

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 6 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).

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 by clicking on the volunteer tab, fill out this [form](#) or email Kelby, kelby@oldfirstchurch.org.

Heritage Committee

These are a few of the exciting and interesting relics we have discovered as we delve into First Presbyterian's past. We would also welcome any artifacts, photos, or articles from our church's rich history that you might wish to donate. Small items may be dropped off in the Heritage Committee basket in the church office or you may contact crowellk@yahoo.com about a particular item.



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 nursery will be available each Sunday starting at 9:15 AM.

Service for Emory Hingst

Saturday, September 7, 11 AM

For those attending the service on Saturday, Trinity UMC has offered the use of their parking lots and the Aloft Hotel is also willing for people to park in their lot, although they request that we use the spots furthest from the building. Please reserve the First Presbyterian parking lot for people who need to park nearby. Volunteers will be available starting at 10 AM to receive food in the Education Building.

FPC Picnic

September 22, immediately following worship, meet your church family at Maclay Gardens at the large picnic pavilion. Wear your picnic clothes to church and bring a covered side dish. Sign up at the courtyard table or call the church office and pay \$3 per person for chicken (or non meat alternative — let us know your preference). Don't pay the park entry fee but do let them know you're with the First Presbyterian Church Picnic. Care & Outreach will supply fried chicken (or non meat), cake, fun and fellowship. You might want to look into canoe rentals or other activities that are available for a rental fee. See you there!

P.S. Bring a friend — Visitors and new members are our guests!



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!

Second Sunday Fellowship

If you aren't otherwise engaged, please join us in the courtyard after worship this Sunday, September 8 for lemonade and conversation. Visitors are welcome and invited!

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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Music and Worship 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 Music and Worship Team.



**Martha Middlebrooks Kutter, Chair,
speaking with Rev. Dr. Greta Reed**

The Music and Worship Ministry Team is charged with the “maintenance of divine worship.” It proposes to the Session the occasions, days, times, and places for worship and for the celebration of the Sacraments. Team members organize ushers, greeters, readers, flowers, musicians, communion, and other worship leaders. The team is responsible for remote broadcasting and the YouTube channel. It works with other teams to prepare and welcome children in worship and to extend communion to those who cannot attend services. It proposes policies for weddings, civic gatherings, and other worship purposes. At times the team has ensured pulpit supply, as well.

Martha Middlebrooks Kutter has been the Chair of the Worship and Music Team for four years. She is currently serving on Session and the Pastor Nominating Committee. She has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for 14 years.

To get involved as an usher, reader, communion server, flower arranger, or simply to find out more about this ministry team, please email mkutter@maclay.org or call 850-491-1437.



Pastoral Note

September is Disaster Preparedness Month. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), this month represents an annual effort to remind us how important it is to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies. Kathryn M. Hauelsen and Carol H. Flores, in the book *A Ready Hope: Effective Disaster Ministry for Congregations*, define disaster as an event that disrupts everyday life, causing physical or mental trauma and damage to personal property or community infrastructures.

The 2024 hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with 85 more days left. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, most hurricanes of Category 3 intensity occur in September and October. Two hundred thirty-four Category 3 hurricanes have occurred since the mid-19th century. Hurricane Michael was a category five hurricane that impacted the Florida Panhandle on October 10, 2018. The destruction was widespread, with extensive structural damage to homes and buildings along the Gulf Coast. Since Hurricane Michael in 2018, ten hurricanes and tropical storms have been recorded. This count does not include the tropical storm Ernesto, Hurricanes Debby and Beryl, and tornados that devastated our community this year.

Most religious denominations have national disaster response organizations like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The PDA helps churches, presbyteries, and synods focus on the effects of crises and disasters that impact local communities. They recommend that congregations develop disaster plans to assist them in preparing for a disaster. Specifically, a disaster plan would help a congregation organize and mobilize volunteers, identify disaster-response team members, secure records and assets, seek shelter, and provide spiritual care. Are we ready for a natural disaster or emergency? The PDA has numerous [resources](#) to help the Session answer that question.

For surely I know the plans I have
for you, says the Lord, plans for
your welfare and not for harm, to
give you a future with hope.

–Jeremiah 29:11

Rev. Glenn Hodges