



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. Children's classes gather for music in room 307.**
- 9:45 a.m. Preschool and Elementary School classes begin in their respective rooms**
- 11:00 a.m. LORD'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE**
 Children and vaccinated adults with masks are welcome in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children younger than kindergarten.
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group**

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Monday-Friday

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
MAY 9, 2022



Celebrating Graduating Seniors High School Senior Prom

Last week we saw them in worship, this week they celebrated their senior year at Lincoln's Prom. Pictured are: Ethan Tozer, Thomas Kennedy, Camille Peterman and Gabi Bynum.



Saturday, May 14, 2022

5 pm Hymn Festival at First Presbyterian

6:15 pm Drinks and hors d'oeuvres at St. John's Episcopal

7 pm Dinner and program at St. John's Episcopal

The hymn festival is free of charge.

Ticket sales for the events at St. John's have closed, but anyone is welcome at the hymn festival - no RSVP or ticket required.

There will be childcare for children five and under during the hymn festival. Please contact christy@oldfirstchurch.org if you are planning to bring your children to the nursery.



Pastor's Column

By Rev. Margaret Fox

It's good to be back with you after my vacation; I appreciated the time away. I'm still catching up on my return, and so for today's column I'll simply share references from yesterday's sermon.

I began by quoting from a New York Times opinion column written in memory of a friend's mother by his sister-in-law. Here's the link to the article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/06/opinion/mothers-day-grief.html>. It's a beautiful piece about the love and loss, pains and pleasure of family.

The quote about abortion came from Rev. David Barnhart, a United Methodist pastor. <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/10357009-the-unborn-are-a-convenient-group-of-people-to-advocate>.



Sunday Festival Readings

MAY 15, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 11:1-18 OR
LEVITICUS 19:9-18
PSALM 148:1-14 OR
PSALM 24:1-6
REVELATION 21:1-6
JOHN 13:31-35



Welcoming Ministry

If you are interested in joining the dedicated and enthusiastic group of people who welcome new members and visitors, please let the Care and Outreach team know by contacting Linda Smith at 7Yodanana7@gmail.com. We are happy for any suggestions about improving our outreach to those who may be considering making this their church home.

City Clean Energy Plan Report to City Commission May 11, 2022

May 11, the city utility staff is providing a report to the City Commission on its Clean Energy Plan work to shift our community to 100% renewable energy. The report is available at URL:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/fla/talgov/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CDDHMD492589>.

You should be proud of what your city is doing and if you have a chance, please thank our City Commissioners and Mayor for their continued support for this vitally important transition. As a member of Tally100 Technical Advisory Committee that is reviewing the options for switching our utility to 100% renewable energy, I can share with you that is not easy and in many ways it is groundbreaking as the city and its consultant try to predict how to meet our energy needs without fossil fuels in 2050. Also please note the work underway to help “the least of these” make the transition. This too is tough.

Pam McVety

Fossil Fuel Divestment, Climate Change & General Assembly Webinar

Thursday, May 12, 2022

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Eastern (4:00 - 5:00 Pacific)

Presenters: Rob Fohr (MRTI Staff), Kerri Allen (MRTI Chair), Katie Carter (MRTI staff), abby mohaupt (Fossil Free PCUSA and GreenFaith), and Moderator Bruce Gillette (Presbyterians for Earth Care)

All Presbyterians, especially Commissioners and Advisory Delegates (Youth and Seminary), are invited to a zoom webinar on Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. Eastern, for an evening exploring fossil fuel divestment with leaders from PCUSA's Mission Through Responsible Investment (MRTI) and Fossil Fuel PCUSA.

Since 2014, Presbyterians around the country have been working to have the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Foundation and Board of Pensions divest their multi-billion-dollar investments from the fossil fuel industries as a way to counter the growing climate change crisis. Others have opposed these efforts, so divestments have not happened. For the first time, the PCUSA's Mission Through Responsible Investment (MRTI) and Presbyterian Mission Agency Board are recommending to the 2022 General Assembly to divest from five major oil companies (PC-Biz). MRTI had recommended divestment from three companies in 2020 (but no action was taken). This proposed divestment action is not done by Presbyterians alone. On February 22, news reported that Fossil fuel divestment movement hits \$40 trillion in represented assets.

"The Time is Now to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up," Presbyterians for Earth Care's overture, supported by ten Presbyteries and a Synod (PC-Biz), urges more action, more quickly, by directing that "all PCUSA-controlled financial investments be withdrawn from industries that contribute to the production of the two major greenhouse gasses, CO2 and methane." The overture further calls for the church's financial institutions to "increase investment in low carbon emission renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage in ways that complement policies to transition workers in our present fossil fuel industry into "green" and sustainable energy sector employment."

The urgency for action to counter climate change is clear. Lancet published a report "Climate Change Already Causes 5 Million Extra Deaths Per Year" (U.S. News & World Report, July 8, 2021). "Extreme weather affected more than 14.5 million homes in the United States last year, causing an estimated \$56.92 billion in property damage, according to a report by CoreLogic, a property information and analytics provider. The findings drive home the devastating toll of disasters – including hurricanes, floods and wildfires – that are becoming more common and costly because of climate change" ("Weather disasters affected 1 in 10 homes in the country last year, report finds" Washington Post, February 17. The 2016 PC(USA) General Assembly and an overwhelming number of Presbyteries voted to amend the Book of Order by adding the phrase "caring for God's creation" as a basic responsibility of all Presbyterians.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



This year the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering celebrates a 100 years of generous giving. Over the last century, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people in the United States and around the world.

This centennial year two wonderful projects have been selected to receive the PW Birthday Offering gifts.

1. After Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the earthquake in 2020, the Presbyterian Church in Lares, Puerto Rico became the principal location in the community for food, purified water, and personal items. The church is in need of some very essential upgrades. With the Birthday Offering grant they will be able to renovate and refurbish the kitchen. They will be able to buy all new appliances and replace the old wiring, plumbing and lighting. They will also install solar panels and a heavy duty generator to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.

2. The McCleary House in Farmington, Maine is also in need of some significant renovations. With Birthday Offering grant money they will be able to refurbish this home which provides transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness. The home provides a warm, safe place for 3 to 4 families to live over the course of a year while providing psycho-social, education and vocational training.



The church directory and current prayer concerns are now available on our website on a password-protected page for members of the congregation.

You do not have to set an individual password. If you would like to be able to access this information as it is updated, please call Lori Touchton in the church office for the password. We ask that you do not circulate the password outside the congregation.

The majority of our website pages are accessible without a password - in other words, you do not need a password to continue viewing information on the website. The only pages that will require a password, for now, are the church directory and the prayer concerns.



Our New Emergency Operation Fund

The pandemic taught that unexpected emergencies can bring major disruptions to personal and church budgets. The federal stimulus package was a one-time deal and it helped our church make it through the worst of the pandemic when pledges and giving declined. Salaries, utilities, insurance, and facility maintenance expenses still needed to be paid. Fortunately, we didn't experience a hurricane with its large insurance deductible. To provide a mechanism to address future emergencies, the Session approved the creation of an Emergency Operation Fund for unplanned events. The purpose of this fund is to allow the church to subsist through unforeseen revenue shortfalls or one-time expenses. A target minimum size of the fund is our three months operational budget or approximately \$150,000. This fund is now part of our Legacy and Gifts Plan that also includes the Endowment Fund, the Outreach Fund, the Facilities Reserve Fund, and the Christian Education Fund. But, we need to get some money into the fund. If you wish to make a contribution, please note "Emergency Operation Fund" on your check, or contact our church accountant Jim Davis for details.



Nursery and Preschool Childcare

Sitters from Twinkle Toes Childcare agency are staffing our nursery. These sitters are all: background checked, CPR/First Aid trained and vaccinated. Two additional sitters from Twinkle Toes staff the Preschool class.

When we are in-person for church school, 9:15 - Noon, Twinkle Toes sitters will be in the building ready to care for infants through two-years-old in the church nursery. Children aged three - pre-K will be in the preschool class and will be greeted by additional Twinkle Toes sitters.

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter
of
First Presbyterian
Church

**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 the Monday of publication.**

Presbytery of Florida

produces a monthly electronic newsletter that you may access using this link:

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)





ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL MAY 15, 2022



Adult Church School in Room 206 and on Zoom!
Meet and greet: Sunday at 9:15 AM
Program starts: Sunday at 9:30 AM

While the Westminster Room is under construction (through the end of May), we will meet next door in Room 206. Everyone is welcome to join us there OR you can connect to the “hybrid” class on Zoom.

This week we conclude our conversation about the Belhar Confession, which in 2016 was approved as the latest addition to the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). What does it say about our witness to unity, reconciliation, and justice in Tallahassee and the world?

Be on the lookout for John's Thursday afternoon email with materials from our May 8 class, background reading, and the Zoom link for connecting online. If you have not been getting the Thursday emails, please contact office@oldfirstchurch.org so we can get you on the list.

All are welcome! Each Zoom meeting opens new opportunities to learn and share — whether you've attended previously or not.

As in worship, for your safety and as a courtesy to others, we ask all who attend in person to wear masks, respect social distance and, if eligible, be fully vaccinated.

Our program begins promptly at 9:30 AM and ends by 10:30 AM.

After class, those who meet in person can enjoy coffee and fellowship in the courtyard before worship at 11:00 AM.





PROTECT YOUR VOTE

Due to a change in Florida law, Supervisor of Elections Mark S. Earley is contacting some voters by mail asking for information missing from your voter registration record. This is not junk mail!

According to the Supervisor's website, there is no deadline for submission of the information, but your Healing Racism Task Force wants to encourage you to comply. It is important to make sure that our Supervisor of Elections office is not vulnerable to unfounded allegations of fraud or voting irregularities, and it is always important to protect your right to vote.

Fill out the back of your letter and mail it or drop it off at one of the Supervisor of Elections offices.

OR

Go to [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.registertovoteFlorida.gov)

OR

Call the helpful employees at the Supervisor Elections office at (850) 606-8683.

MAY 15

Arrive at Grace Mission at 3:45 p.m. to serve dinner. I think we will be done before 6. More details to come.

MAY 22

Celebrating our Seniors Night.



Healing Racism Task Force

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. on zoom. If you would like to join our work, contact Deborah Whisnant.



Gifts can be made [online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Old First Church Book Group



**Thursday, May 26 at
7:00 p.m.**

Resurrecting Church: Where Justice and Diversity Meet Radical Welcome and Healing Hope
by John Cleghorn

The author has confirmed that he WILL be with us to talk about his book and his experience in turning around a declining church in Charlotte, NC by liberating himself, and his congregation from the myopia of white privilege.

This is a story of unexpected hope and imagination for those wondering about the future of the church – or whether it has one. Caldwell Presbyterian Church's story offers a vision of what it can mean to hold together diversity and justice as we navigate days in which we are constantly challenged to give up both.

If you want a copy of the book, contact Christy@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 1-15, 2022

Sunday, May 1

Third Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Exod. 18:1-12
1 John 2:7-17
Mark 16:9-20

Monday, May 2

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Exod. 18:13-27
1 Pet. 5:1-14
Matt. (1:1-17) 3:1-6

Tuesday, May 3

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Exod. 19:1-16
Col. 1:1-14
Matt. 3:7-12

Wednesday, May 4

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Exod. 19:16-25
Col. 1:15-23
Matt. 3:13-17

Thursday, May 5

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Exod. 20:1-21
Col. 1:24-2:7
Matt. 4:1-11

Friday, May 6

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Exod. 24:1-18
Col. 2:8-23
Matt. 4:12-17

Saturday, May 7

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Exod. 25:1-22
Col. 3:1-17
Matt. 4:18-25

Sunday, May 8

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Exod. 28:1-4, 30-38
1 John 2:18-29
Mark 6:30-44

Monday, May 9

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Exod. 32:1-20
Col. 3:18-4:6 (7-18)
Matt. 5:1-10

Tuesday, May 10

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Exod. 32:21-34
1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matt. 5:11-16

Wednesday, May 11

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Exod. 33:1-23
1 Thess. 2:1-12
Matt. 5:17-20

Thursday, May 12

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Exod. 34:1-17
1 Thess. 2:13-20
Matt. 5:21-26

Friday, May 13

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
Evening: Pss. 49; 138
Exod. 34:18-35
1 Thess. 3:1-13
Matt. 5:27-37

Saturday, May 14

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
Evening: Pss. 23; 114
Exod. 40:18-38
1 Thess. 4:1-12
Matt. 5:38-48

Sunday, May 15

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36
Heb. 12:1-14
Luke 4:16-30

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