



# This Week @ First

Friday, June 13, 2025

## Worship & Music

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

Summer Choir meets at 10 AM on Sunday.

## Spiritual Formation

**Sunday School — Youth and Adult:**

*Classes will resume in the fall.*

### Sunday Morning Guided Meditation

Each week, Linda Smith leads a guided mediation open to everyone:

*During the summer we will continue to meet each Sunday at 10:30 for a 15 minute time of meditation. This is a very unique and special time where we gather in the Library, lit by candles, to listen to a 7-12 minute meditation based upon scripture. It provides a simply-led, inspirational opportunity for each of us to breathe in deeply, relax, and focus on God's presence as we relate a thought or scripture to our own lives. Those of us who are developing this practice are finding ourselves more in tune and ready to worship. You are encouraged to come a few minutes early on Sunday morning and try this simple practice in your own life.*



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## 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](#).

## Welcome Dr. Judy Arthur!

We are delighted to welcome back Dr. Judy Arthur as our summer Organist and Choir Director. Judy will be with us starting this Sunday and will take over directing the Summer Choir after Ethan's last Sunday, June 22.



## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

It has been about eleven months since we began inviting applications as part of the process of calling an installed pastor. Although the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is limited in the information we can share, we know people are deeply (and legitimately) interested in knowing that we are making progress—and we are.

The online matching process can be frustrating. We are not the only church in our Presbytery whose search has been a lengthy one (this was confirmed in a recent meeting with a member of the Presbytery's Committee for Pastoral Transitions). The role we are offering—that of an installed, solo pastor with a small, part-time staff—is increasingly challenging to fill. Also, many call seekers have spouses or partners whose careers also need to be considered, which makes larger job markets more appealing. The search process has challenged us to reexamine assumptions we had about who might best help our congregation move into the future.

We have been candid with candidates about the multiple transitions our congregation has experienced in the past four years, and have learned something worth sharing: we are not unique. The transitions have felt personal to us because they involved people we knew and loved, but there is virtually nothing about our recent history that some other congregation has not also experienced.

The search process necessarily involves a small number of people, but moving forward with the right person will involve all of us. One of the things we have done as a committee is constantly and prayerfully seek to discern how our own expectations and experiences affect our responses to call seekers. You can join us in that, so that when we are ready to take the next step, we will be able to welcome the pastor God has chosen for us with an open heart.

**To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. Submissions are due by Thursday at noon. Thank you!**



# Pastoral Note

Recently, an older man rang the doorbell of the church education building after hours, seeking help because his utilities had been disconnected despite having paid \$385.00 to keep them on. According to a City of Tallahassee utilities representative, an additional \$111.18 was required to restore his service. The Minister's Discretionary Fund was used to assist this gentleman, resulting in the restoration of his utilities.

Many members of the congregation wonder how their donations to the church are used. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is a dedicated account in the church budget designed to assist individuals and families experiencing emergencies and financial difficulties. It provides temporary support and is managed by the pastor, who submits funding requests to the church's Financial Administrator. This fund has provided bus tickets for stranded travelers, car repairs and fuel for families, as well as assistance with rent and utilities.

Since the beginning of 2025, First Presbyterian Church has spent \$1,766.58 through the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help our Tallahassee neighbors. Our continued backing of this essential and longstanding ministry within our church is having an immeasurable impact on the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Rev. Glenn Hodges

“*For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you. You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.*”  
Deuteronomy 15:11.



## Staff Celebrations, Thanksgiving, and Farewells

Please join us in the Westminster Room after worship on **Sunday, June 22** for a church-wide potluck luncheon in honor of Ethan and Abbey. We want to celebrate their time with us and offer our best wishes as they close their chapter here in Tallahassee and head to Pennsylvania.

Bring your favorite dish or just yourself—all are welcome!

## Volunteers Requested: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Meals on Wheels

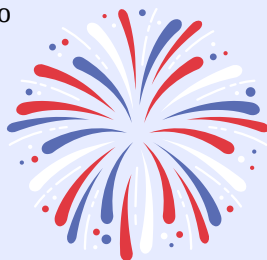
For numerous years First Presbyterian Church has provided assistance to this organization by providing food preparers and deliverers so that regular volunteers can have the holiday off. We hope that members and friends will decide to devote a couple of hours to share time, food, and hospitality to those who wish to maintain their independence by remaining in their own homes.

**When:** Friday, July 4, 2025

**Where:** Elder Care Services. 2518 W. Tennessee Street

You may indicate your willingness to do this in different ways:

- Send an e-mail to [Gary Niblack](#)
- Call or text 850-896-6299
- Sign up with Sue Hightower or Gary Niblack in the courtyard on Sunday after worship



Please indicate your preference to cook (8:00–10:00 AM) or drive/navigate (10:00 AM–12:00 PM).

You are welcome to request the same route you had last year.

## Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

### Save the Date!

Presbyterian Women will kick off their new year with a Fall Gathering in the Westminster Room on **Sunday, August 24 from 3:30-5:00 PM**. The Reverend Dr. John Cole and Tai Cole will introduce our new Bible study, entitled *Finding Resilience, Joy and Identity in Jesus Christ*. Circle chairs will distribute new study books and directories.

We will once again collect school supplies for the Preschool. We will distribute a list of needed items closer to the date.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Click here for the  
[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

