

This Week @ First

Friday, September 18, 2026

Spiritual Formation

Child care is available in the church nursery (Room 205) on Sundays beginning at 9:15 AM. Sunday programs for youth and adults begin at 9:30 AM.

- Sunday school for **Children and Youth** will meet monthly on the second Sunday of each month throughout the coming school year. **The next date will be October 11, 2026.**
- The **Adult Bible Study** meets in the Calvin Room and by Zoom. We will continue our study of Genesis at chapter 31, verse 1.
- The **Inquirers Class** meets in the Westminster Room and by Zoom. This week we will continue our series based on the PBS film, "Free Exercise: America's Story of Religious Liberty."
- **Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Worship & Music

To watch our worship services, connect with us on YouTube and find the weekly bulletin here!

The choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays at 7 PM. New singers are always welcome!

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.

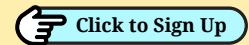
To volunteer, please contact Jon Dodrill. You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.

Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

Join us on first Fridays from 9:45 AM–Noon. Sign-ups are on the church calendar; you will need to register with Second Harvest using their "volunteer portal." 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

Sundays at 5 PM at the Historic Florida Capitol.



Fall Wednesday Night Dinner and Study

The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

October 7, 14, 28, and November 4
Dinner 5:30 PM/Study 6:00 PM
Westminster Room

Using a video series by New Testament Scholar Dr. Kenneth Bailey, the group will engage in a study of Jesus' most familiar and beloved parables in the Gospel of Luke. Dr. Bailey spent over forty years living and teaching in seminaries and institutes in the Middle East and brings a fresh cultural perspective to the parables of Jesus, providing new and profound insight to these familiar stories. Those attending dinner are asked to call or email the church office.



The Artist Series Presents

The Dolphins Quartet

This Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Tickets (or a series Passport) can be purchased on the Artist Series website.

Picnic Time! Sunday, Sept. 27

Remember to sign up for the annual picnic immediately following worship this Sunday. The cost is \$3 per person, with a \$10 family cap. Care and Outreach will provide chicken and lemonade; bring a side dish or sweet to share!



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

Execution Vigil

On Tuesday, September 29, Curtis Beasley is scheduled for execution. A prayer service will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church at 9:45 AM that day, and a vigil outside the Governor's Mansion at 6 PM. On Wednesday, September 30, an interfaith service of remembrance will be held at noon at the Great Seal in the Capitol Rotunda.

The Mercy and Justice Core Community of Good Shepherd Catholic Church and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (fadp.org) also invite you to a free screening of "A Window on Death Row" on Monday, September 21, at 6:30 PM.

The Window on Death Row

FILM SCREENING AND PANEL

Monday, September 21 | 6:30pm

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
4665 Thomasville Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32309
Lower Level - Admin Building

A film screening and panel discussion about faith, mercy, and human dignity behind bars.

Featuring Father Dustin Feddon, death row spiritual advisor.

Light meal served prior to film.



Dear Friends,

I cannot begin to find the words to share how special and meaningful last Sunday's installation service was for me. To all who attended either in person or online, to Bryan, Victoria, the choral scholars, and the members of the choir, to Norma for the beautiful flower arrangement (both Sunday morning and afternoon), to each participant in the service, to all those who brought food to share at the dinner, and to each person who has made Larry and me feel so welcome here, my heartfelt gratitude. It is my prayer that the Spirit that brought us together will keep us together for many years to come. Each one of you make being your pastor one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life.

With gratitude,
Mark

Contact Information for Virginia Thomas

Virginia Thomas left the Health Center at Westminster Oaks three weeks ago and is now living with her son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Sheila, in central Florida. She would be delighted to hear from her Tallahassee and First Presbyterian friends: Virginia Thomas, 39029 Griffin Landing, Lady Lake, FL 32159. Please keep Virginia, Mark, and Sheila in your prayers as they navigate this chapter together.

Riley House Celebration

You are invited to celebrate with the John G. Riley Center and Museum on Thursday, September 24, as they observe Mr. Riley's 169th birthday with an open house from 10 AM to 3 PM with free entry for all. As sponsors of the John G. Riley Museum, First Presbyterian members are encouraged to drop by. Be sure to let them know that you are a FPC member!

In addition, as part of the observance of John G. Riley's birthday, he will be honored during the season finale of the Florida African-American Heritage Preservation Network's "Culture Keepers" Podcast this Saturday, September 19. You can attend in person or via livestream; for more information visit the FAAHPN [YouTube](#) channel.



JOHN G. RILEY
CENTER & MUSEUM

Getting to Know Us – September 28

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 John 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.

WELCOME

Blessing of the Animals – October 4

You and your crated or leashed furry, feathered, and scaled friends are welcome at this special service in the courtyard from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM. The Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4 has also been designated "World Animal Day."



Expanding Our Outreach

The former supply room on the second floor of the Education Building has been repurposed to create a confidential area where medical services can be offered to our Wednesday guests. Please watch for more information about this exciting development!



Installation ✦ Celebration



Sunday, September 13 was the joyful day of installation of Rev. Mark Phillips by the Presbytery of Florida. Clergy from around the presbytery and elsewhere joined us for the installation service, which was followed by a potluck dinner. Dr. Bryan Stenson, Victoria Coey, the Adult Choir, and the Choral Scholars provided the music. Top right: Rev. Mario Bolivar, Equipping Pastor and Stated Clerk for the presbytery.

Above, left to right: Elder Linda Shelley, Faith Presbyterian, charged the congregation; Rev. Deb Tregaskis, from the Flint River Presbytery, charged Rev. Phillips, remembering that they began their careers serving neighboring presbyteries; Rev. Julie Donohoe Thompson, transitional minister at First Presbyterian of Lynn Haven and another long-time colleague, was a liturgist.

Also participating in the service were Rev. Dr. Matt Frease, UKirk Campus Minister, who gave the sermon; Rev. Dr. Greta Reed, Parish Associate, First Presbyterian of Tallahassee; Deacon Pierce Withers, St. John's Episcopal Church; Elder Karen Gunter, Lafayette Presbyterian Church; and, on behalf of the congregation and session, Barbara Busharis and Greg Riccardi.

The service is available for viewing on our [YouTube](#) channel.

