

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.

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.

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.

Florida's Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday starts on July 29 and goes until August 11. If you plan on purchasing supplies to donate, this is a great time to head to the store. A list of requested school supplies can be found [here](#).



Ways to Serve

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

First Sunday Food Collection

This Sunday, August 4, is the day for you to bring non-perishable food items to the narthex. Donations are shared alternately with Second Harvest and Elder Care Services. A list of the most needed items includes cereal; peanut butter; canned fruits, vegetables, and meats; and hearty soup or stew. Thank you for your support!

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC will be meeting this Sunday, August 4, to continue our work. We are happy to report that the Presbytery Ministry of Pastoral Transitions has approved our Ministry Discernment Profile, which in turn has been uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection website. We have also placed an ad in *Presbyterian Outlook* and are looking at other publications and websites where we might publicize this opening.

Healing Racism Task Force

The Healing Racism Task Force is a concerned group of FPC individuals who are working within the church and the community to acknowledge, repent and repair the sin of racism.

We will be meeting immediately after church on August 11 in the John Knox room (bring a bag lunch). Priscilla Hawkins, who is the director of the Black History Alliance, will be meeting with us to share her thoughts. All who are interested in being a part of this important ministry are invited. Please contact Ann Westall if you have questions.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Our Amazing August Birthdays:

Bruce Bickley, Daniel Bruno, Ilsa Bruno, Richard Bush, Thomas Guthrie, Claire Hodges, Stephen Hodges, Tim Hoekman, Deborah Keilty, Drew Kirk, Barbara Kronholz, Paul Kutter, Glenn Laird, Kathy Snyder,

Darsey Strange, Charlee Taylor, and Aidan Tozer.

Have any pictures from church events that you would like to share with us? Send them in a message on [facebook](#) or you can email them to kelby@oldfirstchurch.org.

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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Special Ordination Edition





Pastoral Note

First Presbyterian Church was represented as a member of the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) at the July 16-19, 2024, DART (Direct Action and Research Training Center) Justice Ministry Conference.

CAJM had nine attendees, representing seven congregations of its 19-member justice ministry, who joined over 300 individuals from 29 other DART Network-affiliated justice ministries. The presenters provided a plethora of thought-provoking information about how we can effectively do justice ministry. Our participation in the event was timely, as CAJM, in partnership with its 19-member congregations, prepares to kick off another season of advocating for social justice.

August is a busy month in our church! Not only are we getting ready for teachers and students to return to the school classrooms, but we are also getting ready to return to our church classrooms. On top of that, we are getting ready to begin planning our social justice work year with CAJM. It's time to renew our interest and commitment to solving the issues of insufficient affordable housing and gun violence.

Thankfully, a core of the Compassion and Social Justice (CSJ) ministry team as well as other members of the congregation became involved and participated in CAJM activities soon after the session approved our church's investment last fall. We attended the CAJM Kickoff where the meeting focused on the goal of at least 1,000 people being present at the Nehemiah Action on April 16, 2024, so that elected officials would pay attention! We invited lead organizer Leah Wiley to join us for worship and fellowship to introduce CAJM to First Presbyterian Church form. We hosted three "house" meetings, allowing interested congregants to discuss and reflect on their values and experiences with community problems, and to be part of the church's justice ministry. We joined other CAJM members at the commissioners' meetings, wearing green for justice to support affordable housing as a Blueprint infrastructure project, to allow spending of public penny tax revenue on producing more affordable housing for low-income families who have to choose between paying rent or childcare, or buying food or medication. We attended the CAJM Pep Rally to launch the April 16 Nehemiah Action, which more than 700 people attended. Finally, we attended the Justice Celebration on June 18 at Temple Israel, which included an update on the issues, investing in the future of CAJM, upcoming training, fall house meetings, and important dates.

So, we have come full circle and even more participation from the congregation is needed. Please be ready to answer with a resounding, "Yes" when CSJ reaches out to you within the next couple of weeks about your participation in CAJM.

Rev. Glenn Hodges



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!

“

He has shown you, O
mortal, what is good. And
what does the Lord
require of you? To act
justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with
your God.

–Micah 6:8

”

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