

This Week @ First



Wednesday, November 25, 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 **Adult Bible Study** meets in the Calvin Room and by Zoom. This week we will continue our study of Exodus at chapter 13, verse 1.
- **The Inquirers Class** meets in the Westminster Room and by Zoom. This week we will conclude a video series where Bryan Stevenson, acclaimed public interest lawyer, joins the *New York Times*' Ezra Klein for a continuation of *The America That's Still Possible*.
- **Guided Meditation** meets at 10:30 in the Library.

***NEW: Light of the World,* a weekly Advent study** begins Monday, November 30. at noon in the John Calvin Room and on Zoom. All are welcome! If attending in person, bring a lunch to enjoy during the study. We will explore the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus using the book, *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent,* by author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Copies of the book are available for $10.00. Please see Rev. Mark Phillips for yours, or email the church office. The fourth and final Monday noon session will be on December 21.



Sunday, December 13

Christmas pageant: 9:30 AM in the Westminster Room
Worship: 11 AM

Service of Lessons and Carols: 6 PM



Worship & Music

To watch our worship services, connect with us on **YouTube**! The live stream and bulletin for today's Thanksgiving service are available **here**, and the live stream and weekly bulletin for this coming Sunday are available **here**!

Note: there will be no choir rehearsal tonight; we will meet at 10 AM on Sunday, November 29 instead.

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 other ways!

Second Harvest Bread Boxing:
Join us on first Fridays from 9:45 AM–Noon. ***Next opportunity: Friday, December 4.***
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.

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

Presbyterian Women will be collecting the annual Thank Offering until the end of this month. The Thank Offering, a tradition dating to 1888, is a way for members to express gratitude and fund mission projects. It funds grants of up to $50,000 for a mix of domestic and international projects, with 40% designated for health ministries. Recipients in the past year included a Rural Home Repair program in Allegan County, Michigan; a ministry to families with young children in Missouri; a "Mommy & Me" domestic violence shelter in New Jersey; and "Growing Gardens, Feeding Minds," a meal program for students and vulnerable children in Kenya. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex.



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



Stewardship Update

We are continuing to progress towards our goal for this year's stewardship campaign, which is to have 70 pledges totaling $475,000. Pledges as of Tuesday, November 24, total 59 and $416,892. If you have not submitted your pledge card, please remember to do so as soon as possible. Additional pledge cards are available in the narthex and church office. We greatly appreciate the many pledge cards that have already been received! Thank you!



Preschool Fundraiser: Christmas Cards

The Preschool will be selling note cards featuring original art by Preschool students. This is a great way to get holiday cards while giving back to the Preschool (and supporting budding artists!). Order your cards (8 cards for $10) by Dec. 1; they will be delivered by December 11. For more information or to order, contact Preschool Director Latosha Haynes, Director@firstprespreschool.net.

Execution Vigils

Ricardo Gonzalez is scheduled for execution on December 1 at 6 PM, and Willie Seth Crain on December 10 at 6 PM.

On the day of an execution a prayer service is held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church at 9:45 AM, and a vigil is held 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.

Church Office Hours

Monday: 1 PM–5 PM
Tuesday through Thursday: 10 AM–2 PM
Friday: 1 PM–5 PM
The office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, for Thanksgiving.



December Birthdays

A very happy December birthday to Jacob Beychock, Brant Copeland, Dani Ebaugh, Bo Elzie, Wayne Friedemann, Debbie Gibson, Nikki Grondzik, Amy Guthrie, Gail Hankinson, Peggy Prophet, Ethan Tozer, Carol Weissert, and Shirley Zahn!



Prepare
Watch
Rejoice
Behold

Advent begins November 29

Advent is an annual refresher course on the nature of Christian hope. We look back across the long arc of history to understand and remember who God is and how God works in the world — mighty and merciful; ever-faithful and abounding in love; creating, redeeming, sustaining all that is. We look forward, too, straining to see the new thing God is doing — a river flowing in the desert, a fresh shoot growing from an old stump, weapons of war turned into instruments of peace. Thus, we learn to proclaim the gospel with confidence, trusting that the Spirit will work wonders, the promises of God will come to pass, and Jesus will continue to lead the way.

By David Gambrell | Presbyterians Today

Bell Choir Returns!



The bell choir will be ringing at the 5 PM Christmas Eve service, and new ringers are welcome! Rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday, December 20, 1-2 PM; Wednesday, December 23, 6:30-7:15 PM; and Thursday, December 24, 3:30-4:15 PM.

A sign-up sheet will be available this Sunday for those interested, or you can contact Bryan Stenson, Director of Music, Bryan@oldfirstchurch.org.

Is your contact information up to date in Breeze? Have you uploaded a photo? Call or email the church office if you need help!