



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Church School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.
110 North Adams Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301
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JANUARY 2, 2017

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the choirs, staff, ministry teams and all who worked behind the scenes for the beautiful music and thoughtful services and activities you gave to our congregation throughout Advent and Christmas day.

We are truly grateful for your magnificent gifts!



Lunch Bunch for College-aged Young Adults

Following worship on January 8, 2017



Submit items for publication to:
newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org
no later than **noon** on the
Monday of publication.



Two Cents-a-Meal



We hope 2017 will be the year that everyone participates in two cents-a-meal. Together our small contributions add up and make a difference in the lives of people facing hunger and poverty.

The elementary students will receive your two cents-a-meal contributions Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.

Coffee Sunday January 8, 2017

Fair trade coffee may be purchased after the worship service in the education building conference room.

This is a mission of the Presbyterian Church and here at Old First Church \$1.00 per bag goes to Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

February 5 March 5 April 2 May 7
June 4 July 2 September 3
October 1 November 5 December 3

EXTRA 2017 CALENDARS

This is the time of year when many of us receive unsolicited calendars along with a request for another donation from charities that we support. Grace Mission Church is collecting calendars to distribute to their congregants. If you have any calendars that you won't use in the coming year, please bring them to church and leave them on the table outside the office so that they can be delivered to Grace. Thanks for this simple act of sharing with our homeless neighbors!

Grace Mission Volunteers

needed from
8:15-10:15 AM.

Please let Peggy West
(pwest11@juno.com) or Denise
Birch (denisebirch@aol.com) know
if you are available to help on
January 14 February 11
March 11 April 8 May 13
June 10 July 8 August 12
September 9 October 14
November 11 December 9



Pastor's Column by Brant S. Copeland

It must be admitted that the Reformed Tradition has been suspicious of mystical or contemplative Christianity. I find the writings of Richard Rohr, an American Franciscan friar, very helpful, however. I commend his daily meditations to you.

Perhaps you might sign up to receive them as a [spiritual practice in 2017](https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/). (https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/)

Here's a little from his meditation for January 1:

The majority of Christians are not highly transformed people, but tend to reflect their own culture more than they operate as any kind of leaven within it. I speak especially of American Christians, because I am one. But if you are from another country, look at the Christians where you live and see if the same is true there.

Let's be honest: religion has probably never had such a bad name. Christianity is now seen as "irrelevant" by many and often as part of the problem more than any kind of solution. Some of us are almost embarrassed to say we are Christian because of the negative images that word conjures in others' minds. Young people especially are turned off by how judgmental, exclusionary, impractical, and ineffective Christian culture seems to be. The church seems hostile toward most science (the objective outer world) and thus unable to talk about its inner dimensions with any authority. As we saw in the recent U.S. election, Christians overall showed little prophetic or compassionate presence.

. . . We must rediscover what St. Francis called the "marrow of the Gospel." It's time to rebuild *from the bottom up*. If the foundation is not solid and sure, everything we try to build on top of it is weak and ineffective. Perhaps it's a blessing in disguise that so much is tumbling down around us. It's time to begin again.

The new year will bring many challenges for First Church – and for all Christians in this nation. May God grant us wisdom, courage, and discernment to live out the gospel.



Extended Communion

The Worship Team, along with the Care and Outreach Team, has been providing extended communion to members for the past year. This is an "extension" of worship, so it happens as soon as possible after worship on a designated Sunday. Any member who cannot be in worship because of mobility or health issues, even temporarily, is welcome to let us know that he or she would like to receive extended communion.

On the days it is offered, a pair of trained elders will visit you after worship. It takes about 20 minutes. Extended family members who may be present are invited to participate just as they might if they attended church with you.

This year, the first date for extended communion was January 8th. The remaining dates for 2017 are April 23, June 4, and October 1.

If you or a family member are not currently receiving extended communion and would like to receive it, please call the church office, 222-4504.

Lectionary Readings

January 8, 2017
Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:15-17



ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES All classes begin at 9:15 AM

The Adult Bible Class
(Calvin Room, Room 202)

We'll continue our study of the Gospel of Mark with Chapter — Chapter . We'll read the scripture and discuss its meaning for our lives today. Please join us or feel free to drop in on the class as your schedule permits.

Inquirers

(Westminster Room, #208)

The Inquirers will engage in lively group conversations as we explore provocative theological and spiritual insights of the [Living the Questions 2.0 DVD series](#) (follow hyperlink for overview). The 21-sessions are from the same LTQ team that produced the popular *Painting the Stars* series we used last spring. John has emailed copies of "LTQ2-SessionMaterial-Binder1.PDF." If you do did not get your copy, please contact the church office. This week's background: pp. 1-9.

Hearing and Sharing the Word
(Conference Room)



Prayer Chain Ministry

One of the ministries of First Church is a prayer chain that responds to specific needs of our members and friends at any time. Whenever there is a specific need and desire for prayer, you can contact the coordinator at gibsond1207@gmail.com. It might be for someone who is anticipating surgery or recovering from illness; it might be for someone preparing for a job interview; it might be thanksgiving for the birth of a child or a significant anniversary. Once the coordinator knows of a need, it will be relayed to the prayer chain for the volunteers in that ministry to hold up the specific concerns or celebrations in prayer for as long as is needed. If you would like to join this intentional ministry of prayer, send an email to gibsond1207@gmail.com to be added to the list.



Childcare at FPC
on Sunday Mornings

Our nursery and preschool rooms are staffed by childcare providers from the Heavenly Helpers Agency. These childcare professionals are background checked and trained in infant/child first aid and CPR. They are present in both rooms from 9:00 a.m. – Noon each Sunday.

Main Floor Nursery: Our nursery is for infants and toddlers up to three years old. Parents can drop children off beginning at 9:15 a.m. and children will be cared for through the worship hour. There is a sign in sheet for parents to list who will be picking their child up, an emergency phone number and any particular needs the child may have while in the church's care. Children should come with a bottle or sippy cup, preferred snack and diapers. Diaper wipes and additional snacks are available.

Preschool Class: Beg inning at age three, children attend our preschool class. There are four teachers who rotate responsibilities for preparing and leading the church school lesson during the church school hour, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. There are two Heavenly Helper caregivers in the classroom helping the teacher. At 10:30 children have snack and the teachers leave to attend worship and the caregivers stay to supervise and interact with the children as they enjoy the housekeeping, block town, train set, light board and other centers in the room.

Care for children lasts through the worship hour.



Rebekah circle

will meet on Tuesday, January
10th at 10:00 am.

Rochelle Davis

will host our meeting.

Mary Jane Mayo

will lead our Bible study.

JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	Comments
Sunday Schedule	9:00	Nursery Opens	Education Building	Care for children last through the worship hour.
	9:15 a.m.	Church School Classes	Education Building	Adult Bible Class/Inquirers Class/Hearing & Sharing the Word
	10:45 a.m.	Lord's Day Service	Sanctuary	All are welcome.
Wednesday Choir	4:00	Beginning Choristers	St. John's Church	
Rehearsals	4:30	Choristers	S. John's Church	
	7:30	Adult Choir	First Presbyterian	
Sunday, Jan. 8		Baptism	Sanctuary	Emilia Louise Rosica
	Noon	College Lunch Bunch	First Presbyterian	Meet us in the courtyard after Worship Service
		Extended Communion		
Monday, Jan. 9	6:00	Ministry Night	Education Building	Light dinner provided, no registration required.
Wednesday, Jan. 11	5:45	Midweek Enrichment	Westminster Room	Please call 222-4504 by noon on Mon. 9th to register.
Sunday, Jan. 15	Noon	Session Meeting	Westminster Room	
Monday, Jan. 16		Church Office Closed		In Observation of the Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.
Tuesday, Jan. 17	5:15	Preschool Board Meeting	Calvin Room	
Wednesday, Jan. 18	5:45	Midweek Enrichment	Westminster Room	Please call 222-4504 by noon on Tues. 17th to register.
Monday, Jan. 23	6:00	PWCT	Calvin Room	