

This Week @ First

Ministry Teams



Member Spotlight

Carolyn Bradley carries a wise, calming, and thoughtful presence. She grew up as a child of this church, returning first during Covid-era Zoom Sunday School and then coming back in person when she moved back to Tallahassee. Carolyn has built her faith on a strong foundation from First Presbyterian, one that has carried her through times of loss and pain. She hopes for the church to grow and heal from pain to continue being God's home. To hear more about Carolyn's journey with faith and First Presbyterian, [click here!](#)

First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: (850) 222-4504

Fax: (850) 222-2215

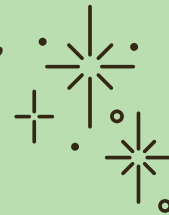
Email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Worship & Music

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 each week.



We need **Communion volunteers** (set up/take down) for the following Sundays: Aug. 6, Aug. 20, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, and Dec. 24 (morning service only). If you can volunteer, email Anne@OldFirstChurch.org.

Compassion & Social Justice

Leah Wiley, lead organizer for the **Capital Area Justice Ministry**, will meet with this team over Zoom at 6 PM on Monday Aug. 14 to discuss the group's current projects, future activities, and possible First Pres involvement with the group. All are welcome! Contact Carol Weissert (cweissert@fsu.edu) for the Zoom link.

Care & Outreach

This Sunday, **July 23rd, at 6 PM**, we'll gather in the Westminster Room for a Summer Potluck!

Could you spend an hour or two visiting with a church member who is unable to attend worship or many activities, but wishes to stay in touch? We'd particularly love for more men to volunteer; this isn't only a job for "church ladies!" All are welcome! If you'd like to visit one of **First Presbyterian's Special Friends** once or twice a month, please contact the Care & Outreach Team or Peggy West (pwestdoodah11@gmail.com).

Personnel

The team is continuing to develop written **personnel policies** and support for the **reKindle Impact Grant**, which the church recently received.

Spiritual Formation

Spiritual Formation looks forward to the fall, building the Sunday school program and curriculum, and developing summer engagement.

Interim Goals

Healing

This Sunday, July 23rd, at 9:45, join the **Envisioning Reconciliation Committee** in the Calvin Room for coffee and refreshments. Come to chat, catch up, and enjoy fellowship with our community!

Our **last book study meeting** will be July 26th on Ch. 9, Ch. 10, and the Conclusion. The Zoom link is [here](#) and on the website.

Worship and Program

Thank you for exploring new ways to worship at First Presbyterian Tallahassee this summer! To submit feedback, use **this form**:
<https://forms.gle/vsQUTsBWg4ehnkV18>

Administration

Initial meetings have been held for investigating a **cloud-based membership directory** and the **communication audit**.

Pastoral Note

In the book study this week, there is a story of Martin Luther King, Jr., who went against advice of several of his mentors and spoke out against the Vietnam War. Of that time he said, “I was morally right, and politically wrong.” The pastoral note this week is a prayer from a long servant of the church and advocate for God’s justice, The Reverend William Sloan Coffin. Coffin partnered with MLK, Jr., in both protesting the Vietnam War and advocating for Civil Rights reform. He served Riverside Church in New York City. He is described this way: “He could be righteously angry at injustice or war mongering but masked it behind a Cheshire cat grin. He could be prophetically stern but riotously funny. He could intone profound theological insights but sweeten them with his working-class New York accent. He never lost an opportunity to witness for peace.” Late in his life, I had several opportunities to be shaped by his leadership at Columbia Theological Seminary and as a guest preacher at Idlewild. I find his prayer about our blessings, including our *complicated blessings*, to be timeless and a good way to pray at the start of a new week.

God’s peace, God’s presence. Anne

A Prayer for the Church in These Times

O God, whose mercy is ever faithful and ever sure, who art our refuge and our strength in time of trouble, visit us, we beseech thee, for we are a people in trouble. We need a hope that is made wise by experience and is undaunted by disappointment. We need an anxiety about the future that shows us new ways to look at new things but does not unnerve us. As a people, we need to remember that our influence was greatest when our power was weakest. Most of all, we need to turn to thee, O God, and our crucified Lord, for only his humility and his strength can heal and free us. O God, be Thou our sole strength in time of trouble. In the midst of anxiety, grant us the grace to count our blessings, the simple ones: health, food, sleep, one another, a Spring that is bursting out all over, a nation which, despite all, has so much to offer so many. And, grant us to count our more complicated blessings: our failures, which teach us so much more than success; our lack of money, which points to the only truly renewable resources, the resources of our spirit; our lack of health, yea, even in the knowledge of death, for until we learn that life is limitation, we are surely as formless and as shallow as a stream without its banks. Send us forth into a new week with a gladsome mind, free and joyful in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.