



# This Week @ First

Wednesday, November 26, 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 continue 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.

## Happy Thanksgiving!

The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week. Normal hours will resume next week. Thank you!

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 Packs and Laundry Love:

Join us from 10 AM to noon on Wednesdays to provide snack packs, laundry, and showers for our unsheltered neighbors.

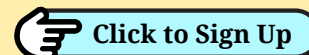
*To volunteer, please contact [Jon Dodrill](#). You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.*

#### 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.

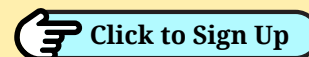
#### Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

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



#### Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.



### EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

## Welcome Choral Scholar Cooper Myers!

Welcome to choral scholar Cooper Myers, who has joined our bass section! Cooper is a freshman in the FSU Choral Music Education program from Tampa.



## Happy Birthday, December Babies!



Happy Birthday to our members born in December:

Bo Elzie, Carol Weissert, Gail Hankinson, Laura Morse, Amy Guthrie, Debbie Gibson, Ethan Tozer, Fran Owens, Dani Ebaugh, Nikki Grondzik, Betty Miller, Celeste Diaz-Atkinson, Shirley Zahn, Jacob Beychok, and Wayne Friedemann!

### First Presbyterian Church

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*Click here for the*

[Weekly Schedule](#)

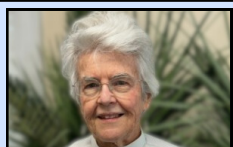
[Monthly Calendar](#)

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

## Reminder: December 7 is 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!



## Reminder: Advent Book Group Starting Thurs. 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](mailto: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 projects that First Pres and its members undertake at the church, both within our congregation and in our wider community.*

### Wednesday Unhoused Ministry

Each week, a dedicated team of volunteers meets on Wednesday morning for two hours to provide up to 12 showers, 4 or 5 loads of laundry, and around 30 snack packs to our unsheltered neighbors.

We have also provided space for Tori Stevenson, the outreach coordinator for the Big Bend Continuum of Care, to provide services for those who are in need. She comes to the Westminster Room each Wednesday at 11:00 and stays for an hour or as long as she is needed. In the last year, she has obtained many FL DMV IDs, driver's licenses, and birth certificates for people, which are some of the first pieces of information required to get a job, housing, and other things we take for granted. She has helped several of our friends secure employment, even conducting mock interviews to build confidence. She has been able to help at least four people acquire housing, with others placed on waiting lists. She has provided shoes, clothes, tents, backpacks, tarps, lanterns, bug spray, bus passes and toiletries for many. We are lucky to work in conjunction with Tori and thank her for her efforts on behalf of our unsheltered friends!



*Gasper, Ken, and Arsenio pack foods in snack packs to be shared.*

Wednesdays at First are truly a time to meet Jesus in our neighbors.

## 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!