

This Week @ First

First Sunday Food Collection

Bring your non-perishable food items to the narthex **this Sunday, April 7**, to be shared with Elder Services or Second Harvest. Your support is appreciated!

Church Work Day: April 13

Following the Enneagram retreat on April 12-13, the Property Team will organize a church work day on Saturday, April 13. Come at noon for lunch; projects will be available both inside and outside, including some reorganization of rooms in the Education Building and landscaping.

PW Mission Workshop

On Sunday, April 14th, immediately following worship, your PW invites women and men of the congregation to join the **annual Spring Mission Workshop** to help provide basic items for those who are in need. We will recreate our successful snack bag assembly line, and 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.). Also needed are **men's and women's underwear and socks, all sizes**, that will be given to Grace Mission and the street ministry Beyond the Pantry. Come and get a sample dry sheet of the new "no plastic" laundry detergent; or take home flower seeds to grow in your yard; or write a letter to support environmentally sound efforts to improve water quality and marine habitat in the Apalachicola Bay and connected waterways. Or do it all! Mark your calendar and see next week's newsletter for more information.



This is the team of people who keep our services streaming every Sunday. Thank them the next time you see them! From left: Chris Corzine, Zach Broadway, Kelly Ann Kennedy Broadway, Carl Morse, Trish Hansen, and Bill Hansen.

Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))! **Note on communion:** we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on **Sunday, April 14th** rather than this Sunday, April 7. Sunday, April 14 will also be "Re-Kindle Sunday" and we will welcome guest worship leader Eric Wall, Professor of Sacred Music and Dean of the Chapel, Austin Theological Seminary.

Spiritual Formation

The Inquirer's class resumes this week at 9:30 AM in the Westminster Room and by Zoom. We will begin a new series called *Peaceful Practices: a Guide to Healthy Communication in Conflict*. The children's class will meet in Room 306. The Adult Bible Study will resume later this spring.

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.

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

Sign up [here](#) for the **Capital Area Justice Ministry's Nehemiah Action** event on 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.

Personnel Team

We are continuing to recruit for the position of **Communications and Administrative Coordinator**. If you know of someone with good communication skills, knowledge of (or willingness to learn) desktop publishing and social media, and who is looking for a part-time job, please encourage them to review the [job description](#) and apply!

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

Published on April 5, 2024

ENNEAGRAM WEEKEND RETREAT

APRIL 12th 6-9pm
APRIL 13th 9am-12 pm
IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM



FACILITATED BY
REV. JAMIE BUTCHER
CERTIFIED ENNEAGRAM TEACHER
& PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR

What can we learn from the Enneagram?

The Enneagram is a tool for personal growth and self-discovery. This retreat introduces the pathway and explores the Enneagram as a contemplative practice.

Pre-
Registration
and
Assessment
Required

Register now! Email
pierce@oldfirstchurch.org or text
850-653-6936.

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

For anyone interested in a deeper dive into prison abolition following our Inquirers series this Lent, Presbyterians for Abolition (a branch of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship) is hosting a 6-week interactive study group beginning on April 20. Please visit the [Presbyterians for Abolition website](#) for more information.

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!

Pastor's Note

Start Where You Are

We have nine weeks left in this intentional interim season and many memories reveal how I have been instructed by God, and by you, First Presbyterian. On our first weekend in Florida, early December, 2022, Jim and I participated in the Gulf Winds Track Club "10 & 5 Mile Challenge." Introduced to the GWTC before we even arrived, we thought it would be a great way to start our new adventure... only nobody told us how hilly it is in Tallahassee. Especially the Ox Bottom neighborhood.

When I finished, Matt Hohmeister was there with a gracious welcome and high five. He'd run the same distance in less than half the time. He raced. I jogged. We snapped a picture and sent it on to Holly. We shared stories then moved on. I use the verb "moved" with intention. I quit running that weekend... I moved on. It was too hard, too hilly, so I took up walking at Lake Overstreet (not a bad trade, by the way).

For a year, I walked. Walked the Alford Greenway, walked the trails at Wakulla Springs, walked the shore at St. George, walked LaFayette Park and around Lake Ella, walked the string of parks from Bronough to Monroe Street. Walked to Au Pêche Mignon and Metro Deli. Not running, but still, moving.

About 90 days ago, Emily Bruno described "streak running." One mile, every day. The challenge, to see how long of a streak you can sustain. Rain, travel, cold, dark — only one mile. I decided it was time for a change, so I began running (jogging) again.

My route takes me down John Knox, turning right at Bevis Funeral Home. The next intersection is Delta Way and Delta Boulevard. Delta is the initial letter of the Greek word, Diaphora, which means difference, or change — ask a mathematician, chemist, or physicist. The symbol is important. Ask an ecologist about a delta, and they'd describe a plain composed of sediment at the mouth of a river and tell you that such bodies of land are often shaped like a triangle. Delta — the airline named for its original service territory where the Mississippi slows and widens, changing from river to sea, but the water never stops flowing. Like God's claim upon our lives in baptism.

One morning, as I approached the intersection, a gentleman hollered at me, "Great job! Keep moving!" I responded, "I'm doing the best I can!" And, get this ... he said, "That's what the liberals do!" I couldn't hold back... "Well, true to form. You're hollering at one!"

I may have sped up just a bit. You've emboldened me First Presbyterian Tallahassee. It's a streak I want to continue.

I don't know exactly what he meant. But, I know this. First Tallahassee is committed to change, committed to making a change in the lives of the discarded and disregarded in the community. Committed to the work for the health of the congregation, the church, the environment — all the works of justice and mercy. We reveal emboldened commitment when we keep moving in the joy of baptismal waters. Thanks be to God.

God's peace, God's presence.
Anne