

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))! The music this Sunday will speak to our theme of “May God guide us on our way.”

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 6 PM on Wednesday, March 5, to mark the beginning of Lent.

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. Looking ahead, our next **First Sunday Food Collection** will be a week from this Sunday (March 2).

Celebrate Black History Month

The whole family is invited to a potluck lunch **this Sunday, February 23**, following worship. Bring something to share (sandwiches or salads are fine; dessert will be provided) and enjoy hearing from our speaker, [Ted Ellis](#), whose topic is “What Would Martin Luther King Say in Today’s Climate?” Please plan to join us; all are welcome! If you can’t be there in person, you can [Zoom](#) in at 12:30 PM.



Ted Ellis holds degrees in chemistry and museum studies, and is a well known artist and art collector. He is the first full-time director of Florida’s Civil Rights Institute, founded by Doby and Fred Flowers in 2018.

First Presbyterian Church

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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 meet this Sunday, February 23 in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#), 9:30 – 10:30 AM, to hear from a group at St. John’s Episcopal Church that recently returned from Cuba and learn more about current conditions there. The following week, March 2, we will begin a six-week Lenten series based on Adam Hamilton’s *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World*.

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

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.

Shrove Tuesday: March 4, 2025

The Care and Outreach Team invites you to celebrate and feast one final time before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Join us in the Westminster Room on March 4, at 6 PM, for a pancake (and more) dinner, featuring some pancake games and prizes! Come one, come all, and join us in this fellowship.

2025 Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Florida

118th Gathering
Saturday, March 8, 2025

Dogwood Acres Summer Camp and Retreat Center
3320 Harmony Rd, Chipley, FL 32428
9:00 am CDT - Registration, Check-In, & Light Morning Refreshments

10:00 am CDT - Worship
Memorial Service
Annual Meeting
Lunch

“Caring for Creation & Others:
Do What is Yours to Do”

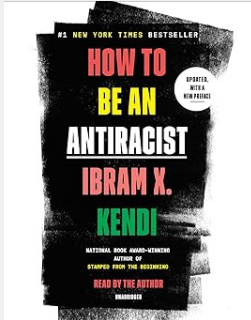
Registration Info emailed by Monday, February 3
Share with all PW in your congregation and join us for this historic day!

Questions? Contact: [Sandra Winslett @ 850-516-9875](mailto:SandraWinslett@850-516-9875)

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!

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.



This week in our continuing series to celebrate and honor Black History Month, the Task Force on Healing Racism recommends one book and two podcasts. Ibram X. Kendi is a Black author, professor, activist, and historian of race and discriminatory policy in the U.S. His book, *How To Be An Antiracist*, combines ethics, history, law, science, and his own awakening to racism. The book also suggests ways of forming a just and equitable society. The 2019 edition is available in the public library. As might be expected, his views are not currently popular with everyone, and there is a 2023 edition (available on Amazon) with some clarifications and additions. It begins, “Being antiracist is a journey, not a destination.”

The podcasts are free and sponsored by the [Center for Action and Contemplation](#), a center to educate and empower individuals to strengthen their spiritual lives so as to more fully act in service to others. There are many podcasts, but two are especially pertinent. The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis is a Black author, speaker, and senior minister at Collegiate Middle Church in New York City. Her podcasts cover issues relevant to the title, Love Period. On the 2/15/22 episode of Season Two, she [interviews the legendary civil rights activist Ruby Sales](#). On the 2/19/23 episode of Season Four, the [Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III](#) is the subject. He describes the legacy of activism based on faith that he inherited from his father, Otis Moss Jr., who worked with Dr. King in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He serves as pastor at Chicago Trinity United Church and has a special interest in activism among youth.

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.



DOGWOOD ACRES
RETREAT CENTER AND CAMP

Join us for Summer 2024!

High School Week
June 23 - 28

Family Camp
June 30 - July 3

Discovery
Adventure/Intro
July 7 - 12

Discovery
Adventure
July 14 - 19

Discovery
Adventure
July 21 - 26

Register at dogwoodacres.org