

This Week @ First

A Time for Truth and Love

This morning, Friday, September 15, First Presbyterian Church was privileged to host Reverend Doctor William Barber, the Director of the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School. Dr. Barber is a co-chair of the “Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival,” which advocates for justice and equality for communities impacted by racial injustice, economic disparities, environmental decline, and political disenfranchisement.

The [Poor People’s Campaign](#) is committed to non-violent advocacy:

There are at least 140 million people in the country who are impacted by the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the false narrative of Christian nationalism. The Poor People’s Campaign believes that nonviolent struggle has the power to end these injustices, shift the narrative from individual shame or blame to systemic root causes and transform our society.

Dr. Barber was joined in the sanctuary by a number of other activists and local religious leaders. Those present in person joined in song before hearing from Dr. Barber and several other speakers.



Participants then walked to the State Capitol, where the assembly delivered a letter for Governor DeSantis calling on the Governor to “cease and desist” from rhetoric fostering racial divisions and hatred, as manifested in the recent racially motivated shootings in Jacksonville. Pastor Anne Apple was among the speakers at the Capitol calling for an end to divisive rhetoric and policies.

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.

Communion Preparation

Have you ever wanted to learn how to prepare and clean up Communion? Have you prepared it in the past and would like to do so again? If your answer to any of those questions is yes, please join members of the Worship Team on the following Sundays for “How to Prepare Communion” training.

October 1
November 5
December 3

No previous experience is required and signing up is not necessary. Members of all ages are welcome.

Please meet in the sanctuary at 10 AM on any or all of those dates. If you would like to assist with cleaning up after Communion, please stay after worship in the sanctuary and a member of the team will happily find a task for you.

Care & Outreach

We look forward to seeing you at the annual picnic this Sunday, September 17, at Maclay Gardens, immediately after worship! Your parking fee will be covered; just tell staff at the gate that you are with First Presbyterian Church. Bring a side or dessert to share, but most importantly, bring yourself. We can’t guarantee chicken if you didn’t register, but we can guarantee a warm welcome!

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.

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Budget and Finance

Please keep the Session in your prayers as it gathers for a retreat on September 15-16 to discern how we will walk forth in God's grace at First Presbyterian. Robert Hay, Senior Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead the retreat with Pastor Apple.

Capital Area Justice Ministry

At the August meeting, the Session agreed to become a member of the Capital Area Justice Ministry, CAJM. This organization gives each member of First an opportunity to get involved in community organizing. The foundational biblical text that frames the purpose of CAJM is Micah 6:8. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

CAJM is a diverse coalition of nearly 20 religious congregations across the greater Tallahassee area who come together to answer the scriptural call to "do justice." CAJM helps congregations to learn the skill of community organizing, and to develop authentic relationships in the community so that together we might work to dismantle the oppressive local systems that have produced inequity, segregation, and the wealth gap between privileged and marginalized communities. Several of our PC(USA) churches are involved with CAJM. Affordable housing for extremely low income households and gun violence are the two pressing community problems that CAJM currently is tackling.

On Tuesday, September 19, CAJM will hold a House Meeting Kick-Off at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. This is a training session for congregants and clergy that help church learn how to prepare and to lead house meetings. This training will have a focus on inviting people "back to church." Pastor Apple and Glenn Hodges plan to attend and you are invited to join them. Please click [here](#) to register to participate.

2023 International Peacemaker Visit

Reverend Alison Infante will be arriving on Thursday, September 21, to visit our area as one of the 2023 International Peacemakers selected by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Alison and his wife, elder Sarahí García Gómez, currently serve in the community of Cárdenas, Matanzas, at the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada "Juan G. Hall."

International Peacemakers are selected from partner congregations around the world to share their work and witness with congregations, presbyteries, and community groups. In 2023 the Peacemakers come from Cuba, El Salvador, Greece, Indonesia, Liberia, Palestine, and Poland.

There will be several opportunities to hear from Alison about his ministry. On **Sunday, September 24**, he will speak to the adult Sunday School class and will preach during the worship service. Following worship, please plan to join us in the Westminster Room for a short reception and an opportunity to greet him. On **Monday, September 25, at 4:30 PM**, Alison will speak at Westminster Oaks in the Pool House.



Sarahí García Gómez and Alison Infante Zamora welcomed a group of visitors to Cárdenas, including members of First Presbyterian, in 2016.

We are still finalizing some of the plans for Alison's time with us, which will include opportunities to meet with local pastors and an excursion to Dogwood Acres. Members of the congregation have volunteered to provide hospitality and transportation. If you are interested in participating in the visit, please contact the church office or email Barbara Busharis, bbusharis@hotmail.com.