This Week @ First

Friday, October 2, 2026

Worship & Music

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

World Communion Sunday

This 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, where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor, in 1933. 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.

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.
Next opportunity: Sunday, October 11.

Click to Sign Up

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

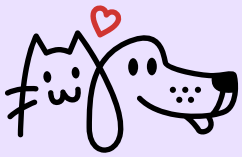
Spiritual Formation

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 39, verse 6b.
- **The Inquirers Class** meets in the Westminster Room and by Zoom. This week we will welcome FSU Professor Emerita Carol Weissert for a conversation about proposed amendments to the state Constitution plus local issues that will appear on the general election ballot. See LWV election information for non-partisan analyses.
- **Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Blessing of the Animals This Sunday

You and your animal companions (crated or leashed, please) 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."



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 engage in a 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

Congregational Meeting Called

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.

The proposed slate is below. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

Elders for the Class of 2029: Carol Grondzik, John Guthrie, Gail Hankinson, Peggy West, Ann Westall.

2026-2027 Nominating Committee: Miriam Gurniak, Pam McVety, Rod Westall, Robyn Stevenson.

Trustees: Barbara Busharis, Anna Cleveland, Chris Corzine, John Hightower, Ed Kutter, Norma Meier.

Execution Vigils

The execution of William Lee Thompson, scheduled for Tuesday, October 13 at 6 PM, has been temporarily paused (but not canceled) pending a competency evaluation. An additional execution has now been scheduled for noon on October 13: James Robertson. William Reaves is scheduled for execution on Tuesday, October 20 at 6 PM.

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 the scheduled time of the execution. On the day following an execution an interfaith service of remembrance for the executed and their victims will be held at noon at the Great Seal in the Capitol Rotunda.

First Sunday Food Collection



Bring your non-perishable food donations to the narthex this Sunday to be shared with Elder Care Services and Second Harvest!

Committal Service: Joan DePew

Rev. Phillips will be conducting a committal service for former member Joan DePew on Saturday morning, October 3 at 11:00 AM at Roselawn Cemetery. Joan died on August 26 in Black Mountain, NC, where she had been living for several years. She is survived by her husband, John, daughter Cathy O'Brien and son-in-law, Chris O'Brien; grandson Alex O'Brien, and granddaughters Larra O'Brien and Erin O'Brien. Joan taught Sunday School here and was a part of many church activities.

Invitation to a Special Choral Evensong



Sunday, October 11 at 5:30 PM
St. John's Episcopal Church

Entitled "Meet Me Here" after a musical piece from Craig Hella Johnson's "Considering Matthew Shepard," this service will feature music by LGBTQ+ composers, along with prayer and reflection around themes of connection, difference, and making room for one another.
The offering will benefit Equality Florida.
All are truly welcome.

An Invitation from the Healing Racism Task Force

Join us in the work of love, reconciliation and healing. As followers of Christ we are called to be ministers of reconciliation—to love our neighbors actively, to seek justice, and to build a community where everyone experiences the full measure of God's grace.

Our faith calls us not only to pray for a better world, but to help build it. The Healing Racism Task Force is dedicated to taking meaningful steps toward racial healing in our community. Real transformation requires all of us. We need diverse perspectives, compassionate hearts, and willing hands to help guide our church forward.

If you feel called to put faith into action and be a part of this vital ministry, we invite you to join us at **4 PM on Tuesday, October 13**, at Sue Hightower's home, for an informal "getting to know you" meeting. Find out what we have done and how we are continuing our work. Let's walk this path together with open hearts, humility and hope.

Please contact Sue Hightower or Ann Westall if you are interested in finding out more about our group and would like to attend this meeting.

Did You Know?

First Presbyterian Church is listed in *The Florida Black Heritage Trail*, which identifies "points of interest in black history that should be preserved and promoted."



We are delighted to share the news of two new arrivals within the past week! *Charles Thomas Howard* is the son of Emma Christine McCoy Howard and her husband Thomas, and the grandson of Janet Bowman and Charlie McCoy. *Erin Elizabeth Cravens* is the daughter of Lindsey (Welch) and T.J. Cravens, and the granddaughter of Leo and Laura Welch. Congratulations and blessings to all.

2026 Picnic



















