

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

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

This Sunday, December 8, there will be a **congregational meeting** at the close of worship for the purpose of electing elders and trustees. You can participate in person or by [Zoom](#).

Compassion and Social Justice

To assist with our ongoing Snack Pack and Laundry ministries on Wednesdays, please contact Debbie Gibson.

On **December 8th** volunteers will serve dinner at Grace Mission starting at 4 PM. Additional volunteers are still welcome and can sign up on the church calendar.

On **Monday, December 16**, from 9 AM to 12PM, Trinity UMC will host a time of fellowship for our unhoused neighbors and the downtown churches who serve them. All are welcome. Additional details about how to participate will be in next week's newsletter.



Thank you to all who have responded to our partnership with Goodwill Industries. When you donate unwanted goods or have their workers come clean out a house after a move or death, you are generating vouchers that can be shared with our neighbors in need. We have just received our first distribution of vouchers and the pastor now has twenty-three \$10 vouchers that can be given to those needing help to shop for the things they need at any Goodwill store. If you drop off items at any of their stores, please remember to ask for a receipt in the name of First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee and either drop the receipt off the next time you're in the office or take a picture of it and text or email it to 850-656-3659 or gibsond1207@gmail.com.

Chili and Caroling

Care and Outreach will host our annual caroling event on Sunday, December 15, immediately after worship. We will have a quick chili lunch and proceed to Westminster Oaks and other locations. Please join us!



Presbyterian Women "Elder Elf" Gifts

Sunday, December 8, is the deadline for bringing wrapped and labeled gifts for the PW "Elder Elf" project to Room 206. Donations may be made through any of the PW Circles. 🎁🎁🎁🎁🎁

Spiritual Formation

Sunday School—Youth

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

This Sunday, December 8, the middle/high school youth will meet from 12:15 to 2 PM in the Westminster room for fellowship.

The Spiritual Formation Team is in need of volunteers to assist our teachers in the Elementary and Middle/High School classes, and to assist in our nursery. You can volunteer to help weekly, monthly or occasionally. Please contact Mary Kutter at mykutter@gmail.com.

"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.



Preparing for Advent

Alternative Markets This Weekend

Christ Presbyterian Church, Saturday December 7, 10 AM to 2 PM
John Wesley UMC, Saturday December 7, 9 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday,
December 8, 1 to 4 PM

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Pastoral Note

This Sunday, the second Sunday of Advent, emphasizes peace. The Hebrew term for peace is shalom, meaning wholeness, harmony, and right relations. This second week of Advent keeps us seeking perfect peace as our minds stay on the truth of God’s powerful love. So, we not only seek peace from discord, violence, and injustice, but we also seek the peace of God. God’s peace surpasses all understanding. It leads the wolf to live with the lamb, and the leopard to lie down with the kid. (Philippians 4:7, Isaiah 11:6-9.)

Jesus humbled himself to face death on the cross for us all. He defeated sin, death, and hell to cancel our sin debt and reconcile us to God. God, who gives peace through Jesus, will guard our hearts and minds and offer us inner peace and peace with others. Our efforts for peace come from God, who has established peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Confession of 1967 says, “The church members are emissaries of peace and seek the good of women and men in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics (BC 9.25). We are God’s emissaries of peace and reconciliation as we work for justice and freedom in the world. As emissaries of peace and reconciliation, we are committed to working for peace among ourselves and the nations.”

Rev. Glenn Hodges

“*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*” Luke 1:78-79.

Free Concert: Celebrating the Artist Series



On **Monday, December 9th**, The Artist Series of Tallahassee is presenting a free Christmas concert to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. This community event is a way to say thank you to Tallahassee music lovers for supporting the Artist Series for 30 years. The performers are the Frisson Ensemble from NYC and they will perform a Classic Christmas concert. This eleven-member professional group, six strings and five winds, will be playing music by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky and more. The concert will be at 7:00 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church (by Lake Ella). It will be a wonderful way to celebrate the season, and admission is free.

Christmas Snack Bags for Grace Mission

Grace Mission is collecting items for special bag lunches to be handed out on Christmas Eve, so that people have something to look forward to on Christmas day. They would like to fill each bag with: a Christmas card with a message, Christmas cookies, a chocolate protein shake, candy canes, a non-perishable sandwich like peanut butter and jelly, a \$10 gift card for a fast food restaurant that will be open Christmas Day: ex. McDonald’s, and a piece of fruit. Donations toward this effort can be dropped off at Grace Mission from 10 AM to 2 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays. We will also collect items this weekend and next in a box next to the church office.

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!

“Finding Joy” Stewardship Campaign

Pledges for 2025 were collected on Sunday, December 1st. You can still mail your pledge to the church office, or make it [online](#). If you did not receive a pledge card, cards will be available in the narthex this Sunday. If you have any questions about the stewardship campaign, please contact Norma Meier.

Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers to check mail, relay messages, and assist with other routine office tasks. If you can help for two to four hours on a weekday, fill out this [form](#) or email Glenn Hodges, glenn@oldfirstchurch.org, and indicate what day(s) you would like to volunteer.