

This Week @ First

Thursday, July 3, 2025

Worship & Music

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

The Summer Choir meets at 10 AM on Sundays — all are welcome to join!

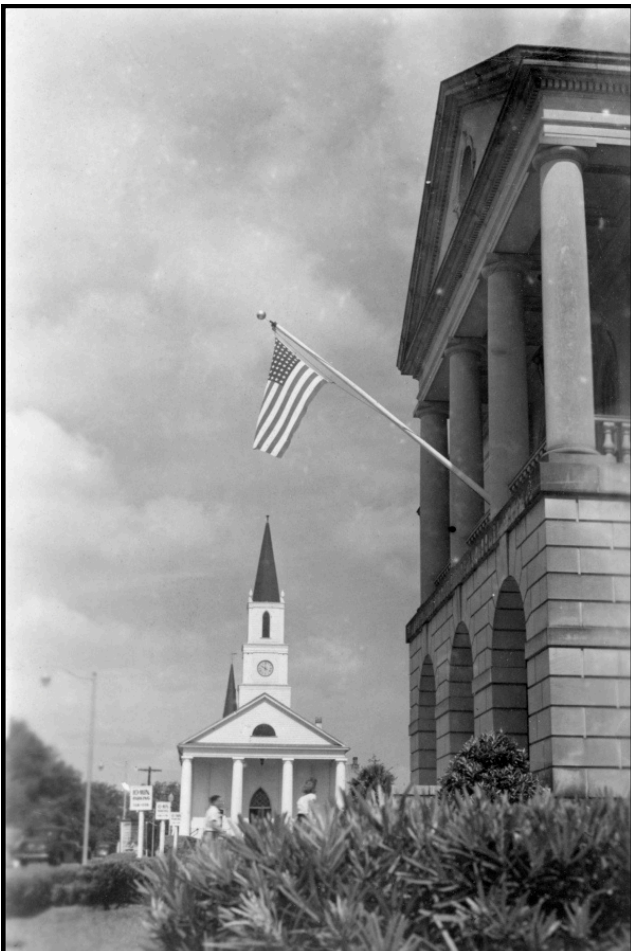
Spiritual Formation

Sunday School — Youth and Adult:
Classes will resume in the fall.

Guided Meditation
Practice will resume in August.

Happy 4th of July!

Stay safe and enjoy the weekend and time spent with your loved ones and your community!



First Pres and the Federal Courthouse and Post Office, 1950

Compassion and Social Justice

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

Second Harvest Bread Boxing: On the first Friday of every month, volunteers pack bread boxes at Second Harvest for distribution. Due to the 4th of July, the next bread boxing volunteer opportunity will be Friday, July 11.

First Sunday Food Collection: This Sunday, July 6, remember to bring your canned goods for donation to Second Harvest.



Death Penalty in Florida

First Presbyterian Church has long been a proud advocate for ending capital punishment and seeking alternatives to the death penalty.

This Tuesday, July 8, at 11 AM, First Pres will host a press conference announcing the release of a letter signed by Florida faith leaders asking Gov. DeSantis to announce a moratorium on executions. The event will be livestreamed on our YouTube page [here](#).

Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty has invited faith leaders, including clergy and lay leaders (such as Elders!), from all religions and denominations to sign this letter. You can read the [full text of the letter here](#) and access the [form to officially sign here](#). Please share this with other faith leaders who share our commitment to non-violence and forgiveness.

Gov. DeSantis has signed his ninth death warrant of 2025; if approved, this will set a modern-era record for the number of executions approved by a Florida governor in one year.

There are two executions scheduled for July:

Prisoner: Michael Bell

Victims: Jimmie West and Tamecka Smith

Vigil: Tuesday, July 15, 6 PM, Governor's Mansion

Service of Remembrance: Wednesday, July 16, Noon, Capital Rotunda

Prisoner: Edward Zakrzewski

Victims: Sylvia, Edward, and Anna Zakrzewski

Vigil: Thursday, July 31, 6 PM, Governor's Mansion

Service of Remembrance: Friday, August 1, Noon, Capital Rotunda

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

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Published on July 3, 2025

[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

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

The Season of Prayer and Reflection for Peace on the Korean Peninsula is an annual period from June 25 to August 15. Why these dates? August 15 commemorates Korea's liberation from Japan in 1945, and June 25 marks the beginning of the Korean War in 1950.

Many Americans believe the war ended in 1953; however, only an armistice was signed at that time. While fighting and military engagements have paused, the state of war has lasted for 75 years.

Since the 225th General Assembly, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been advocating for peace, reunification, and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Presbyterians support replacing the current ceasefire agreement with a lasting peace treaty. They have also urged the U.S. Congress to lift its ban that prevents U.S. citizens of Korean descent from traveling to North Korea to visit their families, from whom they have been separated due to the division. North Korea remains one of the most heavily sanctioned countries. According to the report "The Case Against Economic Sanctions," the sanctions imposed by the United States on North Korea are estimated to have caused thousands of deaths due to disruptions in supplies of medicines and other essential goods. The 225th General Assembly directed the church to review its policy that endorses the use of sanctions to effect change.

“*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*” Matthew 5:9”

Our Christian partners in Korea, including the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, are committed to supporting our mission. Korea, the National Council of Churches in Korea, and the World Council of Churches are encouraging policymakers in Korea and the U.S. to end policies that increase hostility. We can join them in advocating for opening the doors to gradual mutual trust-building and the cultivation of peace to replace ongoing war regimes. For more information, please visit <https://www.globalministries.org/korea-peace-appeal>.

Rev. Glenn Hodges

“Korean Peace” June 25, 2025, <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/world-mission/korea-peace>.

“Anuario de Mission” June 25, 2022, <https://pcusa.org/es/worship-with-us/yearbook/june-25-2022>.



Georgia O'Keeffe (American, 1887–1986). *Cow's Skull: Red, White, and Blue*, 1931. Oil on canvas; 39 7/8 x 35 7/8 in. (101.3 x 91.1 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Alfred Stieglitz Collection, 1952 (52.203)