



# This Week @ First

Friday, August 29, 2025

## Worship & Music

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



### Choir Practice Resumes!

Regular Adult Choir Practice begins again this week on September 3. Join us from 7–8:30 PM on Wednesdays in the Choir Room.

**All are welcome — no experience necessary!**

## Spiritual Formation

### Sunday School — Youth and Adult:

Join us **next Sunday, September 7, at 9:30 AM** for the Sunday School Open House! All ages will converge for food and fellowship before everyone disperses to meet their Sunday School teachers. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

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

## September Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to all our fall babies:

Janet Bowman, Elizabeth Bradley, Ann Cullison, Lowell Clary, Peggy Wright-Cleveland, Jennifer Hanson, Glenn Hodges, Jonathan Witmer, Ruben Diaz, Mateo Diaz, Fred Hawkes, Daniel Hoekman, and Taylor Codrick!



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!

## 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*



### OUTSIDE EVENTS THIS WEEK

See more on the next page!

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

## CAJM August Newsletter

Take a look at the August newsletter for the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) on our website [here](#)!

Are you interested in getting involved? Send a message to [Mary Hodges](#).



**Photo:** First Pres members Kerry Laird and Laura Morse, among others, attend a public Leon County Commission Meeting to support CAJM's affordable housing proposal.

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**Click here for the**

**[Weekly Schedule](#)**

**[Monthly Calendar](#)**

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

## Upcoming Local Social Justice Events

Below we are sharing some local events that may be of interest to you. We encourage you to consider attending to learn more about social justice efforts in our community and support our partners in their crucial work.

### Immigration Kickoff: Reform or Roundup?

*Featuring Guest Speakers & Dinner Sept 8<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm*

Temple Israel 2215 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee FL 32308



Alla Holmes | Acacia Center for Justice

Erika Nyborg-Burch | Immigration Rights Project  
FSU College of Law

Silence Separates Families—Action Brings Justice.



ACACIA  
CENTER FOR JUSTICE

FSU | COLLEGE OF LAW



Temple Israel  
Tallahassee's Jewish Community Center

Please join the Temple Israel Social Justice in Action Team for the 2025 *Immigration Kickoff: Reform or Roundup?* meeting at Temple Israel on September 8th at 6:30pm.

The meeting will feature Alla Holmes, who will share her work at the national level with the Acacia Center for Justice, and Erika Nyborg-Burch, who runs the Immigration Rights project at the FSU College of Law and will give us more specific information about what's happening right in our own community.

Please read more and RSVP [here](#).



As part of its Lay Academy programming on Wednesday evenings, Trinity United Methodist Church is offering this series of classes addressing hunger and food insecurity and invites you to attend. Classes meet from 6:15-7:15 in Room 305.

#### Hunger in the Midst of Plenty

While we live in a land of great abundance, it's troubling that many people suffer from hunger and food insecurity. The increasing price of food affects everyone, but for many in our community, it's a daily struggle to access and afford food to feed themselves and their families. In these classes, leaders from Tallahassee will share their knowledge of the ways in which food insecurity affects various sectors of the community, the approaches their organizations are taking to address it, and ways in which we can become involved.

The full list of classes is on the right:

#### 9/3 Hunger in the Big Bend

Monique Ellsworth, CEO of Second Harvest of the Big Bend

#### 9/10 Preventing Hunger among Seniors

Cindy Underwood, Director of Volunteer Services, Elder Care Services

#### 9/17 Community Food Pantries

Kevin Scott, St. Paul's UMC representative and a lead coordinator for Manna on Meridian

Haley Gentile, Assistant Dean, FSU Basic Needs Programs, Department of Student Support & Transitions and Manager of the FSU Food Pantry.

#### 9/24 Community Gardens

Tallahassee Food Network/iGrow Garden – Miaisha Mitchell, Director and Co-Founder, Tallahassee Food Network

#### 10/1 Providing Food for Homeless Persons

Cindy McDuffie, Downtown Churches Snack pack program

Mother Rachel Hill, Vicar, Grace Mission

#### 10/8 Capital Area Justice Ministry Initiative on Food Insecurity

Brian Stringer, Executive Director, Capital Area Justice Ministry



# Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering Recap

What a wonderful day to kick off the new year! Guests Rev. Dr. John Cole and Rev. Tai Cole shared their insight and wisdom with us, and PW Circles joined together to reconnect with old friends and welcome new ones. It's not too late to join — anyone is welcome, members or not! Read more on our website [here](#).



As always, our endless gratitude to Becky and John for helping our events go smoothly. We are so lucky to have them!

