

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

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

CAJM Affordable Housing Proposal Before the Leon County Commission Jan. 28

The Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) proposal on affordable housing will be before the Leon County Commission on Jan. 28th. This proposal asks the Commission to set aside 20% of the county's annual Blueprint sales tax surcharge revenues for an affordable rental housing land acquisition and leaseback program. The proposal would yield about \$1.3 million in 2026, enough to incentivize development of about 34 new rental units for families earning extremely low and very low incomes.

Please encourage the commission to adopt this proposal by coming to the meeting at 3 PM on Tuesday, Jan. 28th, at the Leon County Courthouse.

Carol Weissert

Save the Date:

The Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering will take place Sunday, February 9, at noon, in the Westminster Room. Please bring a salad to share. Our speaker is Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven, the minister at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church.



Disaster Relief

Some of the Presbyterian organizations responding to the Los Angeles area fires are: [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#); [Knox Presbyterian Church Deacon's Assistance Fund](#); [Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church Fire Relief Fund](#); [La Canada Presbyterian Church Eaton Fire Emergency Fund](#); and [Fuller Seminary Emergency Support Fund](#).

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!

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.

“Feasting on the Word” Lectionary-Based Bible Study

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

This class meets weekly to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

The **Inquirer's class** will not meet this week; watch for information on upcoming classes.

Guided Meditation continues on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the Calvin Room.

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. Please contact [Mary Kutter](#) to find out more.

Compassion and Social Justice

Snack pack and Laundry Love volunteers are invited from 10:00 to noon on Wednesdays. For information on volunteering, speak to Debbie Gibson.

The **2025 Point in Time Count** of those who are unhoused in Leon County will take place next week on January 28–30. The effort is organized by the Big Bend Continuum of Care and is part of a national count that occurs across the country. Volunteers are needed to go out in teams to visit areas of the city where those who lack housing might be staying or where they might be during the day. You can sign up [here](#) for two-hour shifts over the time period. Contact [Carol Weissert](#) with questions.

From the Heritage Committee: Early Landmark Events

April 1833: A notice in the *Floridian* newspaper invited “those who have subscribed towards building a Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee” to a meeting “to make arrangements for the erection of said building.” **April 1835:** Thirty-five members pledged \$6000 to build a house of worship. **May 1835:** Trustees paid \$800 for the property at Adams Street & Park Avenue.

(Source: *At First* by Barbara Rhodes)

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Pastoral Note

Earlier this week, our nation inaugurated the 47th President of the United States.

Unlike four years ago, this was a peaceful transition of power. It was encouraging to see our nation uphold the ideals of freedom and justice for all, as expressed in our constitution.

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington, powerfully conveyed this sentiment during the sermon at the Inaugural Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. This interfaith service was held at the Washington National Cathedral.

Reverend Budde's message was inspired by a call for unity following the divisive period of the presidential election. She described the foundations of unity as honesty, humility, and honoring the inherent dignity of every human being. She called for the president to show mercy, compassion, and empathy towards others, in the name of "unity that incorporates diversity and transcends disagreement." Where darkness may have lingered for many after the election, Reverend Budde brought the Light that is always present with us. Please listen to Reverend Budde's sermon on [YouTube](#).

Rev. Glenn Hodges

“*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.*”
(1 Corinthians 1:10)

Moving Beyond the Confession of the Sin of Racism to Repair

A year ago, we placed a plaque on the outside of the sanctuary acknowledging that our history included the sin of racism and promised to “commit ourselves to repairing racism’s breach, that God’s beloved community might take form to and around us.” The Task Force on Healing Racism is sharing weekly resources to deepen our understanding of the costs of that sin and to inspire us to act.

The Healing Racism Task Force this week recommends two local resources. *The Pain and the Promise: the Struggle for Equal Rights in Tallahassee Florida* is a book by local author Glenda Rabby; it traces the importance of Tallahassee in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s because of the most successful bus boycott in the region in 1956. In addition, there were early protest activities here by the Congress for Racial Equality. The book is in the local library. “Invisible History: Middle Florida’s Hidden Roots” is a documentary by the FSU Film School’s Valerie Scoon. The film describes the little-known history of plantations and slavery in North Florida. Originally produced for PBS, it is available online on [pbs.org](#) or YouTube.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the Healing Racism Task Force: Debbie Gibson, Sue Hightower, Ann Hingst, Mary Hodges, Pam McVety, Marian Moore, Walter Moore, Sue Safford, Linda Smith, Deborah Whisnant, Aide Whitaker, and Ann Westall, Chair.

