

# This Week @ First

## Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Care and Outreach will host an Easter breakfast starting at 9:30 AM in the Westminster Room, followed by an Easter egg hunt for children at 10 AM. Please join us!

Parents are invited to return the Easter eggs to the office at their convenience so that they can be saved and re-used.

## Spiritual Formation

There will be no church school this week because of the Easter Breakfast and Easter egg hunt. Classes will resume next Sunday, April 7.

## Compassion & Social Justice

If you are interested in becoming part of the **Healing Racism Task Force**, please call or email Ann Westall at [adwestall@gmail.com](mailto:adwestall@gmail.com).

To learn more about our lunch snack pack ministry or to volunteer, please contact Carol Weissert.

Next Friday, April 5, will be the next opportunity to participate in **Bread Boxing at Second Harvest**. Bread Boxing involves packing surplus bread to be frozen for later use. A signup is available [here](#).

It is not too early to sign up for the **Capital Area Justice Ministry's Nehemiah Action** event scheduled for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 16th at the Old West Florida Enrichment Center, 2344 Lake Bradford Rd. At this event, First Pres will join other congregations and CAJM in hosting members of the City and County Commissions. Our participation will help to secure solutions to the affordable housing crisis and the gun violence problem we face. It's vital that we plan to attend and invite our families, friends, and neighbors. Although you can attend without registering, registration is appreciated and may be completed [here](#).

## Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on **YouTube** (find the bulletin [here](#))! The **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday** services are also available on YouTube.

This Sunday in worship we will joyfully welcome our confirmands, pictured below, as well as new member Zachary Broadway.



*The 2024 confirmands with their mentors: (l.-r.) Emmie Kutter, Jane Atkinson, Abigail Grondzik, Eleanor Cleveland, Palmer Corzine, and Grant Hodges.*

## Photo Opportunity

Update your photos for the church directory! We will have a photo backdrop available in the Calvin Room all morning on Easter Sunday. Please stop by to have your picture taken; it will be sent to you for uploading in Breeze, or, if you prefer, it can be uploaded for you.

## Presbyterian Women — Save the Date

On Sunday, April 14th, immediately following worship, PW invites you to enjoy a brown bag lunch outside in the courtyard (weather permitting) to open the **annual Spring Mission Workshop** to help provide for those who are in need of basic supplies. Together in Service will offer handwork projects and **knitting and crocheting lessons**. Donations from those who are able can include **individually wrapped snacks** to put into decorated paper bags for handing out (such as crackers, fruit bars, cereal bars etc.); and **men's and women's underwear, all sizes**, that will be given to the street ministry Beyond the Pantry and to Grace Mission. As always, our Dorcas Circle members will provide cookies! Mark your calendar and see next week's newsletter for more information.

*Happy Birthday*

April showers us with many opportunities to celebrate church family members' birthdays: Geoff Luebke, Martha Stewart, David Strange, Aria Willis, Danielle Jennings, Duane Meeter, Darlene

Oosterhof, Albert Oosterhof, Melanie Meyer, Bill Jordan, Lauren Specht, Cassy Gray, and Barbara Rhodes.

### First Presbyterian Church

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# Pastor's Note

"In the beginning" shows up in scripture a lot. Ministry at First Presbyterian Church has been an adventure and I have been instructed by God by you as both a pastor and a disciple; a sojourner in the Big Bend and pilgrim along the way. Easter Sunday marks ten weeks left in the Transitional Interim Pastorate at First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee.

About twenty months ago, Jim and I had a 36-hour whirlwind tour of Tallahassee. David Strange led a great process and I believe we were interviewed by 27 people in that short timeframe. Donna Barber and Peggy West took us on a driving tour. Making our way around the city, we learned the meaning of a canopy drive, and about important institutions, like FAMU and Florida State. We learned about the Kearney Center and the church's role at Wakulla Correctional Institution. We drove past the oak tree with the historical marker in remembrance of Ernest Ponder, Richard Hawkins, Mick Morris, and Pierce Taylor, Black victims of racial terror violence in Leon County, Florida.

A transitional interim pastor works through a guided process with a congregation that prepares the body to receive a new pastor. Working with the Session, we set three goals around three themes: healing, administration, and exploring worship and program. Last week, at the Congregational Meeting, we elected the Pastor Nominating Committee. Remembering those beginning days, I am reminded that after the driving tour, Jim and David went and ran a trail together and I sat in the Calvin Room with Marian and Walter Moore, Hannah Nalls, and Chris Corzine.

That's the moment I knew God's call here. So, thank you Marian, Walter, Hannah, and Chris. It was a simple phrase uttered, "Our witness is fragile." Four words gently and quietly spoken put me on the Damascus Road and moved us to Tallahassee weeks later. And we are grateful.

"In the beginning, God." That's how the one great story begins and holy wow! How great it's been to be part of the story with you. First Presbyterian — you are on your way with the Word made flesh. Thanks be to God.

God's peace, God's presence.  
Anne

To submit an announcement for an upcoming issue of *This Week @ First*, please use [this updated link](#).

## Looking Ahead...

April 12-13: Enneagram Retreat

April 13: Church Work Day

April 14: Eric Wall will join us in Sunday worship; Second Sunday Fellowship;

PW Mission Workshop

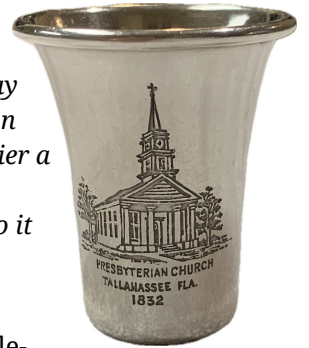
April 21: State of the Church

## A Child's Faith, A Teacher's Foresight

*"The church held its Centennial celebration in 1932. At that time Miss Janie Clark, for many years Sunday School teacher and Church organist, presented the Church with 240 individual sterling silver communion cups. A hand etched engraving of the original Church building decorates each tiny cup. Many years earlier a little boy in her Sunday School class, Mazin Floyd, was stricken with a fatal malady. He gave his small savings to her with the request that "it go to God." She invested the fund, and through the years added to it until the fund was sufficient to buy the cups which are now regularly used at the Lord's Table."*

(From the 1968 Church Directory.)

During Lent, the Inquirer's Class watched the "Story of Plastic," looking at plastic waste and how single-use plastics harm creation. The congregation participated in an "invitation to repair" each Sunday during Lent. Putting the sterling cups out for use in worship, we acknowledge the gift of a child's devotion to God, a Sunday School teacher's wisdom, and privilege afforded, while also attempting to be better stewards of the environment.



## Dogwood Acres Summer Camp

Save \$50 by [registering](#) before April 1st. Scholarships are available by contacting Program Director Eric Hearn ([eric@dogwoodacres.org](mailto:eric@dogwoodacres.org)). Program descriptions are available on the Dogwood Acres [website](#).



## Tally Pride Interfaith Service: "Created for Joy!"

Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 p.m.

United Church in Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Drive

Join us for a service of JOY! Faith leaders from Jewish, Quaker, Unitarian, and Christian traditions will share writings, songs, and rituals from their traditions that celebrate the goodness of all human creation. We'll share stories of how we have experienced joy in our own lives. We'll also look at the power of our collective joy and how that joy might help us to resist attempts to rob us of our joy.

Join us as we celebrate this truth contained in all religious traditions: We are created for joy!