



This Week @ First

Friday, October 17, 2025

Worship & Music

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

Join the Choir on Wednesdays from 7–8:15 PM and on Sundays at 10:15 AM in the Choir Room. All are welcome!

Spiritual Formation

All classes are 9:30–10:30 AM.

A nursery will be available starting at 9:15 AM.

Youth Sunday School

K–5 in Room 306, Middle and High in Room 301
Each week, multi-age groups explore the Bible and weekly scripture readings through play, curricula, and discussion.

“Feasting on the Word”

Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#)

This class meets weekly to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

Inquirers’ Class

Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#)

This week, the Inquirers class will wrap up their discussion of *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Du Mez and discuss two articles from her substack, Du Mez Connections: one on Jennifer Lyell, clergy sex abuse survivor, and the other on the legacy of James Dobson’s ministry on some Christian families.



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

Congratulations to Emily!

Congratulations to Emily Bruno on passing her senior ordination exams in polity, worship and sacraments, theology, and biblical exegesis!

Please continue to pray for Emily on her journey towards ordination.

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

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.

To volunteer, please contact please contact [Debbie Gibson](#) or [Jon Dodrill](#). You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.

Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

Join us on first Fridays from 9:45 AM–Noon.

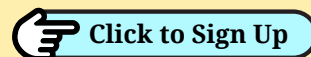
Next opportunity: Friday, November 7



Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

Next opportunity: Sunday, Nov 9



EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 19: Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

5–6 PM, Old Florida Capitol

This Week: Congregational Meeting

The session at FPC has called a congregational meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, October 19, 2025, to elect the Elder Class of 2028 and the 2026 Nominating Committee. We hope to see you there!

This Week: Farewell Reception for Claire

After the congregational meeting, please join us in the Westminster Room to bid farewell to Communications and Administrative Coordinator Claire Hodges. A basket will be in the narthex for notes of appreciation.

Email Scam: Watch Out!

Do not respond to any email that says they are from the church staff unless the email address ends with “@oldfirstchurch.org.”

Recently, church members and friends have received scam emails from people pretending to be different staff members, using fake email addresses along with their name and image. These are called “imposter scams;” you can read more about them and how to protect yourself [here](#).

Please be wary and protect your information: we will NEVER request your personal or financial information over email or phone. Please check the email address before replying to ensure it comes from an account you know and recognize. If you are unsure about someone’s identity, please contact the office directly at our phone or email below.

First Presbyterian Church

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Click here for the

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)



Steeple Repair

The steeple cleaning, painting, and repair project is continuing apace! Our contractor is staging equipment in parking spaces on Park Avenue and Adams Street. During the week, sidewalks next to the sanctuary will be blocked during the cleaning, repair, and painting of the steeple. The sidewalks will be open for worship on Sunday.

The work should be complete by Thursday, October 23. Thank you for your understanding!

This Week: Guest Organist

This Sunday, October 19, we are honored to be hosting Dr. Giovanna Riboli as our guest organist during worship.

Dr. Giovanna Riboli is the titular organist of the Onofrio Zeffirini da Cortona organ (1558) at the Badia Fiorentina (Florence), curator of 17 illuminated manuscripts in square notation (Gregorian and Fratto chant) dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries in the same monastery, and vocal coach of the choir of the Fraternités Monastiques de Jérusalem. She is Professor of Organ and Gregorian Chant at the Conservatory of Benevento, where she also teaches Beneventan Chant and directs a choir specializing in the performance of ancient liturgical repertoire (7th–11th centuries).

She is an organist, musician, and musicologist with wide experience, with a career spanning performance, choral conducting, historical research, and teaching. Her activity is distinguished by a profound knowledge of sacred music and by her commitment to the enhancement of both historical and contemporary organ repertoires. Her musicological and performance research also includes Gregorian, Fratto, and Beneventan chant, fields in which she specializes in the study and transcription of ancient manuscripts.

This year, she is participating in a number of visits to US institutions as part of a larger grant program, “Voices of Heritage.” The goal of the program is to share Italian cultural heritage abroad, including the tradition of Beneventan chant which is the focus of her research. She will be at FSU from October 11th–23rd, and we are excited to be hosting her at First Presbyterian Church during this time for a Sunday service and an organ masterclass for FSU students.

Congratulations to our Heritage Team for their new grant!

This week, the Heritage Team was awarded a grant by the Synod of the South Atlantic from the Uderitz Memorial for FLA Churches Grant fund to support our Heritage Project 2032, preparing for FPC's 200-year anniversary. The grant money will allow the Heritage Team to professionally frame images from six different time periods with museum- and archival-quality materials for an exhibition of First Pres through the centuries. We are grateful for the support of the Synod and excited to see this project unfold!



2025–2026 Stewardship Campaign



Results of the Vision Survey

Thank you for your heartfelt responses to the Stewardship Committee's Vision Survey. Those that have been received have been tallied, and you can now view the results. You may still submit your input by using this form, and it will be incorporated.

[Click here to complete the online Vision Survey](#)

[Click here to view the results of the Vision Survey](#)

Annual Pledge Cards

As you come into worship this week, Deborah Whisnant and Laura Morse will be in the narthex to help you locate your stewardship materials. In your envelope you will find a letter and a pledge card with a time and talent pledge on the back. If you are a regular giver but have not pledged, please consider making a pledge this year so the Budget and Finance committee will know how to allocate your gifts. Each Sunday for the next four weeks, you'll hear from various leaders about how your funds are used to support the programs you most value.

You may return your pledge card any week by placing it in the offering plate or dropping it by the office. You may also make your pledge online at our website. Please submit your pledge by November 9, if possible.

[Click here to complete the online pledge form](#)

Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries of First Pres as we “gather in worship, reach out to serve.”

Office Staffing Announcement

Due to personal reasons, Regina Owens will not be able to continue as the new Office Coordinator. We thank her for her time with us and wish her well. Please have patience with the church office and staff in the coming weeks during this transition.



"FRIENDS OF DOGWOOD" GATHERING
at Amicus Brewing Ventures
717 S Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL

Bring the family or invite a friend to join us!
Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m. EST
at Amicus Brewing Ventures, Tallahassee FL
Enjoy a relaxed afternoon celebrating all things Dogwood!
Enjoy great company, share stories, and enter our **\$5 raffle** for a chance to win Dogwood merch.
Grab lunch from the **Wok and Roll** truck.
Bring a friend and come raise a glass to community, camp, and connection!



DOGWOOD ACRES
Retreat Center and Camp

AMICUS
BREWING VENTURES
TLH

CHEERS



Gathering to Worship, Reaching Out to Serve: Highlighting the work of First Pres

In the Stewardship Campaign's Vision Survey, many respondents expressed a desire to know more about the work of the church. In the coming weeks, the newsletter will include descriptions of many of the various projects that First Pres and its members undertake at the church, both within our congregation and in relation to our wider community.

You've probably seen events on the church calendar that aren't the usual worship services and team meetings. First Pres is proud to open our doors and share our space with a variety of local organizations. This is a long standing-tradition of the church that has helped several local organizations get their start, including Big Bend Habitat for Humanity and the Shelter of Leon County.

Our Building Use Mission:

Our congregation is uniquely located at the corner of Park and Adams in downtown Tallahassee, blocks away from the Florida Capitol. We bear witness to the Gospel by sharing our space for groups who gather to advocate for works of justice and joy, mercy and compassion. We recognize our complicity in the brokenness of the world, and seek to be hospitable and humble, welcoming groups who need space for serving those who experience despair born out of systems of injustice, and those who come to be present when the legislature is in session. Here we strengthen our witness to Christ, practice curiosity with the Holy Spirit, and build our empathy for the least of these.

You can read about some of our current partners:

- An AA group meeting for LGBTQ+ neighbors is held on Thursday evenings.
- The "OG Book Club" Village Square book study group meets each Wednesday at noon to discuss their latest selection.
- The Rotary Club uses our facility to train people in the use of naloxone when someone has overdosed.
- Connections First, which works to cultivate peace and healing through human connection using restorative practices, is holding their first training session in November and will use our space for mediation sessions after that.

If you know a group that needs a meeting space, encourage them to fill out our request form [here](#).