

This Week @ First

First Sunday Food Collection

Our next collection date will be **this Sunday, January 7, 2024!** Your food donations are brought alternately to Second Harvest and to Elder Care Services (ECS), and have provided hundreds of meals for our hungry and food insecure neighbors. A list of the most needed items includes cereal; peanut butter; canned fruits, vegetables, and meats; and hearty soup or stew. Please leave items in the narthex or church office.



Debbie Gibson, Kerri Laird, Glenn Hodges, and Carl Morse as volunteers prepared to hand out lunch snack packs on Wednesday, January 3. This is a combined effort with First Baptist and Trinity United Methodist Churches, and we will continue working with those congregations to explore the best ways to reach out to the unhoused in downtown Tallahassee.

Dogwood Acres Camp and Retreat Center Presents

Pause

A yoga and mindfulness retreat for women

January 19-21, 2024

The weekend will include gentle yoga instruction, mindfulness exercises, keynote presentations, journaling, guided hikes, healthy meals and snacks, worship/meditation, and time to just be still. The \$200 registration fee includes all activities, lodging, and meals. Space is still available! For more information and to register, visit the Dogwood Acres [website](#).

First Presbyterian Church

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Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))!

Spiritual Formation

Church School: The combined adult class will resume on Sunday, January 7, at 9:30 AM, in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#). The speaker will be Kevin Nye, author of *[Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness](#)*. He will be joining us by Zoom to share insights from his work and guide us in our own discernment of how we can advocate and serve in solidarity with our unhoused neighbors here in Tallahassee.

The children's and confirmation classes will also resume on Sunday, January 7.

Worship Ministry Team

The next communion "training" session will be on Sunday, January 7 at 10 AM. Please email Carolyn Bradley to set up or serve communion (carolynbradley@gmail.com), or Martha Kutter (mkutter@maclay.org) to volunteer for ushering.

Membership Update: New Church Management Program

We are beginning the process of rolling out a new church management program called Breeze. Data has already been transferred from our old program and a test group from the congregation is beginning to learn the new system.

Breeze will allow you to update your own contact information, among other things. You can still contact the church office for assistance if you need it!

You may have noticed there is now a "[Church Calendar](#)" link on the church website. This is possible because of the new program. The email you received last week while the church office was closed was also sent using Breeze.

Please watch for more information. Many thanks to Ann DelRossi, John Guthrie, Chris Corzine, and our office administrator, Lori Touchton, for the work involved in the transition.

Compassion & Social Justice

We will be helping to serve Sunday Dinner at Grace Mission on Sunday, January 14. We meet at 4 PM and are finished by 6 PM. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carol Weissert.



First Pres sends a team to Second Harvest on the first Friday of each month for “bread boxing.” Pictured on January 5, at left: Claire Hodges and Beth Pulliam. At right: Marnie Parry, Sue Scribner, Jonathan Meier, Pam McVety, Jon Hinkle, Tip Tomberlin, Bob McVety, Kay Crowell, Pete Crowell.

To volunteer, contact Debbie Gibson.



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

Pastor's Note

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.
Galatians 4:4-5

Jim and I spent a few days around Christmas cleaning out our attic in advance of selling our Memphis home. We found boxes that we safely stored in the attic, never opened, from our move to Memphis from Mobile in 2002. We also had curated boxes from having cleaned out my grandmother's home in 1989. Pulling boxes out from underneath rafters, unsealing the tape off of boxes sealed when we had a newborn, we took a walk through memory lane. This activity and the turn of a new year has me thinking about time.

What is time that we are mindful of it? What is the fullness of time? What does it mean that in Galatians, we are reminded that God sent Jesus, born of Mary, for redemption and adoption as God's beloved children?

Time moves forward. I know that from the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph* my father's mother saved whose headline read in all caps, WAR OVER, dated Tuesday, August 14, 1945. We knew it together when we found the *Sigma Nu Double Feature Party Pic* dated October 4, 1988, when we were younger than our children now.

Time moves on. And, in the fullness of time, God works out transformation. And in Christ, we are Beloved. Thanks be to God.

Wars cease. Children grow. That's not simply change for change's sake.

It is God's work of transformation. There is a difference between being busy versus being full, in regard to time. Transformation is God's work in the fullness of time — when we recognize the need to be open, to receive. The energy for transformation comes from outside of self, and we are invited into transformation in time as a gift of God's grace. We receive. Being busy is more what modernity teaches us. We seek the right strategy. We tweak something to perfect it. We get busy with change. We fix ourselves into weariness.

God cries from the heaven to us, “Beloved.” There is a profound simplicity to the breath it takes to stop, to breathe, to ask — am I being invited into the fullness of time. Are we being invited into the fullness of time. My hope is grounded in this transformative sense of time as we move forward into the Season of Epiphany.

God's peace, God's presence.
Anne