

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
First Presbyterian Church



MARCH 13, 2023

Old First Church March Activities At a Glance

Wednesday, March 15

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard

Sunday, March 19

Congregational Meeting
following worship

Wednesday, March 22

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard

Sunday, March 26

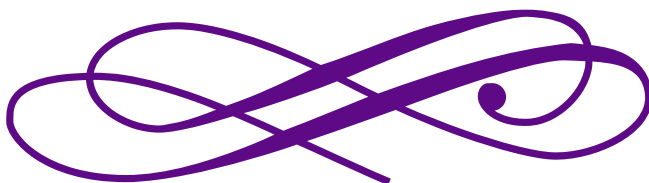
Presbyterian Women Mission
Workshop after Worship

See page 7.

Wholeness and Healing Service
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 29

Bible Study Luncheon Series
Noon in the Courtyard



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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



Pastor's Message Rev. Anne H.K. Apple



We live on the edge of Stiles Pond and we have been watching the 'greening' outside our living space as Lent and the church's theme of grounded has unfolded.

As a liturgical theologian and pastor, I know that green is the color for Ordinary Time into which we will travel after Eastertide. Ordinary Time has as its roots the Latin word, *orior*, which means to rise up, to be stirred up, to grow. As an untrained artist, I know green has many shades and is made from a mixture of yellow and blue. When our youngest daughter was born, we painted her room the color green called *Romaine*. In reading about color therapy, I'd learned that green was associated with healthy, female leadership so we thought we'd try to give her a good start. That said, we've also always painted every porch floor an almost midnight-sky-dark- green color called *Banshee* to partner with the porch ceiling's *haint-blue* to chase away the bugs and bad spirits.

In scripture, the readiest reference to green that comes to my mind is in the 23rd Psalm for God's action, *He makes me lie down in green pastures*. Allergies aside, that is a peaceful reference to God's work in us – we are made to rest in growing, green pastures. That specific green word in Hebrew is *deshe*. In the gospel of Mark, Jesus has the people sit down on the *green* grass before feeding the 5,000. He readies people for being nurtured by having them gather in a particular way. In Revelation, there is the 5th trumpet sounding and the locust coming out of the bottomless pit and being commanded to not harm any 'green' thing. Both Mark and Revelation use the term *chlores* for green. We get the connection to the word, *chlorophyll* which is the natural compound that gives green plants their color. Eckhart Tolle says, *The contemplation of nature can free one of the ego – the great troublemaker. Nature can bring you to stillness, that is its gift to you.*

As your interim pastor, it is a joy to be grown in Christ with each and all of you. After taking communion last week, Martha Miller exclaimed, *Joy. Joy. Joy!* It was a *greening* of faith moment as we shared extended communion.

You might have noticed that in Lent, before the Opening Voluntary, I am asking a question which is drawn from the phrase found in a common prayer of confession in the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, *Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed.* It is God's hopeful action that sets us free from a past that we cannot change, that opens to us a future in which we can be changed.

In his novel Lawn Boy Jonathan Evison, developing the narrator's character, describes a striking moment of disappointment with his father with this phrase, *that brief blossoming of expectation.* When I read it, I noticed the poetic nature of the phrase - but also felt drawn to the phrase in a sense of what I hope for our time together as interim and congregation. I don't long for the disappointment, I long for that sense of this congregation being readied for God's strong work that leads into the future. The greening of the vision and mission of First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee.

Poet Alfred Tennyson has a poem which includes this language about prayer, *More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day.* Please join me in praying for God's work in this season at First Presbyterian Church - that God's greening will grow grace upon grace.

**God's peace,
God's presence.
Anne**



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TALLAHASSEE

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Sunday, 2 April, 2023

Palm Sunday Communion Service 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

Gather in the courtyard for the procession of the palms

Wednesday, 5 April, 2023

Bible Study Luncheon Series Noon

Thursday, 6 April, 2023

Maundy Thursday Communion Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Friday, 7 April, 2023

Good Friday Simple Meal & Writing Exercise in Letting Go

5:00 p.m. - Westminster Room

Good Friday Worship Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Saturday, 8 April, 2023

Easter Saturday Vigil Communion Service

5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

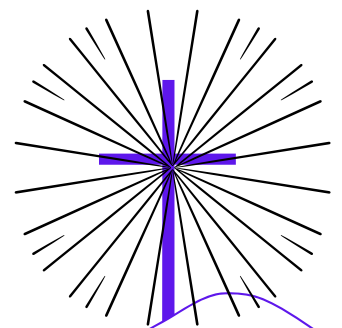
Easter Sunday, 9 April, 2023

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room

Easter Morning Communion Worship Service

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary



Children's Church School

MARCH 19, 2023

Younger Children's Class

9:30am Room 306

Pre-K - 3rd grade

This week, the Younger Children will follow the lectionary, in a lesson titled: *Jesus Heals a Blind Man.*

Older Children's Class

9:30am Room 301

4th-8th grade

This week, the Older Children will continue their journey through the New Testament: *Judas Iscariot.*



Adult Church School

Sunday, March 19, 2023
9:30 a.m. start time
(9:15 a.m. meet and greet)

This Sunday, we continue our "Grounding" Lenten series.





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.



Simple Supper and An Exercise in Letting Go
Good Friday 5:00 p.m. Westminster Room

Do you ever find yourself pondering, fretting or even agonizing over things or events in the past?

Things that cannot be changed can weigh us down and steal our joy; but, how do we let them go?

One ritual approach to letting go involves writing our grievance down and then burning the paper upon which it is written.

At Supper on Good Friday you will be asked to write a brief statement that begins,

This is what I need to let go, and let Christ take to the cross, that I might be born anew.

These writings will be nailed to the cross, and then at Saturday's Easter Vigil service – they will be put into the bonfire in the Garth.

If you are not able to participate in Friday's Supper, if you get your statement to the church office by Thursday, April 6th it will be included. You do not need to identify yourself on the statement.





March 26th
Presbyterian Women Mission Workshop
Speaker: Rev. Anne H.K. Apple
Experiences of Encounters of Mission
as a Presbyterian Woman

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch
Dessert and Beverage will be Provided

Everyone is invited - men, women, youth and children. Join us on March 26th immediately after Worship in the courtyard and Westminster Room for lunch, fellowship and mission work. We are excited that our guest speaker, Rev. Anne Apple, will speak with us about her encounters with mission as a Presbyterian Woman. If you can't attend in person, you can watch and hear Rev. Apple on Zoom after lunch as well.

Thank you to those who are already dropping off in the Calvin Room donated items for our workshop projects! Our first effort is to help refugee women and girls by making reusable personal hygiene kits. For this we need donations of 100% cotton briefs for women (sizes S,M,L) and girls (sizes 10, 12, 14, 16) in plain solid colors (no white, please) and without pictures or writing to respect cultural norms, and solid color washcloths (no white please). We are also accepting packages of disposable pads for school age girls.

For another Workshop project, PW is accepting donations of pre-wrapped packages of peanut butter crackers and breakfast/energy/or fruit bars to pair with bottled water to make small snack bags (decorated by Workshop children) for interested congregation members to share from our cars with hungry people on our streets. Another basket at the Workshop will support a street ministry for homeless people by collecting new toothbrushes and small toothpastes, small deodorants and dental floss to be given away. Other Workshop tables so far include a Care for the Earth information table with plant seeds and seedlings available to attendees, and our table to send greeting cards to those who we want to remember (names and addresses provided.)

Please plan to join us, and look for more details in next week's newsletter.
For questions, please call Jan Bush.





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 news-
letter that you may access using this link:

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



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, April 2, 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 April 7 from 9:45 - Noon

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in March, 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 **Sunday, April 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.



DOGWOOD ACRES Camp and Retreat Center

Dogwood Acres has plenty of excitement in store in the coming months, with registration now open for six different summer camp options, including a [week of camp specifically for high schoolers.](#)

Wondering what camp life is like?

Join in DWA's Open House

Saturday, April 15,

to experience a typical day in the life of a camper.

[Click here](#) for a shareable flier about the open house and summer camp. The first 10 interested families also can enjoy an overnight experience on Friday, April 14.

Find summer camp program details and online registration at www.dogwoodacres.org/summer/



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

Mark Your Calendars!

God Squad in 2 Weeks!

Friday, March 24th @ Noon
First Baptist Church
of Tallahassee

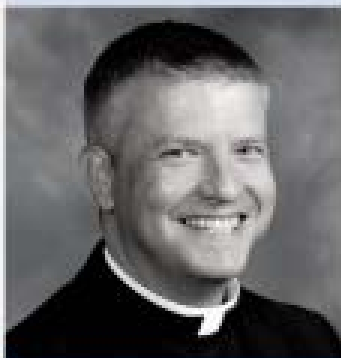
Political Football, Inc.

These days politicians aren't the only ones who have to state their opinion on every single political disagreement du jour. It seems like practically every religious, nonprofit and for-profit company has to do the same, with everyone from mom-and-pop operations to Fortune 500 companies forced to run the gauntlet through our cold civil war. Are you "us" or are you "them"? We'll talk about just how advisable this situation is and if there might be a better way.

Joining us will be Father Tim Holeda of St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral, Pastor Joe Davis, Jr. of Truth Gatherers Community Church, Stefanie Posner of Temple Israel, and Dr. Gary Shultz of First Baptist Church of Tallahassee.

Register below for free or to purchase a delicious lunch!

[Register Here](#)





Sunday Festival Readings

March 19, 2023

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

PSALM 23

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

JOHN 9:1-41

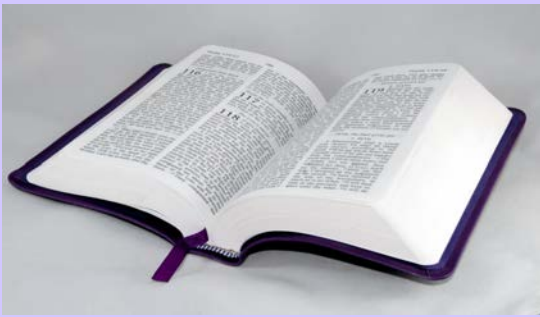
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

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 MARCH 1-17, 2023

Wednesday March 1

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Deut. 9:13-2
Heb. 3:12-1
John 2:23-3:15

Thursday, March 2

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102
Deut. 9:23-10:5
Heb. 4:1-10
John 3:16-21

Friday, March 3

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Deut. 10:12-22
Heb. 4:11-16
John 3:22-36

Saturday, March 4

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Deut. 11:18-28
Heb. 5:1-1
John 4:1-26

Sunday, March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150
Evening: Pss. 42; 32
Jer. 1:1-10
1 Cor. 3:11-23
Mark 3:31-4:9

Monday, March 6

Morning: Pss. 119:73-80;
145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6
Jer. 1:11-19
Rom. 1:1-15
John 4:27-42

Tuesday, March 7

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 91
Jer. 2:1-13, 29-32
Rom. 1:16-25
John 4:43-54

Wednesday, March 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Jer. 3:6-18
Rom. 1:(26-27) 28-2:11
John 5:1-18

Thursday, March 9

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 10
Jer. 4:9-10, 19-2
Rom. 2:12-24
John 5:19-29

Friday, March 10

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Jer. 5:1-9
Rom. 2:25-3:18
John 5:30-47

Saturday, March 11

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Jer. 5:20-3
Rom. 3:19-31
John 7:1-13

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

Sunday, March 12

Third Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150
Evening: Pss. 42; 32
Jer. 6:9-15
1 Cor. 6:12-20
Mark 5:1-20

Monday, March 13

Morning: Pss. 119:73-80;
145
Evening: Pss. 121; 6
Jer. 7:1-15
Rom. 4:1-12
John 7:14-36

Tuesday, March 14

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 9
Jer. 7:21-34
Rom. 4:13-25
John 7:37-5

Wednesday, March 15

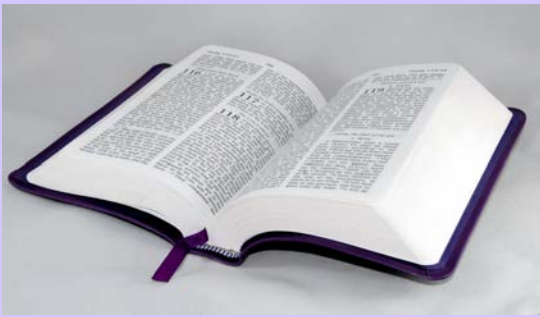
Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Jer. 8:4-7, 18-9:6
Rom. 5:1-11
John 8:12-20

Thursday, March 16

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102
Jer. 10:11-24
Rom. 5:12-21
John 8:21-32

Friday, March 17

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Jer. 11:1-8, 14-1
Rom. 6:1-11
John 8:33-47



DAILY LECTIONARY FOR MARCH 18-31, 2023

Saturday, March 18

Morning: Ps. 43; 149

Evening: Ps. 31; 14

Jer. 13:1-11

Rom. 6:12-23

John 8:47-59

Sunday, March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Morning: Ps. 84; 150

Evening: Ps. 42; 32

Jer. 14:1-9 (10-16) 17-22

Gal. 4:21-5:1

Mark 8:11-21

Monday, March 20

Morning: Ps. 119:73-80; 145

Evening: Ps. 121; 6

Jer. 16:(1-9) 10-21

Rom. 7:1-12

John 6:1-15

Tuesday, March 21

Morning: Ps. 34; 146

Evening: Ps. 25; 91

Jer. 17:19-27

Rom. 7:13-25

John 6:16-2

Wednesday, March 22

Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Ps. 27; 51

Jer. 18:1-11

Rom. 8:1-11

John 6:27-40

Thursday, March 23

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Ps. 126; 102

Jer. 22:13-23

Rom. 8:12-27

John 6:41-51

Friday, March 24

Morning: Ps. 22; 14

Evening: Ps. 105; 13

Jer. 23:1-8

Rom. 8:28-39

John 6:52-59

Saturday, March 25

Morning: Ps. 43; 149

Evening: Ps. 31; 143

Jer. 23:9-15

Rom. 9:1-18

John 6:60-71

Sunday, March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Morning: Ps. 84; 150 Evening:

Ps. 42; 32

Jer. 23:16-32

1 Cor. 9:19-27

Mark 8:31-9:1

Monday, March 27

Morning: Ps. 119:73-80; 145

Evening: Ps. 121; 6

Jer. 24:1-10

Rom. 9:19-33

John 9:1-17

Tuesday, March 28

Morning: Ps. 34; 146

Evening: Ps. 25; 91

Jer. 25:8-17

Rom. 10:1-13

John 9:18-4

Wednesday, March 29

Morning: Ps. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Ps. 27; 51

Jer. 25:30-38

Rom. 10:14-21

John 10:1-18

Thursday, March 30

Morning: Ps. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Ps. 126; 102

Jer. 26:1-16 (17-24

Rom. 11:1-1

John 10:19-42

Friday, March 31

Morning: Ps. 22; 148

Evening: Ps. 105; 130

Jer. 29:1 (2-3) 4-14

Rom. 11:13-24

John 11:1-27

or

John 12:1-10

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on your computer you
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