

# This Week @ First

## Presbyterian Worship

The Worship and Music Committee has talked a lot about worship this past year. What defines it for us? What difference do changes make? How do humans craft, lead, and engage Christian worship? It surprised us that we could only answer as individuals, not as a committee or even a church body. As we began to study worship, we realized we wanted to invite the congregation to study with us. Soon Pastor Anne and I will lead a class that examines the Presbyterian Directory for Worship, but first we will use the newsletter to gather this community into thinking about Christian worship, Presbyterian worship, and worship at First Presbyterian here in Tallahassee.

The Presbyterian Book of Common Worship describes a four-fold shape of worship: Gathering, The Word, The Eucharist, Sending. Within each of these movements are parts of worship very familiar to First Church. While we Gather, for example, we experience a Call to Worship, Hymns of Praise, Confession and Pardon, and the Peace. But the Book of Common Worship is not the only Presbyterian document on worship. The Directory for Worship describes a five-fold worship structure: Gathering Around the Word; Proclaiming the Word; Responding to the Word; the Sealing of the Word in Sacraments; Bearing or Following the Word into the World. The Directory for Worship is a reformed view focused on the Word of God and makes it clear that human action in worship is a response to God's initiative. This five-fold structure is consistent with the ecumenical four-fold shape even while it offers differences. In both documents, humans gather in response to God's initiative — whatever that may be — to hear the Word of God, act on the Word through sacraments, and be sent back out into the world to live the Word.

Everyone on the Worship and Music Committee had a specific element of worship that marked them as God's own, not a movement of worship. So now we on the committee have stepped back to try to see the entire act of worship as a series of movements and we invite you to do the same. (We will step back further for the liturgical year, but not today.) As you begin to see four or five folds of movement with God repeated weekly, what do you discover about the ways worship structure has marked you?

—Peggy Wright Cleveland  
Member, Worship and Music Ministry Team and Active Elder

## Abundant Life Series

**Friday, October 13 (TONIGHT!):** 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](mailto:bruno.emilyann@gmail.com).

## 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

### THANKS GIVING DINNER

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 a dinner where we will share stories and talk about where we hope to go as we walk forth in God's grace. 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.

## Spiritual Formation

**Adult Church School:** Inquirers will meet in the Westminster Room to conclude our Bonhoeffer series and segue into our upcoming Creation Care series with a look at “Bonhoeffer and Ecology.” Janet Bowman will lead our discussion. The Bible Study will meet in the Calvin Room with an option to join by [Zoom](#), and will continue to climb the mountain of spices and explore the garden of delight in Song of Solomon, Chapters 3 and 4.

**Children's Church School:** Our children will meet in room 306 for the lesson “Come to the Party.”

**Confirmation Class** meets in room 204 (the Library). All classes begin at 9:30 AM.

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## Pastor's Note



**“Remember your baptism and be glad.” “Respect the water!”** Two phrases that Jim and I used to holler after our teenagers as they walked out the door to school, and into their weekend activities. Maybe that’s not what faith education is supposed to look like in the home, and in transparency, beyond regular church and Sunday School attendance — our children would say being at church every time the doors were unlocked, or there was a church activity somewhere — those were important phrases that tied our children to the promises that we made at their infant baptisms and from which they accepted as their own as high school students in their confirmations at Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

The question, in coming to be a disciple of Christ, is this. Do you trust and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior? This is the first question we answer when ordained as teaching and ruling elders, and one of several that confirmands will examine and answer in the ministry of confirmation this year. And what does that mean for this day and age?

The teaching team this year includes Charlie Johnson and Paul Kutter. The confirmands are Abigail Grondzik, Palmer Corzine, and Emmie Kutter. Please pray for this ministry.

God’s Peace. God’s presence. Anne



*Westminster Oaks residents gathered on October 11 for the first meal in our “Thanks Giving” series.*

## Compassion & Social Justice

First Pres is sponsoring its second **Ice Cream Social at Home Front**, a residential facility for veterans who were formerly unhoused, from 2 to 4 PM on Saturday, November 4. Gary Niblack will be outside the church after worship for the next two Sundays to obtain sign-ups for those who can attend and bring ice cream or cookies. Music will be provided by our own choir members. Home Front is at 1602 Stuckey Avenue. Contact Gary for more information, [gniblack6@aol.com](mailto:gblack6@aol.com). We hope you can join us!

We will participate in **Second Harvest Bread Boxing** on Friday, November 3 from 9:45 AM to noon. If you are interested in joining your First Pres family to help provide food for the hungry, sign up [here](#). For more information contact Debbie Gibson, [gibsond1207@gmail.com](mailto:gibsond1207@gmail.com).

## 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

Please join us for light refreshments and conversation in the courtyard this Sunday, October 15, immediately following worship!

## Property Team

The property team is thrilled to announce the completion of renovations on three bathrooms — the two upstairs bathrooms in the Education Building, and an all gender ADA accessible bathroom off the Westminster Room. Many thanks to Glen Laird for his leadership.

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