



# This Week @ First

Friday, August 15, 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** continues on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the Library.



## Compassion and Social Justice

*The Compassion and Social Justice team has three main focuses—homelessness, hunger, and social justice advocacy. Volunteers work with our mission partners, provide weekly services for our unsheltered neighbors at church, and attend vigils, committee meetings, and other local events to lobby our commissioners on specific social justice issues.*

*If you're interested in joining us for any of these opportunities, please contact [Debbie Gibson](#) or [Jon Dodrill](#). You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.*

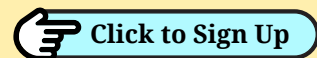
### ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Snack Pack and Laundry Love:** Join us from 10 AM to noon on Wednesdays to provide snack packs, laundry, and showers for our unsheltered neighbors.

#### Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

Join us on the first Friday of every month.

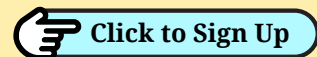
*Next opportunity: September 5*



#### Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on the second Sunday of every month.

*Next opportunity: September 14*



### EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Tuesday, August 19: Death Penalty Vigil**  
6 PM, Governor's Manion

**Wednesday, August 20: Death Penalty Service of Remembrance**  
Noon, FL Capitol Rotunda

*Do you know something that should be on here? [Send us an email!](#)*

## Welcome to our new Director of Music, Dr. Bryan Stenson!

With joy and thanksgiving, First Presbyterian Church welcomes [Dr. Bryan Stenson](#) as Director of Music. Bryan comes to us with a Doctorate of Music Arts in Choral Conducting from George Mason University, as well as a degree in Vocal Performance. Bryan has served six years as a tenor vocalist in the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" and worked with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, the Tacoma Youth Chorus, the Children's Chorus of Washington, and Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. He enjoys working with all ages of musicians and currently serves as an adjunct faculty member at Florida State University where he directs the vocal jazz ensemble and teaches courses in music education. As Director of Music at FPC, Bryan will lead the adult choir, plan the musical contributions to worship, and secure instrumentalists and choral scholars.

Bryan, his wife [Dr. McKenna Stenson](#), and their two-year-old son, Luka, moved to Tallahassee in 2024. Their first Sunday at FPC will be August 17, 2025. We look forward to welcoming all three of the Stensons into our congregation.

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!

First Presbyterian Church  
110 North Adams Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
Phone: (850) 222-4504/Fax: (850) 222-2215  
Email: [office@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:office@oldfirstchurch.org)  
Website: [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch)  
*Published on August 15, 2025*



[Click here for the  
Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

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

## THIS Sunday, August 17: Backpack Blessing

Calling all students to bring your backpack to worship **THIS SUNDAY, August 17**, for the Blessing of the Backpacks. The Spiritual Formation team will present hymnals and bibles to new kindergarteners or first graders.

If you are the parent of a rising kindergartener or first grader but have not yet been contacted, please let the office know.

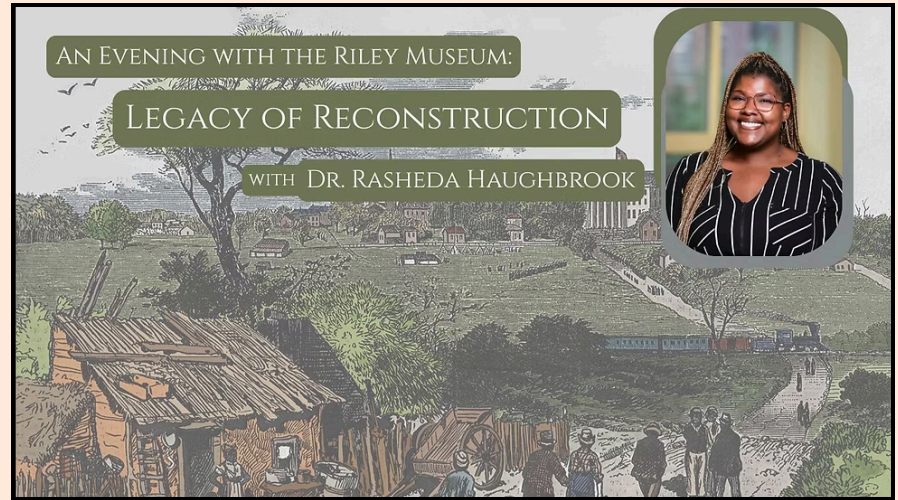
## Reminder: Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering August 24

The PW Fall Gathering will be held Sunday, August 24, from 3:30–5 PM in the Westminster Room. The Rev. Dr. John Cole and Rev. Tai Cole will introduce the new Bible study, entitled *Finding Resilience, Joy and Identity in Jesus Christ*, by the Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter. Circle leaders will distribute new study books and directories. Childcare will be provided.

We will once again collect requested school supplies for the Preschool; a complete list of supplies can be found [here](#), and handouts are available in the Narthex.

## John G. Riley Center and Museum Lecture Series

In keeping with our continuing commitment to healing and repair, the Healing Racism Task Force encourages you to visit the Riley Museum for one of the upcoming presentations in their lecture series, “African Americans in Tallahassee: The Civil War and Reconstruction Period.”



**Thursday, August 21: Dr. Rasheda Haughbrook**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Parkview at Cascades, 414 E Bloxham St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

*Dr. Rasheda Haughbrook, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Florida State University, talks about the impacts and legacy of the Reconstruction Era — including family systems, educational access, neighborhood conditions, and state legislation.*

Read more on their website [here](#).\*

*\*While their website says registration is closed, we have confirmed that registration is only necessary for guaranteed catering.*

*Anyone is welcome to show up without registering.*

**Thursday, September 25, 6 PM: Dr. Tom Hanchett**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

AC Marriott at Cascades, 801 S Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

## UKIRK TALLAHASSEE Celebrating 75 Years Tailgate Party

FSU vs. KENT STATE

September 20, 2025  
@ Westminster House

Save the Dates  
**75** years of ministry  
UKirk Tallahassee / PUC / Westminster House  
• September 20<sup>th</sup> ----- Tailgate Party  
• October 25<sup>th</sup> ----- 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration Dinner

Registration is now open for the Dogwood Acres fall adult retreat, and spots are filling up quickly!

🌿 Reset 2025: A Weekend to Restore and Refresh

📅 September 12–14, 2025

📍 Dogwood Acres Retreat Center

💰 Cost: \$240 (all-inclusive)

Take time this fall to pause and care for your mind, body, and spirit. This peaceful weekend will include:

- Gentle yoga and guided meditation
- A relaxing kayak excursion
- Inspiring speakers and worship
- All meals and cozy lodging in the heart of nature

It's the perfect getaway to reconnect with God, yourself, and others.

📅 Register today [here](#).



Whether you've been to Dogwood Acres before or this will be your first visit, Reset 2025 is an invitation to breathe deeply and begin again.