FIRST PRESS
THE NEWSLETTER OF
First Presbyterian Church

APRIL 24, 2023

Old First Church At a Glance

Sunday, April 30, 2023
following worship
Reception to honor the service and
retirement of our Financial Administrator,
Jim Davis

Friday, May 5, 2023
9:45 a.m. - Noon
Second Harvest Bread Boxing

Sunday, May 7, 2023
Food Offering

Friday, May 12, 2023
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Welcome reception for
Lillian Cleveland and Jacob Beychok

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

Sunday, May 21, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Spiritual Formation Volunteer Appreciation
Program and Continental Breakfast

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.

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

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Monday-Friday
The 16th Century mystic, John of the Cross said, “Silence is God’s first language.” And, I carry gratitude for knowing this as a truth after a week at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama. Reflecting on healing, a common thread that runs throughout Jesus’ healings is an outcome of transformation. Jesus heals. People change. Taking the time to sit in silence and listen for God is a helpful practice. The world is a noisy place. Out of silence and reflection, scripture teaches that healed people dance with joy and announce their faith. A conversion happens and people find themselves in a new space - no longer bound, and set free.

Romans 8:1-2, reads: “Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

This freedom from those things of sin and death that turn us away from God frees us for abundant life. One way I see the abundance of life in Christ at First Presbyterian is through the work of the Session.

On Sunday, the Session met for an abbreviated meeting and then went into an afternoon retreat to be trained in the skill of Compassionate Witnessing led by the Envisioning Reconciliation Committee. I believe that the Holy Spirit was present and is leading towards abundance in life.

Two small groups of elders led an opening worship and a closing worship to the retreat portion. Sue Safford led a period of silence, and an intentional breath practice, to lead the group into the hard work of Compassionate Witnessing.

Thank you for praying for the Session as they retreated into this training. The practice of Compassionate Witnessing is based in scientific research which includes brain chemistry. If you’d like to read about the process, this article describes several instances of Compassionate Witnessing: Compassionate Witnessing. Following an evaluation of this process with the Session, this process will begin to roll out into the congregation. Please speak to an active elder if you would like to know more information about the process.
SESSION UPDATE

The Session:

Had a presentation from the First Presbyterian Preschool Director, Ms. Tosha Haynes, and Director of the Board of the Preschool, Dr. Cassandra Brown. You will find their Power Point presentation attached to the email you received as notification of this edition of First Press.

And took the following actions:

1. Approved the Omnibus motion which consisted of the March Session minutes.

2. Received the financials brought by Financial Administrator, Jim Davis, at his last Session meeting. Jim was recognized and a blessing was offered over his ministry at First Presbyterian Tallahassee.

3. Received a motion brought by Budget and Finance Ministry Team to continue the stub budget as the committee comes to create a budget.

4. Received a motion that the Preschool will schedule a minute for mission in the fall on a Sunday, and to have a table display in the courtyard that same day.
Join the Celebration

The Care & Outreach Team invites you to a reception following worship on April 30 to honor the service and retirement of our Financial Administrator, Jim Davis. Join us in the Westminster Room and courtyard for some celebratory cake and lemonade. We'll have a basket to collect your expressions of appreciation and congratulations at the reception for any cards that have not been given directly to our new retiree! Please plan to join us.

You're Invited

The families of Lillian Cleveland and Jacob Beychok invite you, the First Presbyterian Church family, to greet and congratulate the couple at a Welcome Event on Friday, May 12th, 7pm-9pm at the church. There will be cake and lemonade and outdoor games. We look forward to being able to share in the joy!
The Care and Outreach Committee would like to identify those who would like to attend church but may have transportation challenges.

If you or someone you know fit this category, please email Ann DelRossi at adelrossi@fsu.edu with your name, address and phone number. Also, please email Ann if you could be a (potential) transportation provider!

The Care and Outreach Committee is not guaranteeing that we can fill the transportation needs – we are at the initial phase of identifying those who may need help.
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.

Adult Church School

Sunday, April 30, 2023
9:30 a.m. start time
(9:15 a.m. meet and greet)
Join us in the Westminster Room
or on Zoom.

We continue our "Fear Not" curriculum, taking us on a deep dive into our societal understanding of violence in our communities, particularly gun violence. It is designed to facilitate reflection and conversation around ideas of safety in the face of violence and how that relates to faithfulness as followers of Jesus Christ.

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

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: Susanna Has a Good Idea

Older Children's Class
9:30am Room 301
4th-8th grade
This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament: Mary Magdalene

Children's Church School

APRIL 30, 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: Susanna Has a Good Idea

Older Children's Class
9:30am Room 301
4th-8th grade
This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament: Mary Magdalene

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.
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. If you have an ice cream maker and/or would like to help set-up and serve, please contact Carol Weissert, Debbie Gibson or Gary Niblack.
The State of Florida plans to execute Darryl Barwick on Wednesday, May 3, at 6 pm. We have one week to do everything we can to stop this execution. Urge Governor DeSantis and the Florida Board of Executive Clemency to stay the execution – sign and share the petition. Help us reach 10,000 signatures for Darryl.

The non-unanimity bill, SB 450, is now headed to Governor DeSantis to be signed into law. There is still time to stop the most extreme death penalty bill in the country from becoming law. Take action now. Contact Governor DeSantis and urge him to VETO SB 450.

We encourage everyone, not just Florida residents, to take this action for Darryl and for SB 450. The Governor is paying attention to what the nation thinks about his ability to lead. Help us show him the death penalty is bad policy and only creates more harm.

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.

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
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

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.
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.
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<td>Evening: 1 Peter 2:2–10</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 20</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20</td>
<td>Evening: Pss. 68; 113</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 96; 148</td>
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Daily Lectionary for
May 1-15, 2023

Monday, May 1
Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
   Jer. 30:1–9
   Col. 1:1–14
   Luke 6:1–11
Tuesday, May 2
Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
   Jer. 30:10–17
   Col. 1:15–23
   Luke 6:12–26
Wednesday, May 3
Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
   Jer. 30:18–22
   Col. 1:24–2:7
Thursday, May 4
Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
   Jer. 31:1–1
   Col. 2:8–23
   Luke 6:39–49
Friday, May 5
Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
   Jer. 31:15–22
   Col. 3:1–1
   Luke 7:1–17
Saturday, May 6
Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
   Jer. 31:23–2
   Col. 3:12–1
Sunday, May 7
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Morning: Pss. 93; 15
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
   Isa. 32:1–8
   2 Thess. 2:13–17
   Matt. 7:7–14
Monday, May 8
Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
   Jer. 32:1–1
   Col. 3:18–4:1
   Luke 7:36–5
Tuesday, May 9
Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
   Jer. 32:16–25
   Rom. 12:1–21
   Luke 8:1–1
Wednesday, May 10
Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
   Jer. 32:36–44
   Rom. 13:1–14
   Luke 8:16–25
Thursday, May 11
Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
   Jer. 33:1–13
   Rom. 14:1–12
   Luke 8:26–3
Friday, May 12
Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 13
   Deut. 31:30–32:14
   Rom. 14:13–23
   Luke 8:40–56
Saturday, May 13
Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
   Deut. 32:34–41 (42) 43
   Rom. 15:1–13
Sunday, May 14
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
   Deut. 15:1–1
   1 Tim. 3:14—4:
   Matt. 13:24–34a
Monday, May 15
Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
   Deut. 8:1–10 or
   Deut. 18:9–14
   James 1:1–15

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Tuesday, May 16
Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Deut. 8:11–20 or
Deut. 18:15–2
James 1:16–27

Wednesday, May 17
Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Deut. 19:1–7
James 5:13–18

Thursday, May 18
Ascension of the Lord
Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Ezek. 1:1–14, 24–28b
Heb. 2:5–18
Matt. 28:16–20

Friday, May 19
Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Ezek. 1:28–3:3
Heb. 4:14–5:6

Saturday, May 20
Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Ezek. 3:4–17
Heb. 5:7–14

Saturday, May 21
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Ezek. 3:16–27
Eph. 2:1–10
Matt. 10:24–33, 40–42

Monday, May 22
Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Ezek. 4:1–17
Heb. 6:1–12

Tuesday, May 2
Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Ezek. 7:10–15, 23b–27
Heb. 6:13–20

Wednesday, May 24
Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Ezek. 11:14–25
Heb. 7:1–17

Thursday, May 25
Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 11
Ezek. 18:1–4, 19–32
Heb. 7:18–28

Friday, May 26
Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Ezek. 34:17–31
Heb. 8:1–13
Luke 10:38–42

Saturday, May 27
Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Ezek. 43:1–12
Heb. 9:1–14

Sunday, May 28
Day of Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 104; 150
Evening: Pss. 29; 33
Isa. 11:1–9
1 Cor. 2:1–13
John 14:21–29

Monday, May 29
Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Deut. 4:9–1
2 Cor. 1:1–11

Tuesday, May 30
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Deut. 4:15–24
2 Cor. 1:12–22
Luke 15:1–10

Wednesday, May 31
Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Deut. 4:25–31
2 Cor. 1:23–2:1
Luke 15:1–2, 11–32

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PCUSA website here.