

This Week @ First

Friday, March 28, 2025

Worship & Music

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

One Great Hour of Sharing

Along with disaster relief, One Great Hour of Sharing supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program. In 2023, PHP gave 84 grants totaling \$1.1 million, impacting 19 countries and a territory, including the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Here are a few examples:

- ASOFENIX in Nicaragua implemented a solar refrigeration initiative for fish production. When fishermen and women do not have to spend hours every day obtaining ice, they can increase production and improve their incomes.
- ACREST in Cameroon distributed 250 improved stoves and 50 water filters to 26 villages. The stoves consume less wood, reducing deforestation, and the filters increase access to clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing.
- BOLD Justice in Fort Lauderdale, FL, prioritized expanding the tree canopy in low-income neighborhoods where residents are susceptible to heat-related problems like heat stroke.



WE ARE THERE

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for justice, resilience, and sustainability.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

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 in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#), 9:30 – 10:30 AM, to continue 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.

Compassion and Social Justice

Snack pack and Laundry Love volunteers are invited from 10 AM to noon on Wednesdays. For information on volunteering, speak to [Debbie Gibson](#).

Next Friday, April 4, we will be Bread Boxing at Second Harvest. Sign up [here](#) or speak to Debbie Gibson.

A week from Sunday, April 6, will be First Sunday Food Collection – remember to bring your cans and other nonperishable goods!



LAST CALL for “The Rake’s Progress”

Remember to get your tickets for the FSU Spring Opera, Igor Stravinsky’s “The Rake’s Progress,” in which our friend Kelby Yoder will have a major role!

You can see Kelby in the performances **today, March 28**, at 7:30 PM, and **Sunday, March 30**, at 3 PM. Tickets are available [here](#).



Join Us for Springtime Tallahassee

This Saturday, March 29, we will be opening the church during the Springtime Tallahassee Festival! Come sit with us any time throughout the day to chat, drink lemonade, and share First Pres with our neighbors: [sign up here!](#)

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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[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

Please Join Us for the PW Spring Mission Workshop

Everyone is invited - men, women and children.

Please come and bring a sandwich – dessert and beverages will be provided.

**April 6th after worship
in the Westminster Room**

Complete hands-on projects:

- Make Birthday Bags and cards for Elder Care Services (a project started by Montreat youth attendees)
- Embellish adult bibs for Elder Day Stay (a project started by our PW Together in Service group)

Learn more about how you can support the work of others in our congregation:

- Get suggestions of ways you can support our environment from Gail Hankinson
- Learn ways to support the efforts of our Healing Racism Task Force

Questions about how to use Breeze to volunteer or reach out to fellow members of our congregation?

- Get hands on help from our wonderful “Breeze Team” - Chris Corzine, John Guthrie, and Claire Hodges

The following (optional) items can be brought to the workshop or to the collection box on the table outside the office in the education building:

- gift bags (birthday or other) approximately 16 inch x 13 inch
- 9x13 disposable aluminum foil pans
- cans of sprite or other lemon-lime soda
- boxes of cake mix, any flavor
- containers of icing, any flavor
- birthday candles
- toothbrushes and travel sized toothpaste
- hotel sized toiletry items

We hope to see you there!

Make Plans Now to attend The Nehemiah Action!

Monday, March 31, 6:30 PM

Old West Florida Enrichment Center

2344 Lake Bradford Road, Tallahassee 32310



What happens at the Nehemiah Action?

Inspired by the biblical example of Nehemiah, we will assemble in great numbers. We publicly state the actions we want our local leaders to take on the pressing community issues we are working on.

At this Action, we will learn about the progress made in implementing the CAJM-supported program to interrupt gun violence in our community and will continue to push for the resources needed to change the trajectory of tragedy in our community.

Then our CAJM speakers will describe our proposal for Affordable Rental Housing for Very-Low and Extremely Low-income Families. They will ask the invited officials for their support. Cheers shake the rafters when officials agree to champion CAJM proposals, lack of support is met by a deafening silence.

CAJM's influence comes from its ministry of presence and persistence. When 1000 of us gather it demonstrates the degree of concern we have and our expectation for action to solve them.

We promise, you will be inspired. We promise you will be energized.

We promise you will make a difference!

Why is it important to attend?

Currently 16,000 households in Leon County – people who work in restaurants, care for our children and grandparents, drive school buses - spend more than 50% of their income on rent. The gap financing proposed by CAJM will help solve this crisis. When families have stable housing, their health and school performance can improve. Stress and domestic violence decrease. Homelessness is averted.

What are we asking?

At the County Commission's January 28th meeting, with 156 CAJM members in attendance, commissioners urged CAJM to work with the County Housing Finance Authority to develop a program that would offer affordable rental housing developers “gap financing” to help cover project funding shortfalls as well as incentives to increase the numbers of units set aside for families with very-low and extremely-low incomes. Members of CAJM's Affordable Housing Strategy Team will meet with county staff on March 24th to begin that collaboration. CAJM will propose that gap financing be contingent on developers

agreeing to set aside more affordable units than the minimums required under federal and state financing programs and that they agree to keep those units affordable for 99 years. At the Nehemiah Action, and at the June 10 County Commission meeting, CAJM will ask commissioners to commit to financing that program with \$1 million in the 2026 budget. At the Nehemiah Action they also will ask commissioners to commit to supporting such financing each year they remain in office.

What do you need to do?

Reach out and invite other members of your congregation but don't stop there! Share the importance of attending the Nehemiah Action in all your circles - neighborhood newsletters, book clubs, even at the gym! Any organizations where you gather with friends and acquaintances is a place to share this message. If we each bring at least 3 people, we will magnify our impact exponentially.

[SIGN UP TODAY!](https://www.capitalareajustice.org/events-1/2025-nehemiah-action)



<https://www.capitalareajustice.org/events-1/2025-nehemiah-action>

Seeking: Easter Egg Treats!

Please help our ministry teams prepare for the Easter Sunday children's egg hunt. We have the plastic eggs, but we need wrapped candies and small toys which can be used to fill our eggs. There is a box outside the church office; please drop off the treats by **Wednesday, April 8**. Thank you for your help!

Happy Birthday to our April Babies!

Happy Birthday to Bill Hanson, Carolyn Bradley, Geoff Luebke, Martha Stewart, Andrew Corzine, Steve Smith, David Strange, Kira Sullivan, Aria Willis, Danielle Jennings, Duane Meeter, Darlene Oosterhof, Albert Oosterhof, Melanie Meyer, William Jordan, Ann Riccardi, Cissy Gray, and Barbara Rhodes!