

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



APRIL 11, 2023

Old First Church At a Glance

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

6:00 p.m. Death Penalty Vigil

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Noon at the Capitol
Service of Remembrance

Sunday, April 16, 2023

9:30 a.m. Church School

Friday, May 5, 2023

9:45 a.m. - Noon
Second Harvest Bread Boxing

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Food Offering

Saturday, May 13, 2023

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Home Front Open House

Sunday, May 14, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Serving Meals at Grace Mission

CHRIST IS RISEN!



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.

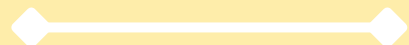
9:30 a.m.

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](https://www.youtube.com/@FPCTallahassee).



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday



Pastor's Message

Rev. Anne H.K. Apple

As a dedication hymn in Lent and through Easter we sang a stanza of "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days." There is a phrase in the last stanza of that hymn, "an Easter of unending joy." Yesterday I had a sense of unending joy. Thank you for being a part of that joy in Christ.

So many people had a hand in making Holy Week meaningful. Whether it was participation in the Lenten bible study, or Service of Wholeness, or more immediately the thinking through a rain plan that had to come into being as the weather shifted, the people of First are a people who show up. Thank you. One thing I learned is that the fire maker for the Easter Vigil needs "hot pads" and a nearby fire extinguisher! Whether it was constructing a flower cross, or crafting, reviewing, and proofing a series of bulletins over a short period of time, or worshiping four days in a row, meaning was made and stretched in our lives of faith. On Sunday, in addition to the joyful worship, there was the intergenerational church breakfast, church directory photographs, a meal provided and served at Grace Mission, and extended communion served. Thank you for being a part of that joy in Christ.

Thank you for your support of our family as Jim's mother unexpectedly fell and broke her hip in Winston Salem, NC. We are grateful for your many expressions of care. Our older children are "taking turns" to be present with Jim's parents this week, and Jim will return over the weekend and into the next week when his mother is hopeful to return home. We are taking things day by day and grateful for our family, including our First Presbyterian church family.

And, thank you for having your photographs taken as we seek to create a new pictorial directory. If you were unable to have your picture taken, email me at Anne@OldFirstChurch.org so we can try to capture your image in another way! We will go out to Westminster Oaks and take pictures of our members who live there within the next month.

As a reminder of the Interim season, we have three main goals. In short form, I describe those as 1.) Healing 2.) Administration and 3.) Worship and Program. The Envisioning Reconciliation Committee is the body who gathers weekly to implement the healing goal. They will report monthly to the congregation through the Newsletter. Please see their first report this month as they begin the work of compassionate listening with the Session. In Administration, the newly formed Budget and Finance Ministry Team had their inaugural meeting and will do the hard work of budgeting to bring to the Session. In the Worship and Program goal, we had a Wholeness and Healing worship service. The pictorial directory is a step towards communication programming and beginning to look at our church rolls to understand who we are as First Presbyterian Church in terms of active membership. I hope you have also heard from the Elder who leads your CAT (Care and Action Team).

As I head out into a silent retreat in Cullman, Alabama, at Sacred Heart Monastery, know that I go with a heart full of gratitude for this congregation and your willing spirit. Seeing you in my heart of prayer.

God's peace,
God's presence.
Anne



Envisioning Reconciliation Update

Dear Church Family,

As we close out this season of Lent, and move into Eastertide, we wanted to give you an update on the work of the Envisioning Restoration Committee. We are approaching this work from a lens of “do no harm.” That means we are moving very methodically. Each step we take lays the groundwork for the next step. We want to honor both the trauma to the congregation in a season of dislocating change and acknowledge that our membership, staff, and previous staff all had differing experiences. This means we are moving prayerfully, slowly and with intention. Healing and moving through grief takes time and we ask for your patience and continued participation.

Our team meets weekly to facilitate the small and large group exercises, and to pray and discern appropriate additional steps based on feedback. During the season of Lent, we were pleased to host nearly fifteen people each week for Wednesday guided meditation on the lectionary texts for the following Sunday. The sharing of responses to the scripture passages with one another builds community, increases intimacy, and strengthens the congregation.

In Lenten worship, Psalm 32 was used as a Call to Worship. The Psalm emphasizes human vulnerability and God’s compassion. We are grateful to Miriam Gurniak, Esther Moring, and Virginia Thomas for offering their testimony at the Service of Wholeness and Healing. We are also grateful for the thirty-five participants in that worship service. Below you will find the text of the prayer that Miriam offered. To those of you who participated in the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services, thank you. We believe that prayer and worship are at the heart of this healing work.

We are excited about the small group healing practices we will be initiating this Spring. These will include weekly intentional prayer with a small group of trained leaders. On Sunday, April 23, the Session, will participate, and be trained in Compassionate witnessing. This will equip elders to provide congregants opportunities to share, in a safe environment, their concerns and experiences of distress.

The Session of First Presbyterian has made a commitment to three goals of the Interim period. Healing is just one of them. As we came to these healing steps, the Session especially gave us their faithful feedback. This is not easy work and we still have a lot to learn.

Thank you to those who have provided feedback via the email address Restoration@oldfirstchurch. This helps to inform our on-going, and evolving process. Please continue to reach out to us with your needs and concerns. It is important to us that everyone feels they have a place and opportunity to be heard. Our intention is to give a monthly update.

Jane Atkinson, Stan Williams, Greta Reed, and Anne HK Apple

Prayer for Someone Troubled by Church Conflict

Women's Uncommon Prayers:

Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated



Gracious and eternal God, I bring to you my unsettled spirit, my disillusionment, and my yearning for peace in our church. Our conflict seems to have taken on a life of its own. Like a fire, it blazes and sweeps through our church. Now friends are not speaking to each other, others have withdrawn and stopped attending, others are gossiping and assigning blame. Division grows among us. ... We have lost the trust and creativity that has helped us to have a strong ministry in our community. We are paralyzed by this conflict. Visitors feel the tension and don't return.

Dear God, I ache for our church. It has been the place where I have found you, been found by you, and welcomed your redeeming love into my life. This church lifted me out of a deep pit at a hard time in my life. Now, the church has pushed me into a new pit. How can a church that has been such a vehicle of grace now be a source of such anguish? I sink into disappointment and cynicism.

I cry to you: Come and help us, God! Show us the way to break through our paralysis. Lead us into responsible paths for resolution. Give us grace to speak with truth and charity. Help me and each of us to examine ourselves honestly, to discern what responsibility we may have for the state of our congregation's life. Give us courage to enter into peacemaking.

Help us let go of our pride and to accept help from others. Free us from making people into scapegoats. Help us to fall on our knees before we get on the phone to spread rumors. Teach us, O God, what we need to learn from our situation. Bring us to the repentance that opens us to receive your forgiveness.

Move our hearts to rediscover the strong bonds that you have built among us. Pour upon us the fire of Pentecost, that your spirit may move among us. Heal us as a body, that we may once again live as the Body of Christ, your Incarnate Word, who is our Savior and our Hope: and in whose name I pray. Amen.



Sunday, April 23rd
University Presbyterian
Church
Baton Rouge, LA
will celebrate the ministry
and retirement of

Rev. Patti Snyder

Worship
Eleven O-Clock in the morning
Reception
Four O-Clock in the afternoon
Fellowship Hall

Patti is a child of Old First Church
and you are encouraged to send her
letters
of celebration in care of
University Presbyterian Church
3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY!

Governor DeSantis has signed a death warrant for Louis Gaskin and has set an execution date for April 12, 2023 at 6 p.m. Attorneys and others are working around the clock to secure a stay of execution. Pray that they succeed. If their efforts fail and the execution goes forward, you are invited to attend one or both of two services that will take place, sponsored by Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty.

- Vigil at the Governor's Mansion: at the time of the execution--Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6 p.m.
- Service of Remembrance, at the Florida State Capitol: Thursday, April 13, at noon.

Both gatherings will be services of remembrance for Mr. Gaskin--executed by the state in our names--and for his victims. They will also be protests against the death penalty as unjust public policy.

Children's Church School

APRIL 16, 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:

Thomas Wants to See

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301

4th-8th grade

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

Thomas

Adult Church School

Sunday, April 16, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time
(9:15 a.m. meet and greet)

Join us in the
Westminster Room
or on Zoom.

Be on the lookout for a
Thursday afternoon e-mail
from Emily with more
details.



Nursery and Preschool Childcare

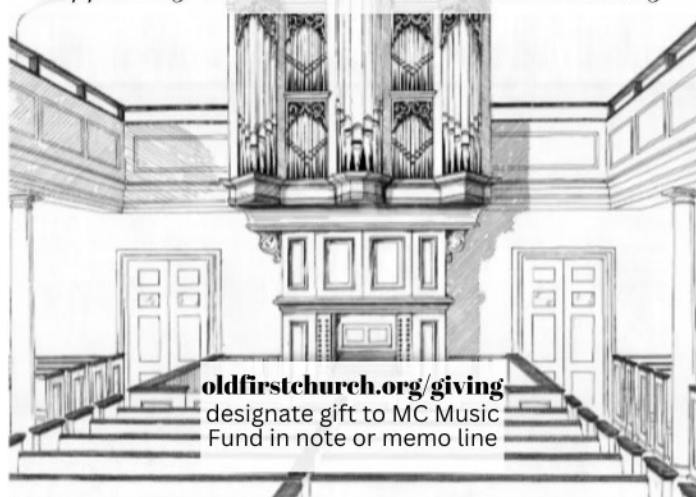
9:15 a.m. – the end of worship

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.

Michael Corzine MUSIC EDUCATION FUND

supporting the call to church music ministry



The Michael Corzine Music Education Fund was established in 2022 in honor of Michael Corzine's lengthy music ministry with our congregation as well as his nurture and mentoring of generations of students. The goal of the fund is encouraging students who are considering a call to service as church musicians by providing opportunities for those students to participate in worship and music in ways that will both support their call and enrich the worship life of this congregation. Once the fund has accumulated a sufficient amount, proceeds will be available for either recurring or one-time expenditures relating to the music program of our congregation, as long as those expenditures are consistent with the goal of the fund. To contribute, use the "special giving" link on the website, oldfirstchurch.org/giving/, or send a check to the office; use the memo line or "notes" section to designate the Corzine Fund as the recipient of your gift.



On Saturday afternoon May 13, First Pres will have an ice cream social at Home Front, a residential unit for formerly homeless veterans. Families are encouraged to come to enjoy home-made ice cream, music, games and an opportunity to talk with the residents. Members can also see the new rec room at Home Front refurbished and furnished by First Pres members. The time is 2-4 pm; the place, 1602 Stuckey Ave.



SAVE THE DATE

UKIRK

TALLAHASSEE

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND UKIRK'S
ANNUAL MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

23 | May | 2023

6:00 - 7:30 pm

548 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301



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



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](#)



SECOND HARVEST BREAD BOXING

Friday May 5 from 9:45 - Noon

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in May, 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.



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, May 7, 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



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 **Sunday, May 14**; 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.



Sunday Festival Readings

APRIL 16, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 2:14, 22-32 & PS. 16

OR

EXODUS 15:1-11 & PS. 111

I PETER 1:3-9

JOHN 20:19-31



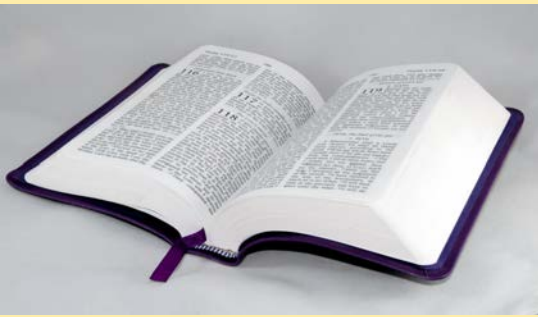
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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

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 9

Resurrection 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

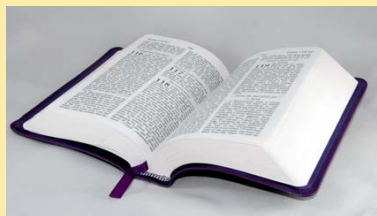
Evening: Pss. 49; 138

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](#).



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR

APRIL 15-30, 2023

Saturday, April 15

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Isa. 25:1-9
Acts 4:13-21 (22-31)
John 16:16-33

Sunday, April 16

Second Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Isa. 43:8-13
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-7

Monday, April 17

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Dan. 1:1-21
John 1:1-10
John 17:1-11

Tuesday, April 18

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Dan. 2:1-16
1 John 2:1-11
John 17:12-19

Wednesday, April 19

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Dan. 2:17-30
1 John 2:12-17
John 17:20-26

Thursday, April 20

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Dan. 2:31-49
1 John 2:18-29
Luke 3:1-1

Friday, April 21

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Dan. 3:1-18
1 John 3:1-10
Luke 3:15-22

Saturday, April 22

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Dan. 3:19-30
1 John 3:11-18
Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, April 23

Third Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Dan. 4:1-18
1 Peter 4:7-11
John 21:15-25

Monday, April 24

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Dan. 4:19-27
1 John 3:19-4:6
Luke 4:14-30

Tuesday, April 25

Morning: Pss. 98; 14
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Dan. 4:28-37
1 John 4:7-21
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday, April 26

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Dan. 5:1-12
1 John 5:1-12
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday, April 27

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Dan. 5:13-30
1 John 5:13-20 (21
Luke 5:1-11

Friday, April 28

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Dan. 6:1-15
2 John 1-13
Luke 5:12-26

Saturday, April 29

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Dan. 6:16-28
3 John 1-15
Luke 5:27-39

Sunday, April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Gen. 18:22-33
1 Peter 5:1-11
Matt. 7:15-29

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