



FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church

MAY 29, 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

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Phone (850) 222-4504

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email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

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
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

“Gratitude is the recognition of all that holds us in the web of life and all that has made it possible to have the life that we have and the moment that we are experiencing. Thanksgiving is a natural response to life and may be the only way to savor it.” -*The Book of Joy*, Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams

The bold savor of gardenias makes any walk in suffering heat and humidity worthwhile. Sometimes Jim and I walk in the early evening. I'm usually the recalcitrant one about sauntering at the end of a hot day. We recently walked through the Waverly neighborhood and all at once, we entered into that flowery current flowing from a gardenia bush weighted with blooms. It made me stand still and boldly proclaim, “God is doing something huge right here. Take it in!”

When our children were young, we tried to teach them about the concept of “savoring.” On a walk to the Krispy Kreme for donuts, we had to ask the older two children to bear patiently with their younger sister who stopped to appreciate every buttercup and blow the tendrils off every dandelion. Her thanksgiving for simple beauty was an act of savoring. Once at the Krispy Kreme, teaching all of them how to savor the warm goodness of a hot glazed donut was another lesson.

These memories of lessons on savoring bring me back to gratitude and how often I can lose sight of what, and whom, I am thankful for on a given day. Last week I received the news that a dear friend, and previous colleague, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. Her name is Margaret, and I would ask you to pray for her, and her family, as she begins chemo today. Prior to this diagnosis, she was coming to visit this weekend. That trip is no more. She has a care team, and all the right people in place, but wow, has her life shifted in the blink of an eye. She teaches me as she ends our time on the phone with a recitation of the things and the people for whom she is grateful. It is a soul rending practice of gratitude to witness in the face of her diagnosis.

My encouragement for the day is this, “Be thankful.”

Today’s newsletter is Kathee Winstead’s last as our faithful editor. When Kathee and Don moved to Alexandria, outside Washington DC, and away from Tallahassee, she learned a new software called Publisher and sent a newsletter to the family. Those skills she learned were God’s preparation for a calling to this church. God does the preparing, we follow. And Kathee has been faithful to following in answering the call to produce a newsletter regularly for years. Please join me in saying thank you to God for Kathee, and to Kathee for her faithful discipleship for this church.

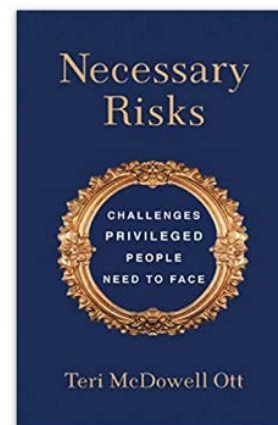
In the communications transition over the Summer, the website and social media will become our primary vehicles for communication. In addition, CAT teams, a small group of congregants led by an elder, are being activated for several projects. Look for a call or email from your elder to ask for your information for the church rolls.

**God’s Peace,
God’s Presence,
Anne**

A Summer Project:

One is a congregational book study, reading together, [*Necessary Risks: Challenges Privileged People Need to Face*](#) by Teri McDowell Ott who is the editor of the Presbyterian Outlook. Tip Tomberlin and Anne Apple will facilitate a five week Wednesday Book study - June 28th until July 26th. (12:00-1:00 in the Calvin Room and 6:30-7:30 p.m. by Zoom.) *If you need help with the purchase of this book, please contact me by email, Anne@OldFirstChurch.org. Midtown Reader was unable to order as they do not support the publisher of the book.

You will find this book on Amazon [here](#).





County Commission Action on Homelessness

At its workshop on homelessness on May 23rd, the Leon County Commission adopted a proposal submitted by the Compassion and Social Justice Ministry Team at First Pres calling for a broad-based citizens' commission on homelessness. The commission would be tasked with developing a 10-year plan for dealing with homelessness complete with specific services and programs targeted for given years in the plan.

Adoption was the culmination of months of advocacy effort by the First Pres team. Members met with every county commissioner and four of the five city commissioners as well as city and county staff and others in the homeless community.

The C&SJ team is now working with the county staff and the Big Bend Continuum of Care on implementing the proposal as well as other outreach, service and advocacy projects. If you would like to join our efforts in dealing with local homelessness, please contact Carol Weissert at cweissert@fsu.edu. It can be very rewarding.



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 another day in the small conference room next to the Church office. Thank you to everyone for your tremendous generosity.

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





Check out some new books for children in the Christy Williams library! In the coming weeks, the Healing Racism Task Force will donate children's books addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Please check often for updates. If you are interested in a list of suggested books, contact a member of the Task Force.



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.



**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), 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



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 or 850-656-3659.

We hope you can join us some time soon.



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 or

go to the Sign Up Genius page directly at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-grace1>

Hope you can join us.



Sunday Festival Readings

**JUNE 4, 2023
TRINITY SUNDAY**

GENESIS 1:1-2:4A

PSALM 8

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

MATTHEW 28:16-20

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.**