

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

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

Welcome to “New” Organist



First Church is grateful to have [Dr. Timothy Hoekman](#) serving as organist during Elizabeth LaJeunesse’s leave of absence. Tim is Professor Emeritus of Vocal Coaching and Accompanying at

Florida State University. He was at FSU from 1984 to 2022, teaching collaborative piano, coaching graduate voice majors, and teaching a variety of language and vocal literature classes for singers and pianists. Tim is also a longtime member at First Church and has served as organist many times for this congregation. We appreciate his faithful and artistic leadership in worship and worship preparation. Welcome back, Tim!

Welcome to Guest Pianist

Ethan Murphy joins others in our congregation in maintaining a strong connection between First Church and FSU College of Music. This allows First Church fellowship with many excellent student singers and instrumentalists. Recently, Dylan Rhodes served as our guest pianist. Dylan is studying piano at FSU and we appreciate him sharing his gifts with us during worship and choir practice. Welcome, Dylan!

PW Thank Offering

The Thank Offering is one of two annual Presbyterian Women mission offerings. It is collected in the fall and used as seed money to support mission initiatives in this country and abroad. At least 40% of the offering is used to support health ministries. Envelopes will be available in the pews during the month of November.

First Presbyterian Church

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Published on November 1st, 2024

Compassion and Social Justice

Compassion and Social Justice continues their ongoing efforts to serve our neighbors each month. During the holiday season this will be especially meaningful as we acknowledge our blessings and share the love of Jesus with others. If you missed out on volunteering with Second Harvest this week, there is still an opportunity for you to join with your church family to serve.

On Sunday, Nov. 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, First Presbyterian members will serve the meal to our homeless neighbors at Grace Mission. We have two volunteers right now but could use more. [Sign up here.](#)

The C&SJ Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, November 5, at 6 PM via Zoom.

First Sunday Food Collection

This Sunday, November 3, is the day for you to bring non-perishable food items to the narthex. Donations are shared alternately with Second Harvest and Elder Care Services. A list of the most needed items includes cereal; peanut butter; canned fruits, vegetables, and meats; and hearty soup or stew. Thank you for your support!



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.

“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.

For the next three weeks, the Inquirers will watch the documentary, *God and Country*, and discuss how Christian Nationalism is distorting not only our Constitution, but Christianity itself. Prominent Christian thought leaders ask the question: What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism?

Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers from 12–2 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If interested in volunteering, click [here](#) to view the dates that we are in need of volunteers and either fill out this [form](#) or email kelby@oldfirstchurch.org and indicate what day you would like to volunteer.

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. Thank you!



Pastoral Note

This is the fourth pastor's note in a series on worship. According to the Book of Order, the Sacraments are the Word of God enacted and sealed in the life of the Church, the body of Christ. They are physical signs and spiritual gifts, including words and actions, surrounded by prayer in the context of worship (W-3.0401). Sacraments are God's gracious gift given by Jesus Christ to the church to establish and nurture faith. We celebrate Baptism and the Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, which Jesus instituted.

Sacraments are described as "visible signs of an invisible grace." The signs in these sacraments are the water in Baptism and the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. In Baptism, believers are incorporated into the church as the faith community. The community celebrates the Lord's Supper, through which faith is nourished and sustained. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are God's gracious gifts, remind us of our salvation in Christ and make that salvation effective through the Holy Spirit.

Baptism signifies the beginning of life in Christ. In the Old Testament, the sign of God's covenant relationship with the people of Israel was circumcision (Genesis 17:11). The New Testament church saw Baptism as the new sign of God's covenant with the church, the new people of God (Colossians 2:11-15). Jesus Christ is God's "new covenant" (Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25).

Baptism is a sign that the believer has become a part of the family of God. Baptized Christians are encouraged to renew their baptisms frequently. This involves committing to Christ and his service. Renewal of baptismal promises can occur each time we see another baptized and celebrate the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, is God's gracious gift of a sacrament to nourish our faith as Christ's disciples. The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to enable us to remember and receive the great gift of salvation that Jesus' death makes possible for us. Jesus said, "This is my body that is for you" (1 Corinthians 11:24 and "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20). It is a sign and seal of God's grace repeatedly given to us, as often as we celebrate it to communicate the benefits of Christ's death to us by faith. The elements in the Eucharist, the bread and the wine, represent and present Christ to us so that by participating in faith, we abide in Christ and Christ in us. The Lord's Supper is for all who have faith in Jesus Christ, and all are welcomed at Christ's table.

“ So those who welcome the message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
—Acts 2:41-42 ”

Rev. Glenn Hodges

Sources:

Book of Order 2023-2025: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II. 2023. Louisville: Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

Gray, Joan S. and Joyce C. Tucker 2021. *Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders*. 3rd ed. Louisville: Geneva Press.

McKim, Donald K. 2017. *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*. 2nd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

Save the Date: Stewardship Potluck Dinner

The Stewardship and Care and Outreach Teams will host a potluck dinner at 5:30 PM on Sunday, November 17, in the Westminster Room. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an evening of learning, discerning, and fellowship! Additional details to follow.

