



# This Week @ First

Friday, June 20, 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.*

**Guided Meditation**

*Practice will resume in August.*

## Celebration, Thanksgiving, and Farewell

Please join us in the Westminster Room after worship this **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. We will have a basket in the narthex to collect cards, notes, and gifts for Ethan and Abbey.

Bring your favorite dish or just yourself—all are welcome, and there will be food for all!

## 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 the first Friday of every month, volunteers pack bread boxes at Second Harvest for distribution. Due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the next bread boxing volunteer opportunity will be Friday, July 11.

*Photo below: volunteers from June's bread boxing*



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!

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

For numerous years, First Presbyterian Church has provided assistance to Meals on Wheels on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 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 by:

- Sending an e-mail to [Gary Niblack](#)
- Calling or texting 850-896-6299
- Signing 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.



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*Click here for the*

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

*More info available on [Breeze](#)*





# Pastoral Note

Today, June 20, is World Refugee Day. During Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit's proclamation of the Good News to the world, breaking down barriers among languages and nations. Pentecost reminds us that the God of love reaches out to all of us as one family.

World Refugee Day honors the resilience and courage of those who flee violence and persecution. In response to the events of World War II, the United States Refugee Act established that when a government is unable or unwilling to protect its citizens, other governments are responsible for providing a safe haven, resources, and opportunities for refugees and other displaced individuals.

“*When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien.*”  
Leviticus 19:33

According to the Migration Policy Institute, in fiscal year 2016, the United States admitted nearly 85,000 refugees. Under the Trump administration, however, U.S. refugee admissions were reduced significantly, with the count dropping to 11,814 in fiscal year 2020. Recently, despite multiple court orders, the Trump administration's indefinite refugee ban remains in place. Tens of thousands of approved refugees are left in dangerous conditions, and many individuals across the country have been denied protection.

As Presbyterians, we assist refugees and amplify the voices that fear has silenced by encouraging our government to restore its historic commitment to receiving and resettling them. We partner with local organizations to support refugees by providing essential services that meet their basic needs. We also collaborate with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to coordinate the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s response to refugees, asylum seekers, and other forced migrants. Contact Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to learn how you can help at <https://pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/migration-accompaniment-ministry/world-refugee-day>.

Rev. Glenn Hodges

“TAKE ACTION: This World Refugee Day, Urge Congress to Defend Refuge,” last modified May 8, 2025,  
<https://cwsglobal.org/action-alerts/take-action-this-world-refugee-day-urge-congress-to-defend-refuge/>.

“United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Global Trends” June 19, 2025, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/global-trends>.

*Photos below: More of our dedicated volunteers bread boxing at Second Harvest in June!*

