

# This Week @ First

## Worship & Music

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

## Compassion & Social Justice

**CAJM Celebration June 18th:** The Capital Area Justice Ministry will hold its last event of the 2023-2024 year on Tuesday, June 18th from 6-8 PM at Temple Israel. This is a Justice Ministry Celebration celebrating what happened during the year and outlining next steps for the coming year. Food will be provided. [RVSP here.](#)



## PW Gathering

On Sunday, August 25th from 3:30-5:00 pm, Presbyterian Women will kick off their 2024—2025 year with a Fall Gathering. We will meet in the Westminster Room for a time of fellowship, refreshments, mission and study. Pierce Withers will be our guest speaker and introduce our upcoming study entitled *Let Justice Roll Down: God's call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Mark your calendars — you won't want to miss this special gathering!

## Back to School Drive

First Pres' former youth, LeKayla Griffin, is celebrating her birthday this year by holding a drive for school supplies. The timeline has been extended to the end of June. Accepted supplies include: index cards, pens/pencils, crayons/markers, notebooks/notebook paper, construction paper, and some larger items. Items are to be placed in the container on the table located outside of the office. Thanks for helping LeKayla pay it forward!



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!*

Register here to  
volunteer for  
**English Conversation  
Circles**  
Sundays, 3 PM — 4 PM  
June 2 — July 28, 2024



## Notice of Congregational Meeting

At the close of Worship on June 16, 2024, a congregational meeting will be held for the purposes of electing Glenn Hodges as Designated Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, and for approving his terms of call. Rev. Dr. Greta Reed will serve as moderator. If you are unable to attend in person, a link to the zoom meeting can be found [here](#).



Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to deliver food on the 4th of July. If you are interested in signing up to help, please visit the volunteer sign-up table in the courtyard after Worship on June 16th and 23rd or call the Church Office.

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!

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"File:Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn - Return of the Prodigal Son - Google Art Project.jpg." Wikimedia Commons. 5 Oct 2022, 00:26 UTC. 14 Jun 2024, 15:56

**Pierce Todd Withers, M.A., M. Div.**  
**Director of Spiritual Formation**

In his spiritual classic “The Return of the Prodigal Son,” the late Henri Nouwen writes how a chance encounter with a reproduction of the famous Rembrandt painting by the same name led him to make a pilgrimage to St. Petersburg, Russia to see the original masterpiece housed in the Hermitage Museum. Nouwen uses Jesus’ parable in Luke (15:11-32) and Rembrandt’s painting as an image for the Christian life. Describing in turn how each person is like the younger son in need of grace and understanding, the elder son who struggles with pridefulness and resentments, and finally the loving and forgiving father who is able to let go of old hurts, Nouwen uses the painting and Gospel parable as an invitation to explore our own spiritual journeys.

Father’s Day always passes as a bittersweet occasion for me; I miss my dad who passed away while I was still a young man. I am also aware that some of us have complicated and even painful relationships with our own fathers. Others have lost their fathers prematurely like me and some never knew their father at all. The truth is, families come in all shapes and sizes, and I have known more than a few older sisters who took of the role of head of the household, parents who must be both mother and father, and foster parents who take on the role of parenting when the brokenness of this world impacts the life of a child.

When I make a pilgrimage, I often take Nouwen’s little book to remind me that I am called to be like my heavenly parent who forgives and celebrates the return of a wayward child who was “dead and came to life, lost and is found.” In baptism, I am a member of Christ’s family, called to be love and light in a broken world. This Father’s Day, I celebrate all the families that come in so many different shapes and sizes, and all the father figures who make this world a better place by their living examples of love and compassion.

¡Buen Camino!  
Pierce



**Ways to Serve**

A banner featuring the text 'Ways to Serve' in a large, white, outlined font. The background consists of a row of colorful hands in various colors (purple, brown, yellow, green, blue, orange, red, yellow, purple) with pink hearts on their palms.

Looking for ways to serve your community this Summer? Take a look at the new Ways to Serve page on our website! There are plenty of opportunities, no matter your talents or interests. The page can be found [here](#).