

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

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

Invitation to Repair: This is the fifth week in our Lenten Pilgrimage. As the Lenten journey continues, we invite you to see the world around you each week in Lent and allow the Spirit to draw your eyes to see the overlooked, discarded and forgotten objects and people. As you are able, bring these, or an object that represents these, to worship to create a visual cairn this Lent on Christ's Table.

Spiritual Formation

Church School: The Inquirer's class will meet in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#) to continue our series on "Disposability." The Adult Bible Study will resume later in the spring. The children's class will meet in Room 306. Classes begin at 9:30 AM.

Care and Outreach

We are collecting eggs to use in the Easter egg hunt. Please fill eggs with stickers, candy, etc. and leave them in the box outside the church office. Thank you! Join us for breakfast on Easter morning at 9:30; Easter egg hunt at 10 AM.

Compassion & Social Justice

If you are interested in becoming part of the **Healing Racism Task Force**, please call or email Ann Westall at adwestall@gmail.com.

To learn more about our lunch snack pack ministry or to volunteer, please contact Carol Weissert.

Presbyterian Women — Save the Date

PW will host a Mission Worship immediately following worship on Sunday, April 14, beginning with a brown-bag lunch and ending at 3 PM.

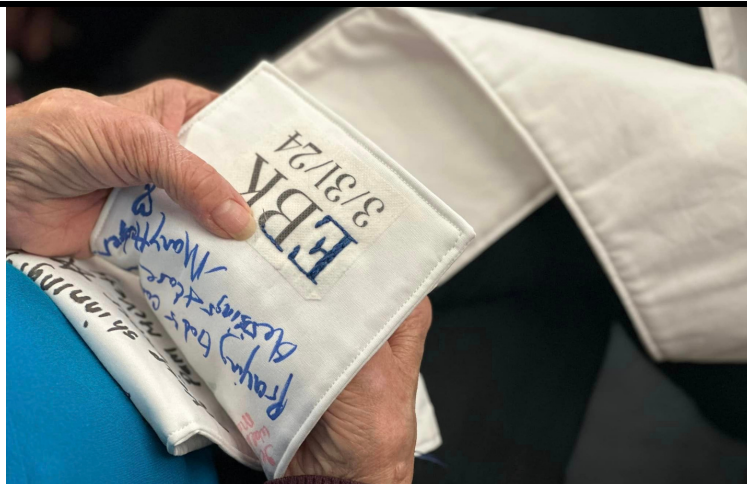
Palm Sunday Labyrinth Walk

Please join us following worship and the Congregational Meeting on Palm Sunday for a labyrinth walk in the courtyard. This ancient spiritual practice invites us to bring our bodies into our prayer as we embark on a "mini pilgrimage" that centers us as we set our faces towards Jerusalem, and journey with Jesus this Holy Week.



Congregational Meeting

The Session is calling a Congregational Meeting at the end of worship on Palm Sunday, March 24th, to elect the slates of the Elder Class of 2026, a new class of Trustees, two members of the endowment committee, and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The slate of nominees and a [Zoom](#) link for the meeting were sent out by email earlier today.



On Easter Sunday the confirmands will receive personalized stoles stitched by members of Together in Service and signed by the congregation. If you have not yet signed the stoles, they will be available before worship this Sunday at a table in the courtyard.

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Pastor's Note

As we draw close to Holy Week, Psalm 22 invites us to remember whose and who we are.

“Commit your cause to the Lord, let him deliver, let him rescue the one in whom he delights! Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me, you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.”

As a young adult volunteer and a deacon at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama, it was an invitation to teach confirmation that led to my eventual call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. God kindled in me a love for the work of the church in ways that were tangible. I am so grateful for that one invitation. And how is it that one invitation could change the course of life? Reflecting upon the joy I found in working with middle schoolers back in the early nineties, I can continue to bear witness to God at work in the unimaginable, unpredictable, even unfathomable. And I am grateful. Grace and gratitude really do travel together with joy. I have a similar joy from my season of work at First Presbyterian as I see the time drawing near to my departure in June. The ReKindle Grant from the Lily Foundation and Columbia Seminary is another place of deep gratitude and joy.

The First Presbyterian ReKindle group (Jane Atkinson, Barbara Busharis, Glenn Hodges, Anna Jordan, Carl Morse, Greta Reed, Linda Smith, Sandi Umanos, and Pierce Withers) is working with ministry coach Reverend Roy Howard, ministry coach, and Reverend Anne Russ, social media consultant. The ReKindle group is working on how we move forward in faith with intentionality about our online presence and actualizing the recommendations of the ERC report. Like those Greeks who came and said to the disciples, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus” the ReKindle group is facilitating intentional opportunities for congregants, church leaders, and others outside the church, to see and to sojourn with Christ. For example, during Lent, maybe you have seen and participated in daily devotional posts on Facebook that were drawn from the weekly Lenten Bible study.

On Easter Sunday, the pieces gathered in worship through the Invitation to Repair will be transformed with the help of local Tallahassee area artists. We wait to see and trust in committing our causes before God who delivers and rescues. It is like an echo rippling through time, “For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

In April, we will host an online Enneagram retreat, and welcome in worship leadership a former Florida State graduate, Eric Wall, who is the Gene Alice Sherman Associate Professor of Sacred Music, and Dean of the Chapel, at Austin Theological Seminary.

In addition to the daily prayer prompts, artful exercises, planning for retreats, and Bible study, the Session is being led by ReKindle with an opening prayer exercise. In attendance at the Session meeting last Sunday were confirmands, parents, grandparents, and a young man coming before the Session to join the church. From that exercise, we were invited to pray the prayers of those sitting next to us. This week, the joy has been mine, to hold a father and his son in prayer — for times of anxiety and nervousness; and for a son and his mother — for how busy life is and recognizing the intention of care. I am grateful for being shaped by the work of the church in moving forward in faith. As we enter Holy Week, I invite you into another ReKindle project when, following the conclusion of the Congregational Meeting and worship, we will join in walking the labyrinth in the courtyard.

God’s peace, God’s presence.
Anne

Dogwood Acres Summer Camp

Save \$50 by [registering](#) before April 1st. Scholarships are available by contacting Program Director Eric Hearn (eric@dogwoodacres.org). Program descriptions are available on the Dogwood Acres [website](#).



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

Session Update

On March 17 the Session moved to receive four new members, including three confirmands, on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024: Zachary Broadway, Palmer Corzine, Abigail Grondzik, and Emmie Kutter.

The Session began the work of the narrative section of the Ministry Profile Form, which will guide the Pastor Nominating Committee. The question considered was, “How would you describe First Presbyterian Church’s specific vision for ministry and how does that vision impact the community? In what ways is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?”

The Treasurer’s Report was received, noting we “remain in a relatively good financial position at this point in the year.” The Personnel Ministry Team reported the planning for the interim departure and a plan for leadership moving ahead. The intention is to bring to the April Session meeting a clear plan for leadership.

The UKirk representative, Patrick Kennedy, reported on having met with Reverend Matt Frease, and thanked the PW circle who agreed to host a meal for the students.