



# FIRST PRESS

## THE NEWSLETTER OF First Presbyterian Church

MAY 15, 2023  
**Old First Church At a Glance**

**Sunday, May 21, 2023**

9:30 a.m.

Spiritual Formation Volunteer Appreciation  
Program and Continental Breakfast

**Friday, June 2, 2023**

9:45 a.m. - noon

Second Harvest Bread Boxing

**Sunday, June 4, 2023**

Food Offering

**Sunday, June 11, 2023**

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

Serving Meals at Grace Mission

**Sunday, July 2, 2023**

Food Offering

**Friday, July 7, 2023**

9:45 a.m. - noon

Second Harvest Bread Boxing

**Sunday, July 9, 2023**

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

Serving Meals at Grace Mission

**Friday, August 4, 2023**

9:45 a.m. - noon

Second Harvest Bread Boxing

**Sunday, August 6, 2023**

Food Offering

**Sunday, August 13, 2023**

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

Serving Meals at Grace Mission

First Presbyterian Church

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## 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

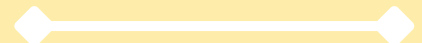
Older Children's Class  
Room 301

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](http://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

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

On Sunday, we will sing a hymn that I first learned in college singing with the Rhodes College Singers, *Fight the Good Fight*. The version we sang in college had this rolling tenor line that showed the movement of God in the world. The verse that accompanied that tenor line, “Feint not nor fear: God's arms are near. God changeth not, and thou art dear.”

Even as I type, I can still hear those tenors from over 35 years ago. The language is formal, and mired in the King James, and also faithfully resonant of words from First Peter, “whoever serves must do so with the strength God supplies.” In Anne-speak, with the Spirit’s help, I hear, “Do not be afraid - God’s faithfulness has this. Just serve with the gifts I have given to you. It is enough.”

I’d like to share a word of gratitude to Glenn Hodges who served very faithfully in my absence last week with several hospitalizations of members and even a last minute memorial service on Saturday. Glenn’s witness points to the ways I see that he trusts that God’s arms are near, and especially the ways he serves out of God’s strength. In addition, I’d like to share gratitude for the Personnel Ministry Team led by active elder, Carol Grondzik. In the staff transition with the Financial Administrator, the team worked together to seek a solution. This week we will welcome a new part time administrator, Fran Owens, who will work closely with the Treasurer, active elder, David Strange, and the newly formed Budget and Finance Ministry Team. I asked Fran for a short introduction which I share on the following page.



Tallahassee has been my home since 1996 when I accepted a position with Watkins Engineers and Constructors Inc. I spent the earlier part of my life in PA. Married my first husband and had two sons and a daughter. My daughter has two children and lives in VA. My son lives in PA and his daughter lives here with me. My second husband and I lived in Montana for a few years but missed Tallahassee and returned. My oldest son died suddenly in 2015, the same year my second husband passed from acute myeloid leukemia.

I enjoy going to the symphony and plays, socializing with friends, rowed crew until a few years ago but still like to downhill ski out West when I can. My career has been in management roles in accounting and finance for a variety of entities both for profit and non-profit companies. The last seven years I have been responsible for the financial records of Deer Lake United Methodist Church. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone here.

Please join me in welcoming Fran who will begin on Wednesday, May 17th!

In addition, Owen Nichols, our tech guru graduated from Florida State and celebrated his last Sunday with us last week. If you'd like to write a note of gratitude to Owen, please do so this week either by email or dropping a note at church and we will forward those to Owen the first week of June.

**God's Peace,  
God's Presence,  
Anne**

# HOME FRONT ICE CREAM SOCIAL

## Saturday May 13, 2023







**Are you concerned about the pervasive  
gun violence in our country?  
Would you like to do something  
concrete to get guns off the street?**



On June 10 from 10:00 until noon, a group of 8 local churches will join with churches nationwide for a safe surrender event in conjunction with the [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#) and [RawTools](#). Our local event will be hosted by Good Shepherd Catholic Church and co-sponsored by the Leon County Sheriff's Department.

Participants bring guns that they no longer want or use--unloaded and in the trunk of their car. After being inspected by a deputy to assure its safety, the gun will be dismantled using a chop saw ensuring that it can never be used to harm anyone again. The metal will be sent to RawTools which will forge it into garden tools and an instrument of death will be transformed into a tool that promotes life. Those surrendering weapons will be given a gift card as a thank you for disposing of their unwanted guns.

In order for our event to be successful, we will need people to join us on the day of the event. Training will be provided for all participants. Volunteers are needed to be:

Greeters (2)

Shepherds (4)

Saw Operators (3)

Runners (4)

Cashier (2)

Photographer of process and volunteers only (1)

If you are interested in joining our efforts to "disarm hearts and forge peace", please contact Debbie Gibson ([gibsond1207@gmail.com](mailto:gibsond1207@gmail.com)), Susanne Korta ([slkorta@gmail.com](mailto:slkorta@gmail.com)) or Sheldon Steen ([sheldonsteen@gmail.com](mailto:sheldonsteen@gmail.com)) to sign up for training or to get further information.

“...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” Isaiah 2:4

# No Church School

**MAY 21, 2023**

**Join the First Pres Family in  
the Westminster Room at  
9:30 a.m.  
for the  
Volunteer Appreciation  
Continental Breakfast**



## **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](mailto:eleanor@oldfirstchurch.org) about childcare.



## **SECOND HARVEST BREAD BOXING**

**Friday June 2 from 9:45 - Noon**

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in June, you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849AAA72DAB9-second>

or

contact Debbie Gibson at [gibsond1207@mail.com](mailto: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, June 4, 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

Here's your chance to help out those in need in our community over the summer months.

We need help serving the Sunday dinner on these dates:

**June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13**

If you've been thinking of helping, please do it now!

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](mailto: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.



If you need reserved parking,  
please call Lori at 222-4504,  
or email  
[office@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstchurch.org).



## Transportation to Worship



The Care and Outreach Committee would like to identify those who would like to attend church but may have transportation challenges.

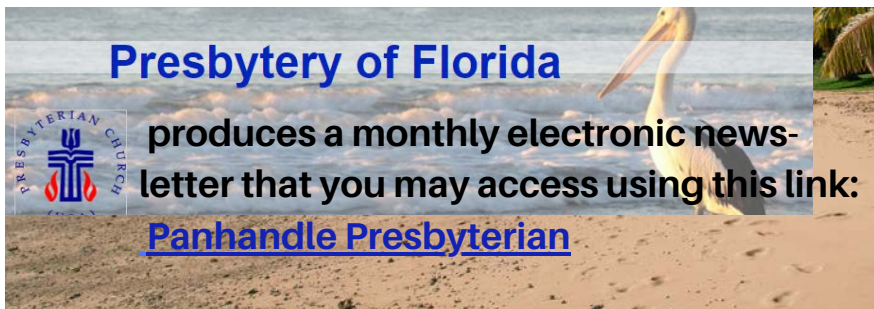
If you or someone you know fit this category, please email Ann DelRossi at [adelrossi@fsu.edu](mailto:adelrossi@fsu.edu) with your name, address and phone number. Also, please email Ann if you could be a (potential) transportation provider!

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.



**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](mailto:newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org)  
no later than noon on production Mondays; or, if possible, earlier the previous week.



## **Sunday Festival Readings**

**MAY 21, 2023  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

ACTS 1:6-14  
&  
PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35  
OR  
ISAIAH 45:1-7  
&  
PSALM 21:1-7  
1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
JOHN 17:1-11



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

## 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

Luke 11:1-13

### **Wednesday, May 17**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 9; 118

Deut. 19:1-7

James 5:13-18

Luke 12:22-31

### **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

Luke 9:28-36

### **Saturday, May 20**

Morning: Pss. 92; 149

Evening: Pss. 23; 114

Ezek. 3:4-17

Heb. 5:7-14

Luke 9:37-50

### **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

Luke 9:51-62

### **Tuesday, May 23**

Morning: Pss. 98; 146

Evening: Pss. 66; 116

Ezek. 7:10-15, 23b-27

Heb. 6:13-20

Luke 10:1-17

### **Wednesday, May 24**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 9; 118

Ezek. 11:14-25

Heb. 7:1-17

Luke 10:17-24

### **Thursday, May 25**

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 68; 11

Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32

Heb. 7:18-28

Luke 10:25-37

### **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

Luke 11:14-23

### **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

Luke 14:25-35

### **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

If you wish to read these  
on your computer you  
will find them on the  
PCUSA website [here](#).