

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	It Is Well/He Leadeth Me/Hassell	Matthew H. Corl
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*HYMN</b>	It Is Well	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 884</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>	We Will Glorify	
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	His Eye is On the Sparrow/Hayes	Elaine Clemens, piano
<b>DOXOLOGY 95</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	A Prescription for Worry (Luke 8:22-25)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN</b>	Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning To End)	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb
<b>*RESPONSE</b>	As We Go	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	O Worship the King/Kim	Matthew H. Corl
9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		

<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Joy of The Lord, Life is Beautiful, The Way	
<b>PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Ain’t No Grave	
<b>SERMON</b>	A Prescription for Worry (Luke 8:22-25)	Charley Reeb
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Stand in Your Love	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	Prelude on Spanish Hymn/Harmon	Matthew H. Corl
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>*HYMN 158</b>	Come, Christians, Join to Sing	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 884</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>*GLORIA PATRI 70</b>	Glory Be to the Father	
<b>ANTHEM</b>	His Eye is On the Sparrow/Hayes	Elaine Clemens, piano
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Lift High the Cross/arr. Schalk	Chancel Choir
<b>DOXOLOGY 94</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	A Prescription for Worry (Luke 8:22-25)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN 160</b>	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb
<b>*RESPONSE 666</b>	Shalom to You	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Toccata on Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart/Travis	Matthew H. Corl

\*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Good Grace, Made Alive, Christ Be Magnified	
<b>CENTERING PRAYER</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Ever Be	
<b>DOXOLOGY</b>		
<b>SERMON</b>	Gym of Grace: Individual Piety (1 Peter 4:8-11)	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>COMMUNION</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Amazing Grace	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
CALL TO WORSHIP		

LEADER: We gather in this place to celebrate the resurrected Christ, to learn and follow in the way he taught.

**ALL: We are thankful for the resurrection! Praise God for the hope it brings!**

LEADER: The resurrected Christ reminds us - there is hope, there is goodness, there is faith, there is justice for our world.

**ALL: May we be hope, may we be goodness, may we have faith, may we show justice in this world, O Lord!**

ABOUT OUR SERVICES

We are glad you joined us today! Whether you are a member or a guest, please take a moment to register your attendance at [firstumc.org/connect](https://firstumc.org/connect).

Visit [firstumc.org/connect](https://firstumc.org/connect) or scan the QR code for: Attendance Registration, Worship Bulletins, Prayer Requests, & Online Giving



Presence in Worship (Apr 7)  
In Person: 881  
Online: 1,332  
Total: 2,213

Giving Through Mar 24, 2024  
YTD Budgeted Income: \$982,243  
YTD Actual Income: 802,098  
\$(180,145)

Questions? Call Harriet Mayes in the church office, 863-686-3163 x213

**Text to Give:** Text any amount to 855-485-1651, and you will receive a link to contribute.

**Acolytes/Cruficers:** Cameron Vessels, 8:15am

CONGREGATIONAL CARE	
<b>Hospital (as of Apr 8)</b>	Heather Dorcey, Kenneth Kammeraad, Ted Klein, John Moore
<b>Baptism</b>	Callum Bryce Rawdow, 4/7 Son of Frank & Rachel Rawdow

**Altar Flowers**  
In memory of my precious little sister, Jules Meriwether, on her heavenly birthday.  
With all our love, John, Susan & Family

To dedicate Altar Flowers in Memory or in Honor of a loved one, visit [firstumc.org/altar-flowers](https://firstumc.org/altar-flowers) or contact Angela Everett: 863-686-3163

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**Monday:** Read Luke 8:22-25. When Jesus asked, “Where is your faith?” I don’t think he was suggesting that if the disciples had enough faith, they could have stopped the storm. I believe he was asking, “Did you really think you would drown with me in the boat? Did you really think I would let you perish! Haven’t you learned anything from me?!” I like this definition of faith: “Faith is simple trust that our lives are in his hands, that he is always in our boat, and that he will never abandon us.” Have you ever heard faith described in this way? Do you find it helpful?

**Tuesday:** Read Matthew 6:25-34. Fears are like bullies in the school yard. Once we stand up to them, they fold and go away. Most people forget this. I know people whose fears grow bigger because they will not face them. They deny them or cover them up, thinking they will just go away, but most fears just don’t go away. What we must do is stand up to our fears and face them. Once we do this our fears become more manageable. Today, write down all of your fears. Just get them down on paper. There is something about getting things down on paper that makes them more manageable. Next, write above all of the things you fear: *Most of these things will never happen!* It’s true! Worrying is a waste of time because most of what we worry about never comes to pass. Can you think of something in your life that was useless worry?

**Wednesday:** Read Philippians 4:6. The most common advice I give to people who are paralyzed by worry is for them to spend the next seven days praying to God about their worries. I ask them to spend ten minutes with God each day for a week, giving God their fears. Not once has someone come back to me and said, “It didn’t work!” If you were to give to God a list of your worries today, what would they be?

**Thursday:** Read Joshua 1:9. J. Arthur Rank, an English executive, decided to do all of his worrying one day a week. He chose Wednesdays. When anything happened that gave him anxiety, he would write it down and put it in his worry box and forget about it until next Wednesday. The interesting thing was that on the following Wednesday when he opened his worry box, he found that most of the things that had disturbed him the past six days were already settled. It would have been useless to have worried about them. The lesson in Rank’s story is this: *Fix what we can control; give God what we can’t control.* What are some things you are worried about today that you can do something about?

**Friday:** Read Psalm 55:2. Find a shoebox. Tape the lid on, and then cut a little hole in it. Call it your “worry box.” Whenever you feel tempted to worry, write your worry on a piece of paper and drop it in the box. You can say, “Lord, this is my concern, and it has the potential to become a worry. You have told me not to worry, so here’s what I’m going to do. I’m going to put it in my worry box and let you take responsibility for it. Anything that I put in this box will be there because I can’t handle it. Once it’s in the box, I’m going to trust you to handle it for me, Lord.” What would you put in your “worry box” today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**To learn more about the ministries of the church and how to get connected, contact Diana Russell ([info@firstumc.org](mailto:info@firstumc.org) - 863-686-3163 x223)**

**Confirmation Service, Tonight, 5pm**  
Join us in the Sanctuary as we celebrate our Confirmands taking the next step in their faith journey. There will be a reception in the Welcome Center following the service. All are welcome to attend!

**Handbell Ringers & Singers: From Darkness to Light, Apr 21, 4pm, Sanctuary**  
Singing and ringing simultaneously, this talented group will present a unique program of music describing light, rebirth, and renewal.

**Spring Fling, Apr 27, 10am, Higgenbotham Ranch**  
Come enjoy games for all ages, hay rides, delicious food, bring a desert to share, and more! BBQ dinner is available for \$10/adult, \$5/child age 12 and under. Tickets are available at the event. Learn more at [firstumc.org/events](https://firstumc.org/events).

**Explore First, Apr 28, 5-6:45pm, C201D**  
If you’re on a journey searching for God, for ways to connect, or looking for a church to join to grow in your faith, you are welcome here! We invite you to take your next step by joining us. For more information or to register, visit [firstumc.org/explore-first](https://firstumc.org/explore-first).



## CHILDREN

For information regarding Children's Ministry events, contact **Cristi Moore, Director of Children's Ministries: cmoore@firstumc.org, (863) 686-3163 x226.**



### Early Childhood Volunteers Needed

Toddlers, 2-year-olds, and preschoolers – oh my! Our early childhood area at the 9:30 service is bursting with kiddos, and we are in urgent need of volunteers to ensure their safety and fun. If you have a passion for little ones, we invite you to join our team! For details and to get started, please contact Cristi Moore at cmoore@firstumc.org.

### Sundays

**8:15am Childcare (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**  
**9:30am Sunday School (Infants 6 weeks - 5th Grade)**  
**11am Childcare (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**

### 4th & 5th Grade Event, May 10, 6-8pm

You just landed an interview to work at the most famous chocolate factory in the world! Can you with the help of your fellow 4th and 5th graders complete the challenges and make it out in one hour? We need YOU to join in the fun in this escape room style game here at the church. For more information or to register by May 3, visit [firstumc.org/events](https://firstumc.org/events).

### Warren Willis Summer Camp (Children & Youth) July 8-13 (Week #4)

Registration is now open for students rising into 4th grade through graduated 12th graders. For more information including the Chance to Go Scholarship requirements, and to register visit [firstumc.org/children](https://firstumc.org/children).

### Children's Family Mission Trip, Wed, Jul 24 - Sat, Jul 27

Registration is now open for our Second Annual Children's Family Mission Trip to St. Simons Island, GA. Space is limited so sign up now. Open to families with children who are completing VPK - 5th Grade. To register, visit [firstumc.org/events](https://firstumc.org/events).

### Vacation Bible School 2024, Jun 10-14

Registration for children who have completed Kindergarten - 5th grade and youth volunteers is now open! To register visit [firstumc.org/vbs](https://firstumc.org/vbs).

### Vacation Bible School Adult Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are a vital part of VBS and we can't do it without you! Don't worry if you have children who are younger and don't quite qualify for VBS yet, we have a full preschool VBS program exclusively for our onsite volunteers and even offer a nursery if you have little ones, 6 months and older, too! We love our volunteers and have many different ways you can serve. Check out all of your options and register now by visiting [www.firstumc.org/vbs](https://www.firstumc.org/vbs).

## ADULTS

For more information or Zoom/Online credentials, contact **Warren Pattison, Director of Adult Ministries: wpattison@firstumc.org, (863) 686-3163 x227.** Registration for groups, classes, and courses is available at [firstumc.org/groups](https://firstumc.org/groups).

### JOY (Just Older Youth) April BBQ and Fantasy of Flight Tour, Fri, Apr 19, 11am

Enjoy a delicious BBQ picnic lunch on the Fantasy of Flight grounds followed by a curated tour of the world's greatest collection of vintage aircraft. We will meet at the church at 11 am to travel by church bus to Fantasy of Flight in Polk City. Cost for lunch and the tour is \$20. Deadline to register is Monday, April 15 at noon at [firstumc.org/events](https://firstumc.org/events).

### Parent Social Night, Sun, Apr 21, 5:15pm

Parents join us for a time of connection and socializing. This is our last parent social of the year. We're heading to Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille, 101 N Kentucky Ave, Lakeland, FL. So that we know how many to anticipate, registrations are helpful at [firstumc.org/events](https://firstumc.org/events).

### Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study, Apr 11 - May 16, 10-11:30am Rm C-204

Ladies, join us as we journey 40 days through the book of Romans. During this six-week study we will find the comfort, wisdom, healing and wholeness that comes from discovering that even in our failings, we are always in the grip of God's grace. Books are available in the church office. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](https://firstumc.org/groups).

### Support Cornerstone Family Ministries by participating in the WonderWalk, Sat, Apr 27, 8-9:30am

Cornerstone is a United Methodist Mission in East Tampa and around the Tampa Bay area, with a special focus on early childhood education. The WonderWalk is their annual fundraiser. You can participate as a walker, a prayer, and a sponsor. Pick up a sponsor packet at the table in the Welcome Center or contact Betsy Layton at [blayton07146@gmail.com](mailto:blayton07146@gmail.com). Learn more at [firstumc.org/events](https://firstumc.org/events).

## YOUTH

For information regarding our Youth Ministry events, contact **Emily Felgenhauer, Director of Youth Ministries: efelgenhauer@firstumc.org, (863) 687-9750 x253.**

### Sundays

**9:30-10:30 Youth Choir, E22**  
**10:30-11:00am Donuts and Discussion, F301 (MS) & F303 (HS)**  
**3:30-4:30pm Youth Praise Band, Sanctuary**  
**5pm Confirmation Service, Sanctuary**

### Tuesdays

**5-6pm Youth Dance Ministry, E22 (No Dance Experience Required)**

### Wednesdays

**4:45-5:15pm Youth Handbell Practice, E21**  
**5:15-6pm Youth Praise Band Practice, E22**  
**6-6:30pm Open Gym, Gym/Café**  
**6:30-7:30pm Middle & High School Bible Study, F**  
**6:30-7:30pm Parent Book Study, F301**

### Youth Parent Book Study, Wednesdays, Apr 17-May 22, 6:30-7:30pm

Join our Easter Bible study co-led by Emily Felgenhauer! Dive into "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" by Tom Berlin. Experience Peter, Mary Magdalene, and more as they encounter the power of Easter. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](https://firstumc.org/groups).

### Youth Sunday, Apr 28, 8:15, 9:30, and 11am

This year's Youth Sunday theme is "Image of God." Don't miss out on what God has laid on our Youth's hearts. For more info visit [firstumc.org/youth](https://firstumc.org/youth).

### SIFAT Mission Experience, Lineville AL, Jun 23-28

Registration for our Youth Mission Experience is now open. For more information or to register visit [firstumc.org/youth](https://firstumc.org/youth).

### HS Mission Trip, Branches, Miami FL, Jul 21-27

Registration for our HS Summer Mission Trip is open until Apr 30. For more information or to register visit [firstumc.org/youth](https://firstumc.org/youth).

## MISSIONS

For more information regarding Missions, contact **Forrest White, Director of Missions: fwhite@firstumc.org, (863) 686-3163 x224.**

### Philip O'Brien Elementary

Teacher/staff appreciation week is May 6-10. We're collecting \$10 gift cards to give every staff person. In addition, we need people to write 10 thank you notes (cards provided). On May 7 (note date change) we will provide breakfast for all teachers and staff. If you'll make some homemade baked goods please contact our O'Brien Passion Team leaders Joleen Golden ([joleengolden@yahoo.com](mailto:joleengolden@yahoo.com)) or Ann Skellenger ([abraham409@aol.com](mailto:abraham409@aol.com)) for details. Everything will need to be dropped at First UMC on May 6 by 4pm.

### Better Together, Apr 21

Leaders from Better Together will be at First UMC for two congregational information sessions about a potential partnership with the church. The sessions will be from 9:45-10:30am and 12:15-1pm, both in the sanctuary. Better (Together) Families aims to keep children out of foster care by providing a temporary loving home and helping their parents work to build a better life. Better (Together) Jobs works with churches around the country to connect people with employment opportunities. Job loss is often the root cause of many serious issues. Please join us at one of these information sessions! Visit <https://bettertogetherus.org/> for more information.

### 2024 Hurricane Recovery Teams

We continue to send mission teams to serve Hurricane Ian survivors in Southwest Florida with the next one scheduled to serve May 2-4. We also have teams scheduled for Sep 12-14, Oct 10-12 and Nov 14-16. All teams will leave on Thurs afternoon, work full days Fri and Sat, and return to Lakeland Sat night. Cost is \$75, which covers transportation, lodging and food. No construction skills required. All you need is a servant's heart, a good attitude and a willingness to help. Please prayerfully consider joining us and let me know when you're ready to commit! Deadline to register for the May team is Apr 17.

### KidsPACK, May 1

Our final packing day for the 2023-24 school year is Wed, May 1. Setup begins at 9am in the First United Welcome Center and takes about 90 minutes. At 4pm we pack and wrap weekend food bundles. Contact Skip Stevenson with questions ([safetyskip@gmail.com](mailto:safetyskip@gmail.com)).

### Nehemiah Action, Apr 29, 6:30pm, Resurrection Catholic Church

This is the largest event for Polk PEACE for the year, and your presence makes a difference for making positive change in our county! This is when we ask our public officials to make specific commitments for action, based on the solutions researched and developed by the organization. The issues for this year are criminal justice reform and increasing access to elder care.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 14, 2024

MAKING DISCIPLES OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION  
**OF THE WORLD**

REV. DR. CHARLEY REEB, SENIOR PASTOR  
REV. ANDY WHITAKER SMITH, ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
REV. NICKI TAYLOR, ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
REV. EMILY HOTH, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
BISHOP TOM BERLIN, FLORIDA AREA BISHOP

72 LAKE MORTON DRIVE, LAKELAND, FL, 33801  
(863) 686-3163 | [FIRSTUMC.ORG](https://firstumc.org)