



This Week @ First

Friday, October 24, 2025

Worship & Music

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

Have you always wanted to sing in the choir? Have you been just a little curious about singing in the choir? If so, please come join us! We are a friendly group, learning every Wednesday how to be better at what we do. Come learn with us and lift a joyful noise. **Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays, from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM. We meet on Sundays at 10:15 AM in the choir room.** A robe, hymnal, joyful section buddies, and gifted director await your presence.

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 will be our last session focusing on the work of Kristin Du Mez. We will watch the end of the documentary, *For Our Daughters*, and discuss evangelical attitudes toward women's rights and sex abuse in the church.



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

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



[Click to Sign Up](#)

Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

Next opportunity: Sunday, November 9



[Click to Sign Up](#)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 26: Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

5–6 PM, Old Florida Capitol

Tuesday, October 28: Death Penalty Prayer Service

9:45–10:45 AM, Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Tuesday, October 28: Death Penalty Vigil

6–6:30 PM, Governor’s Mansion Parking Lot

Wednesday, October 29: Death Penalty Service of Remembrance

Noon–12:30 PM, FL Capitol Rotunda

Next Week: Intergenerational Sunday School

Join us at in the Westminster Room at 9:30 on November 2nd for the next Intergenerational Sunday School! All ages are invited to come enjoy fall-themed breakfast snacks together. We will kick off a month of gratitude by sharing what we’re thankful for, decorating a Thankful Tree, and preparing more Birthday Bags and cards for Elder Care Services. We look forward to seeing you!

Office Staffing Update

At this time, Claire Hodges will continue to assist remotely with the bulletin and newsletter while the Personnel Team recruits a permanent staff member. The Pastor, Financial Administrator, and volunteers from the congregation will continue to staff the office on most days. We thank you for your patience during this time.

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Click here for the

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

at Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Camp

Join us for a heartwarming celebration of all God's creatures!

Date: November 1, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM CT

Location: Dogwood Acres
Retreat Center and Camp
3320 Harmony Rd.
Chipley FL

All pets welcome —
leashed, crated, or
otherwise safely
contained.

Register Now!



Open to the community.
Registration required.

A short, family-friendly
blessing ceremony

Individual blessings for
each animal companion

Pet photos in the peaceful
woods of Dogwood Acres

Lunch for humans (\$15) +
snacks, water station,
supplies and raffle ticket
\$5 per pet.

Free Dogwood Dog Tags
(while supplies last)

INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR IMMIGRATION JUSTICE

In solidarity with the vigils at the Everglades Detention Center

This Sunday from 5-6 pm
Tallahassee - Old Florida State Capitol

Leaders of faith and conscience from around Florida are holding weekly
faith vigils from 5-6 pm to stand together in prayer and witness against
inhumane and unconstitutional treatment of our neighbors.

Everyone is welcome at this peaceful gathering.

Call (352) 223-2759 for more information.



Image above: members of FPC join others in our community at the Florida Capitol Rotunda for a Service of Remembrance for the executed prisoner and his victim(s).



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.

Opposition to the Death Penalty: Prayer Service, Vigil, Service of Remembrance

Longtime members of First Pres know that our congregation's opposition to the death penalty has not wavered over the decades; the PC(USA) has condemned it since 1959. You've likely seen local death penalty events listed on the church calendar and newsletter or heard a congregant give a Minute for Mission during worship. In July, FPC hosted the Florida Faith Leaders Press Conference on Executions, organized by Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. Each time there is an execution, members of FPC join others in our community for events led by the Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty.

The night of the execution, people gather in the parking lot in front of the Governor's Mansion for a vigil. Words of faith from different traditions around the world are read aloud, and then a volunteer reads the names of each of the prisoners executed under the current Governor. A member of First Pres rings one of our own handbells to mark each name; at this time, there have been 23 executions under Governor Ron DeSantis, 14 of which have occurred this year, with another three scheduled already for the coming months. The service concludes with singing "Light a Candle in the Darkness," a song written by Mary Louise Bringle and given to TCADP to provide hope for the end of the death penalty.

The following day in the Capitol atrium, a service of remembrance is held to acknowledge the death of the prisoner and the death(s) of his victim(s). Participants alternate between reading quotes from political and faith leaders that are in opposition to the death penalty and singing songs of comfort and hope, accompanied by the guitar. Liturgies are used in both services, a copy of each is signed by all present, and they are then presented to the Governor's Office following the end of the service.

While the end of the death penalty will take political action and will, these services offer a chance to express our opposition to our leaders and find strength through community. We hope you'll join us.