

This Week @ First

Pastor's Note

During this season of stewardship, we have looked at how ministries are shaped in Ministry Teams and we have gathered at table to hear about generosity and the status of First Presbyterian Church. Now we will look to the year ahead and all God hopes to accomplish through First Presbyterian.

We need everyone who calls the First Presbyterian Church family, all folks who value her mission and presence in the Greater Tallahassee area, to dedicate themselves to generously supporting the ministries of this church. Now, more than ever, your generosity will be critical in shaping our church's future mission.

Sunday, October 29th, is Commitment Sunday.

Your pledge commitment enables us to financially plan for the year ahead. We ask that you bring your Walking Forth in God's Grace pledge card with you, pick one up in the pews, or make your commitment [online](#).

We will celebrate in worship with a litany of commitment as we bring our financial commitments forward by singing the hymn, For the Fruit of All Creation. This hymn was originally called "Harvest Hymn." The hymn deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

Might we continue to be astounded by God's grace, throughout the night and into each day.

God's peace, God's presence.
Anne

Caring for Creation

Our Caring for Creation Series, Seeking Faithful Justice in a Climate Crisis, got off to a great start with the powerful and inspiring words of Rev. Dr. Jim Antal about why people of faith must engage in fighting the climate crisis and how it amplifies all forms of injustice — hunger, refugees, racism, poverty, inequality, war and more. His remarks are available [here](#) along with the handout from his presentation. Next week our speaker is Michael Ohlsen, who will share the uplifting story of how the City of Tallahassee is switching to 100% renewable energy. Please join us at 9:30 in the Westminster room or on Zoom.

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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.

Budget & Finance — Stewardship & Giving



Pledge cards will be collected this Sunday, October 29 during worship.

If you cannot attend worship, you can turn in a pledge [online](#).

Alternatively, you can call the church office, and a card will be completed for you.

Spiritual Formation

Adult Church School: Inquirers will meet in the Westminster Room with a [Zoom](#) option. Our **Creation Care** series continues with "Tallahassee's Clean Energy Plan." Our speaker will be Michael Ohlsen, Clean Energy and Resource Manager for Tallahassee Utilities.

The Bible Study will meet in the Calvin Room with an option to join by [Zoom](#), and will continue its study of the Song of Songs, Chapters 7 and 8.

Children's Church School: Our children will meet in room 306 for the lesson "The Greatest Commandment."

Confirmation Class meets in room 204 (the Library).

All classes begin at 9:30 AM.

Courtyard Clean-up

Join the **Property Team** in the courtyard at 9:00 AM tomorrow, October 28, to do some general sprucing up of the planters and flower beds!



Presbytery of Florida Update on the Fall Stated Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, the Presbytery of Florida had its Fall Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Lynn Haven, Florida. When you pulled into the parking lot of the church, you were met by church members AND a bag piper! It was a generous welcome to the nearly 70 elder commissioners, minister members, commissioned ruling elders, Christian educators, presbytery officers and staff, and visitors in attendance. On behalf of First Presbyterian, Elder Glenn Hodges attended, as did his partner, Mary, and Pastor Apple. Last week we shared in this newsletter the Strategic Plan report that was to be presented. Our member, Mary Hodges, served on the Strategic Planning Task Force that brought the report forward.

UKirk Tallahassee Campus Minister, Matt Frease, reminded participants to lend their support through UKirk's Friends Fund via a one-time gift or recurring donation; by providing Thursday night meals for students; and by utilizing UKirk's facilities for group gatherings. Elder Peggy Wright Cleveland serves on the UKirk Board of Directors and gathered a group of folks together last year to provide a meal. Reach out to Peggy if you might like to provide for a meal to UKirk!

Participants of the meeting were broken into three groups to discuss the Strategic Plan Report presented by the Task Force. There was significant interest in Recommendation 5, which was about breaking Dogwood Acres off as an independent 501(C)3 non-profit organization. When the report came to the floor for discussion and a vote, the Task Force provided a replacement recommendation stating, in essence, that there be a period of discernment regarding the establishment of Dogwood Acres as a 501(C)3 organization, and that the CPC (Coordinating and Planning Commission) will have oversight to appoint a group that will bring its recommendations to Presbytery at the Fall 2024 stated meeting.

To submit an announcement for an upcoming issue of *This Week @ First*, please use [this link](#).

Dear Congregation, Thank you for the meals and transportation you provided during my illness. Your prayers and concerns were much appreciated. Suzanne Young

Compassion & Social Justice

Sign up [here](#) to participate in **Second Harvest Bread Boxing** on Friday, November 3 from 9:45 AM to noon. For more information contact Debbie Gibson, gibsond1207@gmail.com.

First Pres is sponsoring its second **Ice Cream Social at Home Front**, a residential facility at 1602 Stuckey Avenue for veterans who were formerly unhoused, from 2 to 4 PM on Saturday, November 4. Contact Gary Niblack for more information, gnilblack6@aol.com. We hope you can join us!

After the ice cream social, you can support **Grace Mission** by attending **Blues and BBQ**, a special benefit featuring The Instigators, at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church from 4 to 7 PM. Admission (including BBQ dinner) is \$20; to pre-purchase tickets call 850-224-3817 or email brenda@gracemission.net.

Worship Team — Communion Preparation

Members of the Worship Team will be in the sanctuary at 10 AM on Sunday, November 5 and Sunday, December 3 for "How to Prepare Communion" training. No previous experience is required and signing up is not necessary. Members of all ages are welcome!

Care & Outreach

Our team always welcomes assistance with providing meals or occasional rides for members who need them. If you would like to receive emails when there is a need, or if you can provide a ride to or from worship, please contact Peggy West, pwestdoodah11@gmail.com.



Dogwood Acres Reading — Writing — Resting Adult Retreat

November 3–5, 2023

For more information or to register, visit the [Dogwood Acres website](#). The \$200 fee includes meals and lodging.