



This Week @ First

Friday, October 31, 2025

Worship & Music

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

All are welcome to join the choir! No experience necessary. **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.

Intergenerational Sunday School

Join us in the Westminster Room for fall-themed breakfast snacks and fellowship! We will kick off a month of gratitude by sharing what we're thankful for, decorating a Thankful Tree, and preparing birthday bags and cards for Elder Care Services.

"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.



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

Compassion and Social Justice

This Week: First Sunday Food Collection



More than 3 million Floridians who rely on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are facing a lapse in benefits in November if the government shutdown continues. Second Harvest is already planning its response to an increase in the need for food support. Please give generously. Visit the Second Harvest [website](#) for more information on how to support our neighbors during this challenging time. If you have not volunteered with Second Harvest before, please consider signing up for a shift below.

Snack Packs 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: This Friday, November 7



Click to Sign Up

Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

Next opportunity: Next Sunday, November 9



Click to Sign Up

From left to right, Linda Gibson, Pam McVety, Debbie Gibson, Beth Pulliam, and Sue Scribner stand behind bread boxes that they have packed at Second Harvest, which are frozen and sent out to one of 120 frontline distribution points.



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.

Volunteering with Grace Mission and Second Harvest

While First Pres makes financial donations to many of our local non-profits (go check out the bulletin board outside the office to see thank-you letters from many of our partners!), our time is just as valuable. In addition to other outreach programs, our Compassion and Social Justice Team coordinates monthly volunteering shifts at Grace Mission and Second Harvest.

[Grace Mission](#) is an outreach mission of the Episcopal Diocese that provides hot meals, clothes, laundry, showers, health services, job opportunities, and community resources for the unhoused community in Tallahassee. For many people, Grace Mission is the only place they can get a hot meal in town. Once a month, a group from FPC serves the Sunday evening meal to homeless neighbors at Grace Mission Church, setting up the meal and serving between 80–120 hungry neighbors each shift.

[Second Harvest](#) is the primary food bank for the 16-county Big Bend area. In 2024, they distributed over 21.1 million pounds of food for no charge. On the first Friday of every month, volunteers from FPC (and their friends!) help pack boxes with a variety of bread items that are frozen for later distribution. During this two hour shift, we have packed as many as 350 boxes!

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!



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)

Open to the community.
Registration required.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

NOVEMBER 2ND AT THE CAPITOL

We will honor and remember the 20
who have died in ICE detention.

2:00 - 4:00

Bring blankets and a picnic. Set up a small family altar
at your blanket to remember loved ones. Bring non-
perishable food to donate for immigrant families in
need.

Suggestions: Dried beans, rice, pasta, canned vegetables, canned
fruit, canned meat, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, cooking oil, Maseca
flour, tortillas, shelf stable milk, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste,
diapers size 4 – 6.

4:00 – 5:00

Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

Note the time change!

For more information contact Susan Smith RiseUpSingers@gmail.com

Sponsored by

TCARE TIRA Voces Unidas de Gadsden

Tallahassee Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Rights

Human Rights Committee of Leon Democratic Environmental Caucus



Announcing a Mid-Week Advent Book Study and Discussion Group

From FPC's Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Greta Reed:

In past seasons, we have had in-person lunch-time study/prayer groups during Advent and Lent. This year, to simplify things and include people with limited mobility, we are offering a ZOOM-only group each Thursday noon of Advent.

The book that will be the basis of discussion is Frederick Buechner's *The Magnificent Defeat*. Some of you may be familiar with his writings. He is a masterful writer, and has a probing—and provoking!—mind and spirit. The book is a collection of sermons—he was an ordained Presbyterian minister. But to me his sermons are unlike any others I have read or heard. They challenge us to dig deep. While the book was first published in 1966, re-issued in 1983, I find it could have been written yesterday. I have selected sermons that bear on the Christmas season.

We will share leadership, with each participant—or, if you wish, a team of two—introducing a chapter/sermon and leading the discussion. These sermons are very rich in meaning, and I do not believe discussion will be difficult. In fact, I think you will find they provoke a response.

The meetings will be held Noon–1:00 PM on the Thursdays of December 4, 11, and 18.

Please contact Greta Reed at gretareed@comcast.net or (404) 731-6757 to sign up.

The church will order and pay for the books.

November Birthdays!

Happy birthday to our
November babies:

Matthew Jennings, Karen
Bickley, Lauchlin
Waldoch, Charlie
Johnson, Hannah Nalls,
Sabrina Wright, Meredith
Strange, Carla Connors,
Kerry Laird, Carolyn
Herrington, Theia Groll,
Margy Norman, Nancy
Bivins, Corinne Bruno,
Miriam Gurniak, Frank
Dorsey, Virginia Thomas,
Sarah Hendry, Steve
Sandon, and Rochelle
Davis.

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!

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