

This Week @ First

Friday, August 7, 2026

Worship & Music

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

The "Summer Choir" meets on Sundays at 10 AM and new members are always welcome!

Spiritual Formation

Sunday school for **Children and Youth** will begin meeting on Sunday, September 13.

The **Adult Bible Study** will resume Sunday, August 16, at 9:30 AM, in the Calvin Room. We will continue our study of Genesis at chapter 20, verse 1.

The **Inquirers' Class** will resume on August 16 at 9:30 AM in the Westminster Room.

Guided Meditation meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Child care will be available in the church nursery (Room 205) beginning at 10:30 AM this Sunday, August 9 and beginning at 9:15 AM starting on Sunday, August 16.

Second Sunday Lemonade

Please join us for lemonade and fellowship in the courtyard after worship this Sunday!



Compassion and Social Justice

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.

NEW SECOND HARVEST SIGN-UP PROCEDURE!

Second Harvest is now requiring volunteers to sign up directly with Second Harvest using their "[volunteer portal](#)," whether they are volunteering as individuals or as part of a church or community group.

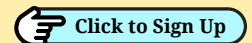
Instead of using the signup genius we have been using, we will begin using the Second Harvest volunteer portal. You will only have to register once; after that you can sign up for whatever volunteer spots are available on the portal (with or without being part of a First Presbyterian group).

We will continue going as a group on the first Friday of every month, and we will post links to the volunteer portal for those dates on the church calendar. For any questions, please contact [Debbie Gibson](#).

Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

Next opportunity: this Sunday, August 9



Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

Sunday, 4–5 PM, Historic Florida Capitol



School Supplies: Preschool Wish List

Copier paper, cardstock in various colors, laminating paper, pens and markers, staplers, paper clips in various sizes, glue sticks, bottles of Elmer's glue, glue guns, hot glue sticks, Sharpie markers, thumb tacks, scotch tape, masking tape in various colors, and Command Hooks in various sizes.

Band-aids, tissues, forehead thermometers, latex gloves, Lysol spray and wipes, baby wipes (fragrance free), air freshener.

Sensory toys, magnetic tiles, colorful posters (alphabet, numbers, shapes, colors, animals, healthy foods, etc.), and monetary gifts.

Supplies will be collected at the Presbyterian Women Gathering on Sunday, August 30, at 3:30 PM.

To submit information for the newsletter and/or bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. The form will accept attachments. Submissions are due by Thursday at noon.

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Click here for the

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

Dogwood Acres Update

First Presbyterian has a long and close relationship with Dogwood Acres. Here is an update on the 2026 summer camping program from *The Panhandle Presbyterian*, the newsletter of the Florida Presbytery.

August 2026

The Panhandle Presbyterian

From Dogwood Acres



**By Christy Williams,
Director**

"These are the stories of transformation, meaning and love that keep us doing all the hard work..."

It's not just about the numbers

The success of any program doesn't lie in the numbers; it lies in people's experiences. Following Dogwood's summer camp program, we ran all the numbers; but, more importantly we heard and witnessed people's growth, their joy and their growing faith.

We heard stories from campers and their parents about a first time away from home that built confidence and maturity; about campers who were nervous to attend without a friend, but who quickly made friends and blossomed; and about campers who wondered about who their counselor would be and if they would feel accepted, and came home raving about how they were cared for and encouraged, not only by their counselor, but by the staff.

"My boys loved all of it. They have talked about their counselor and how he was the best. They talked about swimming and the friends they met. They had a blast! They keep asking if they can go back. Thank you for taking care of them."
Parent of first-time campers

These are the stories of transformation, meaning and love that keep us doing all the hard work to make the summer camp experience memorable and meaningful. We don't

just teach archery or how to paddle a canoe – We encourage independence, cultivate positive friendships and root our days in faith-based living. These things make an enormous difference beyond the week of camp.

Thank you for praying for our counselors and our year-round staff. Thank you to our volunteer nurses, chaplains and landscapers: Sandy Kuhn (Lafayette, Tallahassee), Nancy Repplinger (Christ, Tallahassee), Denise Pentecost (Lafayette, Tallahassee), Julie Thompson (FPC, Lynn Haven), Becky Bryan (FPC, Pensacola) Taylor Allbaugh (Faith, Tallahassee), and Brant Copeland (retired pastor).

We are excited about the amount of positive feedback we have received and about the wonderful folks we had the privilege of working alongside. But, in case you are a numbers person, here are some statistics for you:

► Our camper population rose 14.7% this summer.

► Our camper population represented 16 churches in the Presbytery.

► With your help, we were able to offer 27 scholarships to camper families.

► FPC Tallahassee's new Awards Program allowed 7 campers from underrepresented communities to attend

and 2 additional counselors to be hired.

► Trinity Pensacola; Christ Tallahassee; FPC DeFuniak Springs; Faith, Tallahassee; and FPC Milton all ranked highest with numbers of campers attending Dogwood this summer.

► Out of 12 counselors, 9 had been campers at Dogwood, and out of that 9, 3 served on the Presbytery's Youth Council (PYC) leadership team.

► Counselors represented 6 churches in the Presbytery: Faith, Tallahassee; FPC, Tallahassee; Trinity, Pensacola; FPC DeFuniak Springs; Gulf Breeze; and Christ, Tallahassee.

FPC Milton's newsletter said it best: *"They (campers) talked about swimming in the pool and the lake, playing games, making art, lying in a dark field at night looking up at the constellations spreading out above them, sharing cabins with friends both old and new. Simple things. Ordinary things. And yet exactly the kind of things that plant something in a young person that keeps growing long after the summer is over. Dogwood Acres IS good soil. The Presbytery has been tending it for generations. And the fruit of it showed up in those kids' faces on Sunday morning."*