Old First Church At a Glance

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

**Sunday, May 7, 2023**
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

**Monday, May 8, 2023**
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Church Office Hours

**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

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.
Pastor’s Message
Rev. Anne H.K. Apple

Last Wednesday, the Westminster Oaks chapel service was a delight. Harriet Chase played the piano, and Chaplain Taylor Phillips reminded the gathered congregation of the power of stories, some that often go untold. Later that evening he was having a book launch for his book, *Queen of the Clouds*, which tells the story of two women pilots, Jerrie Mock and Joan Merriam Smith, and their epic quest to fly solo around the world.

As the new month begins this week, so does the 6th month of the interim season. Compassionate witnessing has “launched” and the elders have begun that faithful work and a large part of compassionate witnessing is storytelling. This process will begin to roll into the congregation. In addition, the work of many administrative details are going on behind the scenes. Pictures are being taken for a new pictorial directory and if you come by church, there is a new doorbell installed on the left side of the door frame to the education building. Look up! It might seem silly to name a doorbell as an accomplishment, and yet - small things matter - like details in stories.

After worship at Westminster Oaks, Wayne Largent introduced himself and said, “I have a story for you!” Never having met Wayne before, I wasn’t sure where the connection would be made. He pulled out an envelope, a card, and a church bulletin from May 6, 1951. Seventy two years ago this week! Lawrence I. Stell was the minister. Hotel Duval was constructed that year in 188 days and opened in advance of the legislature convening. These were the years right before the Tallahassee Bus Boycott.
At that time, post WWII, there were two morning services and an evening service. The church had a bi-cameral form of leadership - a board of deacons and a Session. And, both groups were all male. The PC(USA) didn’t even exist. First Presbyterian was part of the Southern Presbyterian Church. The stories. Oh, the stories about the church, her people, and how change unfolds across time. On Sunday, I shared Rachel Held Evans words, “The church is not a group of people who believe all the same things; the church is a group of people caught up in the same story, with Jesus at the center.”

Thanks be to God for our story together with Jesus at the center!

God’s peace,
God’s presence.
Anne
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!

Transportation to Worship

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.
Children's Church School
MAY 7, 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: A Letter to People of the Way

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

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, May 7, 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.
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
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**

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**Food Offering for Elder Care Services and Second Harvest of the Big Bend**

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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](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.
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

If you wish to read these
on your computer you
will find them on the
PCUSA website here.
### Daily Lectionary for May 16-31, 2023

#### 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 23
- **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  
#### 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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