

# This Week @ First

## Worship & Music

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

## Compassion and Social Justice

The Compassion and Social Justice team has continued to expand the offerings we provide to our unsheltered neighbors on Wednesdays. After doing laundry for about six weeks, this past Wednesday we added showers to the assistance we provide. We have had a great group of volunteers keeping our snack pack program going and taking up laundry as well. To continue offering showers, though, we will need additional volunteers. Showers are offered during the same time we offer laundry (10 - 12) but, to ensure the safety of everyone, the Session has required that we have a mixed gender team working with our neighbors. Right now we have two very committed men who do laundry, but we could use additional ladies. If you'd like to know more about what's being done or to volunteer, please contact Debbie Gibson ([gibsond1207@gmail.com](mailto:gibsond1207@gmail.com)).

**Second Harvest Bread Boxing** will take place on Friday, September 6. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up [here](#).

## First Sunday Food Collection

This Sunday, September 1, 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!

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).

### First Presbyterian Church

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Our Superb September Birthdays: Janet Bowman, Elizabeth Bradley, Lowell Clary, Taylor Codrick, Jose Cruz, Ann Cullison, Ruben Diaz Perez, Mateo Diaz-Atkinson, Jennifer Hanson, Fred Hawkes, Glenn Hodges, Daniel Hoekman, Korey Lowry, Jonathan Witmer, and Kelby Yoder.

## Sunday School

Sunday School students are invited to join us in Sunday School class beginning at 9:30 AM each week. Children (grades K-5) are in room 306 and Middle and High School students will be in room 301. A nurse will be available each Sunday starting at 9:15 AM.



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!**

## Congregational Update

We know congregants are concerned for Lee Earl Daniels, who has been sleeping on our front porch for over a year. We have worked with him to find other options as well as offering transportation and other support. Ultimately it is not sustainable or safe to allow the front porch to be used as a permanent shelter. We will continue to encourage him to accept another safe solution. Please keep Lee Earl in your prayers along with all of our unhoused neighbors, especially those struggling with mental illness.

## Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers from 12-2 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If interested in volunteering, there are a few ways to sign up: go to the breeze calendar and sign up to volunteer, fill out this [form](#) or email Kelby, [kelby@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto: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!

## Candlelight Concert Series

The Candlelight Concert Series will have its first concert on Saturday, September 7th here in the Sanctuary. Tickets can be purchased [online](#).



# Compassion and Social Justice Team

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. This week highlights the Compassion and Social Justice Team (CSJ).



**Debbie Gibson, Chair**

The Compassion and Social Justice Team plans and coordinates the local mission of our church, promoting social justice and care for God's creation. The current priorities of this team are hunger, homelessness, and advocacy. Debbie Gibson, a current session member, has worked with the CSJ Team for about 20 years, but this is the first time she has chaired the team. She sees the work of this team as the hands and feet of Jesus, responding to Matthew 25:40.

In addition to long-standing projects such as bread boxing at Second Harvest of the Big Bend, preparation and delivery of meals for Meals on Wheels on the Fourth of July, serving dinner to the homeless at Grace Mission the 2nd Sunday of each month, and the newer Wednesday snack packs for those who are hungry in coordination with other downtown churches, financial support is provided to other charitable groups such as the Kearney Center and Grace Mission. Advocacy efforts are directed to addressing the needs of those who remain unhoused, to abolishment of the death penalty, and to creation care. CSJ is a member of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition (now Family Progress) and is participating in the work of the Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM).

A list of current activities can be found on the church website. Helping minds and hands are always welcome. The team meets via Zoom at 6 PM on the first Tuesday of the month.

CSJ now includes the **Healing Racism Task Force**, led by Ann Westall. The Healing Racism Task Force is a concerned group of FPC individuals who are working within the church and the community to acknowledge, repent of, and repair the sin of racism. We have acknowledged our church's past sins and are working to repair that part of our history. The group meets monthly via Zoom at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Ann Westall or any member of the Task Force for further information.

A service of witness to the resurrection for Emory Hingst will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 11 AM. Emory died on Monday, August 26, aged 89.

Emory was the pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran Church and, before that, pastored the Lutheran University Center and served as chaplain for Florida State University. Emory and his wife Ann came to First Pres after his retirement from St. Stephen, and Emory served here as a Parish Associate for many years. In that role he preached, taught classes, provided pastoral care, and through his example and direction inspired our congregation to always remember "the least of these." In recent years Emory and Ann had returned to St. Stephen, where he was Pastor Emeritus, but were still a beloved presence at numerous services and events here.

A tireless worker behind the scenes, Emory was active in Habitat for Humanity, Kindred Spirits, Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty, and the former Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry. He was the driving force behind bringing a Ten Thousand Villages fair trade store to Tallahassee in 2005 and supported it until it closed. If there was a rally, a speaker, or a town meeting involving social justice, Emory was there, bringing his special gifts of dedication, warmth, kindness, and compassion.

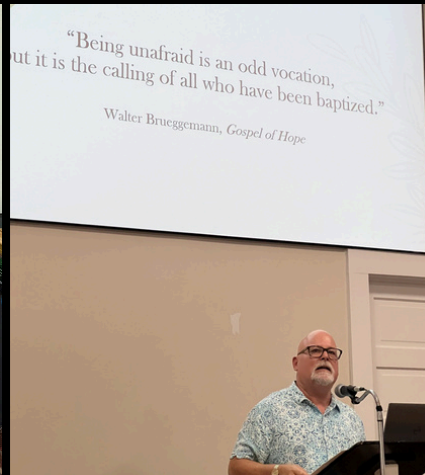
Care and Outreach is co-hosting a reception after the service on September 7. If you would like to participate and have not already received an email about how to do so, please contact the church office.

## Reverend Emory Hingst 1934-2024





# Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering







# Pastoral Note

Rev. Dr. Greta Reed, the parish associate at First Presbyterian Church, suggested a few weeks ago that church clergy read *Christian Prayer for Today* by Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish. Dr. Reed would like to form a reading group on the book this fall. Her suggestion and Dr. Moore-Keish's book caused me to reflect on prayer this week.

An active prayer life is essential to being a Christian. *Prayer is about communicating with God, speaking to and listening to God, and expressing our relationship with God and each other.* Presbyterians have a tradition of praying together, both corporately and privately. While there are many models of prayer, most include approaching God in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and intercession. In adoration, we honor and praise God as Lord of all. A prayer of confession acknowledges our sin against God. In thanksgiving, we express gratitude to God for all our blessings. Supplication is the act of praying for someone or something. Intercessory prayer is offered on behalf of others.

My parents introduced me to prayer when I was very young by teaching me the Lord's Prayer and instructing me to say it before bedtime each night. However, I would often jump into bed exhausted after a busy day without saying my prayers, and my parents would remind me by asking, "Did you say your prayers tonight?" As a child, I felt loved whenever they reminded me to pray because prayer expresses God's love. As Daniel Migliore writes, "Prayer is a personal relationship with God, calling upon God as a strong and caring father or mother."

Our prayers say a great deal about us. They reflect our doubts and struggles of faith, demonstrate our commitment to God's will, and often offer our anger, pain, and lament. In her book, Dr. Moore-Keish examines the intricacies of Christians living in prayer. She discusses the importance of involving our total selves in prayer as a chief expression of our faith. She writes, "Our understanding of God and ourselves fundamentally shapes our understanding of the relationship between God and ourselves, a relationship that is enacted in prayer. Beginning with attention to God, therefore—guided by Scripture and tradition and accompanied by deep attention to our own life in God—can enable us to understand and enter more fully into truly Christian prayer." As we begin our Sunday school classes this fall, let prayer shape and form us spiritually.

Do not worry about anything, but  
in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let  
your requests be made known to  
God.

—Philippians 4:6

Rev. Glenn Hodges