

This Week @ First

Compassionate Witnessing

The intention and work of healing requires a humility born of spirit and a patience nurtured across time. Healing is narrowly focused and expansively curated. Healing is God's miracle and mystery in Jesus Christ.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 26, at 5:00 PM** for a Service of Wholeness and Healing. This worship service will mark the end of a season of the interim intention of a spiritual practices of healing. There will be a practice of "letting go." Congregants will be invited to prepare and send in responses to the prompt, "I am letting go of ..." which will be read aloud and entrusted to God.

There are two more sessions of Compassionate Witnessing scheduled as a part of the Interim goal of healing. Emails were sent to all congregants who have not yet participated or been invited to participate. We need to hear from you. The dates are **Monday evening, December 4th and 11th**. On both evenings we will begin at 6:00 PM at church with a simple meal and end by 9:00 PM.

If you would like to be included, missed the email, or need a conversation about the process please send an email to restoration@OldFirstChurch.org, or call the church and leave a message.

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 and Outreach

Please join us after worship this Sunday, November 12, for fellowship in the courtyard! Light refreshments will be served.

Spiritual Formation

Adult Church School: The Inquirer's class will meet in the Westminster Room with a [Zoom](#) option. Bible Study will resume in 2024.

Our Caring for Creation: Seeking Faithful Justice in a Climate Crisis series continues with "Voices from the Frontlines" with Dr. Bruce Strouble, Executive Director for Citizens for a Sustainable Future and Senior Manager for Equitable Resilience Programs at Groundwork USA. Dr. Strouble previously served as the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Tallahassee and program coordinator for FAMU's Sustainability Institute.

As Advent approaches, please consider obtaining a copy of [Embodied Light: Advent Reflections on the Incarnation](#), by Melissa Tidwell.

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

Confirmation Class meets in room 204 (the Library).

All classes begin at 9:30 AM.



First Pres members provided ice cream and entertainment for a second ice cream social at Home Front, a residential facility for veterans, on November 4. Home Front is operated by Family Promise of the Big Bend, formerly Big Bend Housing Coalition.

Sustainable Holidays: Celebrating Christmas with a Focus on Earth Care

Presbyterians for Earth Care is presenting a free webinar on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:30 PM on what we can do to lessen our impact on the earth, with a special emphasis on celebrating the holidays while caring for our natural environment. Information and a registration form are available [here](#); registrants will receive a zoom link in advance.

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Compassion & Social Justice

We will be helping to serve Sunday Dinner at [Grace Mission](#) this Sunday, November 12, and again on Sunday, December 10. We meet at 4 PM and are finished by 6 PM. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carol Weissert or sign up [here](#).

Still have Halloween candy? If you want to get rid of it, you have another chance to give it a good home. Volunteers will deliver the candy to Grace Mission following the church service on Sunday. A collection box will be in the narthex.

First Pres Joins Capital Area Justice Ministry

On November 8, First Pres formally joined the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) at a network assembly attended by representatives of the 19 member churches. At the covenant ceremony were John Hedrick, Sue Hightower, Glen and Mary Hodges, Kerry Laird, Norma Meier, and Bill and Carol Weissert. CAJM is a diverse coalition of religious congregations in Tallahassee who come together to answer the scriptural call to 'do justice' by bringing together people to solve entrenched local community problems.

Currently CAJM is focusing on three local issues: affordable housing for the very low-income, curbing gun violence, and civil citations as an alternative to arrest among youth.

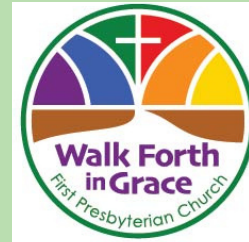
First Pres will host a house meeting in January for our members to share experiences with injustice, learn how we can solve community problems together, and invite commitment to the justice ministry.

In February, CAJM members will hear reports on the three issue areas as a lead-up to a March Nehemiah Action event expected to attract 1,000 people to encourage elected officials to act on specific solutions to community problems.

Worship Team — Communion Preparation

Members of the Worship Team will be in the sanctuary at 10 AM on 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!

Budget & Finance — Stewardship & Giving



We currently have responses from 76 giving units for a total of \$416,140 pledged.

If you are still considering a pledge, please visit the [online pledge form](#) or call the church office.

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

Pastor's Note

Sacred Heart Monastery is a Benedictine Community of nuns in Cullman, Alabama. Pre-pandemic this community applied for and received a grant from the Lilly Foundation to support ecumenical women pastors in spiritual practices to strengthen leadership with Christ for serving the church.

Three years ago, while serving another faithful community like First Presbyterian, I remember the whip of excitement I received when Sister Mary called to invite me to participate. She said, "even this phone call is a nod to our practice of hospitality in an ever changing world." We had no idea about the intensity of change before us with the impending pandemic.

Wednesday, after seven holy days of a last gathering, I stood in front of Sister Mary with great gratitude for her vision and leadership in what I would say has been steady for the living of these days in ministry as a woman pastor. I have new friends in Christ, across religious differences, and have been nurtured in deep practices for leadership with Christ.

On All Soul's Day, we ecumenical sisters followed the nuns in a procession to the cemetery as we sang several Psalms. Gathered at the graveside, we made our alleluias as water was sprinkled upon each grave and the name of the deceased sister was read aloud. The community responded, "Sister pray for us." The ritual was exquisite and reflecting since then has made me mindful of our work as Christ's hands and feet in the world.



Each of us has a gift in the Spirit. We may never know how it shapes another, and yet we claim these gifts, serve in faith, and trust God's shaping. Last in week in worship we saw many of these gifts at work. I am very grateful.

God's peace,
God's presence,
Anne