

# This Week @ First



## Member Spotlight

Meredith Strange is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. She gives thanks to this church for providing “a strong base [of faith] to rely upon.” Through her own baptism in this church to watching her daughter “grow into a strong, empowered, and clever little person,” Meredith sees God at work all over. To read more, [click here](#) or go to the “Our Congregation” tab under the home section on our website.

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### First Presbyterian Church

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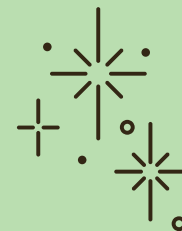
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## Worship & Music

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

Leah Wiley, Lead Organizer for the **Capital Area Justice Ministry**, will meet with the Compassion and Social Justice Committee at 6 PM Monday Aug. 14th to provide an update on the ministry’s current activities and plans for the coming Fall and Spring. Please contact Carol Weissert at [cweissert@fsu.edu](mailto:cweissert@fsu.edu) for the Zoom link.

## Spiritual Formation

This Sunday, August 13, at 9:30 AM, the Spiritual Formation team invites parents & children to a **Worship Education** event in the Sanctuary to learn about how to engage children in worship. Parents, please also check your email for a form from Eleanor to fill out before Sunday School begins on August 20!

## 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.

## Healing

### 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. Cards are 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.

## Worship and Program

This Sunday in worship, the Kindergarteners will be presented with **Hymnals**, and 1st graders will be presented with **Bibles!** This is such an exciting way to welcome our youngest members into the worshipping community.



## Preschool

The First Presbyterian Preschool Board of Directors is conducting its **annual scholarship drive** for the upcoming school year. Each fall, there are families who want their child to attend the Preschool, but cannot afford the full cost of tuition. With funds from the **Belinda Kelly Scholarship**, the Preschool is able to offer several partial scholarships so that these children can attend. This Sunday, 8/13, preschool board members will be collecting donations for the scholarship fund on the portico. Friends of the Preschool can contribute online to the Belinda Kelly Scholarship Fund by [\*\*clicking here\*\*](#) or sending a check to First Presbyterian Preschool. Your contribution supports a vital part of our ministry and the important work we do with young children and their families.

## Pastoral Note

In the past few weeks, every single day, I see at least one anole lizard (affectionately called lil guys). First spotted on the Pastor's parking sign, pictured above, I soon found them everywhere. Seeing them scamper around sparks an odd amount of joy for me.

Recently, I've been reading *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley, creator of Black Liturgies on Instagram. The book speaks to the embodiment of faith. In the chapter on joy, she writes, "I once heard that joy and happiness do different things to the body. Happiness. . . makes you excitable and energetic. It's important but fleeting, grounded in the immediacy of a moment or the whim of a feeling. Joy is more tranquil. . . it's much more about peace than vibrancy." Riley later refers to Ezra 3, the rebuilding of the temple of God. Some people responded in joy, while other elders wept for the loss of the previous temple. The joyous shouts and the mournful weeping all mixed together in what Riley names a "**holy cacophony.**"

As we enter times of transition, whether it's going back to school, a new season of work, the weather starting to change, or anything else, may we make space to engage in the holy cacophony of our community's lives.

Along with our guest organist, Anthony Rimore, Ethan, and the choir, Rev. Anne HK Apple and Ellie Stewart will lead in worship on Sunday. Worship will include the presentation of Bibles and Hymnals and asking a blessing over Ellie Stewart as Ellie's ministry in Tallahassee concludes.

God's Peace,  
God's Presence,  
Ellie Stewart