

This Week @ First

Abundant Life Series

Saturday, October 7: Tailgate with Donna Barber before the Virginia Tech game: Starting around 12:30, please swing by Lot 10 (on foot, as it is a permit-only lot), where Donna will have her white Acura SUV available for us to gather and tailgate. Bring whatever you like to eat or drink, and let's have some fun and fellowship before the game! A map showing the location of Lot 10 is available [here](#).

Friday, October 13: The FSU Gospel Choir, including our choral scholar Dorian Carr, is performing in Opperman at 7:30. Admission is free. Meet at Opperman at 7:15 to enjoy music and fellowship!

Ideas for an Abundant Life pop-up event? Email them to Emily Bruno, bruno.emilyann@gmail.com



Last week's Celebration of World Music was a gift that brought joy to all who attended! Performers included (l.-r.): Tim Hoekman, Elizabeth LaJeunesse, Carla Connors, Judy Arthur, Maddie Schneider, Dorian Carr, Tiger Davis, and Ethan Murphy.



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Published on October 6, 2023

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.

Spiritual Formation

Adult Church School: Inquirers will meet in the Westminster Room to continue our Bonhoeffer series with a look at "Religion and Race." Emily Bruno will lead our discussion as we engage excerpts from some video lectures by Dr. Reggie Williams, professor of Christian ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary and author of *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Religion*. The Bible Study will meet in the Calvin Room with an option to join by [Zoom](#), and will begin its study of the Song of Songs with chapters 1 and 2.

Children's Church School: Our children will meet in room 306 for the lesson "Serving God."

Confirmation Class meets in room 204 (the Library).

All classes begin at 9:30 AM.

Budget & Finance — Stewardship and Giving THANKS GIVING DINNER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 @ NOON – WESTMINSTER OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 @ 6 PM – WESTMINSTER ROOM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 6 PM – WESTMINSTER ROOM

We are gathering the church together with the intention of listening to how our lives have been shaped in generosity. We invite you to join us at one of three meals where we will share stories and talk about where we hope to go as we walk forth in God's grace. *Registration is closed for the Noon luncheon. Space is still available for both evening meals.



Please [register at this link](#) or call the church office to sign up. The deadline to register is one week in advance of the event.



Pastor's Note

Reading Chronicles at the front end of the week, I came upon this phrase, “Yield to the Lord.” That same night, at a Property Team meeting, Don Winstead referenced the same reading, but drew attention to the phrase regarding King Hezekiah’s actions, “he opened the doors to the Temple and repaired them.” This is how the Holy Spirit reveals itself to me through scripture — synchronicities throughout the day, and especially in the work of community.

Hezekiah set out to destroy all idol worship in Judah, as the Lord had decreed. Hezekiah reminded the people to rid from their hearts all false worship practices which led to a cleansing of the Temple. To yield to the Lord is to discern, or to find with God, a right way. It is said that Hezekiah prayed, “The good Lord pardon all who set their hearts to seek God.” And “the Lord heard Hezekiah, and healed the people.”

Last Sunday, morning to afternoon, I witnessed something of God’s healing at First Presbyterian — a yielding to the Lord. On World Communion Sunday, the children came to the Lord’s Table to sing parts of the liturgy around the Table. *God welcomes all* — as part of the invitation to the Table; and the *Amen* at the end of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. They have been learning these songs in Sunday School with the Teaching Team. Put those two songs together and we get, “God welcomes all. So be it.” Later in the afternoon, at the World Communion Music concert, the joy was palpable in the faces listening to the voices as members of first, and our choir scholars, shared their gifts. Here’s how I get to healing — God works out healing by extending a welcome to all that leads to joy by acting with our gifts and listening well with one another.

God’s Peace. God’s presence. Anne

Compassion & Social Justice

Volunteers are still needed to serve at Grace Mission on Sunday, October 8. We meet at 4 PM and are finished by 6 PM. If you can help, contact Carol Weissert or sign up [here](#).

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

We are exploring ways to support a time of informal fellowship before or after worship on Sundays. **Please join us for light refreshments and conversation in the courtyard this Sunday, October 8, immediately following worship!** We will also have sidewalk chalk handy for the young and young at heart. If you are interested in participating by helping to set up some refreshments on a future Sunday, talk to any member of the Care and Outreach Team.

Personnel

The personnel team has finished drafting an employee manual and will be submitting it to the Session at the next Session meeting.

Congratulations

Our organist, Elizabeth LaJeunesse, has been awarded the 2024 FEMA Distinguished Service of an Individual in Music Education Award, which will be presented at an awards breakfast banquet on January 12 in Tampa. This award recognizes time, commitment, and excellence in service in the field of music education. Elizabeth uses her gifts to make a difference and we celebrate this acknowledgment of her ministry in and beyond this church!

