

FIRST TRUST EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND  
(the “Trust”)

FT VEST GOLD STRATEGY QUARTERLY BUFFER ETF  
(the “Fund”)

SUPPLEMENT TO THE FUND’S PROSPECTUS AND SUMMARY PROSPECTUS

DATED MARCH 15, 2024

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Fund’s Prospectus or Summary Prospectus, the Average Annual Total Return table in the section entitled “Annual Total Return” is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

**Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2023**

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>Since Inception</b>	<b>Inception Date</b>
Return Before Taxes	13.15%	1.53%	1/20/2021
Return After Taxes on Distributions	8.69%	0.10%	
Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares	7.74%	0.56%	
LBMA Gold Price (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	14.59%	3.91%	
S&P 500® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	26.29%	9.25%	

PLEASE KEEP THIS SUPPLEMENT WITH YOUR FUND PROSPECTUS AND  
SUMMARY PROSPECTUS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

## PROSPECTUS

### FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF

Ticker Symbol: BGLD

Exchange: Cboe BZX

FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF (the “Fund”) lists and principally trades its shares on the Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BZX” or the “Exchange”). Market prices may differ to some degree from the net asset value of the shares. Unlike mutual funds, the Fund issues and redeems shares at net asset value, only in large blocks of shares called “Creation Units.”

The Fund is a series of First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund (the “Trust”) and an actively-managed exchange-traded fund organized as a separate series of a registered management investment company.

**Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the shares are not redeemable securities of the Fund.**

**The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The Fund is designed to participate in positive price returns of the SPDR® Gold Trust (the “Underlying ETF”) up to a cap of 9.27% (before fees and expenses), while seeking to provide a buffer against losses between -5% and -15% (before fees and expenses) of the Underlying ETF (“Outcomes”) over the period from March 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024 (the “Target Outcome Period”). When the Fund’s fees and expenses are taken into account, the cap is 9.04% and the buffer is between -5.23% and -15.23%. The cap and buffer will be further reduced by any brokerage commissions, trading fees, taxes and extraordinary expenses not included in the Fund’s management fee. At the end of the Target Outcome Period, the Fund will reset for a new Target Outcome Period tied to the same Underlying ETF and buffer, but the cap may change based on market rates as of the start of the new Target Outcome Period. **The Fund seeks to achieve specified Outcomes but there is no guarantee that the Outcomes for a Target Outcome Period will be achieved. You may lose some or all of your money by investing in the Fund.** The Fund has characteristics unlike many other typical investment products and may not be suitable for all investors. It is important that investors understand the Fund’s investment strategy before making an investment in the Fund.

The Outcomes described in this prospectus are specifically designed to apply only if you hold shares on the first day of the Target Outcome Period and continue to hold them on the last day of the period. **If you purchase shares after the Target Outcome Period starts or sell your shares before the Target Outcome Period ends, you may receive a very different return based on the Fund’s current value.** Investors purchasing shares of the Fund after the Target Outcome Period begins can see their expected Outcome until the end of the period by visiting the Fund’s website, [www.ftportfolios.com/retail/etf/EtfSummary.aspx?Ticker=BGLD](http://www.ftportfolios.com/retail/etf/EtfSummary.aspx?Ticker=BGLD).

**NOT FDIC INSURED MAY LOSE VALUE NO BANK GUARANTEE**

March 1, 2024

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### Investment Objective

The investment objective of the FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF (the "*Fund*") is to seek to provide investors with returns (before fees and expenses) that match the price return of the SPDR® Gold Trust (the "*Underlying ETF*"), up to a predetermined upside cap of 9.27% while providing a buffer (before fees and expenses) against Underlying ETF losses between -5% and -15% over the period from March 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024.

### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy, hold and sell shares of the Fund. **Investors may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the table and example below.**

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	0.90%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.00%
Other Expenses	0.00%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.01%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0.91%</b>

### Example

The example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other funds.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then hold or sell all of your shares at the end of those periods. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain at current levels. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$93	\$290	\$504	\$1,120

### Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 0% of the average value of its portfolio.

### Principal Investment Strategies

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest substantially all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents, and in the shares of a wholly-owned subsidiary (the "*Subsidiary*") that holds FLEXible EXchange® Options ("*FLEX Options*") that reference the price performance of the SPDR® Gold Trust (the "*Underlying ETF*"). FLEX Options are customized equity or index option contracts that trade on an exchange, but provide investors with the ability to customize key contract terms like exercise prices, styles and expiration dates. The Underlying ETF is an exchange-traded investment trust that holds physical gold bars. World Gold Trust Services, LLC ("*WGTS*") serves as the Underlying ETF's sponsor and HSBC plc serves as the Underlying ETF's custodian. The Underlying ETF's custodian may utilize subcustodians that hold the Underlying ETF's gold on its behalf. The Underlying ETF is not expected to pay dividends. See "The Underlying ETF" for more information. The Fund's investment sub-advisor is Vest Financial LLC ("*Vest*" or the "*Sub-Advisor*").

The Subsidiary is wholly-owned by the Fund and is organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands. All investments in FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF will be undertaken by the Subsidiary. The Fund does not invest directly in FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF. The Fund gains exposure to these investments exclusively by investing in the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary is advised by First Trust Advisors L.P., the Fund's investment advisor, and sub-advised by Vest, the Sub-Advisor. The Fund's investment in the Subsidiary is intended to provide the Fund with exposure to gold, a commodity, within the limits of current federal income tax laws applicable to investment companies such as the Fund, which limit the ability of investment companies to invest directly in commodities. Although the Fund's FLEX Options positions provide exposure to the Underlying ETF, and

not gold directly, the Underlying ETF is a grantor trust and its shareholders are treated, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as if they directly owned a pro rata share of the Underlying ETF's assets. The Subsidiary has the same investment objective as the Fund, but unlike the Fund, it may invest without limitation in FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF. Except as otherwise noted, for purposes of this prospectus, references to the Fund's investments include the Fund's indirect investments through the Subsidiary. The Fund will invest up to approximately 25% of its total assets in the Subsidiary.

The Fund uses short-term U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents, and, through the Subsidiary, FLEX Options to employ a "target outcome strategy." Target outcome strategies seek to produce pre-determined investment outcomes based upon the performance of an underlying security or index. The pre-determined outcomes sought by the Fund, which include a buffer (before fees and expenses) against losses between -5% and -15% of the Underlying ETF and a cap of 9.27% (before fees and expenses), are based on the price performance of the Underlying ETF over an approximate three-month period (the "Target Outcome Period"). When the Fund's fees and expenses are taken into account, the cap is 9.04% and the buffer is between -5.23% and -15.23%. The cap and buffer will be further reduced by any brokerage commissions, trading fees, taxes and extraordinary expenses not included in the Fund's management fee. In general, the target outcomes the Fund seeks for investors that hold Fund shares for an entire Target Outcome Period are as follows, though there can be no guarantee these results will be achieved:

- If the Underlying ETF appreciates over the Target Outcome Period, the combination of the Fund's U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents, and the FLEX Options held by the Fund through the Subsidiary seeks to provide upside participation matching that of the Underlying ETF, up to a cap that is determined at the start of the Target Outcome Period. The cap for the current Target Outcome Period is 9.27%, prior to taking into account the Fund's fees and expenses.
- If the Underlying ETF decreases over the Target Outcome Period by up to 5% or less, the combination of the Fund's U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents and the FLEX Options held by the Fund through the Subsidiary provides a payoff at expiration that is intended to match that of the Underlying ETF up to -5% over the Target Outcome Period before fees and expenses (*i.e.*, the Fund's shareholders will bear all Underlying ETF losses between 0% and -5% on a one-to-one basis, meaning if the Underlying ETF loses 5%, the Fund loses 5%).
- If the Underlying ETF decreases over the Target Outcome Period by more than 5% but less than or equal to 15%, the combination of the Fund's U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents, and the FLEX Options held by the Fund through the Subsidiary provides a payoff at expiration that is intended to protect investors from Underlying ETF losses between -5% and -15% over the Target Outcome Period before fees and expenses (*i.e.*, if the Underlying ETF loses 15%, the Fund loses 5%).
- If the Underlying ETF decreases in price by more than 15% over the Target Outcome Period, the combination of the Fund's U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents, and the FLEX Options held by the Fund through the Subsidiary provide a payoff at expiration that is 10% less than the percentage loss on the Underlying ETF with a maximum loss of approximately 90% over the Target Outcome Period before fees and expenses. An investor that purchases shares at a price below the lower range of the buffer has the potential to lose their entire investment and may not experience any benefit from the buffer.

The current Target Outcome Period will begin on March 1, 2024 and end on May 31, 2024. Subsequent Target Outcome Periods will begin on the day the prior Target Outcome Period ends and will end on the approximate three-month anniversary of that new Target Outcome Period. On the first day of each new Target Outcome Period, the Fund resets by investing in a new set of FLEX Options that are designed to provide a new cap for the new Target Outcome Period. This means that the cap will change for each Target Outcome Period based upon prevailing market conditions at the beginning of each Target Outcome Period. **The cap and buffer, and the Fund's value relative to each, should be considered before investing in the Fund.** The Fund will be perpetually offered and not terminate after the current or any subsequent Target Outcome Period. Approximately one week prior to the end of the current Target Outcome Period, the Fund's website will be updated to alert existing shareholders that the Target Outcome Period is approaching its conclusion and will disclose the anticipated cap range for the next Target Outcome Period. See "Subsequent Target Outcome Periods" for more information.

**An investor that purchases Fund shares other than on the first day of a Target Outcome Period and/or sells Fund shares prior to the end of a Target Outcome Period may experience results that are very different from the target outcomes sought by the Fund for that Target Outcome Period.** While the cap and buffer provide the intended outcomes only for investors that hold their shares throughout the complete term of the Target Outcome Period, an investor can expect their shares to generally move in the same direction as the Underlying ETF during the Target Outcome Period. However, during the Target Outcome Period, an investor's shares may not experience price movement to the same extent as the price movement of the Underlying ETF. During the Target Outcome Period, there may be periods of significant disparity between the Fund's

NAV and the Underlying ETF's price performance. As the Underlying ETF's price and the Fund's NAV change over the Target Outcome Period, an investor acquiring Fund shares after the start of the Target Outcome Period will likely have a different return potential than an investor who purchased Fund shares at the start of the Target Outcome Period. This is because while the cap and buffer for the Target Outcome Period are fixed levels that are calculated in relation to the Underlying ETF price and the Fund's NAV at the start of a Target Outcome Period and that remain constant throughout the Target Outcome Period, an investor purchasing Fund shares at market value during the Target Outcome Period likely purchased Fund shares at a price that is different from the Fund's NAV at the start of the Target Outcome Period (i.e., the NAV that the cap and buffer reference). For example, if an investor purchases Fund shares during a Target Outcome Period at a time when the Fund has decreased in value by at least 5% from the value of the Fund on the first day of the Target Outcome Period, that investor's buffer will essentially be decreased by the amount of the decrease in the Underlying ETF's value exceeding 5%. Conversely, if an investor purchases Fund shares during a Target Outcome Period at a time when the Fund has increased in value from the value of the Fund on the first day of the Target Outcome Period, that investor's cap will essentially be decreased by the amount of the increase in the Underlying ETF's value. See "Buffer and Cap" below for additional information. **To achieve the target outcomes sought by the Fund for a Target Outcome Period, an investor must hold Fund shares for that entire Target Outcome Period.**

### ***Buffer and Cap***

The Fund seeks to provide a buffer of Underlying ETF losses of between -5% and -15% over each Target Outcome Period. The buffer designation identifies the Fund's objective to provide a buffer of 10% against Underlying ETF losses between -5% and -15%. The Fund will bear the first 5% of losses, and after the Underlying ETF has decreased in price by more than 15%, the Fund will experience subsequent losses on a one-to-one basis (i.e., if the Underlying ETF loses 20%, the Fund loses 10%). The buffer is before taking into account the Fund's fees and expenses charged to shareholders. When the Fund's fees and expenses are taken into account, the buffer is between -5.23% and -15.23%. The buffer will be further reduced by any brokerage commissions, trading fees, taxes and extraordinary expenses not included in the Fund's management fee. **The Fund does not seek to provide a buffer at any time other than the end of the Target Outcome Period.**

**If an investor purchases Fund shares during a Target Outcome Period at a time when the Fund has decreased in value by 15% or more from the value of the Fund on the first day of the Target Outcome Period (the "Initial Fund Value"), that investor's buffer will essentially be zero (meaning the investor can lose its entire investment). However, that investor's potential gain will be larger than the Fund's cap for the Target Outcome Period because the investor may experience the full gain if the Fund recovers the value it has lost from the first day of the Target Outcome Period through the date the investor purchased its Fund shares plus any additional gains between the Initial Fund Value and the cap. The cap and buffer relative to the Initial Fund Value, however, will not change over the Target Outcome Period.**

**Conversely, if an investor purchases Fund shares during a Target Outcome Period at a time when the Fund has increased in value from its Initial Fund Value for a Target Outcome Period, then a shareholder will experience losses prior to gaining the protection offered by the buffer (because the Fund must first decrease in value to 5% less than its Initial Fund Value for the Target Outcome Period before subsequent losses will be protected by the buffer). While the Fund seeks to limit losses to 90% for shareholders who hold Fund shares for an entire Target Outcome Period, there is no guarantee it will successfully do so.** Depending upon market conditions at the time of purchase, a shareholder that purchases Fund shares after the first day of a Target Outcome Period may lose their entire investment if the Fund has decreased in value below the buffer. An investment in the Fund is only appropriate for shareholders willing to bear those losses. Despite the intended buffer, a shareholder could lose their entire investment.

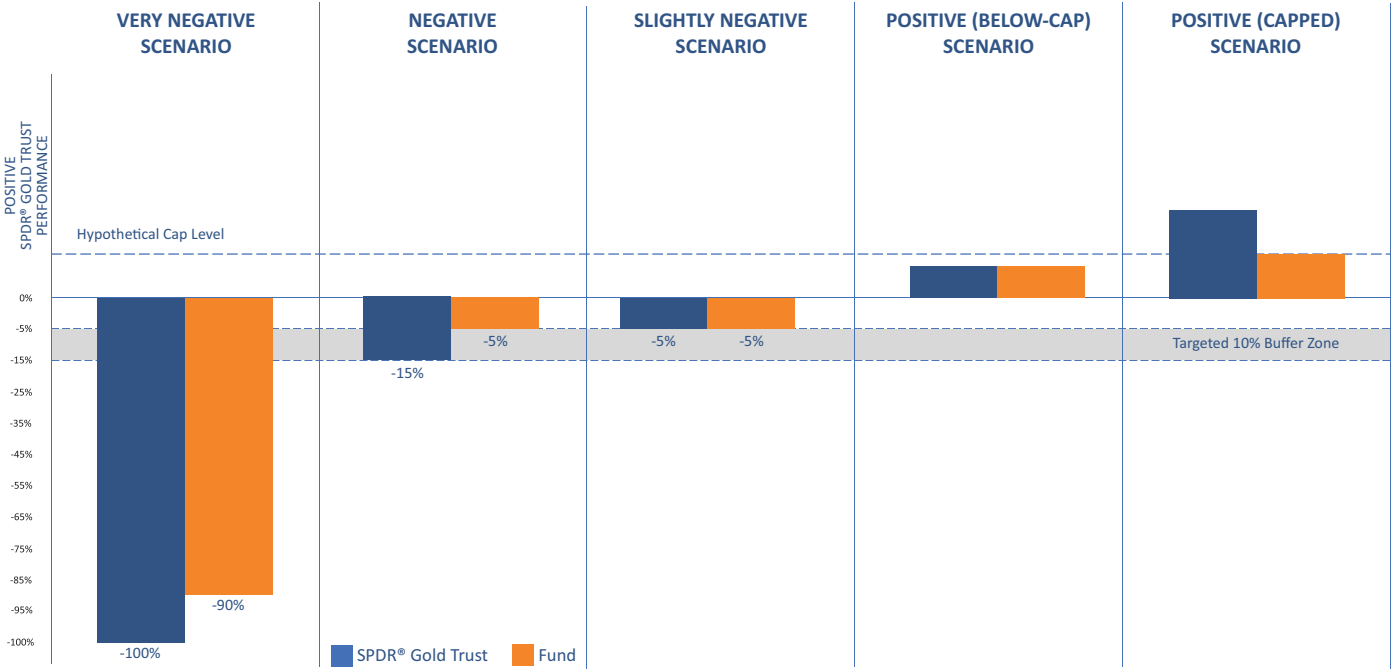
The returns of the Fund are subject to a cap of 9.27% (before fees and expenses) and 9.04% (after fees and expenses, excluding brokerage commissions, trading fees, taxes and extraordinary expenses not included in the Fund's management fee) for the Target Outcome Period. Unlike other investment products, the potential returns an investor can receive from the Fund are subject to a pre-determined upside return cap that represents the maximum percentage return an investor can achieve from an investment in the Fund for an entire Target Outcome Period before fees and expenses. In the event the Underlying ETF experiences gains over a Target Outcome Period, the Fund seeks to provide investment returns (before fees and expenses) that match the percentage increase of the Underlying ETF, but any percentage gains over amount of the cap will not be experienced by the Fund. **This means that if the Underlying ETF experiences gains for a Target Outcome Period in excess of the cap for that Target Outcome Period, the Fund will not benefit from those excess gains. Therefore, regardless of the performance of the Underlying ETF, the cap is the maximum return an investor can achieve from an investment in the Fund for that Target Outcome Period.**

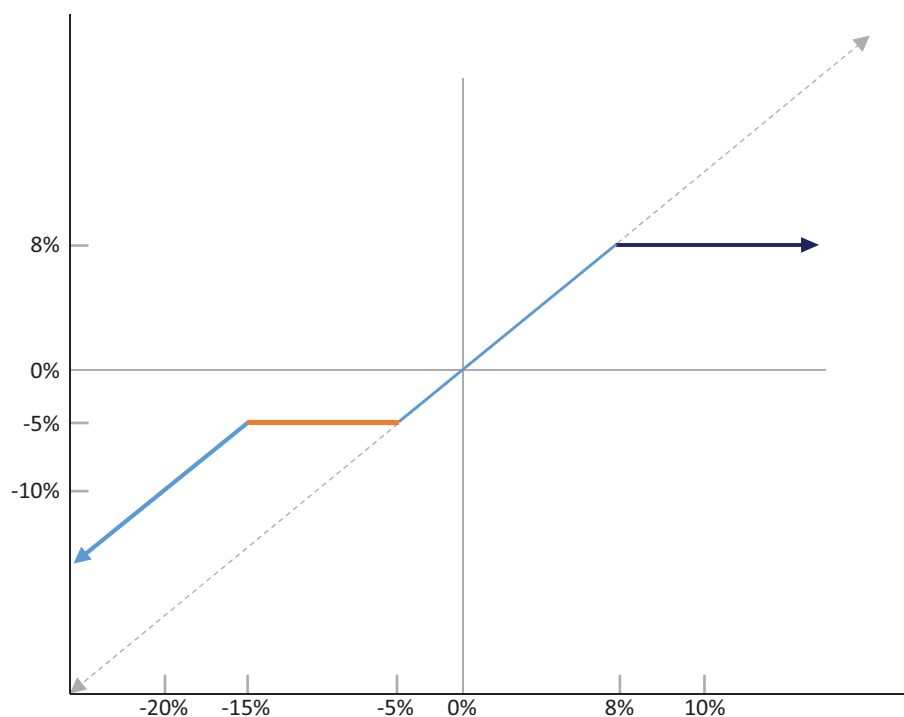
The cap is set on the first day of each Target Outcome Period. **The cap is provided prior to taking into account annual Fund management fees of 0.90% of the Fund's daily net assets, brokerage commissions, trading fees, taxes and any**

**extraordinary expenses incurred by the Fund.** Such extraordinary expenses (incurred outside of the ordinary operation of the Fund) may include, for example, unexpected litigation, regulatory or tax expenses. The cap for the Target Outcome Period is 9.27% (before fees and expenses) and 9.04% (after fees and expenses, excluding brokerage commissions, trading fees, taxes and extraordinary expenses not included in the Fund’s management fee). The cap could be lower if the Fund incurs extraordinary expenses or other costs and expenses that are not borne by the Advisor under its unitary management fee. The defined cap applicable to a Target Outcome Period will vary based on prevailing market conditions at the time, including then-current interest rate levels, Underlying ETF volatility, and the relationship of puts and calls on the underlying FLEX Options.

The cap, and the Fund’s value relative to it on any given day, should be considered before investing in the Fund. **If an investor purchases Fund shares during a Target Outcome Period, and the Fund has already increased in value above its Initial Fund Value for that Target Outcome Period to a level near to the cap, an investor purchasing Fund shares will have limited to no gain potential for the remainder of the Target Outcome Period. However, the investor will remain vulnerable to significant downside risk because the investor will bear the losses between the price at which they purchased Fund shares and 5% below the Initial Fund Value for the Target Outcome Period before subsequent losses will be protected by the buffer.**

The following bar chart and line graph illustrate the hypothetical returns that the combination of the U.S. Treasury securities, cash and cash equivalents, and FLEX Options seek to provide with respect to the price performance of the Underlying ETF in certain illustrative scenarios over the course of the Target Outcome Period. The caps in the bar chart and line graph below are for illustration only and the actual caps may be different. The bar chart and line graph do not take into account payment by the Fund of fees and expenses. **There is no guarantee that the Fund will be successful in providing these investment outcomes for any Target Outcome Period.**





- The graph above represents the Fund's hypothetical intended return profile based upon the performance of the Underlying ETF.
- The caps in the graphs above are for illustration only and the actual caps may be different.
- In the graph above, the dotted line represents the Underlying ETF's performance, and the blue and orange lines represent the return profile gross of fees and expenses sought by the Fund in relation to the Underlying ETF's indicated performance.

**Investors purchasing shares of the Fund during a Target Outcome Period will experience different results. The Fund's website, [www.ftportfolios.com/retail/etf/EtfSummary.aspx?Ticker=BGLD](http://www.ftportfolios.com/retail/etf/EtfSummary.aspx?Ticker=BGLD), provides information relating to the possible outcomes for an investor of an investment in the Fund on a daily basis, if purchased on that date and held through the end of the Target Outcome Period, including the Fund's value relative to the cap and buffer. Before purchasing Fund shares, an investor should visit the Fund's website to review this information and understand the possible outcomes of an investment in Fund shares on a particular day and held through the end of the Target Outcome Period.**

The Fund is classified as "non-diversified" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund may not invest 25% or more of the value of its total assets in securities of issuers in any one industry or group of industries except to the extent that the Underlying ETF invests more than 25% of its assets in an industry or group of industries. This restriction does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, or securities of other investment companies.

### ***General Information on the FLEX Options***

For each Target Outcome Period, the Fund will invest in both purchased and written put and call FLEX Options that reference the Underlying ETF. Because the value of the Fund is based on FLEX Options that reference the Underlying ETF and not the Underlying ETF directly, variations in the value of the FLEX Options impact the correlation between the Fund's NAV and the price of the Underlying ETF. FLEX Options are customizable exchange-traded option contracts guaranteed for settlement by the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"). The OCC guarantees performance by each of the counterparties to the FLEX Options, becoming the "buyer for every seller and the seller for every buyer," protecting clearing members and options traders from counterparty risk. The OCC may make adjustments to FLEX Options for certain significant events, as more fully described in the Fund's Statement of Additional Information. Although guaranteed for settlement by the OCC, FLEX Options are still subject to counterparty risk with the OCC and subject to the risk that the OCC may fail to perform the settlement of the FLEX Options due to bankruptcy or other adverse reasons.



The FLEX Options that the Fund will hold through the Subsidiary that reference the Underlying ETF may be either physically settled (options that give the Fund the right to receive, or require the Fund to deliver, shares of the Underlying ETF on the option expiration date at a strike price) or cash settled (options that give the Fund the right to receive, or require the Fund to deliver, a cash payment on the option expiration date based upon the difference between the Underlying ETF's value and a strike price). The FLEX Options held by the Fund are European style options, which are exercisable at the strike price only on the FLEX Option expiration date.

The Fund, through the Subsidiary, will generally, under normal conditions, hold three kinds of FLEX Options for each Target Outcome Period. The Fund, through the Subsidiary, will purchase a call option (giving the Fund the right to receive shares of the Underlying ETF or a cash payment), while simultaneously selling (*i.e.*, writing) a call option (giving the Fund the obligation to deliver shares of the Underlying ETF or a cash payment) and a put option (giving the Fund the right to deliver shares of the Underlying ETF or a cash payment). The Fund intends to structure the FLEX Options so that any amount owed by the Fund on the written FLEX Options will be covered by payouts at expiration from the purchased FLEX Options and the U.S. Treasury securities and cash and cash equivalents. As a result, the FLEX Options will be fully covered and no additional collateral will be necessary during the life of the Fund. The Fund receives premiums in exchange for the written FLEX Options and pays premiums in exchange for the purchased FLEX Options. The OCC and securities exchanges on which the FLEX Options are listed do not charge ongoing fees to writers or purchasers of the FLEX Options during their life for continuing to hold the option contracts, but may charge transaction fees. Each of the FLEX Options purchased and sold throughout the Target Outcome Period will have the same terms, such as strike price and expiration date, as the FLEX Options purchased and sold on the first day of the Target Outcome Period.

On the FLEX Option's expiration date, the Fund, through the Subsidiary, intends to sell the FLEX Options prior to their expiration and use the resulting proceeds to purchase new FLEX Options for the next Target Outcome Period.

### ***The Underlying ETF***

The Underlying ETF is an exchange-traded investment trust that holds physical gold bars. World Gold Trust Services, LLC ("*WGTS*") serves as the Underlying ETF's sponsor and HSBC Bank plc serves as the Underlying ETF's custodian. The Underlying ETF's custodian may utilize subcustodians that hold the Underlying ETF's gold on its behalf. The Underlying ETF is not expected to pay dividends. You can find the Underlying ETF's prospectus and other information about the ETF, including the most recent reports to shareholders, online at [spdrgoldshares.com](http://spdrgoldshares.com).

The summary information below regarding the Underlying ETF comes from its filings with the SEC. You are urged to refer to the SEC filings made by the Underlying ETF and to other publicly available information (*e.g.*, the ETF's annual reports) to obtain an understanding of the ETF's business and financial prospects.

The following description of the Underlying ETF's principal investment strategies was taken directly from the Underlying ETF's prospectus, dated October 4, 2022 ("*GLD*" refers to the Underlying ETF; other defined terms have been modified).

The investment objective of GLD is for its shares to reflect the performance of the price of gold bullion, less GLD's expenses. WGTS believes that, for many investors, GLD's shares represent a cost-effective investment in gold. GLD's shares represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of GLD and trade under the ticker symbol "GLD" on the NYSE Arca.

GLD is treated as a "grantor trust" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, GLD itself is not subject to U.S. federal income tax. Instead, GLD's income and expenses "flow through" to the shareholders, and the Trustee will report the GLD's income, gains, losses and deductions to the Internal Revenue Service on that basis.

At August 31, 2022 the amount of gold owned by GLD and held by GLD's custodian in its vault was 31,582,529 ounces, 100% of which is allocated gold in the form of London Good Delivery gold bars with a market value of \$53,698,529,317 based on the London Bullion Market Association Gold Price PM on August 31, 2022 (cost — \$50,824,771,861).

An allocated account is an account with a bullion dealer, which may also be a bank, to which individually identified gold bars owned by the account holder are credited. The gold bars in an allocated gold account are specific to that account and are identified by a list which shows, for each gold bar, the refiner, assay or fineness, serial number and gross and fine weight. All of the GLD's gold is fully allocated at the end of each business day. GLD's custodian provides the trustee with regular reports detailing the gold transfers in and out of GLD's allocated account at the custodian and identifying the gold bars held in GLD's allocated account at the custodian. Gold held in GLD's allocated account is the property of GLD and is not traded, leased or loaned under any circumstances.

### **Subsequent Target Outcome Periods**

The Fund will alert existing shareholders to the new cap at the beginning of each new Target Outcome Period in the following manner:

1. Approximately one week prior to the end of the current Target Outcome Period, the Fund will make a sticker filing that will alert existing shareholders that the Target Outcome Period is approaching its conclusion and disclose the anticipated cap range for the next Target Outcome Period. This filing will be mailed to existing shareholders.
2. Following the close of business on the last day of the Target Outcome Period, the Fund will make a sticker filing that discloses the Fund's cap for the next Target Outcome Period. This filing will be mailed to existing shareholders.
3. On the first day of the new Target Outcome Period, the Fund will file a full prospectus that incorporates the sticker filing from the previous evening which replaces the caps/dates associated with the previous Target Outcome Period with the caps/dates associated with the new Target Outcome Period. Correspondingly, the Fund will file a revised summary prospectus that reflects such changes.

The information referenced above will also be available on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com/retail/etf/EtfSummary.aspx?Ticker=BGLD](http://www.ftportfolios.com/retail/etf/EtfSummary.aspx?Ticker=BGLD).

### **Principal Risks**

You could lose money by investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. There can be no assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved. The order of the below risk factors does not indicate the significance of any particular risk factor.

The risks of the Fund will result from both the Fund's direct investments and its indirect investments made through the Subsidiary. Accordingly, the risks that result from the Subsidiary's activities will be described herein as the Fund's risks.

**ABSENCE OF AN ACTIVE MARKET RISK.** The Fund faces numerous market trading risks, including the potential lack of an active market for Fund shares due to a limited number of market makers or authorized participants. The Fund may rely on a small number of third-party market makers to provide a market for the purchase and sale of shares and market makers are under no obligation to make a market in the Fund's shares. Additionally, only a limited number of institutions act as authorized participants for the Fund and only an authorized participant may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund and are not obligated to submit purchase or redemption orders for Creation Units. Decisions by market makers or authorized participants to reduce their role or step away from these activities in times of market stress could inhibit the effectiveness of the arbitrage process in maintaining the relationship between the underlying values of the Fund's portfolio securities and the Fund's market price. Any trading halt or other problem relating to the trading activity of these market makers or any issues disrupting the authorized participants' ability to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders could result in a dramatic change in the spread between the Fund's net asset value and the price at which the Fund's shares are trading on the Exchange, which could result in a decrease in value of the Fund's shares. This reduced effectiveness could result in Fund shares trading at a premium or discount to net asset value and also in greater than normal intraday bid-ask spreads for Fund shares.

**BUFFERED LOSS RISK.** There can be no guarantee that the Fund will be successful in its strategy to buffer against Underlying ETF losses if the Underlying ETF decreases over the Target Outcome Period by -5% to -15%. A shareholder may lose their entire investment. The Fund's strategy seeks to deliver returns that match the price return of the Underlying ETF (up to the cap), while limiting downside losses, if shares are bought on the first day of the Target Outcome Period and held until the end of the Target Outcome Period. In the event an investor purchases shares after the first day of the Target Outcome Period or sells shares prior to the end of the Target Outcome Period, the buffer that the Fund seeks to provide may not be available.

**CAP CHANGE RISK.** A new cap is established at the beginning of each Target Outcome Period and is dependent on prevailing market conditions. As a result, the cap may rise or fall from one Target Outcome Period to the next and is unlikely to remain the same for consecutive Target Outcome Periods.

**CAPPED UPSIDE RISK.** The Fund's strategy seeks to provide returns (before fees and expenses) that match those of the Underlying ETF for Fund shares purchased on the first day of a Target Outcome Period and held for the entire Target Outcome Period, subject to a pre-determined upside cap. If an investor does not hold its Fund shares for an entire Target Outcome Period, the returns realized by that investor may not match those that the Fund seeks to achieve. If the Underlying ETF

experiences gains during a Target Outcome Period, the Fund will not participate in those gains beyond the cap. In the event an investor purchases Fund shares after the first day of a Target Outcome Period and the Fund has risen in value to a level near to the cap, there may be little or no ability for that investor to experience an investment gain on their Fund shares; however, the investor will remain vulnerable to downside risks.

**CASH TRANSACTIONS RISK.** The Fund will effect some or all of its creations and redemptions for cash rather than in-kind. As a result, an investment in the Fund may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that effects its creations and redemptions only in-kind. ETFs are able to make in-kind redemptions and avoid being taxed on gains on the distributed portfolio securities at the fund level. A Fund that effects redemptions for cash may be required to sell portfolio securities in order to obtain the cash needed to distribute redemption proceeds. Any recognized gain on these sales by the Fund will generally cause the Fund to recognize a gain it might not otherwise have recognized, or to recognize such gain sooner than would otherwise be required if it were to distribute portfolio securities only in-kind. The Fund intends to distribute these gains to shareholders to avoid being taxed on this gain at the fund level and otherwise comply with the special tax rules that apply to it. This strategy may cause shareholders to be subject to tax on gains they would not otherwise be subject to, or at an earlier date than if they had made an investment in a different ETF. Moreover, cash transactions may have to be carried out over several days if the securities market is relatively illiquid and may involve considerable brokerage fees and taxes. These brokerage fees and taxes, which will be higher than if the Fund sold and redeemed its shares entirely in-kind, will be passed on to those purchasing and redeeming Creation Units in the form of creation and redemption transaction fees. In addition, these factors may result in wider spreads between the bid and the offered prices of the Fund's shares than for ETFs that distribute portfolio securities in-kind. The Fund's use of cash for creations and redemptions could also result in dilution to the Fund and increased transaction costs, which could negatively impact the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

**COMMODITIES RISK.** Commodity prices can have significant volatility, and exposure to commodities can cause the value of the Fund's shares to decline or fluctuate in a rapid and unpredictable manner. The values of physical commodities may be affected by changes in overall market movements, real or perceived inflationary trends, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates, population growth and changing demographics, international economic, political and regulatory developments, and factors affecting a particular region, industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, or other weather conditions, livestock disease, changes in storage costs, trade embargoes, competition from substitute products, transportation bottlenecks or shortages, fluctuations in supply and demand, and tariffs. The commodity markets are subject to temporary distortions or other disruptions due to, among other factors, lack of liquidity, the participation of speculators, and government regulation and other actions.

**COUNTERPARTY RISK.** Fund transactions involving a counterparty are subject to the risk that the counterparty will not fulfill its obligation to the Fund. Counterparty risk may arise because of the counterparty's financial condition (*i.e.*, financial difficulties, bankruptcy, or insolvency), market activities and developments, or other reasons, whether foreseen or not. A counterparty's inability to fulfill its obligation may result in significant financial loss to the Fund. The Fund may be unable to recover its investment from the counterparty or may obtain a limited recovery, and/or recovery may be delayed. The OCC acts as guarantor and central counterparty with respect to the FLEX Options. As a result, the ability of the Fund to meet its objective depends on the OCC being able to meet its obligations. In the unlikely event that the OCC becomes insolvent or is otherwise unable to meet its settlement obligations, the Fund could suffer significant losses.

**CREDIT RISK.** An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due. In addition, the value of a debt security may decline because of concerns about the issuer's ability or unwillingness to make such payments.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The Fund is susceptible to operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems through "hacking" or malicious software coding but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests or the Fund's third-party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, can also subject the Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. Although the Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third-party service providers.

**DEBT SECURITIES RISK.** Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer or other obligor of a security will not be able or willing to make payments of interest and principal when due. Generally, the value of debt securities will change inversely with changes in interest rates. To the extent that interest rates rise, certain underlying obligations may be paid off substantially slower than originally anticipated and the value of those securities may fall sharply. During periods of falling interest rates, the income received by the Fund may decline. If the principal on a debt security is prepaid before expected, the prepayments of principal may have to be reinvested in obligations paying interest at lower rates. Debt securities generally do not trade on a securities exchange making them generally less liquid and more difficult to value than common stock.

**DERIVATIVES RISK.** The use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. These risks include: (i) the risk that the counterparty to a derivative transaction may not fulfill its contractual obligations; (ii) risk of mispricing or improper valuation; and (iii) the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset. Derivative prices are highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. Such prices are influenced by numerous factors that affect the markets, including, but not limited to: changing supply and demand relationships; government programs and policies; national and international political and economic events, changes in interest rates, inflation and deflation and changes in supply and demand relationships. Trading derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities. Derivative contracts ordinarily have leverage inherent in their terms. The low margin deposits normally required in trading derivatives, including futures contracts, permit a high degree of leverage. Accordingly, a relatively small price movement may result in an immediate and substantial loss. The use of leverage may also cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it would not be advantageous to do so in order to satisfy its obligations. The use of leveraged derivatives can magnify potential for gain or loss and, therefore, amplify the effects of market volatility on share price.

**FLEX OPTIONS RISK.** Trading FLEX Options involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities. The Fund may experience substantial downside from specific FLEX Option positions and certain FLEX Option positions may expire worthless. The FLEX Options are listed on an exchange; however, no one can guarantee that a liquid secondary trading market will exist for the FLEX Options. In the event that trading in the FLEX Options is limited or absent, the value of the Fund's FLEX Options may decrease. In a less liquid market for the FLEX Options, liquidating the FLEX Options may require the payment of a premium (for written FLEX Options) or acceptance of a discounted price (for purchased FLEX Options) and may take longer to complete. A less liquid trading market may adversely impact the value of the FLEX Options and Fund shares and result in the Fund being unable to achieve its investment objective. Less liquidity in the trading of the Fund's FLEX Options could have an impact on the prices paid or received by the Fund for the FLEX Options in connection with creations and redemptions of the Fund's shares. Depending on the nature of this impact to pricing, the Fund may be forced to pay more for redemptions (or receive less for creations) than the price at which it currently values the FLEX Options. Such overpayment or under collection may impact the value of the Fund and whether the Fund can satisfy its investment objective. Additionally, in a less liquid market for the FLEX Options, the liquidation of a large number of options may more significantly impact the price. A less liquid trading market may adversely impact the value of the FLEX Options and the value of your investment. The trading in FLEX Options may be less deep and liquid than the market for certain other exchange-traded options, non-customized options or other securities.

**FLEX OPTIONS VALUATION RISK.** The FLEX Options held by the Fund will be exercisable at the strike price only on their expiration date. Prior to the expiration date, the value of the FLEX Options will be determined based upon market quotations or using other recognized pricing methods. The FLEX Options are also subject to correlation risk, meaning the value of the FLEX Options does not increase or decrease at the same rate as the Underlying ETF (although they generally move in the same direction) or its underlying securities. The value of the FLEX Options prior to the expiration date may vary because of factors other than the value of the Underlying ETF, such as interest rate changes, changing supply and demand, decreased liquidity of the FLEX Options, a change in the actual and perceived volatility of the stock market and the Underlying ETF and the remaining time to expiration. FLEX Option prices may also be highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. During periods of reduced market liquidity or in the absence of readily available market quotations for the holdings of the Fund, the ability of the Fund to value the FLEX Options becomes more difficult and the judgment of the Fund's investment adviser (employing the fair value procedures approved by the Board of Trustees of the Trust) may play a greater role in the valuation of the Fund's holdings due to reduced availability of reliable objective pricing data. Consequently, while such determinations may be made in good faith, it may nevertheless be more difficult for the Fund to accurately assign a daily value. Under those circumstances, the value of the FLEX Options will require more reliance on the investment adviser's judgment than that required for securities for which there is an active trading market. This creates a risk of mispricing or improper valuation of the FLEX Options which could impact the value paid for shares of the Fund.

**INCOME RISK.** The Fund's income may decline when interest rates fall or if there are defaults in its portfolio. This decline can occur because the Fund may subsequently invest in lower-yielding securities as debt securities in its portfolio mature, are near maturity or are called, or the Fund otherwise needs to purchase additional debt securities.

**INDEX OR MODEL CONSTITUENT RISK.** The Fund may be a constituent of one or more indices or ETF models. As a result, the Fund may be included in one or more index-tracking exchange-traded funds or mutual funds. Being a component security of such a vehicle could greatly affect the trading activity involving the Fund's shares, the size of the Fund and the market volatility of the Fund. Inclusion in an index could increase demand for the Fund and removal from an index could result in outsized selling activity in a relatively short period of time. As a result, the Fund's net asset value could be negatively impacted and the Fund's market price may be below the Fund's net asset value during certain periods. In addition, index rebalances may potentially result in increased trading activity in the Fund's shares.

**INFLATION RISK.** Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the present value of the Fund's assets and distributions may decline.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline because of rising market interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter term debt securities and higher for longer-term debt securities. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government fiscal policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives. Duration is a reasonably accurate measure of a debt security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates and a common measure of interest rate risk. Duration measures a debt security's expected life on a present value basis, taking into account the debt security's yield, interest payments and final maturity. In general, duration represents the expected percentage change in the value of a security for an immediate 1% change in interest rates. For example, the price of a debt security with a three-year duration would be expected to drop by approximately 3% in response to a 1% increase in interest rates. Therefore, prices of debt securities with shorter durations tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than debt securities with longer durations. As the value of a debt security changes over time, so will its duration.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing the Fund's investment portfolio, the portfolio managers will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not produce the desired result. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective.

**MARKET RISK.** Market risk is the risk that a particular security, or shares of the Fund in general, may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic, political, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of the Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments. In addition, local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, spread of infectious diseases or other public health issues, recessions, natural disasters, or other events could have a significant negative impact on the Fund and its investments. For example, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) global pandemic and the ensuing policies enacted by governments and central banks have caused and may continue to cause significant volatility and uncertainty in global financial markets, negatively impacting global growth prospects. While vaccines have been developed, there is no guarantee that vaccines will be effective against future variants of the disease. As this global pandemic illustrated, such events may affect certain geographic regions, countries, sectors and industries more significantly than others. Recent and potential future bank failures could result in disruption to the broader banking industry or markets generally and reduce confidence in financial institutions and the economy as a whole, which may also heighten market volatility and reduce liquidity. These events also adversely affect the prices and liquidity of the Fund's portfolio securities or other instruments and could result in disruptions in the trading markets. Any of such circumstances could have a materially negative impact on the value of the Fund's shares and result in increased market volatility. During any such events, the Fund's shares may trade at increased premiums or discounts to their net asset value and the bid/ask spread on the Fund's shares may widen.

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK.** The Fund is classified as "non-diversified" under the 1940 Act. As a result, the Fund is only limited as to the percentage of its assets which may be invested in the securities of any one issuer by the diversification requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Fund may invest a relatively high percentage of its assets in a limited number of issuers. As a result, the Fund may be more susceptible to a single adverse economic or regulatory occurrence affecting one or more of these issuers, experience increased volatility and be highly invested in certain issuers.

**OPERATIONAL RISK.** The Fund is subject to risks arising from various operational factors, including, but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed



or inadequate processes and technology or systems failures. The Fund relies on third-parties for a range of services, including custody. Any delay or failure relating to engaging or maintaining such service providers may affect the Fund's ability to meet its investment objective. Although the Fund and the Fund's investment advisor seek to reduce these operational risks through controls and procedures, there is no way to completely protect against such risks.

**PREMIUM/DISCOUNT RISK.** The market price of the Fund's shares will generally fluctuate in accordance with changes in the Fund's net asset value as well as the relative supply of and demand for shares on the Exchange. The Fund's investment advisor cannot predict whether shares will trade below, at or above their net asset value because the shares trade on the Exchange at market prices and not at net asset value. Price differences may be due, in large part, to the fact that supply and demand forces at work in the secondary trading market for shares will be closely related, but not identical, to the same forces influencing the prices of the holdings of the Fund trading individually or in the aggregate at any point in time. However, given that shares can only be purchased and redeemed in Creation Units, and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements (unlike shares of closed-end funds, which frequently trade at appreciable discounts from, and sometimes at premiums to, their net asset value), the Fund's investment advisor believes that large discounts or premiums to the net asset value of shares should not be sustained. During stressed market conditions, the market for the Fund's shares may become less liquid in response to deteriorating liquidity in the market for the Fund's underlying portfolio holdings, which could in turn lead to differences between the market price of the Fund's shares and their net asset value and the bid/ask spread on the Fund's shares may widen.

**SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE RISK.** To the extent that the Fund invests a significant percentage of its assets in a single asset class or industry or sector, an adverse economic, business or political development may affect the value of the Fund's investments more than if the Fund were more broadly diversified. A significant exposure makes the Fund more susceptible to any single occurrence and may subject the Fund to greater market risk than a fund that is more broadly diversified.

**SUBSIDIARY INVESTMENT RISK.** Changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands, under which the Fund and the Subsidiary are organized, respectively, could result in the inability of the Fund to operate as intended and could negatively affect the Fund and its shareholders. The Subsidiary is not registered under the 1940 Act and is not subject to all the investor protections of the 1940 Act. Thus, the Fund, as an investor in the Subsidiary, will not have all the protections offered to investors in registered investment companies.

**TARGET OUTCOME PERIOD RISK.** The Fund's investment strategy is designed to deliver returns that match the Underlying ETF if Fund shares are bought on the day on which the Fund enters into the FLEX Options (i.e., the first day of a Target Outcome Period) and held until those FLEX Options expire at the end of the Target Outcome Period subject to the cap. In the event an investor purchases Fund shares after the first day of a Target Outcome Period or sells shares prior to the expiration of the Target Outcome Period, the value of that investor's investment in Fund shares may not be buffered against a decline in the value of the Underlying ETF and may not participate in a gain in the value of the Underlying ETF up to the cap for the investor's investment period.

**TAX RISK.** The Fund intends to treat any income it may derive from FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF received by the Subsidiary as "qualifying income" under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, applicable to "regulated investment companies" ("RICs"). The Internal Revenue Service had issued numerous private letter rulings ("PLRs") provided to third parties not associated with the Fund or its affiliates (which only those parties may rely on as precedent) concluding that similar arrangements resulted in qualifying income. Many of such PLRs have now been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. In March of 2019, the Internal Revenue Service published Regulations that concluded that income from a corporation similar to the Subsidiary would be qualifying income, if the income is related to the Fund's business of investing in stocks or securities. Although the Regulations do not require distributions from the Subsidiary, the Fund intends to cause the Subsidiary to make distributions that would allow the Fund to make timely distributions to its shareholders. The Fund generally will be required to include in its own taxable income the income of the Subsidiary for a tax year, regardless of whether the Fund receives a distribution of the Subsidiary's income in that tax year, and this income would nevertheless be subject to the distribution requirement for qualification as a regulated investment company and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax. The Fund intends to treat any income it may derive from FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF received by the Subsidiary as "qualifying income" for the rules applicable to RICs. Treasury Regulations provide that income from a corporation similar to the Subsidiary is qualifying income, if (i) the income is distributed to the Fund in the same year the Fund is required to recognize the income or (ii) the income is related to the Fund's business of investing in stocks or securities. The Fund intends to cause the Subsidiary to make distributions that would allow the Fund to meet the first requirement. The Fund generally will be required to recognize the income of the Subsidiary, regardless of whether the Fund receives a distribution

of the Subsidiary's income, and this income would be subject to the distribution requirement for qualification as a RIC and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax.

If the Fund did not qualify as a RIC for any taxable year and certain relief provisions were not available, the Fund's taxable income would be subject to tax at the Fund level and to a further tax at the shareholder level when such income is distributed. In such event, in order to re-qualify for taxation as a RIC, the Fund might be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make certain distributions. This would cause investors to incur higher tax liabilities than they otherwise would have incurred and would have a negative impact on Fund returns. In such event, the Fund's Board of Trustees may determine to reorganize or close the Fund or materially change the Fund's investment objective and strategies. In the event that the Fund fails to qualify as a RIC, the Fund will promptly notify shareholders of the implications of that failure.

**TRADING ISSUES RISK.** Trading in Fund shares on the Exchange may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in shares inadvisable. In addition, trading in Fund shares on the Exchange is subject to trading halts caused by extraordinary market volatility pursuant to the Exchange's "circuit breaker" rules. There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of the Fund will continue to be met or will remain unchanged. The Fund may have difficulty maintaining its listing on the Exchange in the event the Fund's assets are small, the Fund does not have enough shareholders, or if the Fund is unable to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders.

**UNDERLYING ETF GOLD RISK.** The Fund will have exposure to gold through its investments (through the Subsidiary) in FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF, which invests substantially all of its assets in physical gold bullion. The price of gold bullion can be significantly affected by international monetary and political developments such as currency devaluation or revaluation, central bank movements, economic and social conditions within a country, transactional or trade imbalances, or trade or currency restrictions between countries. Physical gold bullion has sales commission, storage, insurance and auditing expenses. Investments in gold generally may be speculative and subject to greater price volatility than investments in other types of assets. The price of metals, such as gold, is related to, among other things, worldwide metal prices and extraction and production costs. Worldwide metal prices may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time, and as a result, the Fund's share price may be more volatile than other types of investments. There is a risk that some or all of the Underlying ETF's gold bars held by its custodian or any subcustodian could be lost, damaged or stolen. Access to the Underlying ETF's gold bars could also be restricted by natural events (such as an earthquake) or human actions (such as a terrorist attack). Any of these events may adversely affect the operations of the Underlying ETF and, consequently, an investment based on the value of the Underlying ETF's shares. Additionally, the Underlying ETF does not insure its gold and a loss may be suffered with respect to the Underlying ETF's gold which is not covered by insurance and for which no party is liable for damages.

**UNDERLYING ETF RISK.** The Subsidiary invests in FLEX Options that reference an ETF, which subjects the Subsidiary to certain of the risks of owning shares of an ETF as well as the types of instruments in which the Underlying ETF invests. The value of an ETF will fluctuate over time based on fluctuations in the values of the securities held by the ETF, which may be affected by changes in general economic conditions, expectations for future growth and profits, interest rates and the supply and demand for those securities. In addition, ETFs are subject to the absence of an active market risk, premium/discount risk, tracking error risk and trading issues risk. Brokerage, tax and other expenses may negatively impact the performance of the Underlying ETF and, in turn, the value of the Fund's shares. Certain options on an ETF may not qualify as "Section 1256 contracts" under Section 1256 of the Code, and disposition of such options will likely result in short-term or long-term capital gains or losses depending on the holding period.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES RISK.** U.S. government securities are subject to interest rate risk but generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of debt securities. As a result, the yields available from U.S. government securities are generally lower than the yields available from other debt securities. U.S. government securities are guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and the payment of principal when held to maturity.

**The Fund has characteristics unlike many other traditional investment products and may not be suitable for all investors.**

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**You should only consider this investment if:**

- you fully understand the risks inherent in an investment in the Fund;
- you desire to invest in a product with a return that depends upon the performance of the Underlying ETF over the Target Outcome Period;

**You should not consider this investment if:**

- you do not fully understand the risks inherent in an investment in the Fund;
- you do not desire to invest in a product with a return that depends upon the performance of the Underlying ETF over the Target Outcome Period;

**You should only consider this investment if:**

- you are willing to hold shares for the duration of the Target Outcome Period in order to achieve the outcomes that the Fund seeks to provide;
- you fully understand that investments made when the Fund is at or near to the cap may have limited to no upside;
- you are willing to forgo any gains in excess of the cap;
- you are not seeking an investment that provides dividends to shareholders;
- you fully understand that investments made after the Target Outcome Period has begun may not fully benefit from the buffer;
- you are willing to accept the risk of losing your entire investment; and
- you have visited the Fund's website and understand the investment outcomes available to you based upon the time of your purchase.

**You should not consider this investment if:**

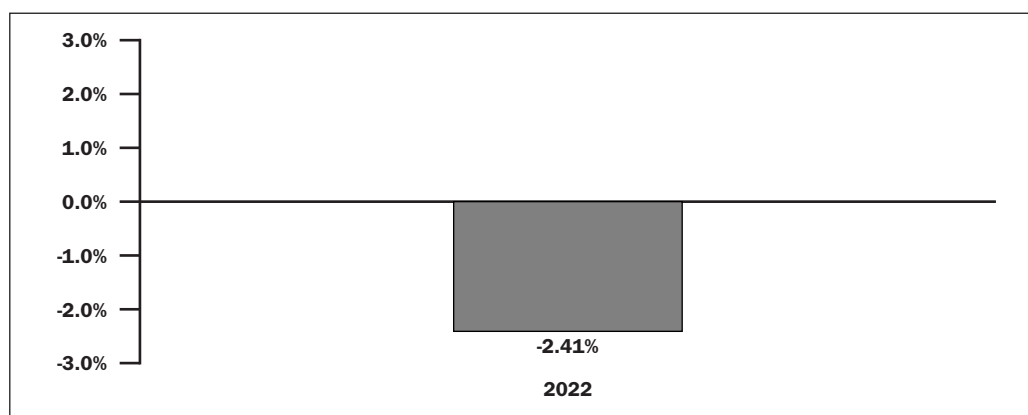
- you are unwilling to hold shares for the duration of the Target Outcome Period in order to achieve the outcomes that the Fund seeks to provide;
- you do not fully understand that investments made when the Fund is at or near to the cap may have limited to no upside;
- you are unwilling to forgo any gains in excess of the cap;
- you are seeking an investment that provides dividends to shareholders;
- you do not fully understand that investments made after the Target Outcome Period has begun may not fully benefit from the buffer;
- you are unwilling to accept the risk of losing your entire investment; and
- you have not visited the Fund's website and do not understand the investment outcomes available to you based upon the timing of your purchase.

**Annual Total Return**

The bar chart and table below illustrate the annual calendar year returns of the Fund based on net asset value as well as the average annual Fund returns. The bar chart and table provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns based on net asset value compared to those of a broad-based market index and a gold price benchmark. See "Total Return Information" for additional performance information regarding the Fund. The Fund's performance information is accessible on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

**FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF**

**Calendar Year Total Returns as of 12/31**



During the period shown in the chart above:

Best Quarter		Worst Quarter	
7.10%	December 31, 2022	-5.94%	September 30, 2022

The Fund's past performance (before and after taxes) is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

All after-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of any state or local tax. Returns after taxes on distributions reflect the taxed return on the payment of dividends and capital gains. Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of shares assume you sold your shares at period end, and,



therefore, are also adjusted for any capital gains or losses incurred. Returns for the market indices do not include expenses, which are deducted from Fund returns, or taxes.

Your own actual after-tax returns will depend on your specific tax situation and may differ from what is shown here. After-tax returns are not relevant to investors who hold Fund shares in tax-deferred accounts such as individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or employee-sponsored retirement plans.

## Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2022

	1 Year	Since Inception	Inception Date
Return Before Taxes	-2.41%	-3.97%	1/20/2021
Return After Taxes on Distributions	-2.57%	-4.05%	
Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares	-1.43%	-3.05%	
LBMA Gold Price (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	-0.43%	-1.18%	
S&P 500® Index - Price Return (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	-19.44%	-0.16%	

## Management

### Investment Advisor

First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust" or the "Advisor")

### Investment Sub-Advisor

Vest Financial LLC ("Vest" or the "Sub-Advisor")

### Portfolio Managers

The following persons serve as the portfolio managers of the Fund:

- Karan Sood, Managing Director of Vest
- Howard Rubin, Managing Director of Vest

The portfolio managers are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Each portfolio manager has served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2021.

## Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

The Fund issues and redeems shares on a continuous basis, at net asset value, only in large blocks of shares called "Creation Units." Individual shares of the Fund may only be purchased and sold on the secondary market through a broker-dealer. Since shares of the Fund trade on securities exchanges in the secondary market at their market price rather than their net asset value, the Fund's shares may trade at a price greater than (premium) or less than (discount) the Fund's net asset value. An investor may incur costs attributable to the difference between the highest price a buyer is willing to pay to purchase shares of the Fund (bid) and the lowest price a seller is willing to accept for shares of the Fund (ask) when buying or selling shares in the secondary market (the "bid-ask spread"). Recent information, including the Fund's net asset value, market price, premiums and discounts, bid-ask spreads and the median bid-ask spread for the Fund's most recent fiscal year, is available online at <https://www.ftportfolios.com/Retail/etf/home.aspx>.

## Tax Information

The Fund's distributions are taxable and will generally be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains. Distributions on shares held in a tax-deferred account, while not immediately taxable, will be subject to tax when the shares are no longer held in a tax-deferred account.

**Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, bank or other financial intermediary (collectively, "intermediaries"), First Trust and First Trust Portfolios L.P., the Fund's distributor, may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## **Additional Information on the Fund's Investment Objective and Strategies**

The Fund is a series of First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund and is regulated as an "investment company" under the 1940 Act. The Fund is actively managed and does not seek to track the performance of an index. The Fund's investment objective is non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "*Board*") without shareholder approval. Unless an investment policy is identified as being fundamental, all investment policies included in this prospectus and the Fund's Statement of Additional Information ("*SAI*") are non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board without shareholder approval. If there is a material change to the Fund's principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment for you. There is no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

The Fund may not invest 25% or more of the value of its total assets in securities of issuers in any one industry or group of industries except to the extent that the Underlying ETF invests more than 25% of its assets in an industry or group of industries. This restriction does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, or securities of other investment companies.

While it is not expected that the Fund will invest in the securities of other investment companies, any such investments would be subject to limitations imposed by the 1940 Act and the related rules and interpretations. The Fund has adopted a policy that it will not invest in other investment companies in excess of 1940 Act limits in reliance on Sections 12(d)(1)(F) or 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act.

## **Fund Investments**

### **Principal Investments**

#### **FLEX Options**

FLEX Options are customized equity or index option contracts that trade on an exchange, but provide investors with the ability to customize key contract terms like exercise prices, styles and expiration dates. FLEX Options are guaranteed for settlement by the OCC.

The Fund, through the Subsidiary, will purchase and sell call and put FLEX Options based on the performance of the Underlying ETF. The FLEX Options that the Fund will hold through the Subsidiary that reference the Underlying ETF may be either physically settled (options that give the Fund the right to receive, or require the Fund to deliver, shares of the Underlying ETF on the option expiration date at a strike price) or cash settled (options that give the Fund the right to receive, or require the Fund to deliver, a cash payment on the option expiration date based upon the difference between the Underlying ETF's value and a strike price). The FLEX Options held by the Fund are European style options, which are exercisable at the strike price only on the FLEX Option expiration date.

To the extent the Fund enters into derivatives transactions, it will do so pursuant to Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act. Rule 18f-4 requires the Fund to implement certain policies and procedures designed to manage its derivatives risks, dependent upon the Fund's level of exposure to derivative instruments.

#### **U.S. Government Securities**

The Fund will generally invest in short-term U.S. government securities, including those that may be structured as zero coupon securities. U.S. government securities include U.S. Treasury obligations and securities issued or guaranteed by various agencies of the U.S. government, or by various instrumentalities that have been established or sponsored by the U.S. government. U.S. Treasury obligations are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government. Securities issued or guaranteed by federal agencies and U.S. government sponsored instrumentalities may or may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

#### **Cash Equivalents and Short-Term Investments**

The Fund may invest in securities with maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or may hold cash. The percentage of the Fund invested in such holdings varies and depends on several factors, including market conditions. For temporary defensive purposes and during periods of high cash inflows or outflows, the Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies and invest all of its assets in these securities, or it may hold cash. During such periods, the Fund may not be able to achieve its investment objective. The Fund may adopt a temporary defensive strategy when the portfolio managers believe

securities in which the Fund normally invests have elevated risks due to political or economic factors and in other extraordinary circumstances. For more information on eligible short-term investments, see the SAI.

## Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings

The Fund's portfolio holdings are available on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com). A description of the policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is included in the Fund's SAI, which is also available on the Fund's website.

## Risks of Investing in the Fund

Risk is inherent in all investing. Investing in the Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may lose all or part of your investment. There can be no assurance that the Fund will meet its stated objective. Before you invest, you should consider the following disclosure pertaining to the Principal Risks set forth above as well as additional Non-Principal Risks set forth below in this prospectus. The order of the below risk factors does not indicate the significance of any particular risk factor.

The risks of the Fund will result from both the Fund's direct investments and its indirect investments made through the Subsidiary. Accordingly, the risks that result from the Subsidiary's activities will be described herein as the Fund's risks.

### Principal Risks

**ABSENCE OF AN ACTIVE MARKET RISK.** The Fund faces numerous market trading risks, including the potential lack of an active market for Fund shares due to a limited number of market makers or authorized participants. The Fund may rely on a small number of third-party market makers to provide a market for the purchase and sale of shares and market makers are under no obligation to make a market in the Fund's shares. Additionally, only a limited number of institutions act as authorized participants for the Fund and only an authorized participant may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund and are not obligated to submit purchase or redemption orders for Creation Units. Decisions by market makers or authorized participants to reduce their role or step away from these activities in times of market stress could inhibit the effectiveness of the arbitrage process in maintaining the relationship between the underlying values of the Fund's portfolio securities and the Fund's market price. Any trading halt or other problem relating to the trading activity of these market makers or any issues disrupting the authorized participants' ability to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders could result in a dramatic change in the spread between the Fund's net asset value and the price at which the Fund's shares are trading on the Exchange, which could result in a decrease in value of the Fund's shares. This reduced effectiveness could result in Fund shares trading at a premium or discount to net asset value and also in greater than normal intraday bid-ask spreads for Fund shares.

**BUFFERED LOSS RISK.** There can be no guarantee that the Fund will be successful in its strategy to buffer against Underlying ETF losses if the Underlying ETF decreases over the Target Outcome Period by -5% to -15%. A shareholder may lose their entire investment. The Fund's strategy seeks to deliver returns that match the price return of the Underlying ETF (up to the cap), while limiting downside losses, if shares are bought on the first day of the Target Outcome Period and held until the end of the Target Outcome Period. In the event an investor purchases shares after the first day of the Target Outcome Period or sells shares prior to the end of the Target Outcome Period, the buffer that the Fund seeks to provide may not be available.

**CAP CHANGE RISK.** A new cap is established at the beginning of each Target Outcome Period and is dependent on prevailing market conditions. As a result, the cap may rise or fall from one Target Outcome Period to the next and is unlikely to remain the same for consecutive Target Outcome Periods.

**CAPPED UPSIDE RISK.** The Fund's strategy seeks to provide returns (before fees and expenses) that match those of the Underlying ETF for Fund shares purchased on the first day of a Target Outcome Period and held for the entire Target Outcome Period, subject to a pre-determined upside cap. If an investor does not hold its Fund shares for an entire Target Outcome Period, the returns realized by that investor may not match those the Fund seeks to achieve. If the Underlying ETF experiences gains during a Target Outcome Period, the Fund will not participate in those gains beyond the cap. A new cap is established at the beginning of each Target Outcome Period and is dependent on prevailing market conditions. The cap may rise or fall from one Target Outcome Period to the next. In the event an investor purchases Fund shares after the first day of a Target Outcome Period and the Fund has risen in value to a level near to the cap, there may be little or no ability for that investor to experience an investment gain on their Fund shares; however, the investor will remain vulnerable to downside risks. As a result of the Fund's fees and expenses and because the Fund's returns are subject to a cap, the return of the Fund could represent a return that is worse than the performance of the Underlying ETF.

**CASH TRANSACTIONS RISK.** The Fund will effect some or all of its creations and redemptions for cash rather than in-kind. As a result, an investment in the Fund may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that effects its creations and redemptions only in-kind. ETFs are able to make in-kind redemptions and avoid being taxed on gains on the distributed portfolio securities at the fund level. A Fund that effects redemptions for cash may be required to sell portfolio securities in order to obtain the cash needed to distribute redemption proceeds. Any recognized gain on these sales by the Fund will generally cause the Fund to recognize a gain it might not otherwise have recognized, or to recognize such gain sooner than would otherwise be required if it were to distribute portfolio securities only in-kind. The Fund intends to distribute these gains to shareholders to avoid being taxed on this gain at the fund level and otherwise comply with the special tax rules that apply to it. This strategy may cause shareholders to be subject to tax on gains they would not otherwise be subject to, or at an earlier date than if they had made an investment in a different ETF. Moreover, cash transactions may have to be carried out over several days if the securities market is relatively illiquid and may involve considerable brokerage fees and taxes. These brokerage fees and taxes, which will be higher than if the Fund sold and redeemed its shares entirely in-kind, will be passed on to those purchasing and redeeming Creation Units in the form of creation and redemption transaction fees. In addition, these factors may result in wider spreads between the bid and the offered prices of the Fund's shares than for ETFs that distribute portfolio securities in-kind. The Fund's use of cash for creations and redemptions could also result in dilution to the Fund and increased transaction costs, which could negatively impact the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

**COMMODITIES RISK.** Commodity prices can have significant volatility, and exposure to commodities can cause the value of the Fund's shares to decline or fluctuate in a rapid and unpredictable manner. The values of physical commodities may be affected by changes in overall market movements, real or perceived inflationary trends, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates, population growth and changing demographics, international economic, political and regulatory developments, and factors affecting a particular region, industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, or other weather conditions, livestock disease, changes in storage costs, trade embargoes, competition from substitute products, transportation bottlenecks or shortages, fluctuations in supply and demand, and tariffs. The commodity markets are subject to temporary distortions or other disruptions due to, among other factors, lack of liquidity, the participation of speculators, and government regulation and other actions.

**COUNTERPARTY RISK.** If the Fund enters into an investment or transaction that depends on the performance of another party, the Fund becomes subject to the credit risk of that counterparty. The Fund's ability to profit from these types of investments and transactions depends on the willingness and ability of the Fund's counterparty to perform its obligations. If a counterparty fails to meet its contractual obligations, the Fund may be unable to terminate or realize any gain on the investment or transaction, resulting in a loss to the Fund. The Fund may experience significant delays in obtaining any recovery in an insolvency, bankruptcy, or other reorganization proceeding involving a counterparty (including recovery of any collateral posted by it) and may obtain only a limited recovery or may obtain no recovery in such circumstances. If the Fund holds collateral posted by its counterparty, it may be delayed or prevented from realizing on the collateral in the event of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding relating to the counterparty. Under applicable law or contractual provisions, including if the Fund enters into an investment or transaction with a financial institution and such financial institution (or an affiliate of the financial institution) experiences financial difficulties, then the Fund may in certain situations be prevented or delayed from exercising its rights to terminate the investment or transaction, or to realize on any collateral and may result in the suspension of payment and delivery obligations of the parties under such investment or transactions or in another institution being substituted for that financial institution without the consent of the Fund. Further, the Fund may be subject to "bail-in" risk under applicable law whereby, if required by the financial institution's authority, the financial institution's liabilities could be written down, eliminated or converted into equity or an alternative instrument of ownership. A bail-in of a financial institution may result in a reduction in value of some or all of securities and, if the Fund holds such securities or has entered into a transaction with such a financial security when a bail-in occurs, the Fund may also be similarly impacted.

**CREDIT RISK.** An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due. In addition, the value of a debt security may decline because of concerns about the issuer's ability or unwillingness to make such payments. Debt securities are subject to varying degrees of credit risk which are often reflected in credit ratings. The credit rating of a debt security may be lowered if the issuer or other obligated party suffers adverse changes to its financial condition. These adverse changes may lead to greater volatility in the price of the debt security and affect the security's liquidity. High yield and comparable unrated debt securities, while generally offering higher yields than investment grade debt with similar maturities, involve greater risks, including the possibility of dividend or interest deferral, default or bankruptcy, and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay dividends or interest and repay principal. To the extent that a Fund holds debt securities that are secured or guaranteed by financial institutions, changes in credit quality of such financial institutions could cause values of the debt security to deviate.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The Fund is susceptible to operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. These risks typically are not covered by insurance. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber incidents include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems (e.g., through "hacking" or malicious software coding) for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data or causing operational disruption. Cyber attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on websites (*i.e.*, efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). Cyber security failures by or breaches of the systems of the Advisor, distributor and other service providers (including, but not limited to, sub-advisors, index providers, fund accountants, custodians, transfer agents and administrators), market makers, authorized participants or the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in: financial losses; interference with the Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value; disclosure of confidential trading information; impediments to trading; submission of erroneous trades or erroneous creation or redemption orders; the inability of the Fund or its service providers to transact business; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; or additional compliance costs. Substantial costs may be incurred by the Fund in order to resolve or prevent cyber incidents in the future. While the Fund has established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent, such cyber attacks, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified and that prevention and remediation efforts will not be successful. Furthermore, the Fund cannot control the cyber security plans and systems put in place by service providers to the Fund, issuers in which the Fund invests, market makers or authorized participants. However, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, and the Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

**DEBT SECURITIES RISK.** Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer or other obligor of a security will not be able or willing to make payments of interest and principal when due. Generally, the value of debt securities will change inversely with changes in interest rates. To the extent that interest rates rise, certain underlying obligations may be paid off substantially slower than originally anticipated and the value of those securities may fall sharply. During periods of falling interest rates, the income received by the Fund may decline. If the principal on a debt security is prepaid before expected, the prepayments of principal may have to be reinvested in obligations paying interest at lower rates. Debt securities generally do not trade on a centralized securities exchange making them generally less liquid and more difficult to value than common stock. The values of debt securities may also increase or decrease as a result of market fluctuations, actual or perceived inability or unwillingness of issuers, guarantors or liquidity providers to make scheduled principal or interest payments or illiquidity in debt securities markets generally.

**DERIVATIVES RISK.** The use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. These risks include: (i) the risk that the counterparty to a derivative transaction may not fulfill its contractual obligations; (ii) risk of mispricing or improper valuation; and (iii) the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset. Derivative prices are highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. Such prices are influenced by numerous factors that affect the markets, including, but not limited to: changing supply and demand relationships; government programs and policies; national and international political and economic events, changes in interest rates, inflation and deflation and changes in supply and demand relationships. Trading derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities. Derivative contracts ordinarily have leverage inherent in their terms. The low margin deposits normally required in trading derivatives, including futures contracts, permit a high degree of leverage. Accordingly, a relatively small price movement may result in an immediate and substantial loss. The use of leverage may also cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it would not be advantageous to do so in order to satisfy its obligations. The use of leveraged derivatives can magnify potential for gain or loss and, therefore, amplify the effects of market volatility on share price.

**FLEX OPTIONS RISK.** Trading FLEX Options involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities. The Fund may experience substantial downside from specific FLEX Option positions and certain FLEX Option positions may expire worthless. The FLEX Options are listed on an exchange; however, no one can guarantee that a liquid secondary trading market will exist for the FLEX Options. In the event that trading in the FLEX Options is limited or absent, the value of the Fund's FLEX Options may decrease. In a less liquid market for the FLEX Options, liquidating the FLEX Options may require the payment of a premium (for written FLEX Options) or acceptance of a discounted price (for purchased FLEX Options) and may take longer to complete. A less liquid trading market may adversely impact the value of



the FLEX Options and Fund shares and result in the Fund being unable to achieve its investment objective. Less liquidity in the trading of the Fund's FLEX Options could have an impact on the prices paid or received by the Fund for the FLEX Options in connection with creations and redemptions of the Fund's shares. Depending on the nature of this impact to pricing, the Fund may be forced to pay more for redemptions (or receive less for creations) than the price at which it currently values the FLEX Options. Such overpayment or under collection may impact the value of the Fund and whether the Fund can satisfy its investment objective. Additionally, in a less liquid market for the FLEX Options, the liquidation of a large number of options may more significantly impact the price. A less liquid trading market may adversely impact the value of the FLEX Options and the value of your investment. The trading in FLEX Options may be less deep and liquid than the market for certain other exchange-traded options, non-customized options or other securities.

Transactions in FLEX Options are required to be centrally cleared. In a transaction involving FLEX Options, the Fund's counterparty is the OCC, rather than a bank or broker. Since the Fund is not a member of the OCC and only members ("*clearing members*") can participate directly in the OCC, the Fund will hold its FLEX Options through accounts at clearing members. Although clearing members guarantee performance of their clients' obligations to the OCC, there is a risk that a clearing member may default. The OCC collects margin, maintains a clearing fund specifically to mitigate a clearing member default and segregates all customer accounts from a clearing member's proprietary accounts, which further acts to protect a clearing member's customers from the default of the clearing member. However, there is still a risk that the assets of the Fund might not be fully protected in the event of a clearing member's default. If the Fund's clearing member defaults, the OCC may transfer customer accounts to another clearing member. The OCC may also close out positions and convert deposits of the defaulting clearing member to cash. As a result of this process, the Fund would be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds segregated on behalf of the clearing member's customers for the relevant account class. Therefore, the Fund could experience and significant loss in the event of a clearing member's default. Additionally, the OCC may be unable to perform its obligations under the FLEX Options contracts due to unexpected events, which could negatively impact the value of the Fund.

**FLEX OPTIONS VALUATION RISK.** The FLEX Options held by the Fund will be exercisable at the strike price only on their expiration date. Prior to the expiration date, the value of the FLEX Options will be determined based upon market quotations or using other recognized pricing methods. The FLEX Options are also subject to correlation risk, meaning the value of the FLEX Options does not increase or decrease at the same rate as the Underlying ETF (although they generally move in the same direction) or its underlying securities. The value of the FLEX Options prior to the expiration date may vary because of factors other than the value of the Underlying ETF, such as interest rate changes, changing supply and demand, decreased liquidity of the FLEX Options, a change in the actual and perceived volatility of the stock market and the Underlying ETF and the remaining time to expiration. FLEX Option prices may also be highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. During periods of reduced market liquidity or in the absence of readily available market quotations for the holdings of the Fund, the ability of the Fund to value the FLEX Options becomes more difficult and the judgment of the Fund's investment adviser (employing the fair value procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Trust) may play a greater role in the valuation of the Fund's holdings due to reduced availability of reliable objective pricing data. Consequently, while such determinations may be made in good faith, it may nevertheless be more difficult for the Fund to accurately assign a daily value. Under those circumstances, the value of the FLEX Options will require more reliance on the investment adviser's judgment than that required for securities for which there is an active trading market. This creates a risk of mispricing or improper valuation of the FLEX Options which could impact the value paid for shares of the Fund.

**INCOME RISK.** The Fund's income may decline when interest rates fall. This decline can occur because the Fund may subsequently invest in lower-yielding securities as debt securities in its portfolio mature, are near maturity or are called, or the Fund otherwise needs to purchase additional debt securities. In addition, the Fund's income could decline when the Fund experiences defaults on the debt securities it holds.

**INDEX OR MODEL CONSTITUENT RISK.** The Fund may be a constituent of one or more indices or ETF models. As a result, the Fund may be included in one or more index-tracking ETFs or mutual funds. Being a component security of such a vehicle could greatly affect the trading activity involving the Fund's shares, the size of the Fund and the market volatility of the Fund's shares. Inclusion in an index could increase demand for the Fund and removal from an index could result in outsized selling activity in a relatively short period of time. As a result, the Fund's net asset value could be negatively impacted and the Fund's market price may be below the Fund's net asset value during certain periods. In addition, index rebalances may potentially result in increased trading activity. To the extent buying or selling activity increases, the Fund can be exposed to increased brokerage costs and adverse tax consequences and the market price of the Fund can be negatively affected.

**INFLATION RISK.** Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the present value of the Fund's assets and distributions may

decline. This risk is more prevalent with respect to debt securities held by the Fund. Inflation creates uncertainty over the future real value (after inflation) of an investment. Inflation rates may change frequently and drastically as a result of various factors, including unexpected shifts in the domestic or global economy, and the Fund's investments may not keep pace with inflation, which may result in losses to Fund investors.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** The value of debt securities held by the Fund will fluctuate in value with changes in interest rates. In general, debt securities will increase in value when interest rates fall and decrease in value when interest rates rise. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government fiscal policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter term investments and higher for longer term investments. Duration is a common measure of interest rate risk. Duration measures a debt security's expected life on a present value basis, taking into account the debt security's yield, interest payments and final maturity. Duration is a reasonably accurate measure of a debt security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The longer the duration of a debt security, the greater the debt security's price sensitivity is to changes in interest rates. Rising interest rates also may lengthen the duration of debt securities with call features, since exercise of the call becomes less likely as interest rates rise, which in turn will make the securities more sensitive to changes in interest rates and result in even steeper price declines in the event of further interest rate increases. An increase in interest rates could also cause principal payments on a debt security to be repaid at a slower rate than expected. This risk is particularly prevalent for a callable debt security where an increase in interest rates could cause the issuer of that security to not redeem the security as anticipated on the call date, effectively lengthening the security's expected maturity, in turn making that security more vulnerable to interest rate risk and reducing its market value. When interest rates fall, the Fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds from the sale, redemption or early prepayment of a debt security at a lower interest rate.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing the Fund's investment portfolio, the portfolio managers will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not produce the desired result. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective(s), meet relevant benchmarks or perform as well as other funds with similar objectives.

**MARKET RISK.** Market risk is the risk that a particular security, or shares of the Fund in general, may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic, political, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of the Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments due to short-term market movements or any longer periods during more prolonged market downturns. In addition, local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, spread of infectious diseases or other public health issues, recessions, natural disasters, or other events could have a significant negative impact on the Fund and its investments. For example, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) global pandemic and the ensuing policies enacted by governments and central banks have caused and may continue to cause significant volatility and uncertainty in global financial markets, negatively impacting global growth prospects. While vaccines have been developed, there is no guarantee that vaccines will be effective against future variants of the disease. Additionally, in February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine which has caused and could continue to cause significant market disruptions and volatility within the markets in Russia, Europe, and the United States. The hostilities and sanctions resulting from those hostilities could have a significant impact on certain Fund investments as well as Fund performance. These events also adversely affect the prices and liquidity of the Fund's portfolio securities or other instruments and could result in disruptions in the trading markets. Recent and potential future bank failures could result in disruption to the broader banking industry or markets generally and reduce confidence in financial institutions and the economy as a whole, which may also heighten market volatility and reduce liquidity. Any of such circumstances could have a materially negative impact on the value of the Fund's shares and result in increased market volatility. During any such events, the Fund's shares may trade at increased premiums or discounts to their net asset value and the bid/ask spread on the Fund's shares may widen.

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK.** The Fund is operated in a non-diversified manner. As a "non-diversified" fund, the Fund may hold a smaller number of portfolio securities than many other funds and may be more sensitive to any single economic, business, political or regulatory occurrence than a diversified fund. To the extent the Fund invests in a relatively small number of issuers due to the high percentage of the Fund's assets invested in that security, a decline in the market value of a particular security held by the Fund may affect its value more than if it invested in a larger number of issuers. The value of the Fund's shares may be more volatile than the values of shares of more diversified funds.

**OPERATIONAL RISK.** The Fund is subject to risks arising from various operational factors, including, but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed



or inadequate processes and technology or systems failures. The Fund relies on third-parties for a range of services, including custody. Any delay or failure relating to engaging or maintaining such service providers may affect the Fund's ability to meet its investment objective. Although the Fund and the Fund's investment advisor seek to reduce these operational risks through controls and procedures, there is no way to completely protect against such risks.

**PREMIUM/DISCOUNT RISK.** The market price of the Fund's shares will generally fluctuate in accordance with changes in the Fund's net asset value as well as the relative supply of and demand for shares on the Exchange. First Trust cannot predict whether shares will trade below, at or above their net asset value because the shares trade on the Exchange at market prices and not at net asset value. Price differences may be due, in large part, to the fact that supply and demand forces at work in the secondary trading market for shares will be closely related, but not identical, to the same forces influencing the prices of the holdings of the Fund trading individually or in the aggregate at any point in time. However, given that shares can only be purchased and redeemed in Creation Units, and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements (unlike shares of closed-end funds, which frequently trade at appreciable discounts from, and sometimes at premiums to, their net asset value), First Trust believes that large discounts or premiums to the net asset value of shares should not be sustained absent disruptions to the creation and redemption mechanism, extreme market volatility or potential lack of authorized participants. During stressed market conditions, the market for the Fund's shares may become less liquid in response to deteriorating liquidity in the market for the Fund's underlying portfolio holdings, which could in turn lead to differences between the market price of the Fund's shares and their net asset value and the bid/ask spread on the Fund's shares may widen.

**SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE RISK.** To the extent that the Fund invests a significant percentage of its assets in a single asset class or industry or sector, an adverse economic, business or political development that affected a particular asset class, region or industry may affect the value of the Fund's investments more than if the Fund were more broadly diversified. A significant exposure makes the Fund more susceptible to any single occurrence and may subject the Fund to greater volatility and market risk than a fund that is more broadly diversified.

**SUBSIDIARY INVESTMENT RISK.** The Subsidiary is not registered under the 1940 Act and is not subject to all of the investor protections of the 1940 Act. Thus, the Fund, as an investor in the Subsidiary, will not have all of the protections offered to investors in registered investment companies. In addition, changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands, under which the Fund and the Subsidiary is organized, respectively, could result in the inability of the Fund and/or the Subsidiary to operate as intended and could negatively affect the Fund and its shareholders.

**TARGET OUTCOME PERIOD RISK.** The Fund's investment strategy is designed to deliver returns that match the Underlying ETF if Fund shares are bought on the day on which the Fund enters into the FLEX Options (*i.e.*, the first day of a Target Outcome Period) and held until those FLEX Options expire at the end of the Target Outcome Period subject to the cap. In the event an investor purchases Fund shares after the first day of a Target Outcome Period or sells shares prior to the expiration of the Target Outcome Period, the value of that investor's investment in Fund shares may not be buffered against a decline in the value of the Underlying ETF and may not participate in a gain in the value of the Underlying ETF up to the cap for the investor's investment period.

**TAX RISK.** The Fund intends to treat any income it may derive from FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF received by the Subsidiary as "qualifying income" under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, applicable to "regulated investment companies" ("RICs"). The Internal Revenue Service had issued numerous private letter rulings ("PLRs") provided to third parties not associated with the Fund or its affiliates (which only those parties may rely on as precedent) concluding that similar arrangements resulted in qualifying income. Many of such PLRs have now been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. In March of 2019, the Internal Revenue Service published Regulations that concluded that income from a corporation similar to the Subsidiary would be qualifying income, if the income is related to the Fund's business of investing in stocks or securities. Although the Regulations do not require distributions from the Subsidiary, the Fund intends to cause the Subsidiary to make distributions that would allow the Fund to make timely distributions to its shareholders. The Fund generally will be required to include in its own taxable income the income of the Subsidiary for a tax year, regardless of whether the Fund receives a distribution of the Subsidiary's income in that tax year, and this income would nevertheless be subject to the distribution requirement for qualification as a regulated investment company and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax.

If the Fund did not qualify as a RIC for any taxable year and certain relief provisions were not available, the Fund's taxable income would be subject to tax at the Fund level and to a further tax at the shareholder level when such income is distributed. In such event, in order to re-qualify for taxation as a RIC, the Fund might be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make certain distributions. This would cause investors to incur higher tax liabilities than

they otherwise would have incurred and would have a negative impact on Fund returns. In such event, the Fund's Board of Trustees may determine to reorganize or close the Fund or materially change the Fund's investment objective and strategies. In the event that the Fund fails to qualify as a RIC, the Fund will promptly notify shareholders of the implications of that failure.

**TRADING ISSUES RISK.** Trading in Fund shares on the Exchange may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in shares inadvisable. In addition, trading in Fund shares on the Exchange is subject to trading halts caused by extraordinary market volatility pursuant to the Exchange's "circuit breaker" rules. There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of the Fund will continue to be met or will remain unchanged. The Fund may have difficulty maintaining its listing on the Exchange in the event the Fund's assets are small, the Fund does not have enough shareholders, or if the Fund is unable to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders.

**UNDERLYING ETF GOLD RISK.** The Fund will have exposure to gold through its investments (through the Subsidiary) in FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF, which invests substantially all of its assets in physical gold bullion. The price of gold bullion can be significantly affected by international monetary and political developments such as currency devaluation or revaluation, central bank movements, economic and social conditions within a country, transactional or trade imbalances, or trade or currency restrictions between countries. Physical gold bullion has sales commission, storage, insurance and auditing expenses. Investments in gold generally may be speculative and subject to greater price volatility than investments in other types of assets. The price of metals, such as gold, is related to, among other things, worldwide metal prices and extraction and production costs. Worldwide metal prices may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time, and as a result, the Fund's share price may be more volatile than other types of investments. There is a risk that some or all of the Underlying ETF's gold bars held by its custodian or any subcustodian could be lost, damaged or stolen. Access to the Underlying ETF's gold bars could also be restricted by natural events (such as an earthquake) or human actions (such as a terrorist attack). Any of these events may adversely affect the operations of the Underlying ETF and, consequently, an investment based on the value of the Underlying ETF's shares. Additionally, the Underlying ETF does not insure its gold and a loss may be suffered with respect to the Underlying ETF's gold which is not covered by insurance and for which no party is liable for damages.

**UNDERLYING ETF RISK.** The Subsidiary invests in FLEX Options that reference an ETF, which subjects the Subsidiary to certain of the risks of owning shares of an ETF as well as the types of instruments in which the Underlying ETF invests. The value of an ETF will fluctuate over time based on fluctuations in the values of the securities held by the ETF, which may be affected by changes in general economic conditions, expectations for future growth and profits, interest rates and the supply and demand for those securities. In addition, ETFs are subject to the absence of an active market risk, premium/discount risk, tracking error risk and trading issues risk. Certain options on an ETF may not qualify as "Section 1256 contracts" under Section 1256 of the Code, and disposition of such options will likely result in short-term or long-term capital gains or losses depending on the holding period.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES RISK.** The Fund may invest in U.S. government securities. U.S. government securities are subject to interest rate risk but generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of debt securities. As a result, the yields available from U.S. government securities are generally lower than the yields available from other debt securities. U.S. government securities are guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and the payment of principal when held to maturity.

### **Non-Principal Risks**

**BORROWING AND LEVERAGE RISK.** If the Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which may reduce the Fund's returns. Any such borrowings are intended to be temporary. However, under certain market conditions, including periods of decreased liquidity, such borrowings might be outstanding for longer periods of time. As prescribed by the 1940 Act, the Fund will be required to maintain specified asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to any bank borrowing immediately following such borrowing and at all times thereafter. The Fund may be required to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms if market fluctuations or other factors reduce the Fund's asset coverage to less than the prescribed amount.

**DEPENDENCE ON KEY PERSONNEL RISK.** The Sub-Advisor is dependent upon the experience and expertise of the Fund's portfolio managers in providing advisory services with respect to the Fund's investments. If the Sub-Advisor were to lose the services of any of these portfolio managers, its ability to service the Fund could be adversely affected. There can be no assurance that a suitable replacement could be found for any of the portfolio managers in the event of their death, resignation, retirement or inability to act on behalf of the Sub-Advisor.

**FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANY RISK.** If, in any year, the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under the applicable tax laws, the Fund would be taxed as an ordinary corporation. In such circumstances,

the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

## Fund Organization

The Fund is a series of the Trust, an investment company registered under the 1940 Act. The Fund is treated as a separate fund with its own investment objectives and policies. The Trust is organized as a Massachusetts business trust. The Board is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Trust. The Board elects the Trust's officers and approves all significant agreements, including those with the Advisor, Sub-Advisor, distributor, custodian and fund administrative and accounting agent.

## Management of the Fund

First Trust Advisors L.P., 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, is the investment advisor to the Fund. In this capacity, First Trust is responsible for overseeing the Sub-Advisor in the selection and ongoing monitoring of the securities in the Fund's portfolio and certain other services necessary for the management of the portfolio.

First Trust is a limited partnership with one limited partner, Grace Partners of DuPage L.P., and one general partner, The Charger Corporation. Grace Partners of DuPage L.P. is a limited partnership with one general partner, The Charger Corporation, and a number of limited partners. The Charger Corporation is an Illinois corporation controlled by James A. Bowen, the Chief Executive Officer of First Trust. First Trust discharges its responsibilities subject to the policies of the Fund.

First Trust serves as advisor or sub-advisor for 9 mutual fund portfolios, 10 exchange-traded funds consisting of 207 series and 14 closed-end funds. It is also the portfolio supervisor of certain unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. ("*FTP*"), an affiliate of First Trust, 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. FTP specializes in the underwriting, trading and distribution of unit investment trusts and other securities. FTP is the principal underwriter of the shares of the Fund.

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and First Trust have retained Vest Financial LLC ("*Vest*" or the "*Sub-Advisor*") to serve as investment sub-advisor pursuant to a sub-advisory agreement (the "*Sub-Advisory Agreement*"). In this capacity, Vest is responsible for the selection and ongoing monitoring of the securities in the Fund's investment portfolio. Vest, with principal offices at 8350 Broad St., Suite 240, McLean, Virginia 22102, was founded in 2012, and is a Delaware LLC. Vest had approximately \$10.8 billion under management or committed to management as of February 28, 2023.

The Sub-Advisor is a subsidiary of Vest Group, Inc. ("*VG*"). First Trust Capital Partners, LLC ("*FTCP*"), an affiliate of First Trust, is the largest single holder of voting shares in VG.

Karan Sood and Howard Rubin are the Fund's portfolio managers and are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's investment portfolio.

- Mr. Sood has over 10 years of experience in derivative based investment strategy design and trading. Mr. Sood joined Vest in 2012. Prior to joining Vest, Mr. Sood worked at ProShare Advisors LLC. Prior to ProShare, Mr. Sood worked as a Vice President at Barclays Capital. Last based in New York, he was responsible for using derivatives to design structured investment strategies and solutions for the firm's institutional clients in the Americas. Prior to his role in New York, Mr. Sood worked in similar capacity in London with Barclays Capital's European clients. Mr. Sood received a master's degree in Decision Sciences & Operations Research from London School of Economics & Political Science. He also holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- Mr. Rubin has over 25 years of experience as a Portfolio Manager. Mr. Rubin joined Vest in 2017. Prior to joining Vest, Mr. Rubin served as Director of Portfolio Management at ProShare Advisors LLC from December 2007 to September 2013. Mr. Rubin also served as Senior Portfolio Manager of ProFund Advisors LLC since November 2004 and Portfolio Manager of ProFund Advisors LLC from April 2000 through November 2004. Mr. Rubin holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. Mr. Rubin received a master's degree in Finance from George Washington University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania.

For additional information concerning First Trust and the Sub-Advisor, including a description of the services provided to the Fund, see the Fund's SAI. Additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers and ownership by the portfolio managers of shares of the Fund is provided in the SAI.

## Management of the Subsidiary

The Subsidiary is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fund. The Subsidiary is organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands and overseen by its own board of directors. The Fund is the sole shareholder of the Subsidiary, and it is currently expected that shares of the Subsidiary will not be sold or offered to other investors. The Fund and the Subsidiary in the aggregate are managed to comply with the compliance policies and procedures of the Fund. As a result, in managing the Fund's and the Subsidiary's portfolios, First Trust will comply with the investment policies and restrictions that apply to the management of the Fund and the Subsidiary (on a consolidated basis), and, in particular, to the requirements relating to leverage, liquidity, brokerage, capital structure and the timing and method of the valuation of the Fund's and the Subsidiary's portfolio investments. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer oversees implementation of the Subsidiary's policies and procedures and makes periodic reports to the Trust's Board of Trustees regarding the Subsidiary's compliance with its policies and procedures. First Trust serves as the investment advisor of the Subsidiary and Vest serves as investment sub-advisor to the Subsidiary. The investment advisor (First Trust) and investment sub-advisor (Vest) to the Subsidiary comply with provisions of the 1940 Act relating to investment advisory contracts. The Subsidiary does not pay either the Advisor or Sub-Advisor a management fee for investment management services. While the Subsidiary has also entered into separate contracts for the provision of custody, transfer agency and audit services, the Advisor will pay for these expenses.

## Management Fee

Pursuant to an investment management agreement between First Trust and the Trust, on behalf of the Fund (the "*Investment Management Agreement*"), First Trust oversees the Sub-Advisor's management of the Fund's assets and pays the Sub-Advisor for its services as Sub-Advisor. First Trust is paid an annual unitary management fee by the Fund equal to 0.90% of the Fund's average daily net assets and is responsible for the Fund's expenses, including the cost of transfer agency, sub-advisory, custody, fund administration, legal, audit and other services, but excluding fee payments under the Investment Management Agreement, interest, taxes, brokerage commissions and other expenses connected with the execution of portfolio transactions, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a 12b-1 plan, if any, and extraordinary expenses.

As approved by the Trust's Board of Trustees, the management fee paid to First Trust will be reduced at certain levels of Fund net assets ("*breakpoints*"). See the Fund's Statement of Additional Information for more information on the breakpoints. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the amendment to the Investment Management Agreement incorporating the breakpoints is available in the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2022.

A discussion regarding the Board's approval of the continuation of the Investment Management Agreement and Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement is available in the Fund's Semi-Annual Report to shareholders for the fiscal period ended June 30, 2022.

## How to Buy and Sell Shares

Most investors buy and sell shares of the Fund in secondary market transactions through brokers. Shares of the Fund are listed for trading on the secondary market on one or more national securities exchanges. Shares can be bought and sold throughout the trading day like other publicly traded shares. There is no minimum investment when buying shares on the Exchange. Although shares are generally purchased and sold in "round lots" of 100 shares, brokerage firms typically permit investors to purchase or sell shares in smaller "odd lots," at no per-share price differential. When buying or selling shares through a broker, investors should expect to pay brokerage commissions, investors may receive less than the net asset value of the shares because shares are bought and sold at market prices rather than at net asset value, and investors may pay some or all of the bid-ask spread for each transaction (purchase or sale) of Fund shares. Share prices are reported in dollars and cents per share.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will pay out redemption proceeds to a redeeming authorized participant within two days after the authorized participant's redemption request is received, in accordance with the process set forth in the Fund's SAI and in the agreement between the authorized participant and the Fund's distributor. However, the Fund reserves the right, including under stressed market conditions, to take up to seven days after the receipt of a redemption request to pay an authorized participant, all as permitted by the 1940 Act. If the Fund has foreign investments in a country where a local market holiday, or series of consecutive holidays, or the extended delivery cycles for transferring foreign investments to redeeming authorized participants prevents the Fund from delivering such foreign investments to an authorized participant in response to a redemption request, the Fund may take up to 15 days after the receipt of the redemption request to deliver such investments to the authorized participant.

For purposes of the 1940 Act, the Fund is treated as a registered investment company, and the acquisition of shares by other registered investment companies and companies relying on Sections 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the 1940 Act is subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act and the related rules and interpretations.

## **Book Entry**

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding shares of the Fund and is recognized as the owner of all shares for all purposes.

Investors owning shares are beneficial owners as shown on the records of DTC or its participants. DTC serves as the securities depository for all shares. Participants in DTC include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other institutions that directly or indirectly maintain a custodial relationship with DTC. As a beneficial owner of shares, you are not entitled to receive physical delivery of share certificates or to have shares registered in your name, and you are not considered a registered owner of shares. Therefore, to exercise any right as an owner of shares, you must rely upon the procedures of DTC and its participants. These procedures are the same as those that apply to any other stocks that you hold in book-entry or "street name" form.

## **Share Trading Prices**

The trading price of shares of the Fund on the secondary market is based on market price and may differ from the Fund's daily net asset value and can be affected by market forces of supply and demand, economic conditions and other factors.

## **Frequent Purchases and Redemptions of the Fund's Shares**

The Fund imposes no restrictions on the frequency of purchases and redemptions ("*market timing*"). In determining not to approve a written, established policy, the Board evaluated the risks of market timing activities by the Fund's shareholders. The Board considered that the Fund's shares can only be purchased and redeemed directly from the Fund in Creation Units by broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements (*i.e.*, authorized participants ("APs")) and that the vast majority of trading in the Fund's shares occurs on the secondary market. Because the secondary market trades do not involve the Fund directly, it is unlikely those trades would cause many of the harmful effects of market timing, including dilution, disruption of portfolio management, increases in the Fund's trading costs and the realization of capital gains. With respect to trades directly with the Fund, to the extent effected in-kind (*i.e.*, for securities), those trades do not cause any of the harmful effects that may result from frequent cash trades. To the extent that the Fund may effect the purchase or redemption of Creation Units in exchange wholly or partially for cash, the Board noted that such trades could result in dilution to the Fund and increased transaction costs, which could negatively impact the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective. However, the Board noted that direct trading by APs is critical to ensuring that the shares trade at or close to net asset value. In addition, the Fund imposes fixed and variable transaction fees on purchases and redemptions of Creation Units to cover the custodial and other costs incurred by the Fund in effecting trades. Finally, the Advisor monitors purchase and redemption orders from APs for patterns of abusive trading and the Fund reserves the right to not accept orders from APs that the Advisor has determined may be disruptive to the management of the Fund.

## **Dividends, Distributions and Taxes**

Dividends from net investment income of the Fund, if any, are declared and paid annually by the Fund. The Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually.

Distributions in cash may be reinvested automatically in additional whole shares only if the broker through whom you purchased shares makes such option available. Such shares will generally be reinvested by the broker based upon the market price of those shares and investors may be subject to customary brokerage commissions charged by the broker.

## **Federal Tax Matters**

This section summarizes some of the main U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning shares of the Fund. This section is current as of the date of this prospectus. Tax laws and interpretations change frequently, and these summaries do not describe all of the tax consequences to all taxpayers. For example, these summaries generally do not describe your situation if you are a corporation, a non-U.S. person, a broker-dealer, or other investor with special circumstances. In addition, this section does not describe your state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.



This federal income tax summary is based in part on the advice of counsel to the Fund. The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") could disagree with any conclusions set forth in this section. The following disclosure may not be sufficient for you to use for the purpose of avoiding penalties under federal tax law.

As with any investment, you should seek advice based on your individual circumstances from your own tax advisor.

## **Fund Status**

The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a "regulated investment company" (a "RIC") under the federal tax laws. If the Fund qualifies as a RIC and distributes its income as required by the tax law, the Fund generally will not pay federal income taxes. Although the Subsidiary's options positions provide exposure to the Underlying ETF, and not gold directly, the Underlying ETF is a grantor trust and its shareholders are treated, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as if they directly owned a pro rata share of the Underlying ETF's assets.

For federal income tax purposes, you are treated as the owner of Fund shares and not of the assets held by the Fund. Taxability issues are taken into account at the Fund level. Your federal income tax treatment of income from the Fund is based on the distributions paid by the Fund.

Subject to certain reasonable cause and de minimis exceptions, to qualify for the favorable U.S. federal income tax treatment generally accorded to RICs, the Fund must, among other things, (i) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies, or net income derived from interests in certain publicly traded partnerships; (ii) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the taxable year, (a) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. government securities, the securities of other RICs and other securities, with such other securities of any one issuer generally limited for the purposes of this calculation to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not greater than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other RICs) of any one issuer, or two or more issuers which the Fund controls which are engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more of certain publicly traded partnerships; and (iii) distribute at least 90% of its investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, dividends, interest and net short-term capital gains in excess of long-term capital losses) and at least 90% of its net tax-exempt interest income each taxable year. There are certain exceptions for failure to qualify if the failure is for reasonable cause or is de minimis, and certain corrective action is taken and certain tax payments are made by the Fund.

Income from commodities is generally not qualifying income for RICs. The Fund intends to treat any income it may derive from FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF received by the Subsidiary as "qualifying income" under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, applicable to RICs. The Internal Revenue Service had issued numerous PLRs provided to third parties not associated with the Fund or its affiliates (which only those parties may rely on as precedent) concluding that similar arrangements resulted in qualifying income. Many of such PLRs have now been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. In March of 2019, the Internal Revenue Service published Regulations that concluded that income from a corporation similar to the Subsidiary would be qualifying income, if the income is related to the Fund's business of investing in stocks or securities. Although the Regulations do not require distributions from the Subsidiary, the Fund intends to cause the Subsidiary to make distributions that would allow the Fund to make timely distributions to its shareholders. The Fund generally will be required to include in its own taxable income the income of the Subsidiary for a tax year, regardless of whether the Fund receives a distribution of the Subsidiary's income in that tax year, and this income would nevertheless be subject to the distribution requirement for qualification as a regulated investment company and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax.

The Fund has undertaken to not hold more than 25% of its assets in the Subsidiary at the end of any quarter. If the Fund fails to limit itself to the 25% ceiling and fails to correct the issue within 30 days after the end of the quarter, the Fund may fail the RIC diversification tests described above.

Subject to certain reasonable cause and de minimis exceptions, if the Fund fails to qualify as a RIC or fails to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement in any taxable year, the Fund will be taxed as an ordinary corporation on its taxable income (even if such income were distributed to its shareholders) and all distributions out of earnings and profits will be taxed to you as dividend income, which, in general and subject to limitations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, under current law will constitute qualified dividend income in the case of individual shareholders and would be eligible for the corporate

dividends received deduction. In such event, in order to re-qualify for taxation as a RIC, the Fund might be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make certain distributions. This would cause investors to incur higher tax liabilities than they otherwise would have incurred and would have a negative impact on Fund returns. In such event, the Fund's Board of Trustees may determine to reorganize or close the Fund or materially change the Fund's investment objective and strategies.

## **Distributions**

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable. After the end of each year, you will receive a tax statement that separates the distributions of the Fund into two categories: ordinary income distributions and capital gain dividends. Ordinary income distributions are generally taxed at your ordinary tax rate, however, as further discussed below certain ordinary income distributions received from the Fund may be taxed at the capital gains tax rates. Generally, you will treat all capital gain dividends as long-term capital gains regardless of how long you have owned your shares.

To determine your actual tax liability for your capital gain dividends, you must calculate your total net capital gain or loss for the tax year after considering all of your other taxable transactions, as described below. In addition, the Fund may make distributions that represent a return of capital for tax purposes and thus will generally not be taxable to you; however, such distributions may reduce your tax basis in your shares, which could result in you having to pay higher taxes in the future when shares are sold, even if you sell the shares at a loss from your original investment. A "return of capital" is a return, in whole or in part, of the funds that you previously invested in the Fund. A return of capital distribution should not be considered part of a Fund's dividend yield or total return of an investment in Fund shares. The tax status of your distributions from the Fund is not affected by whether you reinvest your distributions in additional shares or receive them in cash. The income from the Fund that you must take into account for federal income tax purposes is not reduced by amounts used to pay a deferred sales fee, if any. The tax laws may require you to treat distributions made to you in January as if you had received them on December 31 of the previous year.

Income from the Fund may also be subject to a 3.8% "Medicare tax." This tax generally applies to your net investment income if your adjusted gross income exceeds certain threshold amounts, which are \$250,000 in the case of married couples filing joint returns and \$200,000 in the case of single individuals.

## **Dividends Received Deduction**

A corporation that owns shares generally will not be entitled to the dividends received deduction with respect to many dividends received from the Fund because the dividends received deduction is generally not available for distributions from RICs.

## **Capital Gains and Losses**

If you are an individual, the maximum marginal stated federal tax rate for net capital gains is generally 20% (15% or 0% for taxpayers with taxable incomes below certain thresholds). Capital gains may also be subject to the Medicare tax described above. Generally, the maximum capital gains rate for individuals for an investment in gold is 28%. However, income from the Subsidiary may be subject to tax at higher ordinary income rates when distributed to investors.

Net capital gain equals net long-term capital gain minus net short-term capital loss for the taxable year. Capital gain or loss is long-term if the holding period for the asset is more than one year and is short-term if the holding period for the asset is one year or less. You must exclude the date you purchase your shares to determine your holding period. However, if you receive a capital gain dividend from the Fund and sell your share at a loss after holding it for six months or less, the loss will be recharacterized as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain dividend received. The tax rates for capital gains realized from assets held for one year or less are generally the same as for ordinary income. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, treats certain capital gains as ordinary income in special situations.

An election may be available to you to defer recognition of the gain attributable to a capital gain dividend if you make certain qualifying investments within a limited time. You should talk to your tax advisor about the availability of this deferral election and its requirements.

## **Sale of Shares**

If you sell or redeem your shares, you will generally recognize a taxable gain or loss. To determine the amount of this gain or loss, you must subtract your tax basis in your shares from the amount you receive in the transaction. Your tax basis in your shares is generally equal to the cost of your shares, generally including brokerage fees, if any. In some cases, however, you may have to adjust your tax basis after you purchase your shares. An election may be available to you to defer recognition of

capital gain if you make certain qualifying investments within a limited time. You should talk to your tax advisor about the availability of this deferral election and its requirements.

### **Taxes on Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units**

If you exchange securities for Creation Units, you will generally recognize a gain or a loss. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time and your aggregate basis in the securities surrendered and the cash component paid. See the SAI for more information. If you exchange Creation Units for securities, you will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between your basis in the Creation Units and the aggregate market value of the securities received and the cash redemption amount. The IRS, however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units or Creation Units for securities cannot be deducted currently under the rules governing "wash sales," or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position.

### **Treatment of Fund Expenses**

Expenses incurred and deducted by the Fund will generally not be treated as income taxable to you.

### **Treatment of the FLEX Options**

The Subsidiary's investments in offsetting positions with respect to the Underlying ETF may be "straddles" for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The straddle rules may affect the character of gains (or losses) realized by the Subsidiary, and losses realized by the Subsidiary on positions that are part of a straddle may be deferred under the straddle rules, rather than being taken into account in calculating taxable income for the taxable year in which the losses are realized. In addition, certain carrying charges (including interest expense) associated with positions in a straddle may be required to be capitalized rather than deducted currently. Certain elections that the Subsidiary may make with respect to its straddle positions may also affect the amount, character and timing of the recognition of gains or losses from the affected positions.

The tax consequences of straddle transactions to the Subsidiary are not entirely clear in all situations under currently available authority. The straddle rules may increase the amount of short-term capital gain realized by the Fund, which is taxed as ordinary income when distributed to U.S. shareholders in a non-liquidating distribution. Because application of the straddle rules may affect the character of gains or losses, defer losses and/or accelerate the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions, the amount which must be distributed to U.S. shareholders as ordinary income may be increased or decreased substantially as compared to a fund that did not engage in such transactions.

The FLEX Options included in the Subsidiary's portfolio are exchange-traded options. Under Section 1256 of the Code, certain types of exchange-traded options are treated as if they were sold (*i.e.*, "marked to market") at the end of each year. If all of the options held by the Subsidiary are 1256 contracts, the options will not be subject to the straddle rules.

### **Non-U.S. Investors**

If you are a non-U.S. investor (*i.e.*, an investor other than a U.S. citizen or resident or a U.S. corporation, partnership, estate or trust), you should be aware that, generally, subject to applicable tax treaties, distributions from the Fund will be characterized as dividends for federal income tax purposes (other than dividends which the Fund properly reports as capital gain dividends) and will be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, subject to certain exceptions described below. However, distributions received by a non-U.S. investor from the Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as capital gain dividends may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met. Distributions from the Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as an interest-related dividend attributable to certain interest income received by the Fund or as a short-term capital gain dividend attributable to certain net short-term capital gain income received by the Fund may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes when received by certain non-U.S. investors, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met. For tax years after December 31, 2022, amounts paid to or recognized by a non-U.S. affiliate that are excluded from tax under the portfolio interest, capital gain dividends, short-term capital gains or tax-exempt interest dividend exceptions or applicable treaties, may be taken into consideration in determining whether a corporation is an "applicable corporation" subject to a 15% minimum tax on adjusted financial statement income.

Distributions may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax of 30% in the case of distributions to (i) certain non-U.S. financial institutions that have not entered into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury to collect and disclose certain information and are not resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into such an agreement with the U.S. Treasury and (ii) certain other non-U.S. entities that do not provide certain certifications and information about the entity's U.S. owners. This withholding tax is also



currently scheduled to apply to the gross proceeds from the disposition of securities that produce U.S. source interest or dividends. However, proposed regulations may eliminate the requirement to withhold on payments of gross proceeds from dispositions.

### **Investments in the Subsidiary**

One of the requirements for qualification as a RIC is that the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from "qualifying income." Qualifying income includes dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies.

The Fund intends to treat any income it may derive from FLEX Options on the Underlying ETF received by the Subsidiary as "qualifying income" under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, applicable to RICs. The Internal Revenue Service had issued numerous PLRs provided to third parties not associated with the Fund or its affiliates (which only those parties may rely on as precedent) concluding that similar arrangements resulted in qualifying income. Many of such PLRs have now been revoked by the Internal Revenue Service. In March of 2019, the Internal Revenue Service published Regulations that concluded that income from a corporation similar to the Subsidiary would be qualifying income, if the income is related to the Fund's business of investing in stocks or securities. Although the Regulations do not require distributions from the Subsidiary, the Fund intends to cause the Subsidiary to make distributions that would allow the Fund to make timely distributions to its shareholders.

If the Fund did not qualify as a RIC for any taxable year and certain relief provisions were not available, the Fund's taxable income would be subject to tax at the Fund level and to a further tax at the shareholder level when such income is distributed. In such event, in order to re-qualify for taxation as a RIC, the Fund might be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make certain distributions. This would cause investors to incur higher tax liabilities than they otherwise would have incurred and would have a negative impact on Fund returns. In such event, the Fund's Board of Trustees may determine to reorganize or close the Fund or materially change the Fund's investment objective and strategies.

The Subsidiary intends to conduct its affairs in a manner such that it will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. It will, however, be considered a controlled foreign corporation, and the Fund will be required to include as income annually amounts earned by the Subsidiary during that year, whether or not distributed by the Subsidiary. Furthermore, the Fund will be subject to the RIC qualification distribution requirements with respect to the Subsidiary's income, whether or not the Subsidiary makes a distribution to the Fund during the taxable year and thus the Fund may not have sufficient cash on hand to make such distribution.

Changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands, under which the Fund and the Subsidiary is organized, respectively, could result in the inability of the Fund and/or the Subsidiary to operate as described in this prospectus and could negatively affect the Fund and its shareholders. For example, Cayman Islands law does not currently impose any income, corporate or capital gains tax, estate duty, inheritance tax, gift tax or withholding tax on the Subsidiary. If Cayman Islands law changes such that the Subsidiary must pay Cayman Islands governmental authority taxes, the Fund's shareholders would likely suffer decreased investment returns. There remains a risk that the tax treatment of swap agreements and other derivative instruments, such as commodity-linked notes, swap agreements, commodity options, futures and options on futures, may be affected by future regulatory or legislative changes that could affect the character, timing and/or amount of the Fund's taxable income or gains and distributions.

## **Distribution Plan**

FTP serves as the distributor of Creation Units for the Fund on an agency basis. FTP does not maintain a secondary market in shares.

The Board has adopted a Distribution and Service Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. In accordance with the Rule 12b-1 plan, the Fund is authorized to pay an amount up to 0.25% of its average daily net assets each year to reimburse FTP for amounts expended to finance activities primarily intended to result in the sale of Creation Units or the provision of investor services. FTP may also use this amount to compensate securities dealers or other persons that are APs for providing distribution assistance, including broker-dealer and shareholder support and educational and promotional services.

The Fund does not currently pay 12b-1 fees, and pursuant to a contractual arrangement, the Fund will not pay 12b-1 fees any time before April 30, 2024. However, in the event 12b-1 fees are charged in the future, because these fees are paid out

of the Fund's assets, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than certain other types of sales charges.

## Net Asset Value

The Fund's net asset value ("NAV") is determined as of the close of regular trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for trading. If the NYSE closes early on a valuation day, the Fund's NAV will be determined as of that time. The Fund's NAV is calculated by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of outstanding shares of the Fund, generally rounded to the nearest cent.

Section 2(a)(41) of the 1940 Act provides that when a market quotation is readily available for a fund's portfolio investment, it must be valued at the market value. Rule 2a-5 under the 1940 Act ("*Rule 2a-5*") defines a readily available market quotation as "a quoted price (unadjusted) in active markets for identical investments that the fund can access at the measurement date, provided that a quotation will not be readily available if it is not reliable." If a market quotation is not "readily available," then the portfolio investment must be fair valued as determined in good faith by a fund's board of trustees.

Rule 2a-5 permits a fund's board of trustees to designate the fund's investment adviser as its "valuation designee" to perform fair value determinations, subject to certain conditions. Accordingly, the Fund's Board has designated First Trust as its valuation designee (the "*Valuation Designee*") pursuant to Rule 2a-5 and has directed the Valuation Designee to perform the functions required in Rule 2a-5(a) subject to the requirements of Rule 2a-5(b) on behalf of all portfolio investments of the Fund, subject to the Board's oversight. First Trust has established a pricing committee (the "*Pricing Committee*") to assist in the administration of the duties of the Valuation Designee. The Valuation Designee has adopted valuation procedures for the First Trust Funds (the "*Valuation Procedures*"), a brief summary of which is set forth below.

The Pricing Committee has identified certain portfolio investments that are routinely categorized as having a readily available market quotation. The market value of an investment with a readily available market quotation is typically determined on the basis of official closing prices or last reported sale prices or equivalent price, although this can vary based on investment type and/or the availability of such prices.

The Pricing Committee has also identified certain portfolio investments that are routinely categorized as fair valued investments. In general, for such investments, the Fund's accounting agent will obtain all pricing data for use in valuing such investments from a pricing service provider approved by the Pricing Committee (each, a "*Pricing Service Provider*"), subject to the oversight of the Pricing Committee. Pricing Service Providers typically value non-exchange-traded instruments utilizing a range of market-based inputs and assumptions. For example, when available, Pricing Service Providers may utilize inputs such as benchmark yields, reported trades, broker-dealer quotes, spreads, and transactions for comparable instruments. In pricing certain instruments, a Pricing Service Provider may consider information about an instrument's issuer or market activity. Pricing Service Provider valuations of non-exchange-traded instruments generally represent the service's good faith opinion as to what the holder of an instrument would receive in an orderly transaction for an institutional round lot position under current market conditions. Certain exchange-traded options, such as FLEX Options, are typically valued using a model-based price provided by a Pricing Service Provider.

Portfolio investments trading on foreign exchanges or over-the-counter markets that close prior to the close of the NYSE may be fair valued using a systematic fair valuation model provided by a Pricing Service Provider. If these foreign securities meet certain criteria in relation to the valuation model, their valuation is systematically adjusted to reflect the impact of movement in the U.S. market after the close of certain foreign markets.

If no price is available from a Pricing Service Provider or if the Pricing Committee has reason to question the accuracy or the reliability of a price supplied for a portfolio investment or the use of amortized cost, the Pricing Committee will determine the fair value of such portfolio investment in a manner that it believes most appropriately reflects the fair value of the portfolio investment on the valuation date (a "*Special Fair Value Pricing Situation*"). In a Special Fair Value Pricing Situation, the Pricing Committee will determine a fair value price subject to the process outlined in the Valuation Procedures and based on a consideration of all available information to the Pricing Committee at the time of the determination.

Additionally, for foreign securities, if an extraordinary market event occurs between the time the last "current" market quotation is available for a security in the Fund's portfolio and the time the Fund's NAV is determined that calls into doubt whether that earlier market quotation represents fair value at the time the Fund's NAV is determined, the Pricing Committee will determine the fair valuation as set forth in the Valuation Procedures.

Fair value represents a good faith approximation of the value of a portfolio investment and is the amount the Fund might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that investment in an arm's-length transaction. Valuing the Fund's investments using fair value pricing will result in prices that may differ from current market valuations, if any, and that may not be the prices at which those investments could have been sold during the period in which the particular fair values were used. While the Valuation Procedures and Valuation Designee's processes are intended to result in the Fund's NAV calculation that fairly reflects the values as of the time of pricing, the fair value determined for a portfolio instrument may be materially different from the value that could be realized upon the sale of that instrument.

Foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate of such currencies against the U.S. dollar as provided by a Pricing Service Provider. All assets denominated in foreign currencies will be converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates in effect at the time of valuation.

## **Fund Service Providers**

The Bank of New York Mellon, 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York, 10286, acts as the administrator, custodian and fund accounting and transfer agent for the Fund. Chapman and Cutler LLP, 320 S. Canal St., Chicago, Illinois 60606, serves as legal counsel to the Fund.

## **Disclaimers**

The Fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by SPDR® Gold Trust and WGTS, or their affiliates. SPDR® Gold Trust and WGTS, or their affiliates have not passed on the legality or suitability of, or the accuracy or adequacy of, descriptions and disclosures relating to the Fund or the FLEX Options. SPDR® Gold Trust and WGTS, or their affiliates make no representations or warranties, express or implied, regarding the advisability of investing in the Fund or the FLEX Options or results to be obtained by the Fund or the FLEX Options, shareholders or any other person or entity from use of the Underlying ETF. SPDR® Gold Trust and WGTS, or their affiliates have no liability in connection with the management, administration, marketing or trading of the Fund or the FLEX Options.

## **Premium/Discount Information**

Information showing the number of days the market price of the Fund's shares was greater (at a premium) and less (at a discount) than the Fund's net asset value for the most recently completed year, and the most recently completed calendar quarters since that year (or life of the Fund, if shorter), is available at <https://www.ftportfolios.com/Retail/etf/home.aspx>.

## Total Return Information

The table below compares the total return of the Fund to a gold price benchmark and a broad-based market index. The information presented for the Fund is for the period indicated.

"Average annual total returns" represent the average annual change in the value of an investment over the period indicated. "Cumulative total returns" represent the total change in value of an investment over the period indicated. The return information shown under "Annual Total Return" in the Fund's summary prospectus represents the average annual total returns of the Fund as of the calendar year end, while the information presented below is as of the Fund's fiscal year end. The net asset value per share of the Fund is the value of one share of the Fund and is computed by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less liabilities (including accrued expenses and dividends declared but unpaid), by the total number of outstanding shares. The net asset value return is based on the net asset value per share of the Fund and the market return is based on the market price per share of the Fund. The price used to calculate market return ("Market Price") is determined by using the midpoint of the national best bid and offer price ("NBBO") as of the time that the Fund's net asset value is calculated. Under SEC rules, the NBBO consists of the highest displayed buy and lowest sell prices among the various exchanges trading the Fund at the time the Fund's net asset value is calculated. Since the shares of the Fund typically do not trade in the secondary market until several days after the Fund's inception, for the period from inception to the first day of secondary market trading in shares of the Fund, the net asset value of the Fund is used as a proxy for the secondary market trading price to calculate market returns. Market and net asset value returns assume that all distributions have been reinvested in the Fund at Market Price and net asset value, respectively. An index is a statistical composite that tracks a specified financial market or sector. Unlike the Fund, an index does not actually hold a portfolio of securities and therefore does not incur the expenses incurred by the Fund. These expenses negatively impact the performance of the Fund. Also, market returns do not include brokerage commissions that may be payable on secondary market transactions. If brokerage commissions were included, market returns would be lower. The total returns reflect the reinvestment of dividends on securities in the index. The returns shown in the table below do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption or sale of shares of the Fund. The investment return and principal value of shares of the Fund will vary with changes in market conditions. Shares of the Fund may be worth more or less than their original cost when they are redeemed or sold in the market. The Fund's past performance is no guarantee of future results.

### FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF (BGLD) Total Returns as of December 31, 2022

		Average Annual Inception (1/20/2021)	Cumulative Inception (1/20/2021)
	1 Year		
<b>Fund Performance</b>			
Net Asset Value	-2.41%	-3.97%	-7.58%
Market Price	-2.46%	-4.02%	-7.68%
<b>Index Performance</b>			
LBMA Gold Price	-0.43%	-1.18%	-2.28%
S&P 500® Index - Price Return	-19.44%	-0.16%	-0.32%

## Financial Highlights

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of the Fund. The total returns represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information for the periods indicated has been derived from financial statements audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements, is included in the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders dated December 31, 2022 and is incorporated by reference in the Fund's SAI, which is available upon request.

### First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund

#### Financial Highlights

For a share outstanding throughout each period

#### FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF (BGLD)

	Year Ended December 31, 2022	Period Ended 12/31/2021 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 18.93	\$ 19.99
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>		
Net investment income (loss)	0.08	(0.08)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(0.54)	(0.98)
Total from investment operations	(0.46)	(1.06)
Distributions paid to shareholders from:		
Net investment income	(0.05)	—
Return of Capital	(0.02)	—
Total distributions	(0.07)	—
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$ 18.40	\$ 18.93
<b>Total Return <sup>(b)</sup></b>	(2.41)%	(5.30)%
<b>Ratios/supplemental data:</b>		
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$12,879	\$17,980
<b>Ratios to average net assets:</b>		
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	0.90%	0.90% <sup>(c)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	0.37%	(0.87)% <sup>(c)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(d)</sup>	0%	0%

(a) Inception date is January 20, 2021, which is consistent with the commencement of investment operations and is the date the initial creation units were established.

(b) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value during the period, and redemption at net asset value on the last day of the period. The returns presented do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption or sale of Fund shares. Total return is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than a year.

(c) Annualized.

(d) Portfolio turnover is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than a year and does not include securities received or delivered from processing creations or redemptions and in-kind transactions.

## Other Information

### Continuous Offering

The Fund issues, on a continuous offering basis, its shares in one or more groups of a fixed number of Fund shares (each such group of such specified number of individual Fund shares, a "*Creation Unit Aggregation*"). The method by which Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Unit Aggregations of shares are issued and sold by the Fund on an ongoing basis, a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act*"), may occur at any point. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner which could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the Securities Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Unit Aggregations after placing an order with FTP, breaks them down into constituent shares and sells such shares directly to customers, or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act must take into account all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case, and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a characterization as an underwriter.

Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not "underwriters" but are effecting transactions in shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of shares, are generally required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. As a result, broker-dealer firms should note that dealers who are not underwriters but are participating in a distribution (as contrasted with ordinary secondary market transactions) and thus dealing with the shares that are part of an over-allotment within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(C) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act. Firms that incur a prospectus delivery obligation with respect to shares are reminded that, under the Securities Act Rule 153, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to a broker-dealer in connection with a sale on the Exchange is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available from the Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is available with respect to transactions on a national securities exchange, a trading facility or an alternative trading system.

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## FT Vest Gold Strategy Quarterly Buffer ETF

**For More Information**

For more detailed information on the Fund, several additional sources of information are available to you. The SAI, incorporated by reference into this prospectus, contains detailed information on the Fund's policies and operation. Additional information about the Fund's investments is available in the annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly impacted the Fund's performance during the last fiscal year. The Fund's most recent SAI, annual and semi-annual reports and certain other information are available free of charge by calling the Fund at (800) 621-1675, on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com) or through your financial advisor. Shareholders may call the toll-free number above with any inquiries.

You may obtain this and other information regarding the Fund, including the SAI and the Codes of Ethics adopted by First Trust, FTP and the Trust, directly from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Information on the SEC's website is free of charge. Visit the SEC's online EDGAR database at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You may also request information regarding the Fund by sending a request (along with a duplication fee) to the SEC by sending an electronic request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

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