

# This Week @ First

Friday, December 5, 2025

## Worship & Music

To watch our worship services, connect with us on [YouTube](#) and find the weekly bulletin [here](#)! This week's service will be a Service of Lessons and Carols and will include communion.

The choir always welcomes new singers! **We meet on Sundays at 10:15 AM in the choir room.** A robe, hymnal, joyful section buddies, and gifted director await your presence.

*For the next two weeks, choir practice will begin at 7:30 PM to allow for handbell rehearsals at 6:30 PM. New players are welcome!*

**Looking ahead:** the Christmas Eve service will be at 5 PM on December 24.

## Spiritual Formation

All classes are 9:30–10:30 AM  
*Nursery care available on request\**

**"Feasting on the Word"**  
**Lectionary-Based Bible Study**  
*Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#)*

**Intergenerational Sunday School**  
*Westminster Room*

Join us in the Westminster Room 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. *The Inquirer's class and youth classes will resume next Sunday.*

**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.

## 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.

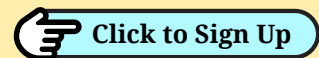
*To volunteer, please contact [Jon Dodrill](#). You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.*

#### 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.

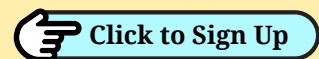
#### Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

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

#### This Sunday, December 7:

##### First Sunday Food Collection

Bring your non-perishable food donations to the narthex or church office to be shared with Second Harvest and Elder Care Services!



##### Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

4–5 PM, Old Florida Capitol

##### Tuesday, December 9: Death Penalty Prayer Service

9:45 AM, Good Shepard Catholic Church

##### Tuesday, December 9: Death Penalty Vigil

6 PM, Governor's Mansion Parking Lot

##### Wednesday, December 10: Death Penalty Service of Remembrance

Noon, Florida Capitol Rotunda

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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*Click here for the*  
[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

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



Rev. Izett Sama Hernandez has shared a series of meditations for this Advent season with a special focus on celebrating in the home. The text for the First Week of Advent is Matthew 24:44 — “The Son of Man will come when you least expect it.”

Knowing how to wait strengthens faith, renews hope, leaves marks on those around us. Since we do not know the day, nor the hour, nor the way in which the Lord will come to us, the invitation this week is to prepare ourselves to receive all people who arrive as if it were the Lord themself.

1. On Sunday, gather the whole family to decorate the house as if expecting guests. You can make simple ornaments, such as paper flowers, small decorations with dry leaves or other available materials, and place them on windows, doors, the front entrance.
2. You may place a sign that says “You are welcome in this home.”
3. Also prepare some small cards with words of welcome, Bible verses, or quotes with hopeful messages.

4. If possible, you can prepare each day some tea, an infusion, coffee. During the whole week, make yourself ready to receive in a special way all the people who come to your door—whether known or not. May each person feel that you receive them as if they were the Lord themself. You may share one of the cards, read a biblical text, or say a prayer. Always try to say goodbye with a hug, a smile, a confirmation of how important and special every human being is; help hope to be reborn, renewed, or strengthened in each of the people who come to your home. At the end of the week, have a time of reflection with your family, friends, or neighbors about the experience lived during the week.



## Reminder: Thursday Advent Book Group

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

This year's Advent Book Discussion Group will continue via Zoom on **December 11, and 18**. 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. In addition, online access is available through 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!



## 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!

