of our 50 attendees and the mountain of generous donations received from the congregation in advance and in person. Plenty of snack bags are still available for congregation members who want to hand them out from their cars before the remaining bags are delivered to Grace Mission for their visitors, all 250 beautifully decorated and sharing encouraging messages of God's love. Blankets were edged, lovely and caring cards were mailed, drawstring bags were completed, plants and seeds went to good homes, dental hygiene items for people in need were overflowing, and the hygiene kits and other donations will soon be delivered to our local refugee women and girls. Even the weather cooperated to allow a lovely outdoor lunch before the indoor work began! Thank you, First Church, for your continuing generosity to those in need in our community.

NO FAITH IN FOSSIL FUELS A CLIMATE FINANCE SUMMIT May 8-11

Hurricanes. Excessive Heat. Crop failure. The loss of biodiversity and human life around the world. All of it is horrible- and could have been avoided.

Climate destruction is being bankrolled by large corporations and their executives who choose to act against what is right and good, at the expense of our planet's future. The climate crisis is a crisis of greed.

From May 8-11, people of faith will gather to learn about how banks and asset managers continue to invest in the fossil fuel industries that are destroying communities in the U.S. and around the world-and find out how to take action. Together, we will take the bold steps necessary to affect real change.

This year's three-day summit will amplify the voices of frontline leaders of Turtle Island (what we now call the United States) and the Global South, whose communities bear the direct brunt of financial decisions made by Chase Bank, Bank of America, Vanguard, BlackRock, and others who invest in harmful oil and gas extraction.

SUMMIT AGENDA (This agenda will be revised as we confirm speakers, so check back for exciting updates!):

- May 8 at 12pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels: Opening Session
- May 9 at 9am ET: Joint Event on Climate-Responsible Finance a Moral Imperative towards Children in collaboration with World Council of Churches, UNEP, JLI, and UNICEF
- May 10 at 12pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels: Climate Finance on the Ground
- May 10 at 8pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels: Spiritual Practices for Resilience.
- May 11 at 12pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels Action Hour

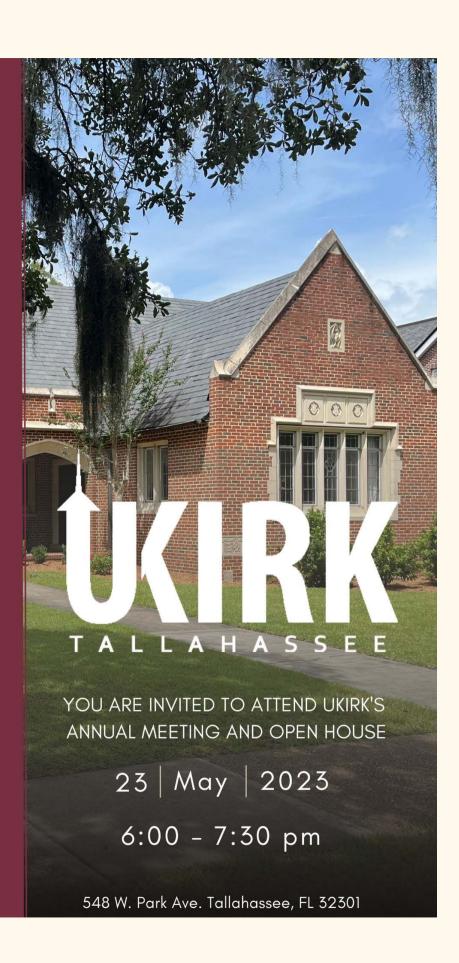
This summit is for you if:

- You're just making the connections between faith, finance, and climate;
- You're a money manager rooted in just climate values; or
- You want to be sure that your money isn't being used to fund climate chaos.

Learn more and register to join, here.

Let's work in faith-and for each other-together!

SAVE THE DATE





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!



Inspiring Success by Transforming One Life at a Time

Krissy Stanford, Assistant Warden, Liberty Correctional Institution, is reaching out to let us know about volunteer opportunities at Liberty Correctional Institution. Their chaplaincy department is always looking for volunteers who wish to positively influence and make a change in a correctional setting. She worked closely with Elevate Life Church in Oakleaf, Florida who grew a prison ministry program consisting of nearly 65 volunteers who routinely and occasionally met with inmates in the evenings, weekends, holidays and during the day. They have volunteers who offer worship and prayer, financial literacy, parenting, etc. If you would like to make a change in the life of another, please do not hesitate to reach out to Krissy Stanford at her office 850-643-9400.



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.

<u>Click here</u> 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

APRIL 2, 2023
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

PSALM 118:1-2,19-29

MATTHFW 21:1-11

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ISIAH 50:4-9

PSALM 31:9-16

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

MATTHEW 26:14-27;66

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MATTHEW 27:11-54





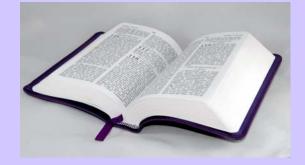
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

We acknowledge the long history 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

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

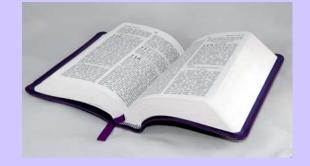
Thursday, March 30

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.



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR APRIL 1-14, 2023

Saturday, April 1

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Jer. 31:27–34

Rom. 11:25–36

John 11:28-44 or John 12:37-50

Sunday, April 2

Palm/Passion Sunday Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Zech. 9:9–12 1 Tim. 6:12–16 or Zech. 12:9–11; 13:1, 7–9 Matt. 21:12–1

Monday, April 3

Monday of Holy Week Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 11:18–20; 12:1–16 (17) Phil. 3:1–14 John 12:9–19

Tuesday, April 4

Tuesday of Holy Week Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 15:10–21 Phil. 3:15–21 John 12:20–26

Wednesday, April 5

Wednesday of Holy Week Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 17:5–10, 14–17 (18) Phil. 4:1–13 John 12:27–36

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 20:7–11 (12–13) 14–18 1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32 John 17:1–11 (12–26)

Friday, April 7

Good Friday
Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Gen. 22:1–14
1 Peter 1:10–20
John 13:36–38 or
John 19:38–42

Saturday, April 8

Holy Saturday Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Job 19:21–27a Heb. 4:1–16 Rom. 8:1–11

Sunday, April 9Resurrection of the Lord

Easter
Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Exod. 12:1–14
John 1:1–18 or
Isa. 51:9–11
Luke 24:13–35 or

John 20:19-23

Monday, April 10

Morning: Pss. 97; 145 Evening: Pss. 124; 115 Jonah 2:1–10 Acts 2:14, 22–32 John 14:1–14

Tuesday, April 11

Morning: Pss. 98; 146 Evening: Pss. 66; 116 Isa. 30:18–26 Acts 2:36–41 (42–47) John 14:15–31

Wednesday, April 12

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11 Evening: Pss. 9; 118 Micah 7:7-15 Acts 3:1-10 John 15:1-11

Thursday, April 13

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20 Evening: Pss. 68; 113 Ezek. 37:1-14 Acts 3:11-26 John 15:12-27

Friday, April 14

Morning: Pss. 96; 148 Evening: Pss. 49; 138 Dan. 12:1–4, 13 Acts 4:1–12 John 16:1–15

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