

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))!

Compassion and Social Justice

The Compassion and Social Justice's team of volunteers has been providing food, laundry services, and showers to our downtown unsheltered neighbors for several months. We'd also like to be able to offer them small toiletry items that would allow them to maintain their hygiene despite their challenging circumstances.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts, you can bring the small samples you collect while traveling or specific items that are available at a Dollar Store or drug store. We could use: toothbrushes and small toothpastes; disposable razors; travel-sized shampoos, hand lotions, and deodorants; small combs; etc. There will be a box on the table outside the office for you to leave your donations. Thank you for your compassion for those who are unsheltered in our community.

Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers from 12–2 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If interested in volunteering, there are a few ways to sign up: go to the Breeze calendar and sign up to volunteer by clicking on the volunteer tab, fill out [this form](#) or email Kelby, kelby@oldfirstchurch.org.

Have any pictures from church events that you would like to share with us? Send them in a message on [facebook](#) or you can email them to kelby@oldfirstchurch.org.

To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or the Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. You can access the form directly through Breeze, as well. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church

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Spiritual Formation

Sunday School–Youth

All youth are invited! Grades K–5 in room 306. Middle and High School Students in room 301. 9:30 AM each week. A nursery will be available starting at 9:15 AM.

This weekend our Youth Group will gather at the Weisserts' house for a swim party! Bring your suits and sunscreen for an enjoyable afternoon in the pool. Youth grades 6-12 are invited...bring a friend!

“Feasting on the Word” Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

Each week this class will gather to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

Adult Inquirer's Class

Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM.

Carol Weissert will lead a discussion on the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution that will appear on the general election ballot.

Please join us for a lively conversation!

Please [email](#) Pierce Withers, Director of Spiritual Formation, to learn more about upcoming adult and youth spiritual formation programs.

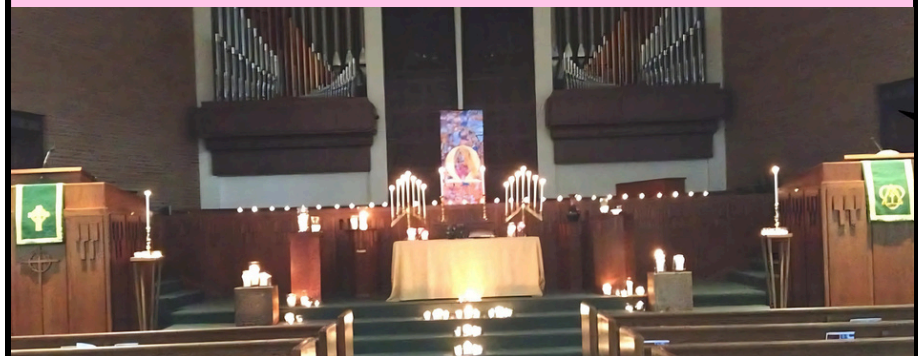
CAJM House Meeting

The First Presbyterian Church Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) team has scheduled their second house meeting for 6:00 PM on Monday, October 14 in the Westminster Room. Pizza will be provided. This meeting will be a time for us to visit and strengthen our relationships with one another, as well as strengthen our congregation's justice ministry. We will reflect on our values and life experiences, and share concerns we have about problems in our community. The information gathered from our house meetings as well as those of 18 other congregations will help CAJM to prioritize major issues identified in our community.

The team will be reaching out to confirm your attendance. For more information, please contact Carol Weissert.

Taizé Prayer Service

Faith Presbyterian Church will be holding a Taizé Prayer Service at 6 PM on the second Mondays of October–December and February–May. This service will use music from Taizé, France and will be modeled after the services at the ecumenical monastery in Taizé. The service will include some spoken word but is used as a time to sit and absorb, to sing and to reflect and to pray silently. All are welcome!



Care and Outreach Ministry Team

The mission program of our church is carried out by ministry teams. Each ministry team is designated by the session with a particular focus. Teams meet monthly or as needed and report to the session. These teams work together in cooperation with each other to support worship, service and spiritual growth in the church. This week highlights the Care and Outreach Ministry Team.



Peggy West, Chair

Care and Outreach is the group that takes care of our needs. It offers comfort and care for church members through meals, transportation, visits, and communication. Team members keep in contact with congregation members who need extra support. The team maintains a prayer chain as well as the published prayer concerns in the church bulletin. It welcomes visitors and new members to our church services. Care and Outreach Ministry Team members were instrumental in helping organize and test the church's Breeze digital information system.

The Team organizes receptions following memorial services, baptisms, and other events, and hosts informal social events that promote intergenerational fellowship. This Team supports us in times of joy and need while promoting opportunities for fellowship outside of formal worship such as "second Sunday lemonade" in the courtyard, the annual Christmas caroling and chili supper, distributing Poinsettias during advent, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, the Easter breakfast and egg hunt, and the annual church picnic. The team also assists with hosting outside groups using our facilities as a base for civil justice action, such as the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense event last year. Currently, the Team is brainstorming ideas to encourage small group activities and interactions.

The Care and Outreach Ministry Team is led by Session member Peggy West, who has worked with the Team for many years, going back to when it was known as the Congregational Care Council. The Care and Outreach Ministry Team meets on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM via Zoom. If you are interested, give Peggy your email address and she will add you to the list so you can start getting meeting information.



Pastoral Note

The pastor's notes for the next few weeks will address different aspects of Presbyterian worship. This week, I will address the elements of worship as an introduction to the series. As we approach the Stewardship season, it seems appropriate to reflect on how we serve God in worship.

Presbyterian worship can be traced to the Reformation in Strasbourg under Martin Bucer, in Zurich under Ulrich Zwingli, and in Geneva under John Calvin. The order of worship that centuries of Christians have adapted from the pattern of Jewish worship is an ancient order intended to move us more deeply into intimate communion with God in Christ. Above all, God directs us to worship God by proclamation, prayer, and praise.

We gather in worship as an answer to God's call. God is the creator and object of our worship. Without the Spirit of God moving among us, worship is impossible. Worship occurs whenever we respond to God with praise, repentance, obedience, and service. There are six essential elements of worship: prayer, scripture reading and proclaiming, baptism and the Lord's worship, self-offering, and relating to each other and the world.

In prayer, we listen to God speak to us. While prayer in worship may commonly include expressions of adoration, thanksgiving, confession, and petition, no expression of honest thought or feeling is inappropriate for prayer. Prayer actions include kneeling, bowing, lifting our hands, dancing, clapping, embracing, anointing, and laying on hands in commissioning and ordination.

Scripture reading and proclaiming are to be clear, audible, and attentive to the meaning of the text. Anyone, including children and youth, may be invited to read scripture. The congregation's role in worship is to listen prayerfully, actively, and attentively to the Word that is read and proclaimed.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are physical signs and spiritual gifts, including words and actions, surrounded by prayer in the context of the Church's common worship. Baptism is ordinarily celebrated in worship on Lord's Day. The presence of the covenant community bears witness to the one body of Christ, into whom we are baptized. The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord. Worshippers celebrate the Lord's Supper by trusting in Christ, confessing their sins, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another.

We offer ourselves as an act of worship, going beyond giving money and possessions. Worship includes opportunities to dedicate ourselves to the church's mission worldwide. Minutes for mission and special worship are expressions of faith and work. Giving material offerings in the context of service worship is a self-dedication by the whole worshipping community.

When we relate to each other, we acknowledge that we do not worship in isolation.

Times in the worship service that are particularly appropriate for expressing our concern for each other include the gathering at the beginning of worship, during the confession and after the declaration of pardon, in times of greeting during the service, and in preparing for the people's prayers. We also express our individual and shared ministries during worship, witnessing the church's work worldwide.

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Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

—Hebrews 12:28

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Rev. Glenn Hodges

Sources:

The Book of Order 2023-25: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); *Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders* by Joan Gray and Joyce C. Tucker (4th Ed. 2012)

“Our Order of Worship” by Teresa Lockhart Stricklen, Associate for Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), available on the PCUSA website.