

This Week @ First: Standard Edition

Worship & Music

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Our Outstanding October Birthdays: Jocelyn Beychok, Barbara Boutin, Dan Burkholder, Noah Bush, Sandy Clary, Will Ebaugh, Judy Flanigan, John Foster, Mary Hodges, Kristopher James, Willa James, Val Johns, Anna Jordan, Emma Kutter, Marian Moore, Esther Moring, Beth Pulliam, Jim Rosica, Sue Scribner, Robyn Stevenson, Tip Tomberlin, and Kathee Winstead.

Compassion and Social Justice

The Compassion and Social Justice's team of volunteers has been providing food, laundry services, and showers to our downtown unsheltered neighbors for several months. We'd also like to be able to offer them small toiletry items that would allow them to maintain their hygiene despite their challenging circumstances.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts, you can bring the small samples you collect while traveling or specific items that are available at a Dollar Store or drug store. We could use: toothbrushes and small toothpastes; disposable razors; travel-sized shampoos, hand lotions, and deodorants; small combs; etc. There will be a box on the table outside the office for you to leave your donations. Thank you for your compassion for those who are unsheltered in our community.

Second Harvest Bread Boxing will take place on Friday, October 4. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up [here](#).

First Presbyterian Church

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Office Closure for Hurricane Helene

Helene has become a hurricane and is still forecast to pass over our area tomorrow. The office will close today at noon and remain closed through Friday.

For pastoral needs, please email Glenn Hodges directly, glenn@oldfirstchurch.org, or call/text Pierce Withers, 850-653-6936.

If you need assistance in the aftermath of the storm, please let us know by reaching out to Glenn or the church office. Please also feel free to post updates on the church Facebook page, as you are able, to let us know how you are after the storm passes.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, September 29, 2024, immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a committee to nominate new ruling elders for the class of 2027. The nominating committee will also nominate incoming members of the Board of Trustees and Endowment Management Committee. As of today, September 25, we are still planning to meet as circumstances allow, but please be watching/listening for additional announcements.

The Zoom link for the congregational meeting can be found [here](#).

Spiritual Formation

Sunday School

Grades K-5 in room 306. Middle and High School Students in room 301. 9:30 AM each week

Sunday School students are invited to join us in Sunday School class each week. A nursery will be available starting at 9:15 AM.

"Feasting on the Word" Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Each week this class will gather to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

Adult Inquirer's Class

Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

This Sunday, the Inquirers Class will begin a study, supported by the Healing Racism Task Force, into the history of our community and its association with slavery. For the next two weeks, we will watch and discuss the FSU Film School's documentary, *Invisible History: Middle Florida's Hidden Roots*. We will welcome Dr. William Yoo, professor at Columbia Seminary, the following Sunday to help us explore how we can atone for our sin of racism. Join us in the Westminster Room at 9:30 or by Zoom.

Please [email](#) Pierce Withers, Director of Spiritual Formation, to learn more about upcoming adult and youth spiritual formation programs.

To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or the Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. You can access the form directly through Breeze, as well. Thank you!



Pastoral Note

The *Presbyterian Outlook*'s September 2024 issue on Reparations examines how the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA) is working to take steps to repair past racial wrongs. The issue defines reparation as making amends for a wrong committed by paying the wronged or helping them otherwise. My first introduction to the concept of reparations was when I read *A Black Theology of Liberation* by James H. Cone, where he references James Foreman's *Black Manifesto*, which demanded reparation from white churches for their participation in centuries of black exploitation. The manifesto demanded \$500 million in reparations from white churches and synagogues for their involvement in the injustices of slavery and segregation committed against African Americans.

A recent push for reparation began with a 2014 article in the *Atlantic* by Ta-Nehisi Coates titled "The Case for Reparations." Coates writes that after years of slavery and Jim Crow, America will never be whole unless the moral debt is satisfied. Many authors, like William Woo, began to address reparations as a way to respond to the effects of slavery and segregation on African Americans. In his book *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism In The Presbyterian Church*, Woo writes that most Presbyterians, north and south, in the nineteenth century held racist attitudes and promoted slavery and anti-Black racism.

The Healing Racism Task Force at First Presbyterian Church addressed slavery and anti-Black racism in our church through a three-year search into the church's 192-year-old history. The search resulted in a plaque dedication on Sunday, January 21, 2024, acknowledging intolerance and calling everyone in God's name to love all humankind. After this noble and honorable effort by faithful believers in our congregation, the question remains: Where do we go from here? The Task Force will address this question and reparations in an Inquirers class at First Presbyterian Church on October 20, 2024.

“
And it is by God's will that we have
been sanctified through the
offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once and for all.
—Hebrews 10:10
”

Rev. Glenn Hodges