



This Week @ First

Friday, December 19, 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! We meet on Sundays at 10:15 AM and Wednesdays at 7 PM in the choir room.

Wednesday choir practices will resume on January 7.

Christmas Eve Service

Join us this Wednesday at 5 PM to read scripture, sing carols, raise candles, and celebrate Jesus' birth together. The service and bulletin will also be available on [YouTube](#).



Spiritual Formation

Sunday 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
This class will resume January 11.

“Feasting on the Word”

Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#)

This week the class will continue with the study of James, Chapter 3. The class will be lead by Theresa Heiker.

Inquirers' Class

Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#)

This class will resume January 11.

Guided Meditation

meets 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.

 [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

Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

4–5 PM, Old Florida Capitol

[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

[More info available on Breeze](#)



Presbyterians for Earth Care

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) does the hard and joyful work of environmental justice. In the last year, it:

- Hosted monthly **webinars** and provided a **library** of recorded resources.
- Offered bilingual Advent and Lenten creation care **worship tools**.
- Led a nationwide Zoom **Bible study** on God's call to steward creation.
- Provided monthly "**creation care tips**" for church bulletins and newsletters
- Convened an inspirational national conference.
- Started a **young adult leadership network**, CANOPY (Creation Action Network of Presbyterian Young Adults)
- Prepared **overtures** for the 2026 General Assembly and advocated for justice.

Currently, PEC is conducting a Caring for Creation campaign to raise \$20,000 by December 31 to continue equipping Presbyterians across the country for faithful environmental action. If you would like to contribute to the work of PEC, you can donate online or send a check to P.O. Box 8041, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

Thank you for caring about God's beautiful creation.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam McVety.

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!

Grace Mission Christmas Gifts

Friends, we are helping Grace Mission fill 100 Christmas gift bags for their members. The Compassion and Social Justice Team has purchased McDonald's gift cards.

There are two ways you can help with this project:

1. Donate items for the gift bags
 - Individually wrapped sets of three or four homemade or purchased Christmas cookies
 - Individually wrapped candy canes
 - Bags of oranges or tangerines
2. Come to Grace Mission on Tuesday, December 23 at 10 AM to assist in assembling gift bags

Please bring donated items to the Westminster Room on Sunday, December 21.

To sign up, please complete the form here or contact Mary Hodges at mary37@comcast.net or (850) 545-6301.



Advent Poinsettia Donors and Honorees

Many Thanks to all those who donated Advent Poinsettias:

Janet and Joe Fixel in memory of Carol Lou Phillips and Sandy Burkholder

Donna Barber in honor of Donna's parents, Frances and Pete Mahaffey, and in memory of Donna's brother, Ken Mahaffey

Kathy Caleen in honor of Margaret and Harriet Chase

Rochelle Davis in honor of Jim Davis

Miriam Gurniak in memory of Charles T. Witmer, Charlie's parents, Charles R. Witmer, Jr. and Julia Thatcher Witmer, and Miriam's parents, the Rev. David F. Gurniak and Janet G. Gurniak

Rich Peyton in memory of Ellen Peyton

Rod and Ann Westall in memory of Ann's parents, Edwin and Natalie Dalstrom, Rod's parents, Lat and Jewell Westall, and Ann's brother, Peter Dalstrom

Martha Stewart in memory of Barbara and Jim Sayes

Jackie Callahan in memory of Moses and Sylvia Harden

Frank and Jodee Dorsey in memory of their parents, Abb and Frankie Dorsey and Ralph and Lavina Laybold

Glenn and Kerry Laird in memory of their parents, Lee and Audrey Rivers and Harry and Hazel Laird

Brett Schneider in memory of his mother, Elisabeth Schneider

Peggy West in memory of Ellen Acheris West, Skip West, and Margaret and Erdman West

Norma Meier in memory of George Meier

Walter and Marian Moore

Aide Whitaker

Ed and Mary Kutter

You may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service or after Sunday morning worship on December 28.





Rev. Izett Samá Hernández has shared a series of meditations for this Advent season with a special focus on celebrating in the home.

The text for the Third Week of Advent is Philippians 4:4-8 — “Let Joy Never Be Lacking.”

Joy should be a paradigm. It is an essential part of our fullness. Nothing and no one has the right to take our joy away. Likewise, we must always seek, reaffirm, and pursue what makes us happy. Advent is a time to reinforce everything that brings us joy. We invite you to live this third week of Advent by unlocking joy in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Activity 1: On Sunday, take some time for yourself and reflect on all the things that bring you joy. Make a list of each of these things and place it somewhere visible. Each day of the week, try to engage in one of these activities, dreams, or desires, and at night, make a commitment to yourself to do more of what brings you joy. Think of songs that can accompany you throughout the week—songs that lift your spirits, that awaken joy.

Activity 2: In the middle of the week, after you've enjoyed moments and spaces that bring you joy, find a quiet place where you can be alone with yourself. Have a mirror, a blank sheet of paper, and colored pencils at hand. Think about yourself—who you are, your gifts, what you do in life, what you offer, your tastes, your dreams. Look closely into the mirror and begin to share with yourself all the things about yourself that bring you joy, happiness, or pride, as well as the things you need to change, incorporate, or eliminate to feel at peace with yourself. Then, take the sheet of paper and try to create a “self-portrait,” whether through a drawing, words, a poem, or anything that expresses your joy with yourself. Keep that self-portrait and place it somewhere visible for moments of sadness, stress, or uncertainty. You can also share it with close ones, partners, friends, or family, as a revelation of your inner joy.

Activity 3: Think of the people around you who need to rediscover their joy. Throughout this week, try to stay close to those people. Each day, give them a spiritual gift (send them songs, poems, something handmade, etc.), and help them find spaces to do what makes them happy. At the end of the week, make a commitment to always find ways to cultivate joy in your life and the lives of others.

