This Week @ First

Friday, October 16, 2026

Worship & Music

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

Our choir rehearses at 7 PM on Wednesday evenings and meets at 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings to warm up. New singers are always welcome!

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 **Adult Bible Study** meets in the Calvin Room and by Zoom. We will continue our study of Genesis at chapter 45, verse 1.
- **The Inquirers Class** meets in the Westminster Room and by Zoom. This week we will watch a video where Bryan Stevenson, acclaimed public interest lawyer, joins the New York Times' Ezra Klein for a discussion about reckoning with our history as a step towards creating an era of truth and justice in our nation.
- **Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Our **Wednesday Night series** on "The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes" will not meet this week, but will resume on October 28 and November 4 in the Westminster Room or by Zoom. To join us for dinner at 5:30 PM ($5/person), please call or email the church office; the study begins at 6 PM, and all are welcome.

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.

Church Office Hours
Monday: 1 PM–5 PM
Tuesday through Thursday: 10 AM–2 PM
Friday: 1 PM–5 PM

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 or learn more, please contact Jon Dodrill. You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested. We can also use help setting up, cleaning up, and in a variety of other ways!

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.

Click to Sign Up

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

2027 Stewardship Campaign: Take the Next Step

Our Stewardship Campaign theme this year is, "Take the Next Step." First Pres is currently experiencing a time of energy, new life, and new growth. We are primed to move forward in ministry together. It is through the faithful commitment and dedication of our members and friends that have brought us to this point. If we are to move forward in ministry in 2027, we must realize that there will be a greater financial burden placed upon our congregation. However, if we all "take the next step" in our commitment to Christ's church, we'll soon find ourselves marching off the map!



Our campaign begins this Sunday, October 18. In the coming weeks, you'll hear from some of our members as to how we plan to take the next step in ministry in the coming year with everyone's support. Pledge cards will be distributed on November 8 and Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, November 15.

First Presbyterian Church
110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Phone: (850) 222-4504
Email: office@oldfirstchurch.org
Email Rev. Mark Phillips:
mark@oldfirstchurch.org
Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org
www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch
Published on October 16, 2026

Click here for the

Weekly Schedule

Monthly Calendar

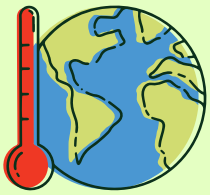
More info available on Breeze

Real Hope and Action in the Midst of the Climate Crisis

The Inquirer's Class will present a special series on November 1, 8, and 15, 2026.

We are at a crucial point in human history, when our future depends on the choices we make now—especially how quickly we are willing to transition to clean, renewable energy. The planet is heating rapidly, and the impacts are happening far too quickly for us to wait for our existing institutions to transition to renewable energy in the normal course of business. Even within the faith community, we have wasted decades with an inadequate response. This series is designed to inform and equip us to embrace the remarkable and rapidly growing transition to renewable energy and to inspire us to identify next steps for our local church and the wider church as we address the climate crisis.

More information and suggested background reading are posted on the church website.



We hope you will join us for this important presentation!

Volunteers Needed!

As our Wednesday ministries continue to grow, so does the need for volunteers. We have a very dedicated cadre of people who give generously of their time and energy, but we could always use more. There are many ways you can help including greeting, directing guests to the various services and places in the building, making/distributing snack packs, set up, clean and more! If you would like to learn more about how you can be part of this essential ministry, please speak with Jon Dodrill or Debbie Gibson.



An Evening of Mercy with Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson is the founder of the **Equal Justice Initiative** and the New York Times bestselling author of ***Just Mercy***.

Under his leadership, EJI created its acclaimed Legacy Sites, which chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation in America — and trace their connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias.

8th Annual Joseph House Fundraising Gala
OCTOBER 29, 2026 | 6:30 pm
Donald L. Tucker Civic Center

For more information visit the Joseph House website.

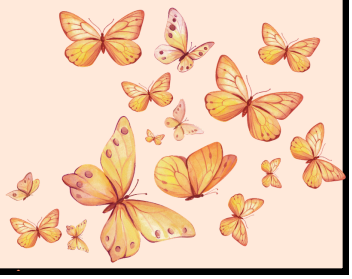
Ordination and Celebration



Our own Emily Bruno will begin serving Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church in Dearborn, Michigan, in January 2027, as their installed pastor!

Emily will be ordained in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 25 at 4 PM, in a service conducted by the Presbtytery of Florida. All are welcome at the ordination service.

A reception in the Westminster Room will follow the service. Please plan to join us for this special occasion, both to celebrate Emily's new call and to wish her, Dan, Corinne, and Ilsa well as they prepare to move to Michigan!



All Saints' Day Observance

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Christians throughout the world celebrate All Saints' Day in honor of all the saints, both known and unknown. In most Protestant churches, it is celebrated on the first Sunday of November. Protestants regard all Christians, both past and present, as saints. As we solemnly remember all those who have died in the past year, we emphasize our hope in the Resurrection and our place in the "communion of saints."

As part of our Communion Service on All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will remember our members, as well as family and friends of members, who have died since November 1, 2025. If you would like to submit a name to be read during the service, send please send it to Rev. Mark Phillips at Mark@oldfirstchurch.org. All names must be received by Monday morning, October 26.

Execution Vigils

William Reaves is scheduled for execution on Tuesday, October 20 at 6 PM. Jesse Guardado's execution is set for November 5.

On the day of any execution a prayer service is held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church at 9:45 AM, and a vigil takes place outside the Governor's Mansion at the scheduled time of execution. On the day following an execution an interfaith service of remembrance for the executed and their victims is held at noon at the Great Seal in the Capitol Rotunda.