

This Week @ First



Member Spotlight

Emily Bruno joined First Presbyterian Church in 2016 after moving to Tallahassee with her husband Dan Bruno. Pictured above with Emily are their two wonderful children, Corinne and Ilsa Bruno. In the spotlight this week, Emily talks about how she connects with God through music and community. She describes the joy she finds in singing in the choir here, as well as the Christlike bond forged with others through community action. Emily also updates on the Guns to Garden project. To hear more, [click here](#) or go to the "Our Congregation" tab under the home section on our website.

Published on August 18, 2023

First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: (850) 222-4504

Fax: (850) 222-2215

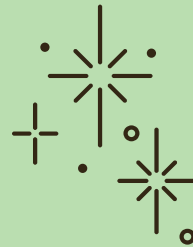
Email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

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.



Kick Off Sunday

This Sunday, Aug. 20th, will be **Kick Off Sunday!** We will gather in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM for a song and prayer. Children and youth will move to classrooms. Adults will move to the Westminster Room, where all ministry teams will have tables and the ERC will have a community art project. You'll be able to learn more about the year ahead, get involved, and see how the Spirit moves at First Presbyterian in this season. We will see you there!

Session

The Session will meet **following worship on Sunday, Aug. 20.** Many ministry teams met this week to prepare.

Presbyterian Women

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

Preschool

The **First Presbyterian Preschool** Board of Directors is conducting its **annual scholarship drive** for the upcoming school year. Last Sunday, there was such a spirited response that Tip Tomberlin and Danielle Jennings ran out of donation envelopes! Therefore, **this Sunday, Aug. 20**, visit them at the ministry fair during the Kick Off to donate. Learn more or donate digitally by [clicking here](#).

Pastoral Note

Gratitude.

It's a quality, value, and maybe even a skill.

It requires self-awareness, an open heart, and action.

It is at the heart of Christian prayer and I believe, in trusting that in life and in death, we belong to God.

Gratitude.

It's that inside value that chases away the inner voice of apathy, cynicism, and sarcasm.

It's that way of being that catches an eye, passes a smile, puts another before self.

It's in the body of Christ's church; broken and beautifully alive in the Spirit.

Gratitude.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Give thanks for a grateful heart.

Grace, God's grace and gratitude go hand in hand. It is good to walk forth in gratitude for God's grace unfolding at First.

Thanks be to God.

And, join me as we pray with grateful hearts for safe travels for Ellie as Ellie returns to Davidson College.

God's Peace,
God's Presence,

Anne

Compassion & Social Justice

The **Leon County Commission and Big Bend Continuum of Care** are hosting a meeting on addressing homelessness in downtown Tallahassee at **3 PM Aug. 22 at the Challenger Learning Center on Kleman Plaza**. Members of the Compassion and Social Justice Committee will be attending, but anyone who is interested is welcome to join this "conversation about new efforts and collaborations to provide additional engagement and solution for addressing homelessness in Tallahassee."

Spiritual Formation

Spiritual Formation Team looks forward to seeing everyone at the **Kick Off on Sunday, Aug. 20!** Next week, Aug. 27, our regular Sunday School programming will begin with adults in the Westminster Room and Calvin Room and children upstairs in room 306.

Healing

Envisioning Reconciliation Committee

The **restoration question cards** will be located at the ERC's table in the Westminster Room during Kick Off Sunday. This will be the last opportunity to respond using these cards.

Pastor Alison's Visit

We learned this week that Pastor Alison Infante received his visa and will be able to travel from Cuba next month as an **International Peacemaker**. He will join us from Sept. 21st to 27th. Pre-pandemic a small group of members traveled to Cuba to explore becoming a partner congregation with a church there and met Alison at that time. Through the Presbyterian Peacemaking program we have an opportunity to **reconnect**. If you are interested in helping to organize his visit, please reach out to Barbara Busharis.