



# This Week @ First

Friday, January 16, 2026

## Worship & Music

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

Saturday's memorial service for Betty Miller will also be streamed on [YouTube](#), and the bulletin is available [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.**

## 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 *Westminster Room & via [Zoom](#)*

This week we consider why it was such a struggle to ordain women. In coming weeks we will watch and discuss [“The Philadelphia Eleven,”](#) a feature documentary about the first Episcopal women ordained as priests in 1974. Director Margo Guernsey said, “It is about how to break down barriers with grace, and be true to oneself in the process. And it is about standing up to institutions that do not allow all people to be who they are called to be.”

**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!

## 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!

## 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.

 [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

Sunday, 4–5 PM, Old Florida Capitol

## Save the Date!

Our annual Black History Month celebration and potluck dinner will be held on Sunday, February 22, immediately after worship. Our speaker will be Dr. Aron Meyers, Director of the John G. Riley House.



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[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

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



# DOGWOOD ACRES Summer Camp Sign-Up

Registration for Dogwood Acres Summer Camp 2026 is now open!

This summer's theme, **“Can You Hear Me Now?”**, invites campers to slow down, unplug, and listen for God's voice—just as Elijah did—through worship, community, time in nature, and plenty of classic camp fun.

## Summer Camp 2026 Dates

- **High School Week:** June 21–26
- **Intro / Discovery / Adventure:** July 5–10
- **Intro / Discovery / Adventure:** July 12–17

## Early Bird Discount

Families who register by **April 15** will receive a discounted early bird rate. We encourage you to register early to take advantage of this savings and secure your camper's spot.

Register online: <http://dogwoodacres.campbrainregistration.com/>



## 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

# A Detailed Description Of The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's Restoration and Healing Process

The Session has engaged the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to facilitate a restorative process aimed at fostering healing, understanding, and community growth. This process is structured around three main components: an educational workshop, a listening process, and a restorative circle, each designed to encourage active participation and meaningful dialogue among members.

## Educational Workshop

The first component, an educational workshop titled Healthy Church Habits, is scheduled for Saturday, January 31, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The workshop will include lunch and childcare, ensuring accessibility for all participants. This session aims to equip members with insights and practices that promote a healthy, resilient church community and foster a shared understanding of effective church habits and behaviors.

## Listening Process

The second component involves a comprehensive listening process to gather input from congregation members on the church's future direction. This process comprises two parts:

- An electronic questionnaire, available via the link below, has been distributed to allow members to share their perspectives conveniently online.
- Small group sessions, each limited to 12 participants and lasting approximately 90 minutes, will be scheduled for the week of February 26-28. These sessions will provide a platform for members to share their views and experiences related to the church's life and mission. Participants will need to sign up for specific time slots to ensure organized and meaningful discussions. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex and the church office for each group. All members of the congregation are encouraged to participate.

## Restorative Circle

The third component, a Restorative Circle, will take place after worship on Sunday, March 1. This session, lasting around three hours, is designed to facilitate healing, reconciliation, and closure among members. It offers a safe space for open dialogue and mutual understanding, helping to address any lingering concerns or conflicts within the congregation.

## Final Report and Next Steps

Upon completion of the entire process, a comprehensive report will be prepared and shared with the congregation. This report will summarize the insights gained, outline potential actions, and serve as a foundation for future growth and community development.

This structured approach underscores the congregation's commitment to transparency, healing, and active engagement, fostering a stronger, more connected church community.

“  
“For I will restore health  
to you, and your wounds I  
will heal, says the Lord...”  
Jeremiah 30:17  
”

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

*The church office has printed copies of the questionnaire available to the congregation.  
If you would like to receive a PDF of the questionnaire via email, please contact the church office.  
Unless you provide your name, the questionnaire will be automatically anonymous.  
Please complete the questionnaire by TODAY, January 16, 2026.*

## Things to include:

- **sunday school updates**
  - youth
  - feasting on the word
  - inquirer's class

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## • Black History Month

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## • Meet Our Musicians

## • Lombard Peace Center

## • Dogwood Acres Summer Camp Registration

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- This summer's theme, "Can You Hear Me Now?", invites campers to slow down, unplug, and listen for God's voice—just as Elijah did—through worship, community, time in nature, and plenty of classic camp fun.
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## • BBCOC volunteers

## • Death Penalty?



## Repeats/Filler

- Before every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: First Sunday Food Collection reminder
- Before every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 2 cents a meal/Grace Mission reminders
- UKirk events
- C&O Cookbook
- DWA retreats
  - Dogwood Youth Conference - 2/7-9
  - Pause Yoga Retreat - 2/27-3/1
- Join choir



## New Office Hours

Monday: 1 PM-5 PM  
Tuesday through Thursday: 10 AM-2 PM

Friday: 1 PM-5 PM

**Pastel Line-up:** Join the Choir on **Wednesdays from 7-8:15 PM** and on **Sundays at 10:15 AM** in the Choir Room. All are welcome!

- Have you always wanted to sing in the choir? Have you been just a little curious about singing in the choir? If so, please come join us! We are a friendly group, learning every