

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



JANUARY 23, 2023

Art and Scripture:

reflection

January 29 at 9:30 am/ Westminster Room and on Zoom



with guest poet,
Andrew Butler
University of Tennessee

Adult Church School

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:30 a.m. start time

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

In the third installment of our Adult Sunday School Art and Scripture series, we turn to the theme of reflection. Andrew Butler, a poet working on his creative dissertation from the University of Tennessee, will join us to share some thoughts about writing and appreciating poetry. We will then again turn to the Visual Commentary on the Scripture to discuss art related to our theme.

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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.

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



A Message from Our Pastor **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**

The French philosopher, Fénelon advised, *"Accustom yourself to remain at peace in the depth of your heart, in spite of your restless imagination."* Theologian Howard Thurman muses on this phrase in a simple reflection found in his book, The Inward Journey. Thurman wonders if *"the stirring of energy in myriad forms of unstructured malevolences may well be the spirit of Life, of God at work in behalf of new life and perhaps a new creation on this planet."*

Scripture certainly poses places where we see God at work on behalf of new life in what seems to be unstructured malevolences. During last Sunday's Inquirer's Class examining "tension," we looked at artistic renderings of Hagar in the Wilderness. Reading the stories of Hagar, tension is found along the line between faith and fear. When she seems at her wits end in chapters 16 and 18 from Genesis, Hagar encounters angels of the Lord who ask probing questions.

Where have you come from?

Where are you going?

What troubles you?

Hagar is embittered with Sarai. Hagar feels unseen by God. Hagar pleads, "Do not let me look upon the death of my child." One of the images we examined of the figures of Hagar and Ishmael, before the well of water appears. Mother and child in the parched land. Raw vulnerability radiated from the image. One class member observed, "There is no water there. Without water, there is no possibility for life."

The way the Holy Spirit works in me is rooted in Scripture. I have asked the question of congregants, “How would you describe the last two years at First Presbyterian?” A common metaphor of response is “wandering in the wilderness.” In the tension of the last two years, I hear the Spirit calling through those three questions.

Where have you come from?

Where are you going?

What troubles you?

Those questions are good ones to connect with our baptismal calling. They are grounding questions which can lead to the strengthening of disciples for service with Christ and strengthening the mission of First Presbyterian Church. I believe that God is calling us to find that strength, and that reflecting through these three textual questions asked of Hagar can help us find a new way in God. The first is a reflective question, the second is a forward-looking question, and the third asks for an honest response to where God’s grace seems absent. I hope you might prayerfully consider these questions through a lens of Christ’s calling upon your life of service as a disciple at First.

And, a few technical remarks. Apparently - it’s football season. Tom Brady showed up in the friendship register! Thank you for listening, the gift of playful humor, and understanding a little bit about why those registers are important for the life of the church. We will have a new member joining! And if you are curious about when you will receive your financial statement, they will be available the week of February 10th.

God’s peace,
God’s presence,

Anne

Children's Church & School

JANUARY 29, 2023

Younger Children's Class

9:30am Room 306

Pre-K - 3rd grade

This week, the Younger Children will follow the lectionary, focusing on a lesson called "A Blessing Map."

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301

4th-8th grade

This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament, focusing on the Centurion.

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 eleanor@oldfirstchurch.org about childcare.



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.

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.

Presbytery of Florida



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

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



CALLING FOR COUNTING HELP



Every Sunday our financial offerings get counted, recorded and deposited in the bank. We have a dedicated group of members who perform this service, some of whom have been on counting teams for more than thirty years. But time and illnesses have taken their toll and we are in need of some new volunteers. We have four teams of two or three that rotate serving for a month each quarter. On most days the task can be accomplished in approximately 30 minutes or less. Please consider volunteering to serve on a team or as a backup. If you have questions call Jim Davis at the church or Norma Meier at 850-443-9925.



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



Upcoming Events

Dogwood Youth Conference (February 3–5) is a winter retreat bound to set faith on fire!

Led by college students at UKirk Tallahassee, middle and high school youth will be invited to consider the Matthew 25 scripture and how it impacts our lives. In-between the keynote addresses, worship, small group discussions and artistic renderings will be bonfires, s'mores, field games and hikes.

Learn more about this event:

<https://www.dogwoodacres.org/events/>

And we aren't just planning and facilitating retreats around Dogwood Acres! As the new year began, we have begun work on a new, ability-friendly, prayer/nature trail near the outdoor chapel, have had the road repaired, and have begun the process of renovating 4 more of our cabins! Many thanks to the hardworking staff and to volunteer James Vance for jumpstarting these projects in the new year. Thank you also to all of those in our Presbytery who generously supported Dogwood Acres in this past year.



Food Offering for Elder Care Services and Second Harvest of the Big Bend



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 been converted hundreds of meals for our hungry and food insecure neighbors. We have all seen the increased prices in the grocery store, and ECS food pantry organizer, Linda, recently shared that the need in our community now is even greater than it has been. So please mark your calendars now for our next food collection date on

Sunday, February 5, 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 BOXING

Friday February 3 from 9:45 - Noon

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in February, 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

First Pres has volunteered to help serve Sunday dinner at Grace Mission on the second Sunday of every month. The next date is **Sun. February 12**; 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

January 29, 2023

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

MICAH 6:1-8

PSALM 15

I CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

MATTHEW 5:1-12

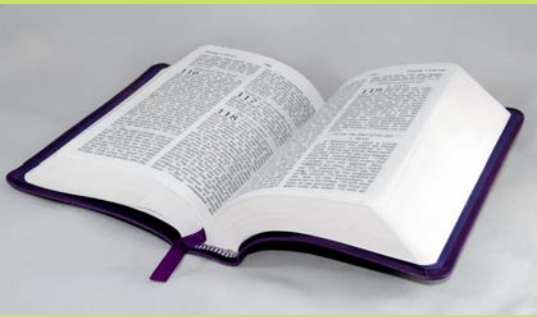
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 JANUARY 18- 31, 2023

Wednesday, January 18

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Isa. 44:24-45:7
Eph. 5:1-14
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 19

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Isa. 45:5-17
Eph. 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34

Friday, January 20

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Isa. 45:18-25
Eph. 6:1-9
Mark 4:35-41

Saturday, January 21

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Isa. 46:1-13
Eph. 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sunday, January 22

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Isa. 47:1-15
Heb. 10:19-31
John 5:2-18

Monday, January 23

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Isa. 48:1-11
Gal. 1:1-17
Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday, January 24

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Isa. 48:12-21 (22)
Gal. 1:18-2:10
Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday, January 25

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Isa. 49:1-12
Gal. 2:11-21
Mark 6:13-29

Thursday, January 26

Morning: Pss. 143; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Isa. 49:13-23 (24-26)
Gal. 3:1-14
Mark 6:30-46

Friday, January 27

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Isa. 50:1-11
Gal. 3:15-22
Mark 6:47-56

Saturday, January 28

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Isa. 51:1-8
Gal. 3:23-29
Mark 7:1-23

Sunday, January 29

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Isa. 51:9-16
Heb. 11:8-16
John 7:14-31

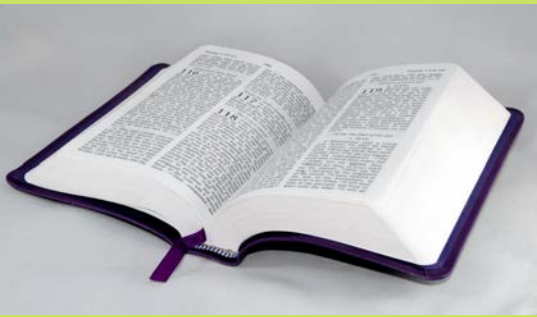
Monday, January 30

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Isa. 51:17-23
Gal. 4:1-11
Mark 7:24-37

Tuesday, January 31

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Isa. 52:1-12
Gal. 4:12-20
Mark 8:1-10

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



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 1- 15, 2023

Wednesday, February 1

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Isa. 52:13-53:12
Gal. 4:21-31
Mark 8:11-26

Thursday, February 2

Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Isa. 54:1-10 (11-17)
Gal. 5:1-15
Mark 8:27-9:1

Friday, February 3

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 4
Isa. 55:1-13
Gal. 5:16-24
Mark 9:2-13

Saturday, February 4

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 9
Isa. 56:1-8
Gal. 5:25-6:10
Mark 9:14-29

Sunday, February 5

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Isa. 57:1-13
Heb. 12:1-6
John 7:37-46

Monday, February 6

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Isa. 57:14-21
Gal. 6:11-18
Mark 9:30-41

Tuesday, February 7

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Isa. 58:1-12
2
Tim. 1:1-14
Mark 9:42-5

Wednesday, February 8

Morning: Pss. 89:1-18; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Isa. 59:1-21
2 Tim. 1:15-2:13
Mark 10:1-16

Thursday, February 9

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Isa. 60:1-22
2 Tim. 2:14-26
Mark 10:17-31

Friday, February 10

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Isa. 61:1-9
2 Tim. 3:1-17
Mark 10:32-45

Saturday, February 11

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 9
Isa. 61:10-62:5
2 Tim. 4:1-8
Mark 10:46-52

Sunday, February 12

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 11
Isa. 62:6-12
John 2:3-11
John 8:12-1

Monday, February 13

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 11
Isa. 63:1-6
1 Tim. 1:1-17
Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday, February 14

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 8
Isa. 63:7-14
1 Tim. 1:18-2:8 (9-15)
Mark 11:12-26

Wednesday, February 15

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 48;
Isa. 63:15-64:9
1 Tim. 3:1-16
Mark 11:27-12:12

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will find them on the PCUSA website [here](#).