

# This Week @ First

## Save the Date: Sunday, June 2

Remember to mark your calendars and plan to stay for a light lunch after worship on June 2 to celebrate Anne and Jim Apple and all they have shared with us over the past eighteen months. Bring a card or letter to be collected that morning, or bring one to the church office ahead of time.



Anne with members of the Together in Service Circle, who presented her with a stole commemorating the time she has spent with us.

## Visit of Pastor Alison Infante: June 9 & 16, 2024

Pastor Alison Infante from the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba, who visited us as an International Peacemaker in 2023, will return to preach for two Sundays in June: June 9th and June 16th. During the week he and his wife, Elder Sarahi Garcia, will be visiting other congregations and locations, but we will be hosting them for two weekends. **If you can assist with driving, host a meal, or provide lodging for the weekend of June 14-16**, please contact Barbara Busharis. Alison and Sarahi have led Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cardenas for over a decade, and we are thrilled to be able to welcome them to Tallahassee together!



## New Link for Announcements

We are continuing to expand our use of the Breeze church management system, which now includes a form for submitting announcements through Breeze. To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or the Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this new link](#), which will take you to an online form. You can access the form directly through Breeze, as well.

Thank you!

## Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))! This week local civic leader and historian Althemese Barnes will be attending worship with a group visiting from Central Florida for the Emancipation Day activities; she will be sharing with them about the plaque acknowledging the racism in our congregation's history. Please join them for refreshments in the courtyard before worship.

## Spiritual Formation

The Inquirers will continue meeting in the Westminster Room and on [Zoom](#) through June 2 to complete the Peaceful Practices series. This week will be devoted to authenticity: *speaking from the heart, contributing your own thinking and experience*. Please remember to bring your notebooks for journaling. Childcare will be available on May 19 and May 26. The class on June 2 will be an intergenerational class reflecting on the theme of "Transformation."

The children's class will meet in Room 306 at 9:30.

## Compassion & Social Justice

Please consider signing up to help with a **Sunday meal at Grace Mission** over the summer months. You can sign up [here](#).

**Emancipation Proclamation Day:** The annual reading and program of the Emancipation Proclamation for the State of Florida takes place on May 20th at the Knott House Museum, located on the corner of Park Avenue and Calhoun Street, beginning at 11:30 AM. Pastor Anne will give an Invocation.

We are considering offering **laundry services** during the summer. For more information on this, the **Snack Pack ministry**, or other activities of the Compassion & Social Justice team, please contact Debbie Gibson.

### First Presbyterian Church

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# Pastor's Note

Ephesians 5:7-8

*For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord, you are light. Live as children of light for the fruit of Light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

In the early days of Advent 2022, we began a season of life together in Christ's church. After the Confession, but before we passed the peace, we sang, "I want to live as a child of the Light." Responding to the Affirmation, there's nothing more true that could be said of my innermost desire than that, "*I want to live as a child of the Light.*"

When Epiphany rose after our first Advent together, we gathered and made stars. A few of those hung in the sanctuary windows. And at the end of the season we handed out stars, each with a word to inspire. God is the Creator of the stars in the night sky and we are co-creators with Christ's love and the Holy Spirit. We have stars as reminders to be light, but also to nudge us to follow, to seek, to search for Christ's light. The light of that first star was a guide that led the wise ones to Christ and sent them home by another way. I wonder how Christ's light will lead us by another way, along a path that we had not expected.

With two weeks left at First Presbyterian, Tallahassee, this part of my star-lit journey is coming to an end. And we are at a necessary ending. Cloud and Townsend describe such an ending in a framework of growth. "Growth itself demands that we move on. Without the ability to end things, people stay stuck, never becoming who they are meant to be, never accomplishing all that their talents could afford them." Jim and I knew our capacity to serve would be stretched in this call — for many reasons — two careers, balancing young adult children in three different cities and aging parents with health challenges in different cities. And we knew this as call. We listened. Risked. Followed. We have been grown here, and trust God will grow us in new ways now as we make our "way home by another way."

One of the hard things about endings is that I know many things will be left undone. Rather than think of these "open items" as missed deadlines, I am going to consider them as talismans to hope, to consider them as representative of the potential of this church and her people. We want to be the healthiest body we can be so that God's mission may be strengthened for service.

God, in Christ Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
God, in three persons,  
One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all,  
has this church — as God has, does, and will forevermore.

The fruit of Light is found in all that is good, and right, and true.

Each of you is a star and held collectively in God's providence, a beautiful constellation.

God's peace,  
God's presence,  
Anne

## English Conversation Circles



**Sundays, 3 PM — 4 PM**  
**June 2 — July 28, 2024**  
**Westminster Room**

**First Presbyterian Church**

Adults working to become fluent in English are invited to practice their conversational English skills with Native English speakers. If you are interested in volunteering, you can use the code at left to register for specific dates.

Volunteers should plan to attend a one-hour training after worship on May 26. The training will include information and practice initiating conversation, asking for clarification, making corrections, and offering extensions of concepts or language; conversational prompts will be provided. For more information, contact Peggy Wright-Cleveland.



**15 MINUTES OF GUIDED  
MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP**

*Explore the Ancient Christian  
Spiritual Practice of Meditation*

**Sunday Mornings @ 10:30 AM**  
**Starting May 19th, John Calvin Room**

**BEGINNERS WELCOME—NO EXPERIENCE  
NEEDED!**