This Week @ First

Friday, September 25, 2026

Worship & Music

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

World Communion Sunday

On Sunday, October 4, we will gather with Christians around the globe to celebrate the Lord's Supper as one body, one giant diverse family of God. World Communion Sunday is actually a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity. Today, as daylight travels the globe, Christians continue to gather together at the table on the first Sunday in October as an expression of our unity in Christ and our hope for a world filled with God's peace.

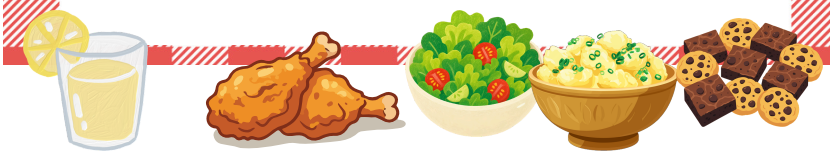
Spiritual Formation

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 35, 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," with a focus on the experience of Jewish Americans.
- **Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Picnic This Sunday!

Remember to dress comfortably on Sunday and join us after worship at Maclay Gardens for the annual picnic! Care and Outreach will provide chicken and lemonade; you are invited to bring a side or dessert to share. Care and Outreach will also cover parking; tell the gate attendant you are with First Presbyterian!



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. ***Next opportunity: Friday, October 2.***

Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:
Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

Click to Sign Up

Interfaith Vigil for Immigrant Justice
Sundays at 5 PM at the Historic Florida Capitol.

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/Zoom

Using a video series by New Testament Scholar Dr. Kenneth Bailey, the group will study of Jesus' most familiar and beloved parables in the Gospel of Luke. Those attending dinner or who would like the Zoom link are asked to call or email the church office.

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



Robyn Stevenson and Linda Smith were among this week's Wednesday volunteers, providing hospitality, food, and snack packs. New participants are always welcome!

A congregational meeting will take place at the end of worship on Sunday, October 11, for the purpose of electing elders, trustees, and next year's nominating committee.

Property Team



Please thank John Hightower and Carl Morse the next time you see them! John and Carl will be co-chairing the Property Team.

Execution Vigil

Two men are currently scheduled for execution in Florida: Curtis Beasley on Tuesday, September 29, and Williams Reaves on Tuesday, October 20. The execution of William Lee Thompson, scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, has been temporarily paused.

On the day of any execution a prayer service will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church at 9:45 AM, and a vigil will take place outside the Governor's Mansion at 6 PM. On the day following an execution an interfaith service of remembrance will be held at noon at the Great Seal in the Capitol Rotunda. William Reaves is the 18th inmate scheduled for execution this year, meaning Florida is on course to surpass last year's total of 19 inmates executed – itself a record.



Congratulations to Jane Atkinson Diaz on her recent recognition from American's Service Commissions for her work with the Breakthrough Collaborative, a program that prepares underserved students for college while developing the next generation of educators.

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.



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."





Please wish a happy October birthday to Jocelyn Beychok, Barbara Boutin, Dan Burkholder, Noah Bush, Will Ebaugh, Judy Flanigan, John Foster, Mary Hodges, Kristopher James, Willa James, Valerie Johns, Anna Jordan, Emma Kutter, Marian Moore, Esther Moring, Beth Pulliam, Bill Scott, Sue Scribner, Robyn Stevenson, Tip Tomberlin, and Kathee Winstead!