

This Week @ First

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.

Care & Outreach

Sign up for our annual picnic in the courtyard after worship and plan to join us on Sunday, September 17th! \$3 per person/\$10 family cap.

Spiritual Formation

Church School begins on Sunday at 9:30 AM. The Inquirers Class meets in the Westminster Room, where Jane Atkinson will lead a discussion of the Immigration Process and Implications. Bible Study will be offered as a hybrid class in the Calvin Room and on Zoom, and will continue its study of Ecclesiastes. To join via Zoom click [here](#). Children (all ages) meet in Room 306 to continue their study, "Making Things Right." Preschool and younger children meet in Room 205.

Compassion & Social Justice

This Sunday, September 10, First Pres is helping to serve the meal at Grace Mission. If you can help at 4 PM, please contact Carol Weissert, cweissert@fsu.edu.

Help Wanted

Volunteer to train and assist as needed with live streaming of worship services. No experience required, but comfort using technical equipment needed. Contact Chris Corzine, corzinec@gmail.com.

First Presbyterian Church

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Published on September 8, 2023

Our Neighbors in Perry

We have been invited by Faith Presbyterian to join in hurricane clean-up for First Presbyterian Church in Perry **this Saturday, September 9**, so they can resume worship on Sunday. The church has power. Their need is for debris to be taken to the roadside so that the property is safe for elderly members to come to worship. Depending on how many volunteers are able to go, there may be a household or two to assist as well. They have asked us to be on site at 8 AM.

If you can join, please meet at Faith Presbyterian at 6:45 AM tomorrow, Saturday, September 9th, to carpool. Bring sunscreen and water, and pack a lunch. There will be cold water for refilling bottles. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent t-shirts they would like us to wear as they are mobilizing in that community. Please reply to Trinity@FaithPCUSA.org to let her know if you can participate.



Meet the 2023 Choral Scholars

This year the choir is delighted to welcome new choral scholars from FSU, as well as two returning scholars. Pictured above from left to right are **Maddie Schneider**, a junior Vocal Performance major from Lorton, Virginia; **Dorian Carr**, a senior from Sarasota majoring in Commercial Music; returning tenor **Tiger Davis**, a Lincoln High School graduate and current sophomore majoring in Vocal Performance; and returning alto **Jessica Johns**, who graduated from FSU in 2015 with a degree in Creative Writing. Not pictured is Christopher Martinez, a sophomore majoring in Choral Music Education. Please greet them and share your appreciation for their contributions to the music life of our congregation!



Budget and Finance

The Presbyterian Foundation will lead a Session retreat on September 15-16 as we discern how we walk forth in God's grace at First Presbyterian. Robert Hay, Senior Ministry Relations Officer of the Foundation, will lead the retreat with Pastor Apple. Robert is a ruling elder in the PC(USA) and holds a MPA degree with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from Georgia State University. We ask for your prayers over the retreat — specifically for commitment to this process and clarity in discernment for how the church moves forward. In addition, this year's stewardship season is upon us, and our focus is sharing the work of the church through the structure of ministry teams. Please pray about how you will commit to using your time, talents, and treasure at First Presbyterian Church.

Pastoral Note

In the gospel of John, Jesus says, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

The Spiritual Formation Ministry Team is exploring the idea that we could have "pop-up" programs that create opportunities for fellowship and shared joy. These programs form folks in Christian faith. The process is simple. If you have an idea about where abundance of life and joy are known in your life, invite folks along so that we might share in that abundance. Someone loved going to movies and talking about them theologically. So, the Barbie movie pop-up was announced spontaneously at the end of a worship service, which created space for stories and formation!



Last weekend, another opportunity came up, to see God's beauty at Wakulla Springs with children and their families. The idea was born from a connectional church moment. Lori received a call from a PC(USA) member of a congregation in Georgia named Melba asking if we, at First, had someone who could help her do a memorial service for her husband at Wakulla Springs. He was a Florida State graduate who loved the park and wanted his ashes to be spread there with a simple memorial service with family and friends. She planned a boat ride led by the Ranger for all in attendance, then gathered folks for a shared meal. Afterwards, we moved to the platform for the inurnment of ashes. Jim and I were taken by the beauty and wonder of that evening and how gathering in Christ's name binds a people together.



As a member of the Sunday school teaching team, Jim wanted to share. So he made arrangements to rent the boat for Labor Day weekend and extended an invitation to the children of the church and their parents. And we filled the boat.

What I know is that children know the abundance of life in ways that I think adults have learned how to silence. We gathered for donuts before the boat ride. On the lawn, a spontaneous game of red light/green light emerged to get the wiggles out before we got on the boat. On the boat, one of the wonders was seeing baby alligators recently hatched — so recently that the eggshells were still visible. We learned that females build a mound nest of soil and vegetation, and deposit an average of 32-46 eggs in late June to mid-July. The incubation requires between 60-70 days. We literally saw abundant life that day! We marveled at the plethora of baby alligators and their shells scattered around the mound, and the protective momma alligator guarding her babies. And do you know what? A group of alligators is called a congregation.

I am seeing abundance of life in this congregation, First Presbyterian, and it gives me great joy.



God's peace,
God's presence.
Anne