



This Week @ First

Friday, November 21, 2025

Worship & Music

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

The choir always welcomes new singers! **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
*Nursery care available on request**

Youth Sunday School

K–5 in Room 306, Middle and High in Room 301

“Feasting on the Word”

Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#)

Inquirers’ Class

Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#)

This week we begin a four-part Advent series based on *A Child Is Born*, a new book and DVD by Amy-Jill Levine (e-book or paperback are not required but are available from [Cokesbury](#) or [Amazon](#); click [here](#) to view short trailer). The book explores how the nativity stories of Moses, Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel anticipate the birth of Jesus.

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

***Changes to Nursery Staffing:** If members or guests are in need of childcare, there is a sign on the nursery door with numbers to call. Members who have completed the Safe Gatherings screening will always be available.

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!

New Office Hours

Monday: 1 PM–5 PM

Tuesday through Thursday: 10 AM–2 PM

Friday: 1 PM–5 PM



Compassion and Social Justice

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 [Jon Dodrill](#). You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.

Give Thanks, Give Warmth:

From now through the end of the year we are asking the congregation to bring in socks, hats, gloves, and anything else you might have to help someone stay warm; a full list is [posted here](#). We are all blessed; let us “give thanks and give warmth” to our unsheltered neighbors. There will be a laundry basket in the narthex for collections.



Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

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

[Click to Sign Up](#)

Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

[Click to Sign Up](#)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 16: Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice
4–5 PM, Old Florida Capitol

Dec. 7: Intergenerational Sunday School

Join us in the Westminster Room at 9:30 AM on Sunday, December 7 for hot cocoa and good company, as Bryan Stenson and the choir lead us in carol singing! There will also be a gift-wrapping station where you can wrap Elder Elf gifts. Join us for faithful fellowship on the Second Sunday of Advent, as we await the birth of our Savior.

Our worship service that morning will be a Service of Lessons and Carols, so it will be an extra musical morning!

First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: (850) 222-4504/Fax: (850) 222-2215

Email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Published on November 21, 2025

Click here for the

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)



Pastoral Note

Thursday, November 20, was Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). TDOR is an annual event that honors the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost due to acts of anti-transgender violence. It was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) links TDOR with Matthew 25, where Jesus identifies with the poor and marginalized, including, in our time, issues of gender justice, dismantling heteropatriarchy, and full inclusion and autonomy in gender and sexuality as acts of faith.

Rev. Glenn Hodges



Reminder: Advent Book Group Starting Dec. 4!

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

This year's Advent Book Discussion Group will be held via Zoom on three Thursday middays: **December 4, 11, and 18**. John Guthrie has kindly volunteered to be our tech person, and I will leave it to him to "direct us in the way we should go!" If you have not yet signed up but would like to participate, please send Greta Reed a message (gretareed@comcast.net, 404-731-6757).

The church has ordered and paid for hard copies of Frederick Buechner's *The Magnificent Defeat*, first published in 1966 but so applicable to us today. Since the book is now out of print, new copies are hard to find, but our Designated Pastor, Rev. Glenn Hodges, scouted out enough to cover those of you that may want a hard copy. Unfortunately, they are not due to arrive until a few days after we start the series. However, our own ingenious and curious Allie Orange has found online access on the Internet Archive, a nonprofit digital library. In order to access it via [this link](#), you will need to create an account.

Looking forward to being with you and sharing our responses to this gifted writer/theologian/human being!

— Greta



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

This column provides 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.

Healing Racism Task Force (HRTF)

The HRTF has been exploring ways to begin the work of healing historic harms in our community. We have been in discussion with Black leaders in the community about appropriate ways to best continue with our commitment to heal and repair.

As part of the Compassion and Social Justice Team, a committee is developing guidelines to establish an annual scholarship that will fund a week's camp experience at Dogwood Acres for 12-16 minority students to experience growth in their Christian faith as they experience fellowship and recreation in an outdoor ministry setting. The HRTF is in conversation with the Riley House Museum to find ways to support their mission of promoting cultural preservation of and education about the struggles and achievements of African Americans in Florida, as well as foster a deeper understanding of African American heritage. The session approved this week the use of endowment funds to promote both of these projects.

Please let us know if you know of any minority children that might benefit from a camp experience. If you would like to join this group, please contact [Ann Westall](#) or a HRTF member.

Advent Poinsettias

The Worship and Music Team will be placing poinsettias in the sanctuary during Advent. Members and friends are invited to support these efforts by purchasing a poinsettia. You may designate your poinsettia in memory or honor of a friend or loved one.

We encourage you to take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service or on the following Sunday morning (Dec. 28).

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please place your order information and check in the church offering plate or send it to the church office (110 North Adams Street, 32301). Order forms can be found in the narthex and church office. Please include the following information with your purchase:



I would like to purchase ___ poinsettia plant(s) to be used in the sanctuary during Advent.

This donation is in memory or honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

Please make checks in the amount of \$15.00 per poinsettia payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Poinsettia" in the memo/for line. Thank you!