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

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 to download Sunday's bulletin and view the service.
Services are recorded and available for later viewing on YouTube @FPCTallahassee.
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.
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), Susanne Korta (slkorta@gmail.com) or Sheldon Steen (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 eleanor@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 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, 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

Second Harvest Bread Boxinging
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 gibson1207@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

Second Harvest of the Big Bend is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

40 Years
Second Harvest of the Big Bend
OF THE BIG BEND
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 or go to the Sign Up Genius page directly at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-grace1

Hope you can join us.

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**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.**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Evening</th>
<th>Deuteronomy</th>
<th>1 Peter</th>
<th>Luke</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, May 16</strong></td>
<td>Pss. 98; 146</td>
<td>Pss. 66; 116</td>
<td>Deut. 8:11–20 or Deut. 18:15–2</td>
<td>James 1:16–27</td>
<td>Luke 11:1–13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, May 20</strong></td>
<td>Pss. 92; 149</td>
<td>Pss. 23; 114</td>
<td>Ezek. 3:4–17</td>
<td>Heb. 5:7–14</td>
<td>Luke 9:37–50</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 21</strong></td>
<td>Seventh Sunday of Easter</td>
<td>Morning: Pss. 93; 150</td>
<td>Ezek. 3:16–17</td>
<td>Eph. 2:1–10</td>
<td>Matt. 10:24–33, 40–42</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, May 26</strong></td>
<td>Pss. 96; 148</td>
<td>Pss. 49; 138</td>
<td>Ezek. 34:17–31</td>
<td>Heb. 8:1–13</td>
<td>Luke 10:38–42</td>
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If you wish to read these on your computer you will find them on the PCUSA website [here](#).