

This Week @ First

Friday, May 2, 2025

Spiritual Formation

Sunday School—Youth

All youth are invited at 9:30 AM! Grades K–5 in room 306. Middle and High School Students in room 301. A nursery will be available starting at 9:15 AM. **Note: this Sunday, May 4, will be the last day for classes for children and youth. Classes will resume in the fall.**

“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** meets in the Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#), and will continue through May 18. This week the class will be considering video clips from noted YouTube personality and renowned biblical scholar Dan McClellan. Dan specializes in the debunking of claims made about the Bible online and on social media. He focuses on exposing social and political agendas in many popular misreadings of scripture.

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

Worship & Music

To watch our worship services, connect with us on [YouTube](#) and find the weekly bulletin [here](#)!

Healing Racism Task Force

In January of 2024, we placed a plaque on the outside of the sanctuary acknowledging that our history included the sin of racism: we 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 regularly sharing resources to deepen our understanding of the costs of that sin and to inspire us to act.

We are honored and encouraged that Ted Ellis—painter, activist, and speaker for our Black History Month luncheon—maintains an enthusiastic interest in our work. He recently wrote, “I believe that ongoing engagement, collaboration, and intentional partnerships can create lasting change, and I am happy to explore ideas with your group on how to move forward effectively.”

Ted Ellis will be joining us again for the next regular Task Force meeting: please join us [online on Zoom](#) on May 13 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss with Ted ways that the church can take action to repair historic harms caused by racism.

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

Image below: “We Own This Land,” by Ted Ellis



[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

[More info available on Breeze](#)

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](#).

Property Team: Volunteers Needed

The Property Team needs a volunteer to climb an 8-foot ladder to install the sanctuary curtains before the May 10 Candlelight Concert. Please contact [Theresa Heiker](#) if you can help.

First Presbyterian Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation week is **this week**, 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 staff!



The Preschool Board is still waiting on any donations! Please consider giving in honor of your own teachers – every amount counts.

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

First Presbyterian Church

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OG Book Club: New Book

Have you thought about joining the weekly OG Book Club at First Pres? Now's the time!

The OG Book Club is preparing to start their new book, *American Covenant*, by Yuval Levin. They will meet weekly from 5/21 to 7/2 to discuss this book, so you have time to acquire the book and read the introduction and first chapter.

The OG Book Club meets every Wednesday at noon in the Calvin Room. The group has been meeting weekly for over two years, and the reading list has explored topics like building bridges across divides, understanding human behavior, and making sense of today's polarized world.

If you have more questions or want to join the mailing list, please email [Leon Kung](mailto:Leon.Kung).

Death Penalty in Florida

This week, we gathered to mourn the execution of Jeffrey Hutchinson and pray for him and his victims, Renee Flaherty and her three young children, Logan, Amanda, and Geoffrey.

On May 15 and 16 we will do so again for Glen Rogers and his victim Tina Marie Cribbs, the fifth execution ordered by Ron DeSantis in 2025.

Join us to say: **Not in My Name.**

Death Penalty Vigil

Thursday, May 15, 6 PM

In front of Governor's Mansion

Death Penalty Service of Remembrance

Friday, May 16, 12 noon

Capitol Rotunda around the Great Seal

FPC Staff Graduates!

Congratulations to our Florida State graduates! We are so proud of you.

Choral Scholar Vincent Bagay (below left) graduates this weekend with a BS in Accounting and a minor in Film Studies. Vincent's next step will be to pursue CPA licensure.

Former Administrative Coordinator Kelby Yoder (below right) will graduate with a Master of Music in Voice Performance. Kelby will stay in Tallahassee for the immediate future to continue his vocal training.

Choir Director Ethan Murphy (bottom left) has become Dr. Ethan Murphy following his completion of a PhD in Music Education/Choral Conducting.



Do you know other students graduating this year from high school, college, and more? Let us know: [email the office](#) with their names and details! We will be celebrating them in the newsletter and in church on May 18.

UKIRK TALLAHASSEE

Open House 2025

All are invited and welcome to come see and hear all about what UKirk Tallahassee / Presbyterian University Center has been up to this past year.

20 | May | 2025

6:00 - 7:30 pm

548 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301

HORS D'OEUVRES & DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED

Please RSVP by
scanning the QR Code,
Calling the UKirk Office at 850-222-6320
or through the website -
www.ukirktallahassee.com



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!