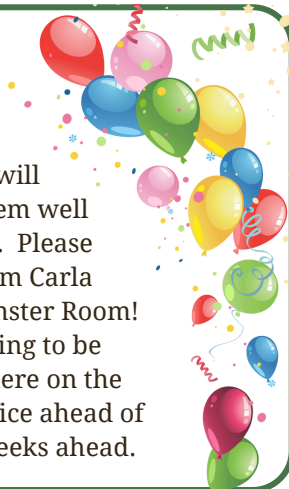


This Week @ First

Save the Date: Sunday, June 2

On Sunday, June 2, following worship, we will celebrate Anne and Jim Apple and wish them well as they leave Tallahassee for Montreat, NC. Please plan to stay for a light lunch and music from Carla Connors and Tim Hoekman in the Westminster Room! We will collect cards and letters that morning to be given to Anne and Jim; if you will not be there on the 2nd, you can leave a card in the church office ahead of time. Watch for additional details in the weeks ahead.



Worship & Music

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

Spiritual Formation

The adult Sunday school class will take the form of a "State of the Church" meeting this week, in the Westminster Room and on [Zoom](#).

The children's class will meet in Room 306 at 9:30 and will begin with a music lesson with Ms. Aide.

First Sunday Food Collection

Don't forget to bring your non-perishable food items to the narthex on Sunday, May 5, to be shared with Second Harvest or Elder Services!

Volunteer Opportunity: Conversational English Class

Peggy Wright-Cleveland, Abbey Leier-Murphy, and Fred Kilgallin are starting a Sunday afternoon conversational English class to help those for whom English is a second language. If anyone is interested in working with the group, regularly or occasionally, please contact Peggy.



Thanks to our most recent Bread Boxing volunteers: Sue Scribner, Jon Hinkle, Marnie Parry, Norma Meier, and Jon Meier.

Compassion & Social Justice

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

[CAJM](#) will gather to celebrate the strides made at the Nehemiah Action and to provide support for the justice ministry on Tuesday, May 14, at 6 PM, at Temple Israel, 2215 Mahan Drive.

We are considering offering **laundry services** during the summer. If you are interested in volunteering to help with that on Wednesday mornings, please contact Debbie Gibson.

For information about volunteering with the **Snack Pack ministry** or other activities of the Compassion & Social Justice team, please contact Debbie Gibson.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Please wish a happy May birthday to: Beverley Booth, Palmer Corzine, Jim Davis, Nancy Davis, Joe Fixel, Rachel Hillman, Grant Hodges, Elizabeth LaJeunesse, Wilson Nalls, Rich Peyton, Greta Reed, Erin Rosica, and Bear Specht!

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

First Presbyterian Church

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Published on May 3, 2024

Pastor's Note



Psalm 90:12 says, “So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.” Thirty days to go in this particular transitional interim calling at First Presbyterian Church. Days numbered not to provoke anxiety, yours, or ours. Days numbered to savor the grace of serving resilient and beloved people. Days numbered to recognize the priorities in tasks to be completed. Days to be reminded of God’s good providence in nurturing wisdom.

I kept a running list of things “not” to do in an interim. My family often says to me, “You are not funny. Entertaining? Yes.” Top of the “not-to-do-in-an-interim” list was, “Do not back out of the garage before the door is fully opened.” My family is correct. Not funny, definitely entertaining.



That was the day that Janet Bowman and I were going to talk about church by-laws. Instead, Janet came to the house with a cup of coffee and a sweet treat. We talked, not about by-laws. And in remembering my mindless, hurried garage door mistake, gratitude remains the constant for the ways this congregation meets people in the “where” of where they are.

This “presence” will be important as the congregation moves forward in faith - to meet yourselves where you are. This congregation faces another transition. And as the Psalmist says, “Receiving God’s instruction that we might count our days and be wisened in heart.” Wise hearts make for strong and hopeful witness.



As we move forward, a reminder of the grace before us. We have a strong staff. We have several great folks who work part time. In our Worship and Music Ministry Staff, we have two part time employees who work ten hours a week, and five choral scholars who sing in the choir. Ethan Murphy, our choir director, has just completed his coursework for his PhD! I happened upon Ethan Wednesday afternoon in the church office, the day he turned in his last paper. Talk about lightness and an expression of joy. I witnessed the relief of a semester ending that day! Ethan will be working on his dissertation over the course of the next year.

Elizabeth LaJeunesse, our organist, is a collaborative pianist in a variety of solo and choral settings. Just for fun, and understanding, this semester she played for 9 recitals, 7 chorus concerts, 27 juries, 56 band solos, and many day-to-day lessons, studio classes, and rehearsals for all those multifaceted performances. I had the joy of seeing some of that come together on our Re-Kindle weekend when Elizabeth played with Andre Thomas, at the Alumni Chorus Concert.



Ethan and Elizabeth have been fabulous colleagues in the collaborative work of the church and willing participants in the interim goal of “exploring worship and program.” If you participated in the Creation Care Service of Lessons and Carols this week, or if you came to the World Communion Music afternoon concert, you witnessed just a fraction of the ways they serve the church outside of preparation for, and helping to lead, Sunday worship. Please join me in giving thanks to God for their gifts shared in this community and a strong blessing that Summer offers them time to unwind and refuel for the school year!

On the Administrative side of the church, we have Fran Owens, who serves as our part time Financial Administrator. She just celebrated her first year anniversary with First Presbyterian! Fran has helped us to create a cash basis accounting system, and to systemize our financial record keeping. She works hand in hand with our Treasurer, and has enabled the church membership to receive regular quarterly statements.

Becky Brown is our full time custodian and Sunday host. Becky splits her time in cleaning the Preschool daily, and then systematically keeps the sanctuary, and other church spaces, neat and in order. On Sunday mornings, you might not know, but Becky is the one who sets up the space whether we are hosting the PW Spring Mission fair or the weekly Inquirer’s Class. Fran and Becky are often behind the scenes, and let it not be missed, strong partners and collaborators in assuring the church can serve our mission with confidence. We are in the midst of interviewing candidates for our communications and administrative position and hope to have a person in place in the next three weeks.

This Sunday we will have a State of the Church Address from 9:30–10:30 in the Westminster Room, and by Zoom. Please join us to see where we have been and where we are going — trusting that God is watching our coming in and our going out, from this time on and until forevermore!

God’s peace, God’s presence.

Anne

Looking Ahead:

May 12: Second Sunday Fellowship
and welcome of new members
following worship

May 19: Pentecost Sunday

June 2: Anne and Jim Apple’s last
Sunday at FPC