

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

The mission of the Compassion & Social Justice committee is to work with those in our community who need protection, nurture, and care. Each month there are several opportunities for you and your family to join in this ministry of sharing God's love with our neighbors, focusing specifically on those who are hungry and unsheltered.

Each 1st Friday (8/2) - Second Harvest Bread Boxing (10 people needed) Sign up [here](#).

Every Wednesday — 10:45 AM-12 PM, distribute "snack packs" to unsheltered neighbors.

Every Wednesday — 9:45 AM-1 PM, provide laundry services for unsheltered neighbors. If you are interested in being part of a rotating team of volunteers for either of the ministries on Wednesdays, please contact Debbie Gibson at gibsond1207@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Let Justice Roll Down



God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

FALL GATHERING

Westminster Room
3:30 - 5:30 PM
Sunday, August 25, 2024

PW School Supplies Drive

Presbyterian Women will be collecting school supplies for our beloved First Presbyterian Preschool. We will bring these gifts to our Fall Gathering in August. A list of requested school supplies can be found [here](#).



Summer Hymn Sing: Vote for Your Favorite Hymns



Nominate your favorite hymns for our Congregational Hymn Sing on July 28th during the worship hour! If you have not yet suggested hymns, you can complete a ballot [here](#).



15 MINUTES OF GUIDED MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

*Explore the Ancient Christian
Spiritual Practice of Meditation*

**Sunday Mornings @ 10:30am
John Calvin Room**

**BEGINNERS WELCOME
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

St. John's Bible Presentation at Westminster Oaks

Tuesday, July 23, 10:00 AM
Maguire Center

In 1998, Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a hand-written, illuminated Bible.

Explore this work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millenium.

Mark your calendars...

Service of Ordination

Glenn Hodges will be ordained on Sunday, July 28, 2024 at 4 PM in the sanctuary.

A reception will follow in the Westminster Room.

Please join us in celebration and thanksgiving!

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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Pastoral Note

The 226 General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA) was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Salt Palace Convention Center, between Jun 29 and July 4, 2024. The GA is a church council comprising commissioners from the PCUSA, with teaching elders (ministers of the Word and Sacrament) and ruling elders represented in equal numbers. More than 500 delegates and eighty-two young adult advisory delegates were in attendance. The role of the young adult advisory delegates was to inform commissioners about issues and ideas they might have yet to learn. Commissioners and advisory delegates gathered for in-person plenary sessions to discern the church's direction and make decisions that will be implemented throughout the life of the PCUSA. The GA committees met online in three-day sessions before in-person meetings in Salt Lake City. The GA's theme was "Living into Hope," the name of a 1976 hymn text by Jane Parker Huber.

Approximately 34 overtures were presented to GA by presbyteries. One highlight of the meetings was the approval of both portions of the Olympia Overture. POL01, which had been divided into two parts, will amend the Book of Order to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories against which this Church does not discriminate. The purpose of the language is to avoid discriminating against groups of people based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, and ability. This action by the GA reminds us that we should act lovingly toward others and will be sent to presbyteries for ratification. As the presbyteries go about this process, we must remember the importance of living in unity and hope, bearing one another in love.

Another significant moment was the GA's reconsideration and rejection of EVN02, the complete divestment from the fossil fuel industry, after having voted in favor of it earlier in the day. Burning fossil fuels creates air pollution and toxic emissions that drive climate change. It also releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the air and causes global warming.

I was impressed by the witness of the young adult advisory delegates in support of POL01 and EVN02. As each person shared their thoughts, it was encouraging to see and hear the Holy Spirit at work in their expression of love for humanity and the earth. I was witnessing what "living into hope" means. We should all live by their example.



Ways to Serve

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](#).