

This Week @ First

Compassion and Social Justice

While shopping with my grandson recently, I ran into Shena, one of the two people who lived on the front porch of the church for over a year. I was glad to see her because she hadn't come by church on Wednesday, which she often does to get a snack pack, a shower, and have us launder her clothes, for a couple of weeks. I told her I'd been worried about her. She shared that she is living with a relative, she has gotten a job, and she is going to church. "It's all because you all loved me." This is why we provide our Wednesday support for the homeless—so they know they are a beloved child of God and, we hope, can make a change in their life for the better. Thanks to all in the congregation who support this work through your time, your donations, and your prayers.



*Debbie Gibson
Chair, Compassion
and Social Justice
Team*

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.

Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers on weekdays to check mail, relay messages, and help with miscellaneous office tasks (such as printing the Sunday bulletin). The suggested time commitment is from 12 to 2 PM, but if another time slot would work better, that can be arranged. If you can help, click [here](#) to view the dates that we are in need of volunteers and either fill out this [form](#) or email Glenn@oldfirstchurch.org and indicate what day you would like to volunteer.

Worship & Music

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

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

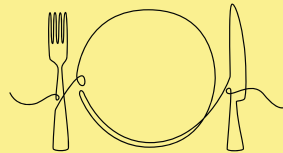
Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM.

Inquirers will resume watching 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?

Care and Outreach/Stewardship Potluck Dinner — Sunday 11/17



Please join us for a celebratory pot luck dinner this Sunday evening, November 17, at 5:30 PM in the Westminster Room. All ages are welcome! We are joyfully celebrating our return to financial stability and are looking forward to a successful stewardship season.



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!

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Pastoral Note

As stewards of God’s creation, we are to demonstrate our care for one another, support the church’s ministries, and provide for the needs of the poor. Stewardship is a vocation to which we are called as we serve one another as a response to God’s grace. Everything good and helpful is a gift from God, given not because we deserve it but because God’s love toward us overflows into giving. God’s grace is extended to us in salvation and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Our response to God’s grace takes shape daily as we live in faithful obedience to God. Stewardship involves our whole life since all life comes from God’s glory.

Scripture provides support that material gifts are linked to spiritual life. In the Old Testament, men and women brought precious things to God for sacrifice. Gifts marked times of celebration, thanksgiving, and repentance. We are to use God’s material gifts to serve God and do his work. So scripture leads us to the understanding that whatever benefits we obtain from the Lord have been entrusted to us with the condition that they be applied to the common good of the church. Therefore, the lawful use of all benefits consists of a liberal and kind sharing of them with others. According to John Calvin, “No surer rule and no more valid appeal to keep it could be devised than when we are taught that all the gifts we possess have been bestowed by God and entrusted to us on condition that they be distributed for our neighbors’ benefit.”

Rev. Glenn Hodges

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Sources:

Calvin, John. 1960. Institutes of the Christian Religion. Edited by John McNeil. Philadelphia: Westminster.

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

Pattison, Bonnie L. 2006. Poverty in the Theology of John Calvin. Eugene: Pickwick Publications.



Hats off to Ann Westall for representing First Presbyterian on November 9th as a part of our city’s 200th birthday weekend.

Ann joined a panel of representatives from several of the earliest religious congregations in Tallahassee and Leon County discussing “The Role of Faith in Shaping the Bicentennial.” Many thanks, Ann!

Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty Holiday Card Signing

TCADP and Kindred Spirits Charitable Trust invite you to the annual holiday card signing for the 280 men and women on Florida’s death row, which will take place on two dates:

Saturday, November 16, 12 to 4 PM, at Cascades Park across from the Florida Department of Transportation Building; and
Monday, November 25, from 1 to 3:30 PM, at the Westminster Oaks Pool House.