



# FIRST PRESS

## THE NEWSLETTER OF First Presbyterian Church

MAY 22, 2023

### Old First Church At a Glance

**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

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone (850) 222-4504

Fax (850) 222-2215

email: [office@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstchurch.org)

website: [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch)

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m. - 12:15

Nursery open for  
infants and children  
younger than kindergarten.

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**

Singer songwriter, Carrie Newcomer, shared on a blog post, that a crisis can be a window and an opening that might not have happened otherwise - that openings can be times of great loss and challenge, and times of daily decision and possibility. I see this in a true way in the largeness of the necessity for advocacy for the climate crisis we face as God's people and in the small things of change at work in the church. As Pentecost approaches, I hear the Psalmist's song, "Let your heart overflow with the living water that renews the face of the earth."

As part of the interim work of the church, the Session recently directed the newly established finance committee to prepare a budget. During the course of preparing the budget, the committee realized our preliminary budgeted expenses exceeded our forecasted revenues. While the overall financial position of the church is strong (our assets exceed our liabilities, our endowment ensures we have adequate reserves for facilities & emergencies and we have no debt), we are left with a predicament of how to allocate our resources.

The link which follows this note will take you to the more detailed May Session report. It's important to note that the church is not in any type of financial trouble and that this exercise the Session is undertaking is very similar to ones we might all face in our daily lives with our own personal finances and time commitments. We are working towards the health of our congregation, step by step. Please continue to hold the Session in your prayers as we move forward in faith.

You will find the May Session Report [here](#).

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

## First Food Donations Continue Through Summer

The generosity of the First Pres congregation's First Food donations has been amazing this year! In 2023 alone, you have donated more than 1,000 pounds of food (in part because the Labyrinth alone was over 400 pounds of goods delivered to Second Harvest!) Thanks to all those who have been able to contribute to our monthly collection, which is alternately delivered to Elder Care Services and Second Harvest.

Because the need continues to be so great in our community and the surrounding areas, we will continue to receive First Food donations throughout the summer on June 4th, July 2nd, and August 6th, the first Sundays of the summer months. If you would like to donate food but those dates are inconvenient, please feel free to drop the food off on another day in the small conference room next to the Church office. Thank you to everyone for your tremendous generosity.



The Cleveland and Beychok families offer our deep gratitude to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church as you prepared our children, Lillian and Jacob, for marriage. We have appreciated your prayers, your check-ins, your actual physical labor on our behalf, your welcome, your laughter and your love through all the moments planning and executing a Christian reaffirmation of vows. You have nurtured and cared for us well.

Thank you.

Peggy, Anna, Lillian, Eleanor, and Abigail Cleveland

Carey, Jacob and Joshua Beychok, and Jason Foltz



For many years, May has been the month in which we celebrate the birthday of international Presbyterian Women and collect an offering that is then collectively used to fund one or more grant proposals submitted from around the world. The Birthday Offering received in 2022 was awarded to only two recipients for 2023, and one of them was the Making Miracles Group Home, Phase II, right here in Tallahassee!

Making Miracles Group Home (MMGH) helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration and early motherhood—a repeating pattern that is difficult to break and overcome. Since its inception in 2010, MMGH has served over 100 women and their children by providing a one-year, live-in program designed to support young mothers and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children.

Current eligibility criteria require residents to be pregnant and/or have a single child up to age three, but mothers who have a single child older than age three or multiple children often seek help. With the Birthday Offering grant, MMGH will purchase a second group home to serve an additional five families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. With loving support and tools to establish stable, permanent housing, these families can look forward to a hopeful and successful future.

We are delighted that this successful local effort was highlighted this year, and that the good work sponsored by the international Birthday Offering is able to demonstrate its positive impact here at home. Any donations from those who are able will be collected through the first week in June, and may be submitted in the pew envelopes provided, or electronically through the Church website.

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**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





## Nursery and Preschool Childcare

9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Second Floor Nursery - Education Building

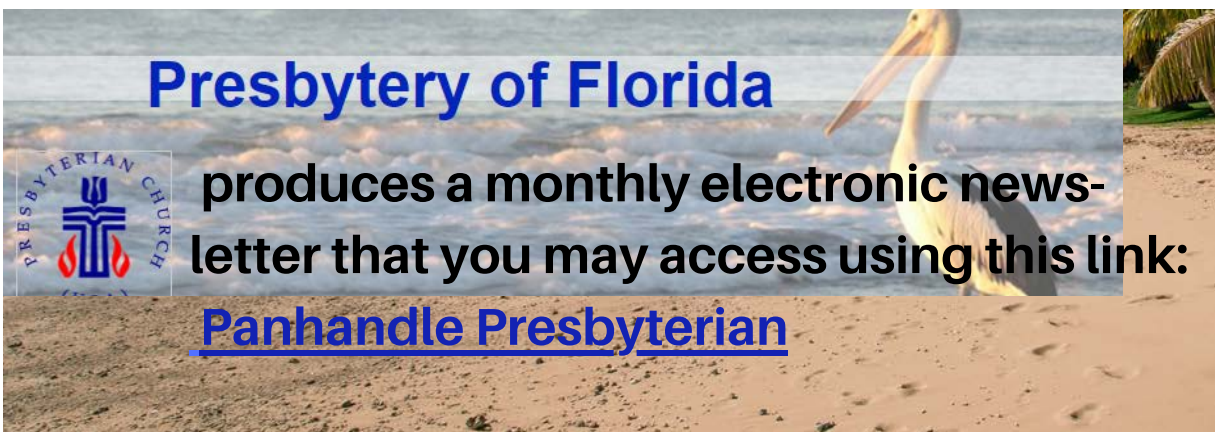
The Twinkle Toes Agency cares for our children. All our sitters are CPR/First Aid trained and have had a full background screening. There are two sitters in the room. Please don't hesitate to contact Eleanor Cleveland at [eleonor@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:eleonor@oldfirstchurch.org) about childcare.



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.





## **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.



**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.**



If you need reserved parking,  
please call Lori at 222-4504,  
or email

[office@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstchurch.org).





## **Sunday Festival Readings**

**MAY 28, 2023  
DAY OF PENTECOST**

ACTS 2:1-21 OR NUMBERS 11:24-30

PSALM 104:24-35B

1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-13

OR

ACTS 2:1-21

JOHN 20:19-23 OR JOHN 7:37-39



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. 1:28-33  
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](#).