

This Week @ First



Member Spotlight

Debbie Gibson has been at First Presbyterian for 19 years—she keeps track by remembering that her third Sunday was Ethan Tozer's baptism! Throughout her time here, Debbie has become incredibly involved with the Compassion and Social Justice Team and the choir.

Throughout this conversation, Debbie returned to the strength of intergenerational relationships to empower the church community to share the burdens of life. **Click here to learn more about Debbie's experiences and thoughts about these topics!**

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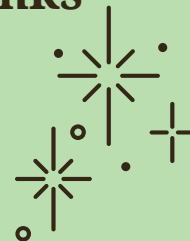
Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Ministry Teams

Worship & Music: Worship Links

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 am, connect with us on **Youtube** (find the bulletin **here**)! Click the bolded words to follow the links.



If you're interested in participating in a **guided collaging process** to form the bulletin for July 16th, meet in the Calvin Room **this Sunday, July 9th**, at 10 am!

Compassion & Social Justice

This Sunday, July 9, First Presbyterian volunteers will be serving a hot meal to our unsheltered neighbors at **Grace Mission Episcopal**. We start our prep work at 4 and are done by 6. If you are looking for a way to get involved in the work of the church to help our neighbors, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-grace1#/>.

Additionally, due to the holiday weekend, we will continue our **first Sunday food collection** this Sunday. Collection boxes are in the narthex.

Care & Outreach: Summer Fellowship

Look for **Lemonade Sunday** on July 9th to cool us off as we chat on the sidewalk after worship. On July 23rd at 6 p.m., we'll gather in the Westminster Room for a good old fashioned **Summer Potluck!**

Personnel: reKindle Grant

The church received a \$10,000 reKindle Impact Grant to help our congregation realize our goal for being a **thriving** congregation. The grant monies will facilitate the implementation of leadership development with the Session, support a communications audit, support restorative justice practices, and fund a collaborative art project that bears witness to **God's faithfulness during conflict and chaos in church community**.

Ministry Teams

Spiritual Formation

First Presbyterian is happy to send **5 campers to Dogwood Acres** this year! Palmer Corzine, Wilson Nalls, and Thatcher Nalls are all going July 9th-14th. Corinne Bruno is going for Intro Camp July 9th-12th. Celeste Diaz Atkinson will be going July 16th-July 21st (and Ruben Diaz will be the nurse for the week!). May we all pray for their weeks to be filled with fun, faith, growth, and only a *few* mosquito bites.

Pastoral Note

Community has been on my mind. Specifically, I've been thinking about the healing-ness of having people who *see* you and how community forms.

On Tuesday, about 50 volunteers from our community delivered with Meals on Wheels. Sue Hightower and I drove around Frenchtown talking to the recipients, watching porch cats, and counting the churches (*four within a two minute drive of each other!*). Later that day, the Mary and Martha circles had a Fourth of July pool party at Carol Weissert's house. In listening to these amazing people share stories of their lives, it came up that there used to be a report of what was served at the circle meetings. I'm here to share: there were meat and alternative burgers galore, homemade ice cream with cake from Ikea, and fascinating information dished out. Did you know we're running out of helium? Or that helium comes from salt domes? (Not to be confused with Lot's wife, who was pillar-shaped.)

It's refreshing to be surrounded by people who know you, who you don't have to act a certain way around. *And*, community connections don't spring into place fully formed. Relationships take work. In *All About Love: New Visions*, bell hooks writes: "Embracing a love ethic means that we utilize all the dimensions of love—'care, commitment, trust, responsibility, respect, and knowledge'—in our everyday lives." In forging and strengthening our community, we must ask: how can we better care for, commit to, trust, be responsible for, respect, and know each other? As we hear about the risk of letting go and giving our burdens to the Lord this Sunday, I wonder how community might be found and nourished through the sharing.

Interim Goals

Healing

Book Study: *Necessary Risks*

Our book study schedule:

- **July 12th: Chapters 5 and 6**
- **July 19th: Chapters 7 and 8**
- **July 26th: Ch. 9, Ch. 10, and Conclusion**

The Zoom link is [here](#) and on the website.

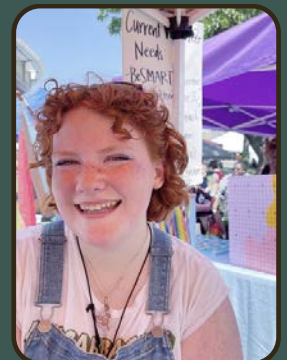
Worship and Program

Our sermon series this summer:

- **July 9th: The Risk of Letting Go**
- **July 16th: The Risk of Listening**

Administration

There will be no Session meeting in July. The Session will reconvene in August.



God's Presence,
God's Peace,
Ellie Stewart