

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

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

First Sunday Food Collection

Remember that this Sunday, February 2, is our First Sunday Food Collection! Bring your non-perishable food to the narthex to be shared with Second Harvest and/or Elder Care Services.

Congregational Meeting

Next Sunday, February 9, there will be a short congregational meeting at the end of the worship service for purposes of approving a change to the Designated Pastor's terms of call in connection with the 2025 budget process. The budget contemplates a 3% cost of living increase and an increase from 50% to 60% of a full-time position.

PW Winter Gathering

The Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering will take place next Sunday, February 9, following worship, in the Westminster Room. Please bring a salad to share; dessert will be provided. Our speaker is Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven, the minister at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, one of the happiest, most uplifting people you will ever meet, and someone who finds joy everywhere. The title of her talk is "Justice in Action: Let's Face It!"



First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Phone: (850) 222-4504/Fax: (850) 222-2215

Email: Office@oldfirstchurch.org

Website: www.oldfirstchurch.org

www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch

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Spiritual Formation

Sunday School—Youth

All youth are invited at 9:30 AM each week! Grades K–5 in room 306. Middle and High School Students in room 301. 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 – 10:30 AM.

This class meets weekly to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

The **Inquirer's class** will not meet this week; watch for information on upcoming classes.

Guided Meditation continues on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the Calvin Room.

The Spiritual Formation Team is in need of volunteers to assist our teachers in the Elementary and Middle/High School classes, and to assist in our nursery. Please contact [Mary Kutter](#) to find out more.

Compassion and Social Justice

Snack pack and **Laundry Love** volunteers are invited from 10:00 to noon on Wednesdays. For information on volunteering, speak to Debbie Gibson.

Bread Boxing: next Friday, February 7, volunteers will meet at Second Harvest at 9:45 AM to box bread to be frozen for future use. For more information, contact Debbie Gibson or sign up [here](#).

Personnel Update

The Personnel Team is continuing to recruit for a permanent Communications and Administrative Coordinator. Please keep this in mind and, if you think of a candidate, encourage an application! The job description is on the church [website](#).

Happy February Birthdays



Happy birthday to Lillian Cleveland Beychok, Vince Codrick, Pete Crowell, Brian Hanson, Sue Hightower, Mary Kutter, Marge Meeter, Sue Safford, Margaret Stakenas, Lawrence Stevenson, Sam Stevenson, and Kris Sullivan!

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. Thank you!

Celebrating Black History Month

In February, as we celebrate Black history and culture, we also continue to be mindful of the words inscribed on the plaque at the front of our church building. To truly commit to healing and repair, it's our responsibility to live into these words. The music ministry will be highlighting a key phrase from the plaque each week in February: "Love one another," "We commit ourselves to repairing," "God's beloved community," and "May God guide us on our way."

We invite you to reflect on the meaning of these phrases as you listen to anthems, sing hymns, and connect more deeply with God and with each other through the power of music.

We will have an opportunity for fellowship and more celebration of Black History Month when the Healing Racism Task Force and Care and Outreach Team host a potluck lunch after worship on Sunday, February 23 in the Westminster Room.

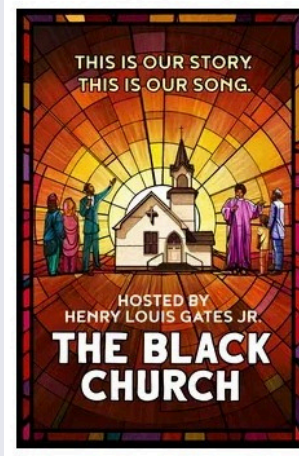
Our speaker will be Ted Ellis, director of the Civil Rights Institute at FSU. Please plan to join us; all are welcome!



Moving Beyond the Confession of the Sin of Racism to Repair

A year ago, we placed a plaque on the outside of the sanctuary acknowledging that our history included the sin of racism and promised to "commit ourselves to repairing racism's breach, that God's beloved community might take form to and around us." The Task Force on Healing Racism is sharing weekly resources to deepen our understanding of the costs of that sin and to inspire us to act.

As we look forward to honoring and celebrating Black History Month in February, the Task Force on Healing Racism recommends a book and a PBS series. *Skin we are in*, by Sidiwe Magona and Nina G. Jablonski, is a children's book that traces the evolution of skin color and celebrates the glorious human rainbow that we all are. While it is aimed at children, it contains useful information for every age. It can be found in the Christy Williams Library. "The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song" is a documentary hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., for PBS, based on his book of the same title. It traces the 400-year history of the Black Church and describes the revolutionary impact it has had through the centuries on the development of Black culture and a deep faith that has weathered every attempt at suppression. It can be viewed on PBS and YouTube. Dr. Gates' PBS series, "Finding Your Roots," is also a rich resource, especially for the difficulty that our Black brothers and sisters have in tracing their families even as far back as the times of slavery.



If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the Healing Racism Task Force: Debbie Gibson, Sue Hightower, Ann Hingst, Mary Hodges, Pam McVety, Marian Moore, Walter Moore, Sue Safford, Linda Smith, Deborah Whisnant, Aide Whitaker, and Ann Westall, Chair.