

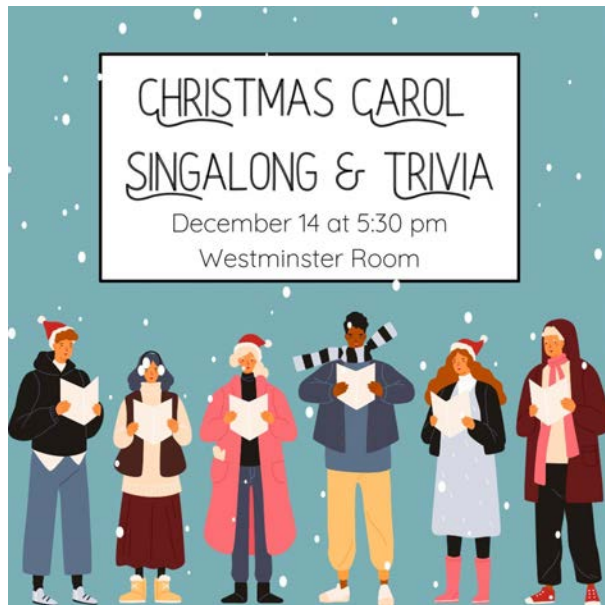
FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF

First Presbyterian Church



DECEMBER 5, 2022



December 14 is your opportunity to rebel against the liturgical calendar and indulge in all things Christmas! Following dinner and fellowship, we will alternate between Christmas carol singalongs and trivia rounds, so there's something for singers, brainiacs, and everyone else of all ages to enjoy. Prizes will be awarded to our trivia champions and the most creative team name. As an added bonus, our very own Ethan Murphy will emcee! You won't want to miss this festive evening.

Please RSVP via this sign-up genius link so we get a final headcount for food:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eab-a62ba0fe3-christmas>

(if you have trouble with the sign-up genius, email Emily Bruno at bruno.emilyann@gmail.com)

First Presbyterian Church
110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone (850) 222-4504 Fax (850) 222-2215
email: office@oldfirstchurch.org
website: www.oldfirstchurch.org
www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

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.

Younger Children's Class
Room 306

Older Children's Class
Room 301

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



The Session is excited to announce the hiring of Elizabeth LaJeunesse as organist at First Church. Elizabeth will start on January 4 and begin her leadership in worship on January 8.

Elizabeth Landrum LaJeunesse, a Tallahassee native, holds degrees in Choral Music Education (B.Mus.Ed.) and Organ Performance (M.M.) from the Florida State University, where she studied with André Thomas, Carolyn Bridger, and Michael Corzine. Over nearly three decades as a church musician, she has served as organist for Fellowship Presbyterian, Trinity United Methodist, and St. John's Episcopal Churches. Elizabeth has accompanied for many Leon County schools, and continues to serve Leon High School (of which she is a proud alumna) as staff accompanist for both the choral and band programs. She has also collaborated with the TSO chorus, Tallahassee Civic Chorale, the FSU Chamber Choir, University Singers, Men's and Women's Glee, Vocal Jazz ensemble, and FSU summer music camps. She frequently joins the Tallahassee Community Chorus and FSU choirs as a continuo harpsichordist, accompanies an All-State Chorus annually for the Florida Vocal Association, and has appeared as a guest service organist and recitalist at several churches throughout the southeast. She maintains an active schedule as a freelance collaborative pianist and organist, particularly enjoying her frequent collaborations with the FSU saxophone studio. Elizabeth has three adult children, Cassie, Alex, and Ellie (all of whom are musical), and she enjoys all things spooky and true crime-related, traveling (especially trips to Disney and the beach), and hanging out with her beloved hound, April.

"I am thrilled to be joining the staff of First Presbyterian! My high school teacher and mentor, the incomparable Judy Arthur, encouraged me to take organ lessons after I graduated from Leon, and I was immediately hooked. I was inspired to further my studies after hearing the dedication recital of the Taylor & Boody, and the opportunities I've had to play it over the years have brought me so much joy! I look forward to getting to know the people of this wonderful congregation, and settling into my new church home. It will truly be a privilege to help lead worship every week in this beautiful space with such a stunning instrument. Many thanks to the search committee for giving me this opportunity-Soli Deo Gloria!"

Longing for Hope

Week Two: Peace - The Promise of Potential

Wednesday, December 7th

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag

5:30pm Las Posadas ([Sign-Up](#))

Week Three: Joy - The Journey Towards Joy

Sunday, December 11th

11:00am Worship

Wednesday, December 14th

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag

5:30pm Christmas Carols and Trivia ([Sign Up](#))

Week Four: Love - The Gift

Sunday, December 18th

11:00am Worship with Box Lunch and Caroling
following the service ([Sign-Up](#))

Wednesday, December 21st

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag





Caroling Sunday, December 18

Join us for a box lunch and caroling at Westminster Oaks and other locations on Sunday, December 18, immediately following worship! Just let us know to order a box lunch for you either on [Sign-Up Genius](#); by calling the church office; or sending Peggy an email at pwestdoodah11@gmail.com. We'll have water to drink but you can bring your favorite drink, if you prefer. If you need a veggie option instead of a meat sandwich, just let us know when you RSVP. We'll see you in the Westminster Room following worship on Sunday, December 18th. We'll have song books and plans, come and let's make a Joyful Noise together!



Give Your Friends a Gift They'll Love This Christmas or Anytime

Visit UKirk Tallahassee's Calvin Coffee House or buy a Calvin's gift card online. Calvin's serves delicious, fair trade, locally-roasted coffee drinks at a fair price, as well as noncoffee drinks such as flavored lemonades, tea, hot chocolate, and more. See what else is offered:

<http://ukirktallahassee.com/calvins.html>.





Las Posadas Dinner
Wednesday,
December 7th
5:30 pm
beginning in the
sanctuary

Please join us for our annual Las Posadas dinner!

Las Posadas commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. We will learn about the history of this tradition, take a similar journey as Mary and Joseph did through the grounds of the church, and will conclude with a celebration of tacos and a pinata!

Please RSVP through the following link so we know how many tacos to order:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4EABA62BA0FE3-lasposadas>

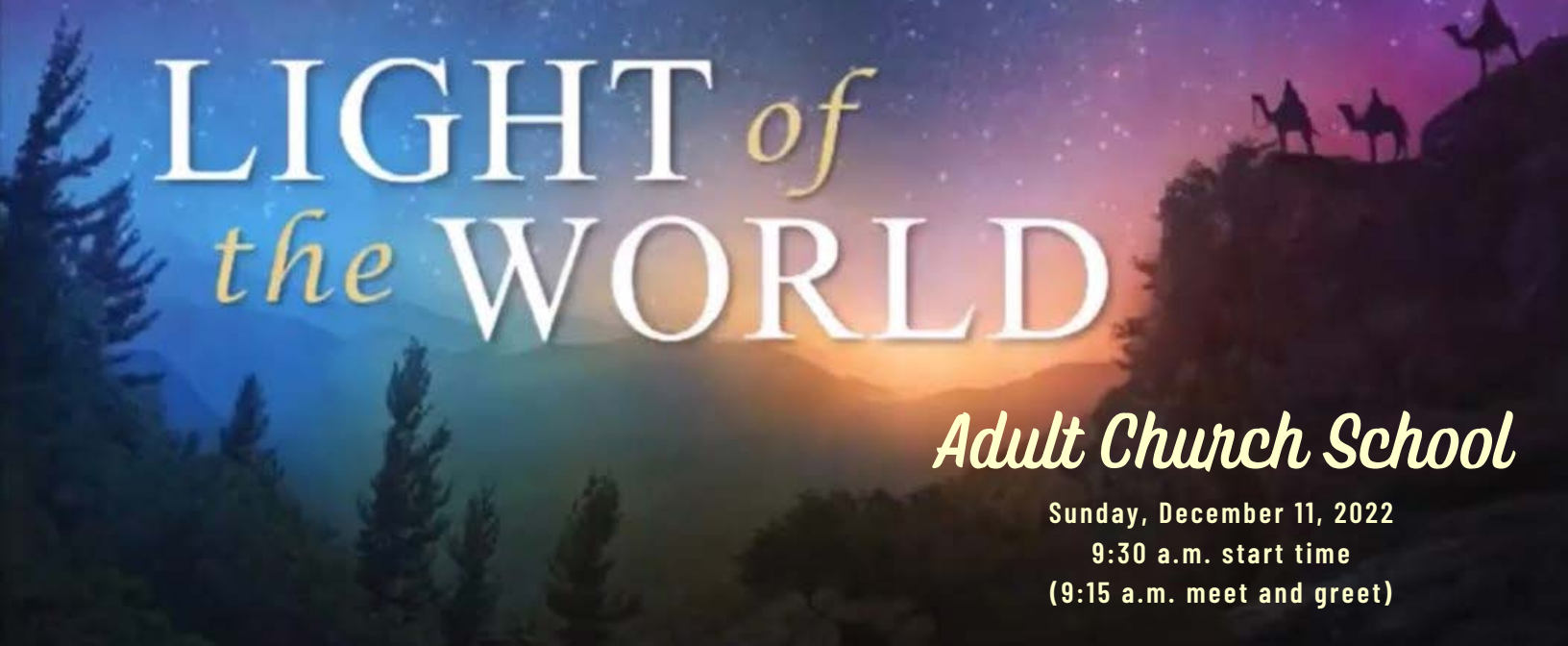


Advent Sign-Up Links

**December 7
Las Posadas
Sign-Up**

**December 11
Christmas Carols and
Trivia
Sign-Up**

**December 18
Caroling
Sign-Up**



LIGHT *of* *the* WORLD

Adult Church School

Sunday, December 11, 2022

9:30 a.m. start time

(9:15 a.m. meet and greet)

This Sunday, 12/11, the Adult Sunday School class continues our study of Amy Jill "AJ" Levine's "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent." This 4-week series traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. AJ Levine is a Bible scholar who describes herself as "an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who until 2021 taught New Testament in a Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt."

Our program this week, entitled "The Journey to Joy," invites us to reflect on the idea of caring for God as a newborn baby, understand the role of shepherds in historical and literary contexts, consider the marks of Jesus' Jewish identity, and explore the roles of Simeon and Anna in connecting the story of Israel to the story of Jesus.

Sunday Church School



DECEMBER 11, 2022



Younger Children's Class

9:30am Room 306

The Younger Children's Class (Pre-K - 3rd grade) will continue their exploration of Jesus' beginnings for the Advent season.

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301

The Older Children's Class (4th-8th grade) will continue to explore the people of the Old Testament, focusing on Elijah this week.

Nursery and Preschool Childcare

9:15 a.m. – the end of worship

Infants and children up to three years old – main floor nursery
Three – Pre-K children – third floor preschool classroom

The Twinkle Toes Agency staffs both rooms. All our sitters are CPR/First Aid trained and have had a full background screening. There are two sitters in each room. Please don't hesitate to contact Eleanor Cleveland at eicleveland18@gmail.com about childcare.



Old First Church Book Group
December 8
@ 7:00 PM
on Zoom

The last book club meeting of 2022 will be held on Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 via Zoom.

We will be discussing Kate Bowler's No Cure for Being Human. If you have read it or are just considering reading it, do join us. We will be holding our mortality front and center in this advent period, this mini-lent, to consider what surprising blessings suffering brings even as the suffering continues. In short, if you grieve during the holidays, this might be a discussion that helps you see hope amidst the pain.

Contact Peggy Wright-Cleveland at mwrightc@comcast.net or the church office to get on the book club list and receive the Zoom link.



**Food Offering
for Elder Care Services and
Second Harvest of the Big Bend
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023**

We will receive donated dry and canned food in the narthex on the first Sunday of the month. The items we collect will be given to Second Harvest of the Big Bend and Elder Care Services to support their much-needed efforts to feed the hungry in our community and the surrounding service area. 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**



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.



Join the Tallahassee Guns to Gardens Movement

Guns to Gardens is a grassroots ministry that safely and legally dismantles and destroys unwanted firearms. The remaining metal pieces are then forged into life-giving garden tools.

Interested in doing this prophetic work with us? All are welcome in the movement! We are especially looking for volunteers with any of the following skills and/or equipment:

- Comfort and experience with power tools
- Firearms safety training and comfort handling firearms
- Blacksmithing
- Welding
- Owns a metal-cutting chop saw
- Pastoral care



Contact us at:

gunstogardens@oldfirstchurch.org

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. - Isaiah 2:4

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



SERVING MEALS AT GRACE MISSION

First Pres has volunteered to help serve Sunday dinner at Grace Mission on the second Sunday of every month. The next date is **Sun. January 9**; 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.



SECOND HARVEST

BREAD BOXING

Friday January 7

from 9:45 - Noon

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in December, you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-second>

or

contact Debbie Gibson at gibsond1207@mail.com or 850-656-3659.

We hope you can join us some time soon.

Presbytery of Florida

produces a monthly electronic newsletter

that you may access using this link:

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



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 production Mondays; or, if possible, earlier the previous week.

 **PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  **OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

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

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Post-Hurricane Ian: Disaster Relief



1. Write checks to First Pres and designate FLDAPDAN or PDA US Hurricane Response.
2. Send funds directly to FLAPDAN at: Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc, 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609. Earmark your donation with Hurricane Ian. To give with a credit card you can click the page's "Give Now" link at [FLAPDAN's](#).
3. Send funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) marking your check with DR000169 for US Hurricane Response at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 64370, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Call PDA with a credit card donation at 800-872-3283 Or give with your credit card through the [PDA US Hurricane Response web page](#).
4. If you have or want to put together a mission team to go to the affected areas to help with recovery efforts, information found at [FLAPDAN Volunteer](#) will get you started.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact Presbytery FLAPDAN liaison Tim Crawford at tcrawford@cox.net or (850) 217-2597 or FLAPDAN directly at fla.pdan@pcusa.org or (941) 483-0675.



Sunday Festival Readings

December 11, 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH 35:1-10

PSALM 146:5-10

OR

LUKE 1:46B-55

JAMES 5:7-10

MATTHEW 11:2-11

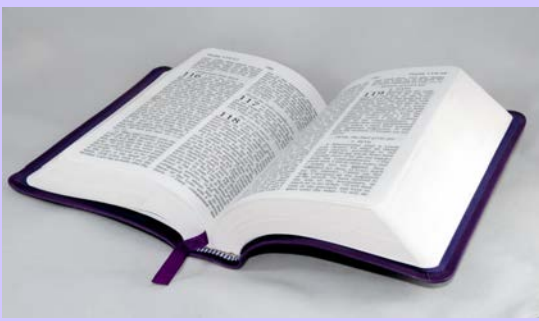


Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 DECEMBER 1-15 , 2022

Thursday, December 1

Morning: Pss. 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 2:5-22
Thess. 3:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Friday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 3:1-4:11
Thess. 4:1-12
Luke 20:41-21:4

Saturday, December 3

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 4:2-6
Thess. 4:13-1
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 11
Isa. 5:1-7
Pet. 3:11-18
Luke 7:28-3

Monday, December 5

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 6
Isa. 5:8-17
Thess. 5:1-11
Luke 21:20-28

Tuesday, December 6

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 5:18-2
1 Thess. 5:12-2
Luke 21:29-38

Wednesday, December 7

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 6:1-1
2 Thess. 1:1-12
John 7:53-8:11

Thursday, December 8

Morning: Pss. 18:1-20; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 7:1-
2 Thess. 2:1-1
Luke 22:1-13

Friday, December 9

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 7:10-2
2 Thess. 2:13-3:5
Luke 22:14-30

Saturday, December 10

Morning: Pss. 90; 14
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 8:1-15
2 Thess. 3:6-18
Luke 22:31-38

Sunday, December 11 **Third Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 13:1-13
Heb. 12:18-29
John 3:22-30

Monday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 6
Isa. 8:16-9:1
2 Pet. 1:1-11
Luke 22:39-53

Tuesday, December 13

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 9
Isa. 9:2-7
2 Pet. 1:12-21
Luke 22:54-69

Wednesday, December 14

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 53; 1
Isa. 9:8-17
Pet. 2:1-10
Mark 1:1-8

Thursday, December 15

Morning: Pss. 18:1-20;
147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 9:18-10:4
2 Pet. 2:10b-16
Matt. 3:1-12

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