



# This Week @ First

Friday, January 9, 2026

## 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 7-8:15 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

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

### “Feasting on the Word”

**Lectionary-Based Bible Study**  
*Calvin Room and via Zoom*

The class will continue with the study of James, Chapter 4.

### Inquirers’ Class

This Sunday will be an opportunity to learn about the experiences of immigrants being targeted by current policy and enforcement in Florida and dialogue about options for the church to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ as it relates to justice for our immigrant neighbors, friends, and family.

Rev. David Williamson is an Elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church appointed to extension ministry with Belonging, Inc. David has 29 years of experience as a UMC pastor and seven years of experience facilitating cross-cultural dialogue where diverse groups of people can address and transform conflict at personal, interpersonal, and system levels.

**Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

**\*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!

## 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.*

#### Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

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

*Next opportunity: February 6*

 Click to Sign Up

#### Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

*Next opportunity: this Sunday, January 11*

 Click to Sign Up

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

#### Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

Sunday, 4–5 PM, Old Florida Capitol

## This Sunday: Serve Dinner at Grace Mission

Join us in serving dinner to our unhoused or struggling neighbors at Grace Mission on Jan. 11 from 4–6 PM. Your two hours a month are greatly appreciated by both the staff and the recipients.

## This Sunday: 2 Cents-a-Meal Collection

This Sunday, please bring your change for our youth to collect before worship for their ongoing 2 Cents-a-Meal project. Every coin counts!

## Meet Our Musicians on January 25

On Sunday, January 25th, the Worship and Music and Congregational Care teams are hosting a potluck luncheon after church so that we can celebrate and get to know our musicians. Loosely based on “speed dating,” our program will ask each of you to engage the musician at your table in conversation until the bell rings and the musician moves on to the next table. Take notes! There will be a “contest” at the end to see how much we have learned about each other.

Please save the date to come eat and play together!

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[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

[More info available on Breeze](#)

# Restoration and Healing Through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Process Begins

The Session has engaged the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to lead the congregation through a restorative process and invites your participation. The process includes three key components: an educational workshop, a listening process, and a restorative circle.

**The educational workshop**, titled *Healthy Church Habits*, will be held on Saturday, January 31, from 9 AM to 4 PM and will include lunch. Childcare will also be provided. Please mark your calendar.

**The listening process** will have two distinct components to gather member input on the church's future direction.

- The first is an electronic questionnaire, available to the right. The church office will have printed copies available to the congregation. If you would like to receive the PDF via email, please contact the [church office](#). Unless you provide your name, the survey will be automatically anonymous. Please complete the questionnaire by January 16th, 2026.
- The second component of the listening process is a small-group session. Each session is limited to 12 people and will last approximately 90 minutes. These sessions will be held the week of Feb. 26-28 and will provide an opportunity for members to share their perspectives on the life of the church. Members will have a chance to sign up for a session soon.

[Please click here to complete the Listening Process Questionnaire](#)

**The Restorative Circle** will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, March 1. The circle process will provide an opportunity for healing and closure. It will last approximately three hours. Lunch will be provided.

A final report will be available once the process is complete.

A more detailed description of the restorative process will appear in next week's newsletter.

“*And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.*” 1 Peter 5:10

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 2026 PIT

On the week of January 26, 2026, volunteers will conduct the Point in Time (PIT) count of those thought to be experiencing homelessness in Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, Gadsden, Liberty, Jefferson, Madison and Taylor Counties.

Volunteers will survey neighbors from sun-up to sun-down from January 27th-30th. Interviews conducted at the PIT are essential to understanding the needs of households who require social services and permanent housing. By understanding the scope of homelessness, goals can begin or be refined to end homelessness. PIT requires the commitment of over 100 volunteers.

All volunteers must attend a training to learn how to conduct surveys in a compassionate and informed manner. The volunteer training for Leon, Wakulla and Gadsden Counties will be 1/25/26 from 3-5pm. Other county trainings will be scheduled to accommodate county specific volunteers.

Join Us  
**JANUARY  
27-30**

LUNCH & SNACKS ARE PROVIDED FOR VOLUNTEERS DURING COUNT

WE NEED HELP WITH :

- Hosting Donation Drives
- Volunteers to Survey during the count
- Sponsorships
- PIT Planning in All Counties

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For more information please visit [www.bigbendcoc.org](http://www.bigbendcoc.org) or call 850-792-5015



Thank you for joining us for our Christmas Eve service!

Above: With candles lit, attendees end the service by singing “Silent Night.”

Below: The FPC bell choir rings in the Christmas Eve service.

