

# This Week @ First

## Worship & Music

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

## Session Ministry Teams

The mission program of our church is carried out by ministry teams. Each ministry team is designated by the session with a particular focus. Teams meet monthly or as needed and report to the session. These teams work together in cooperation with each other to support worship, service and spiritual growth in the church. Over the next several weeks we will be introducing you to the current leadership of the teams. Feel free to speak to any of them about how you might participate, or read more about the teams on the church website.

## 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](#).



## 2024 Fall Office Schedule

It's that time of year where our office staff's scheduled hours are changing. The schedule for our staff's Fall hours can be found [here](#) or on the church calendar. We will be in need of office volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12–2 PM. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out this [form](#).

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## Pastoral Transition Plan Update from the Personnel Team

Earlier this month our Director of Spiritual Formation, Pierce Withers, joined the staff of Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare as a resident in the Spiritual Care Department. The year-long residency program immerses Pierce in all aspects of providing emotional and spiritual support to patients, families and staff in a clinical setting. His initial assignments are the Women's Pavilion and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Neurological Intermediate Care Unit. Gaining experience in pastoral care in a clinical setting is a requirement for ordination in the Episcopal Church and this residency will move him one step closer to joining the priesthood. Pierce will continue to serve First Presbyterian Church as a member of the pastoral transition leadership team, but with reduced hours and scope of responsibilities. He will co-lead worship twice a month, continue to facilitate spiritual formation programs, and collaborate with leadership and staff on church communications. We are grateful to Pierce for his full-time leadership over the summer months when we were without a pastor, and look forward to journeying with him over the coming year at TMH.

## Newsletter Features

We want to feature you in our newsletters! Do you have a story you want to share or a special event coming up? Are you a part of a group or team that you want other members of the church to know about? Were you recognized for an award or did you accomplish something? Fill out this [form](#) so we can spread your good news!



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!

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](mailto:kelby@oldfirstchurch.org).

## Adult Sunday School

The Spiritual Formation Team is planning for two adult Sunday morning classes: the Inquirers Class and the Adult Bible Study Class. If you are interested in either class, please send a note to [riccardi.greg@gmail.com](mailto:riccardi.greg@gmail.com). We are trying to estimate interest and likely attendance. The classes will meet before worship beginning after Labor Day.

## Sunday School

This Sunday, August 18, will be our first week back to regular Sunday school for children, middle schoolers and high schoolers. Sunday School for grades K-5 is in classroom 306 and begins at 9:30am with a music lesson from Ms. Aide. Snack is at 10:15am and pick up is between 10:30am and 10:40am. Sunday School for middle and high schoolers is in classroom 301.



# 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



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!*

## 2024-2025 BELINDA KELLY SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

First Presbyterian Preschool  
110 N. Adams Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

This scholarship offsets tuition expenses for families who otherwise would not be able to have their child attend our preschool.

Donations are tax-deductible.

Contributions will be collected after church on Sunday, August 18 in the courtyard.

You can contribute to the fund at anytime by sending a check to the address above or online.

Your support of our preschool scholarship fund directly enriches young children's lives and is a vital part of our ministry to the community. The Preschool Board thanks you for your consideration of this request.





# Pastoral Note

Since 2017, a national shortage in affordable housing has contributed to the rise in “people who are unhoused.” Earlier this year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that 650,000 people lived in shelters, outside tents, or cars—a twelve percent increase from last year. The most significant rise is among families and the Hispanic population. Nearly 40% of “people who are unhoused” are African Americans, and a quarter are seniors.

This increase in the unhoused affects local communities such as ours. As a downtown church, we are particularly affected by the rise in the unhoused because they gather in places where street services and businesses are located. First Presbyterian Church partners with other downtown churches, i.e., Trinity Methodist, First Baptist, and St John’s Episcopal, to address some of the needs of the unhoused. Our church provides direct intervention each Wednesday by offering weekly snacks, limited laundry, shower services, and individual bus passes for public transportation. However, the needs of the unhoused are more significant than our available resources.

This gap between needs and resources is felt throughout the area. The Kearny Center, our city’s leading local shelter, also feels the strain. Due to the increase in “people who are unhoused.” throughout the area, the shelter always functions at capacity. It charges out-of-state clients \$10.00 a night to stay at the shelter as they attempt to manage the sharp influx of people seeking help.

Actions by the Florida legislature and the United States Supreme Court appear to exacerbate the plight of the unhoused. In March, House Bill 1365 (HB 1365), “Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping,” was passed by the Florida Legislature. This bill prohibits Florida cities and counties from allowing people to sleep in public places. In June, the United States Supreme Court held that local government ordinances with civil and criminal penalties for camping on public land do not constitute cruel and unusual punishment of unhoused people. Given the increase in the unhoused amid what appears to be enhanced legal constraints, what should the church's response be?

For decades, First Presbyterian Church and others in the community have responded to the needs of the poor, including the unhoused. Many organizations in this community that serve the unhoused have their roots in local churches. Churches respond to the poor no matter the need, whether by erecting congregant meal sites or temporary shelters and providing other forms of direct assistance. Yet, there is much debate today about whether prevention would be more effective. First Presbyterian Church recently joined the Capital Area Justice Ministry, a coalition of 20 religious congregations in the Tallahassee area committed to solving problems faced by the poor. Perhaps a combination of direct intervention, along with prevention efforts through the partnerships of churches and secular organizations, including the government, is an effective way to address the problems of the unhoused.

Truly I tell you,  
just as you did it to one of the  
least of these who are members  
of my family,  
you did it to me.

—Matthew 25:40