

This Week @ First

Friday, April 18, 2025

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. *Last Day: May 4.*

“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 resume after Easter. If you missed the six-week Lenten series based on Adam Hamilton’s *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World* and are interested in the study materials, please contact [John Guthrie](#).

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.

Worship & Music

To watch our worship services, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletins below)!

Holy Week Services



TONIGHT, April 18: Good Friday

6 PM: [Worship Service](#)

[Download the bulletin here.](#)



Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday

9:30 AM: Easter Breakfast (Westminster Room)

Easter Egg Hunt

11 AM: [Service of Communion](#)

[Download the bulletin here.](#)

Compassion and Social Justice

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

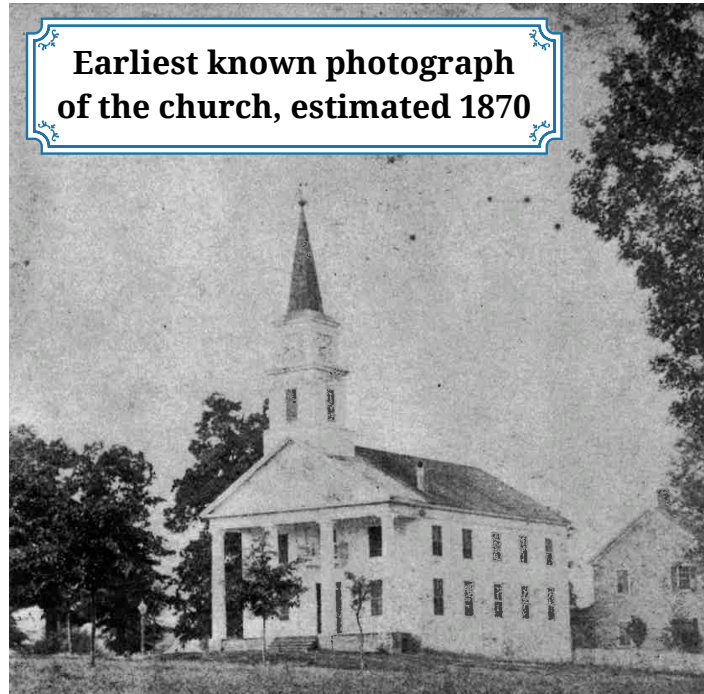
On Friday, May 2, we will be filling up bread boxes at Second Harvest. Sign up [here](#) or contact [Debbie Gibson](#) for more information.



From the Heritage Team: Our First Easter Service

The first Easter service in the new First Presbyterian sanctuary was held March 31, 1839. The congregation was to “attend with gravity and reverence, abstaining from all whispering, sleeping, smiling, and other indecent behavior” (Barbara Rhodes, *At First*, 1994). Hallelujah for Easter 2025 where smiles, songs of praise, and joy will be abundant. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Earliest known photograph
of the church, estimated 1870



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!

First Presbyterian Church
110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone: (850) 222-4504/Fax: (850) 222-2215
Email: Office@oldfirstchurch.org
Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org
www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch
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[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

First Presbyterian Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation week is May 5th-9th, so let's show our First Presbyterian Preschool staff some love! Funds will go to gift cards, meals, and other surprises for our amazing preschool staff!



Ways to contribute:
Venmo: @Felesa-Oliver
CashApp: @fso06
Or by check to the preschool box in the church office
(memo: teacher appreciation)



A Letter from UKirk

Below please find a letter sent out by Rev. Dr. Matt Frease, Campus Minister at UKirk, the PC(USA) FSU campus ministry, after the shooting and tragedy at FSU yesterday, Thursday, April 17, 2025. Shared with permission.

Yesterday was a difficult day, to say the least. As the shooting on the campus of Florida State began and the subsequent lockdown ensued, UKirk and Calvin's truly became a refuge of safety for students and faculty. As we sheltered in place, eagerly awaiting the all clear, in the midst of Holy Week, as we are all preparing to celebrate the good news of resurrection on Easter Morning, the reality that the horrors of Good Fridays and the fear and sorrow of Holy Saturdays continue in our world was palpable. Cries of "How long, O Lord," and "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers..." were uttered countless times, and the sadness, confusion, and fear accompanying these unnatural disasters linger. And so the community at UKirk continues to gather to grieve, name the emotions, give voice to our sorrow and fear, and relentlessly hold onto the hope of resurrection.

As soon as Tallahassee Police released us from our lockdown, Calvin's – living fully into the mission of loving people through welcome and hospitality – opened the doors to anyone needing a safe space. Our baristas began making drinks and giving them away, along with food, to anyone who came in as a way to care for our community. In the evening, we gathered as we always do throughout the semester for a community meal, followed by an informal time to pray and be together as people of faith. I deeply appreciate my friends and colleagues, Rev. Erin Rugh and Rev. Dr. Sheldon Steen, for giving their time to offer additional support to our students.

Throughout yesterday's events, I was awed by how our students cared for one another. There were text messages with updates of where students were, informing one another that they were safe, and then asking how they could help. They showed up and welcomed their fellow students in with hugs, reassuring words, and care. In the midst of darkness, their love shone bright.

In the days and weeks that follow, as efforts are made to return to a semblance of "normal" to close out the Spring Semester, UKirk Tallahassee will continue to be a space of hospitality and welcome, a place where students can gather safety in the comfort of Calvin's Coffee House, and food and snacks to help sustain them physically. Mary and I will remain available to offer spiritual and emotional support to students in need, as we attempt to reflect the love and hope of Christ.

Several individuals have asked me how they can support our students in the coming days and weeks. First, please pray for the University, for the families who are grieving the loss of a loved one, for those receiving medical care in the hospital, for our students, for whom this has become a familiar reality, yet walk with trepidation on a campus again marred by violence, and for this ministry that we may continue to be a safe space of welcome and hospitality. Second, as it is unclear how the University will further adjust its schedule for the semester's end, we are planning to offer meals, snacks, and complimentary drip coffee during finals week to help sustain our students and as a tangible act of care. Donations of individually packaged snacks can be dropped off at our office (548 W. Park Ave), or financial contributions to offset these expenses can be made through mailed checks, Venmo (@ukirkallahassee), or our online giving portal ([Click Here](#)).

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Steen shared this prayer with our students last night. May it be our prayer today.

"God of resurrection, new life feels far from us now. Again, we are reeling. Again, we lament. Again, we are angry, confused, and heartbroken. Again, we cry out, "How long, O Lord?"

Please, Lord. How long? How can we believe in the possibility of resurrection amid all this death?

We grieve for the precious lives lost and pray for healing for the wounded. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

For the entire FSU community, for whom campus may never feel safe again. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

For hearts that are once again broken, may they be broken open and filled with your transformed love. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Like the women who first approached the empty tomb, all we see is death. Surprise us, as you surprised them, with the shocking news of resurrection.

Give us courage to be bold voices for peace and repairers of this broken world. Help us to believe that resurrection is possible, even here, even now.

Lord, we believe; help our unbelief."

Grace and Peace, Matt