

This Week @ First



Kick Off Sunday

Kick Off Sunday will be August 20th! We'll **meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM** for opening words and prayer before children and youth are sent to classrooms. Adults will then move to the Westminster Room. **Ministry teams** will have tables to share what they have going on in the next year and seek volunteers to implement their ministries. **Congregation members** will have an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in the life of the church and plug into new ministries.

Additionally, the **Envisioning Reconciliation Committee** table in the Westminster Room will have an art project involving pictures of our community.

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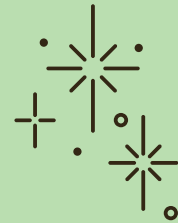
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Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 am, connect with us on **Youtube** (find the bulletin **here**)! Click the bolded words to follow the links each week.



Compassion & Social Justice

The **first Sunday food collection** will take place this Sunday with collection boxes in the Narthex. Additionally, **we need volunteers** to serve meals at Grace Mission Sunday Aug. 13th from 4-6 PM. If you can help, sign up **by clicking here** or contact Carol Weissert at cweissert@fsu.edu.

Personnel

The Personnel Team will meet on August 17 at 5:30 PM in the Education Building.

Spiritual Formation

Big plans! This fall, children will have a teaching team and use *Feasting on the Word*; youth will have Confirmation; and adults will have options such as Bible study, creation care, and Bonhoeffer. The Session will also bring several state of the church addresses! Stay tuned!

Presbyterian Women

The **PW Fall Gathering** will be on Sunday, August 27, from 3:30-5:00 PM. Rev. Trinity Whitley will introduce the new PW Bible Study using *Sacred Encounters* by Olive Mahabir.

Worship and Program

The movie *Barbie*, directed by Greta Gerwig, provides rich and meaningful topics for our congregation and society in general to ponder. This Thursday, **August 10th at 6 PM**, we will have an informal Zoom discussion about *Barbie*. For the Zoom link and more information, **click here**.

Walking the Mourner's Path

Faith Presbyterian Church will be offering a grief support program called "Walking the Mourner's Path" this fall on Sunday afternoons from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29th, 3:00-4:30 PM. For more information, [click here](#).

Pastoral Note

Writing from the Atlanta airport, having arrived ten hours after I began Thursday morning, I am still awaiting a flight to Denver where I will join six other pastors and retreat leader, Roy Howard, who has deep roots with our congregation.

Together we will build a nest of community as we share meals, study, worship, and hike in what we call a Con-Ed event designed around the work of theologian, Andrew Root, and his two books, *Churches and the Crisis of Decline: A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age* and *When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. Root has a book series that explores ministry in a secular age, and his work borrows or builds on the philosopher, Charles Taylor, who wrote *The Secular Age*.

Root tells the story of Martin Luther King, Jr. in a moment of deep crisis as violence was escalating in the battle for civil rights. One evening at home, while his family slept, a call came that threatened his family, and life's work. It sent him to deep prayer and in that prayer, King describes hearing God say to him, "Where there is no way, I will make a way." That phrase became a watchword for King, and the Civil Rights movement. As the civil rights leaders and participants waited. . . "they waited – their waiting, an action – because they knew that out of no way, God will make a way."

Root suggests that telling the story of our lives is a first step. "Where do I see God in my life and in the life of the people around me?" "In my life, and in the life of the people I encounter, how is God a character in that story?" At First Presbyterian, we are beginning to tell those stories in some new ways, and I am grateful for how you participate and share. Root says, "Congregations find their watchword when they discern a theme in their stories. A narrative thread links their lives together through shared experiences of a living God." As we move into the Fall, we will have more opportunities to gather, to tell stories, and to walk in God's grace.

Blessings upon you this week. Along with Elizabeth, Ethan, and the choir, Glenn Hodges and Ellie Stewart will lead worship on Sunday, and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

God's Presence,
God's Peace,
Rev. Anne HK Apple

Envisioning Reconciliation Committee

We are continuing Compassionate Witnessing as well as moving forward in ways for the larger congregation to participate in the healing process. Starting Sunday, cards will be available in the Calvin Room for congregation members to answer the question, "**In your opinion, what needs to happen for there to be restoration at First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee?**" Responses will shape how we move forward, so the more specificity, the greater the opportunity to identify themes for walking forth in grace.