

This Week @ First

Friday, August 21, 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 in the choir room to rehearse for worship, and new members are always welcome! We will resume our Wednesday night rehearsals after Labor Day.

And please mark your calendars for the **Service of Installation for Rev. Mark Phillips** that will be held in our sanctuary on **Sunday, September 13, at 4 PM**. A reception will follow in the Westminster Room.

Spiritual Formation

Child care will be available in the church nursery (Room 205) beginning at 9:15 AM.

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

The **Adult Bible Study** will meet at 9:30 AM in the Calvin Room and by [Zoom](#). We will continue our study of Genesis at chapter 22, verse 1.

The **Inquirers’ Class** also meets at 9:30 AM in the Westminster Room and on [Zoom](#). We will continue viewing and discussing the PBS film, “Free Exercise: America’s Story of Religious Liberty,” which examines religious freedom through the eyes of Quakers, Baptists, Black churches, Catholics, Mormons, Jews, and other religious minorities. This week we focus on Baptist leaders, particularly in the 18th century, who opposed state-sponsored religion and sought to protect religious liberty for all. The film is available with [PBS Passport](#)).

Guided Meditation meets at 10:30 in the Library.

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.

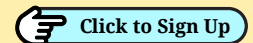
NEW SECOND HARVEST SIGN-UP PROCEDURE!

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.

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.



Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice

Sunday, 4–5 PM, Historic Florida Capitol

SAVE THE DATE

Care & Outreach: Picnic Time!

Mark your calendars for the annual church picnic at Maclay Gardens! We will gather there immediately after worship on **Sunday, September 27**, for fun and fellowship.

Sign-ups and additional details will be available in the coming weeks. As always, new members are invited to attend as our guests. We’ll provide the chicken and lemonade; you are invited to bring sides and sweets.



Contacting the Pastor: Mark plans to be in the office Mondays through Fridays and welcomes visits. He asks that you call or email ahead of time simply to be sure he will be present when you are able to stop by and not attending to other matters outside of the office.

First Presbyterian Church

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Click here for the

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)

Next week:

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

All are welcome on Sunday, August 30 at 3:30 PM! Stan Williams will introduce our fall Bible study, *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*, by The Reverend Dr. Rhonda Mawhood Lee.



We will also collect supplies for First Presbyterian Preschool. The Preschool's wish list is below:

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.

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.

Upcoming Execution Vigils

Two executions are currently scheduled:
Tuesday, September 1 – Harold Gene Lucas
Thursday, September 10 – Daniel Conahan

A vigil will take place in the parking lot outside the Governor's Mansion at 6 PM on the date of each execution. On the day following each execution, a service of remembrance will be held at noon the Great Seal in the Capitol Rotunda.

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 4 at 1:30 PM, we will have a brief service of blessing in the courtyard. This special service commemorates the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. All two and four footed, furry and feathery, crated or leashed friends are welcome! If you are unable to bring your pet, please bring a photograph.



At The Door with Jackie

Most of us know that this church is dedicated to community outreach and helping in many ways. I have discovered that answering the office doorbell to provide a bus pass offers more than that. I have received gratitude for even the smallest amount of time given or tidbit of conversation from someone that seems to care. So many "thank you's" and "God bless you's", that really should be directed to the church and the many people that faithfully donate and give of their time to show this "we care" face to the street. And I have been changed witnessing how kind the needy can be to each other by sharing information, food, water or a friendly hello.

So, I wanted to pass along one recent interaction. A young woman that I had not interacted with before needed a bus pass. I gave it to her and turned to close the door. "Wait a minute," she said. I turned around and she continued, "I finally got a job interview and because of this (holding up the bus pass) I can get there. Thank you!"

Now that can make your day!

Visiting Virginia Thomas

A group of church members have planned to visit Virginia at Westminster Oaks on Tuesday, August 25th at 6:00 PM before she leaves to stay with her son David for a while. As part of the visit, we will share the singing of Virginia's favorite hymns. Those interested in joining are asked to meet in the lobby of the Healthcare Center shortly before 6:00 PM. Please contact Miriam Gurniak (850) 273-1037 if you need more information.