

This Week @ First



Spiritual Formation

The Inquirer's class meets this week at 9:30 AM in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#). We will continue our series on *Peaceful Practices: a Guide to Healthy Communication in Conflict*. The children's class will meet in Room 306. The Adult Bible Study will resume over the summer.

The peaceful practices we are engaging are:

Curiosity: Be curious, inviting diversity of ideas and opinions.

Discovery: Focus on what matters.

Engagement: Invite the best in yourself and others.

Dialogue: Listen together for insights and deeper questions.

Empathy: Seek to understand rather than persuade.

Authenticity: Speak from the heart, contributing your own thinking and experience.

Dignity: Consider power dynamics.

Transformation: Welcome creativity.

Please consider signing up to help with a Sunday meal at **Grace Mission** over the summer months. We need volunteers 4 -6 pm May 12, June 9, July 14th and Aug. 11th. You can sign up [here](#).

Looking Ahead

May 5: State of the Church, 9:30 am

May 19: Pentecost Sunday

June 2: Pastor Anne's last Sunday at FPC



Worship & Music

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

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.

In honor of Tallahassee's Bicentennial, Rev. Davis Thomas was recognized as one of 200 people who laid the foundation for the growth of civil society we find in Tallahassee today. Read more about Davis and the rest of the list in [the Democrat](#).

Richard Davis Thomas (1920 – 2016)

Rev. Richard Davis Thomas had served in Missouri and Arkansas before he, Virginia, and their five children arrived in Tallahassee in 1956 for him to be the lead pastor at First Presbyterian Church.



Reverend Davis Thomas was pastor at First Presbyterian Church from June 1956 to January 1968. First Presbyterian Church Tallahassee, Florida

First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: (850) 222-4504/Fax: (850) 222-2215

Email: office@oldfirstchurch.org

Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

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Pastor's Note

Influence is a funny thing.

As a mother, and partner to Jim, there was a particular type of influence that we desired for our children. We wanted the right group of friends, the academic influence that best shaped their particular gift set, and an environment that would help them develop into well-balanced, honest, kind, and faithful people. The church was the primary vehicle for that environment.

Our children would tell you we wanted an influence over our children that included significant limitations and radical boundaries. They would say, if the church doors were open, we were there... arriving first to unlock and leaving last to turn off the lights. We didn't give them an option, going to church was what we did.

Rev. Davis Thomas was nominated and named as one of the top 200 most influential people in Tallahassee and that story ran in the *Democrat* today. Davis served First Presbyterian Church from 1956-1968. Twelve years which marked a massive cultural, political, and economic shifts in our country. Davis began his ministry the year Elvis Presley first appeared on the Ed Sullivan show and Don't Be Cruel topped the charts. It was also the year IBM introduced the Hard Disc Drive (HDD). The Presbyterian Church was in a state of change much as it is now. Two years into his pastorate the then PC(USA) merged with the United Presbyterian Church to form the predecessor denominational body of the current PC(USA). Those changes included many perspectives and were accomplished by the influence of many.

First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, has been influenced by many people over time. When I think of how I have been influenced, one perspective I will take with me is the influence of Virginia Thomas. In sharing her testimony at the Wholeness and Healing worship service and with our confirmation class, Virginia said, "I just wanted God. And the names for God brought God to me. This list from the Psalms was to be a miracle."

Virginia taught me about a faith practice which includes reading the Psalms with a box of crayons and paying attention to all the names of God. That spiritual discipline has "brought God" to her. That witness was important for me to hear. I have been deeply influenced by her story and practice.

Jim and I look at one another sometimes and shake our heads wondering how we ever managed to "Get here." Not to Tallahassee, specifically, but a middle aged couple with grown children who are really good people. I am grateful for pastoral partners in ministry. For their influence and perspective. Last weekend, Jim both participated in the Enneagram retreat and climbed up the steeple to understand where we might have water intrusion. He loaded his truck for goods for Dogwood Acres and will take a group of parents and children to the FSU Circus this weekend.

This partnership in marriage and ministry reminds me of the scripture from 1 Corinthians that says "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." This week Jim came to church and packed up some of the office furniture we brought to Tallahassee as he will be taking a truck load to North Carolina next weekend while I go away with some seminary friends to celebrate 50th birthdays. Influence comes in many forms, sometimes sudden and unforgettable, other times, slow and steady – in fact, frequently imperceptible – until you look back and see how the water has carved the rock. Here is what I know; I am grateful for partners in ministry and their behind-the-scenes influence – like Virginia to Davis and Jim to me.

God's peace, God's presence,
Anne

School Supply Drive

Turning 20 and Thriving:
BACK TO SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA
PRODUCED By: LEKAYLA GRIFFIN

I'm turning my 20th birthday into a time of helping out my community through a BTS Drive!

Drop Off Locations

- Tropical Smoothie (Ocala Rd)
- Thagard
- Faith Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Christ Presbyterian Church
- Leon County School Board Office

Drive Ends: **6/2**

PREFER Pickup?
Contact me!
Lekayla.griffin@gmail.com
OR (448) 488 5619

MONETARY DONATIONS
CashApp
\$LekaylaGriffin
Venmo
Lekayla-Griffin

Swipe →



ACCEPTED ITEMS

Supplies

- Backpacks
- Crayons + Markers
- Pencils + Pens
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Notebooks+ Notebook Paper
- Index Cards
- Erasers
- Construction Paper
- Lunch Boxes



Health/Safety

- Feminine Products
- Lotion + Sunscreen
- Soap
- Clothes
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Baby Wipes
- Lip Balm
- Reusable Water Bottles
- Clorox Wipes
- Lysol Spray
- Kleenex tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Zip Loc Bags
- Band-Aids

Happy 20th Birthday LeKayla

All items will be donated to students attending Pine View Elementary + Oakridge Elementary.

Supported by the FPC Compassion and Social Justice Team

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



Thanks to the PW for a great Spring Mission Workshop and thank you to our office volunteers for "going with the flow!" And special thanks to Donnie Watts for arranging them from February through May!