This Week @ First

Friday, October 30, 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. This week we will begin our study of Exodus at chapter 1, verse 1.
- **The Inquirers Class** meets in the Westminster Room and by Zoom. This week we will begin a special series on "Real Hope and Action in the Climate Crisis." Pam McVety will introduce the series, provide an update on climate change science, and report on General Assembly actions and guidance.
- **Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

Our **Wednesday Night series** on "The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes" concludes on 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.

Remember First Sunday Food Collection!

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. ***Next opportunity: Friday, November 6.***

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

First Pres is currently experiencing a time of energy, new life, and new growth. We are primed to move forward in ministry together. The faithful commitment and dedication of our members and friends 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 began on Sunday, October 18. In the coming weeks, you'll continue to 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.



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.

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
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Click here for the

Weekly Schedule

Monthly Calendar

More info available on Breeze

Catholic Climate Covenant Presents:
How a Super El Niño May Impact Our Common Home and the Vulnerable

Scientists warn that a "Super El Niño" event is developing in the Pacific Ocean, already profoundly disrupting global weather patterns and promising severe ecological threats to our common home, along with a dramatic increase in impacts on our most vulnerable neighbors.

Learn about the science and possible impacts of El Niño events, what makes this year's a "Super El Niño," and how climate change may affect El Niño events from Dr. Carlos Javier Martinez, senior climate scientist with the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Also joining will be national and Hawaii-based Catholic Charities staff who will focus on the Catholic Church's disaster response efforts and local community resilience and mitigation efforts.

This free webinar will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026, from 2 to 3 PM ET.

REGISTER HERE

Please share this with friends, family, and members of your community. The webinar will be recorded, and the recording shared with everyone who registers!

Save the Date

Sunday, November 8, right after worship, you are invited to a First Presbyterian Preschool Open House led by our Director, LaTosha Haynes. And Surprise–it is also our Preschool's 60th Birthday! There will be cake!

Free Symposium: International Human Rights and the Death Penalty

FSU School of Law
Friday, November 13 / 9 AM to 5 PM

Bringing together leading voices on this topic from across the world, the symposium will examine capital punishment through an international human rights lens. Discussions will explore legal, ethical, and comparative perspectives, fostering rigorous and informed dialogue on one of the most complex and consequential issues in modern law.

Distinguished speakers include Sister Helen Prejean; Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, former President of Mongolia; Mario Marazziti, former deputy in Italy's Camera dei Deputati; Mark Olive, a nationally recognized death penalty litigation expert; Professor Corinna Barrett Lain, University of Richmond School of Law; Professor William Schabas, Middlesex University, London; Robin Maher, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center, with more to come.

You can attend virtually or in person, but you must register here.

This symposium is made possible by funds donated in Sandy D'Alemberte's memory. The event is free and open to the public.

Execution Vigils

Two executions are now scheduled for November: Jesse Guardado on November 5 at 6 PM, and Thomas Mitchell Overton on November 18 at 6 PM.

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.



Emily Bruno was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in our sanctuary last Sunday, October 25. If you missed the service, it is available for viewing on our YouTube channel. Emily was presented with symbols of ministry during the service including a communion set, a stole handmade by her mother, a Book of Common Worship and Daily Prayer Book, and her choir hymnal. She was also presented with a blacksmithing hammer on behalf of the Guns to Gardens ministry. After the service she was given a stole, which she is wearing in the picture above, made by the Together in Service Circle. The sanctuary flowers on Sunday were a gift from the Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church in Dearborn, Michigan, the congregation Emily will serve beginning in January 2027.