

This Week @ First



Member Spotlight

Tip Tomberlin quietly makes a difference and works to develop trust by stepping in with a “Yes, I can do that” and always modeling mutual respect and support. As an Elder of the Class of '23, Tip accepted the responsibility for leading the five-week “Envisioning Reconciliation” Book Study. Using Teri Ott's book, *Necessary Risks*, Tip led a faithful group of First Presbyterian members through a process of imagining risks First Presbyterian might be called to take as we move forward in faith. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more, or go to the “Our Congregation” tab on the church website.

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First Presbyterian Church

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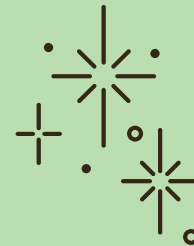
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www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 am, connect with us on [Youtube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))!



Preschool

On behalf of the Preschool Board of Directors, thank you to all who contributed to the Belinda Kelly Scholarship Fund for the new school year. The scholarship drive continues through the end of the month, but you can make contributions to the preschool all year round. Donations can be sent to the Preschool, 110 North Adams Street, TLH, 32301 or online through the Preschool website:

<https://www.firstprespreschool.net/contributions.html>.

Care & Outreach

Join us at the annual church picnic on September 17, right after worship, at Maclay Gardens! This year we will provide the chicken, you will bring sides or desserts. Sign up after worship on September 3 or 10. The cost is \$3 per person, \$10 family cap.

Spiritual Formation

This Sunday, all Adult Church School classes will meet in the Westminster room at 9:30 am for a State of the Church informational session. To join via Zoom, click [here](#).

Children's Church School will also meet at 9:30 am, in Room 306, for the lesson, “Won't You Be My Neighbor,” inspired by the teachings of Fred Rogers.

Presbyterian Women

The Fall Gathering will be held from 3:30 - 5:00 in the Westminster Room. To attend via Zoom, click [here](#). Faith Presbyterian Associate Pastor Trinity Whitley, will lead the introduction to the Bible Study, “Sacred Encounters.” New study and directories will be distributed. Circles will have an opportunity to meet and plan their first few meetings. We will bring a few supplies for the Preschool: unscented baby wipes, Ziplock bags, paper cups, paper plates, plastic spoons and forks, ink pens, gel pens, file folders, borders for bulletin boards, card stock, scotch masking tape, clear gorilla glue.

Interim Goals

Envisioning Reconciliation, Administration, Worship & Program

Sunday, August 27, at 9:30 in the Westminster Room, the Session will bring a state of the Church address to share information about the interim goals and actions taken at the August Session Meeting. Please join us — we will have a way to collect your questions, too. To join via Zoom, click [here](#).

Our 2023 Stewardship season will begin this Sunday. Please click [here](#) to view or download the 2023 Stewardship Letter.



International Peacemaker: Rev. Alison Infante

From **September 21 to September 27** we will be hosting the Presbítero Pastor (Rev.) Alison Infante Zamora, one of this year's International Peacemakers chosen by the [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#). We are working on a schedule that will allow as many people as possible to meet Alison during that time in addition to hearing him preach on Sunday, September 24.

Alison currently serves as Moderator of the Synod of the IPRC—the Cuban Presbyterian Church (Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba). Since being ordained in 2008, his ministry experience includes various ecclesial and ecumenical responsibilities, such as chairing the IPRC's Social Policy Study Commission. He holds a comprehensive perspective on God's Mission through the church and feels most fulfilled in ministerial areas such as the proclamation of the word, music, and teaching.

In his work, Alison emphasizes the social pastoral ministry as a way of proclaiming the Gospel. An example is the Azabache project, an antiracism and community empowerment project. The church also provides cultural spaces hosting tertulias—social and conversational gatherings—and an exhibition hall for art works, through which values such as respect, dialogue, and aesthetic education are affirmed, especially in young artists from the community. Alison's pastoral and ecumenical ministry has always been carried out together with his wife, the Presbítera Gobernante (ruling elder) Sarahí García Gómez. Together they have worked in various pastoral fields and currently serve in the community of Cárdenas, Matanzas, at the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada "Juan G. Hall."

Grace. God's grace.

Is sufficient for us, for power is made perfect in weakness. In our weaknesses, the power of Christ may dwell in us. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Grace is that whisper that beckons, "Pick up the phone" or "Write that note" and the affirmation of why simple things matter.

Grace is along the pathway, the wonder of a heart shaped rock on the path, and the beauty and variety in one wildflower reaching toward the sun.

Grace is dignity found with another by the action of seeing pain, and joy, acknowledging a story, and working for what is right, but not necessarily easy; for weeping with those who weep, and rejoicing with those who rejoice.

**God's Peace, God's Presence,
Pastor Anne**