

This Week @ First

Friday, August 28, 2026

Worship & Music

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

The "Summer Choir" meets this Sunday at 10 AM to rehearse for worship, and new members are always welcome! We will resume our Wednesday night rehearsals after Labor Day, on Wednesday, September 9.

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 23, verse 1.

The **Inquirers Class** meets in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#) at 9:30 AM. This week we will welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Mark Phillips, for an informal conversation about our hopes for adult education, witness, fellowship, and ministry at this place and time. On September 6, we will resume our series based on the [PBS film](#), "Free Exercise: America's Story of Religious Liberty."

Guided Meditation meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Getting to Know Us: Have you been attending First Presbyterian Church for a while and would like to learn more about the ministry and mission of this congregation? Are you looking for a church home and feel that First Presbyterian might be the place for you? If your answer is "yes" to either or both of the above, you are invited to join a "Getting to Know Us Gathering" on Monday, September 28 at 6:00 PM in the Calvin Room. If you can't attend in person, a Zoom link will be available. Please contact Rev. Mark Phillips at mark@oldfirstchurch.org if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

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.

Next opportunity: Friday, September 4.

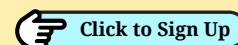
NEW SECOND HARVEST SIGN-UP PROCEDURE!

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

This Sunday!

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

All are welcome on Sunday, August 30 at 3:30 PM in the Westminster Room and on [Zoom](#)! 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, and we will collect supplies for First Presbyterian Preschool.



First Presbyterian Church

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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.

[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)



September

Please wish a Happy Birthday to Janet Bowman, Elizabeth Bradley, Ann Cullison, Ruben Diaz Perez, Mateo Diaz-Atkinson, Jenny Hanson, Fred Hawkes, Daniel Hoekman, Mary Anne Hoffman, Korey Lowry, and Jonathan Witmer!



Driver Needed

First Presbyterian's Wednesday homeless services will be expanding very soon. We are looking for someone with a truck who can help transport stackable chairs from a business in Cairo to church to facilitate this expansion. If you have access to a truck and are willing to help, please contact Debbie Gibson, 850-656-3659 or Gibsond1207@gmail.com. Thank you.

Church Office Hours

Monday: 1 PM–5 PM

Tuesday through Thursday: 10 AM–2 PM

Friday: 1 PM–5 PM

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.

Upcoming Execution Vigils

Three executions are currently scheduled in the month of September:

Tuesday, September 1 – Harold Gene Lucas

Thursday, September 10 – Daniel Conahan

Tuesday, September 29 – Curtis Beasley

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. In addition, Good Shepherd Catholic Church holds a prayer service at 9:45 AM on the morning of each scheduled execution. You are welcome at any of these events as your schedule allows.



Sunday, September 6, following worship:
CAJM Kick-Off Lunch (more information below).

Sunday, September 13, 4 PM: **Service of Installation and Potluck Dinner.**

Sunday, September 27, 12:30 PM: **Church picnic** at Maclay Gardens following worship.

Monday, September 28, 6 PM: **"Getting to Know Us" Gathering.**

Sunday, October 4, 1:30 PM: **Blessing of the Animals** in the church courtyard.

CAJM Kick-Off Lunch

Please join us for our CAJM(Capital Area Justice Ministry) Kick-off Luncheon right after worship on Sunday, September 6. We will gather in the Westminster Room for lunch and Listening Circles. We hope you will share your story.

Here are some story prompts: Was there a time where you or someone close to you faced a community problem that felt unfair, unsafe, or unnecessarily difficult? What experience has stayed with you because you believed people deserved better? When has a public system, institution or service failed to work the way it should? What pressures are families, young people, elders, workers, or congregations carrying that is not receiving enough attention?



Rev. Mark Phillips visited Westminster Oaks this week to meet with the first of several small groups (at Westminster Oaks and elsewhere) as part of his introduction to the congregation. At left: Patsy Kickliter. Below, left to right: Virginia Thomas, Mark Phillips, Joan Custis, Patsy Kickliter, June Stewart, and Sue Scribner.

