

Welcome

We are glad that you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Welcome Center for information on our ministries and visit us online at firstumc.org. When you're ready, we invite you to **Explore First** to learn more about the life of the church and how to get involved. To find out when you can **Explore First** or for information on how to become a member, contact Diana (drussell@firstumc.org or 863-686-3163).

Sunday school takes place at 9:30am.

Children

(On the ground floor of the C building)

Crib room	C-002
Toddlers	C-001
Two-year-olds	C-006
Three-year-olds	C-008
Four-year-olds	C-010

(On the first floor of the C building)

Kindergarten	C-111
First grade	C-110
Second grade	C-102
Third grade	C-105
Fourth grade	C-107
Fifth grade	C-106

Youth

6th-12th grade	F-1
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Adults

(On the second floor of the C building)

BYKOTA Class	C-207
Genesis Class	C-202
Koinonia Class	C-205
Searchers Class	C-206
Sendero Class	C-204
Storyline Class	C-201C
Vanguard Class	C-203
Homebuilders Class	Chapel

Sunday Morning Childcare During Worship

Check in on the ground floor of the C building.

- **8:15am service:** provided for children six weeks to four years old in C-001.
- **9:30am service or Sunday school:** provided for children six weeks through Pre-K 4. Infants & Toddlers are in C-001 and C-002, Nursery 2 is in C-006, Pre-K 3 is in Room C-008 and Pre-K 4 is in Room C-010.
- **11am and 11:20am services:** provided for children six weeks to four years old in C-001 and C-002.

Nursing Room: C-013

Worship service activity bags for children are in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and Lobby of the Fellowship Center. Ask an usher for assistance locating them!



The purpose of First United Methodist is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We strive to accomplish this by being a **worship plus three church**.

Worship plus three is how we define our ministries. We believe **worship** is of prime importance and is our foundation. In addition, we are to **invite** others into a relationship with God, **grow** in our own relationship with God and our neighbor and **serve** others as a continued sign of God's work in our lives.

Worship Times:

8:15 & 11am Traditional, Sanctuary
 9:30 & 11:20am Contemporary, Fellowship Center
firstumc.org
 #1stLKLD

Rev. David McEntire, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Melissa Stump, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Andy Whitaker Smith, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Lee Lallance, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
 Rev. Candace Lewis, District Superintendent
 Bishop Ken Carter, Florida Area Bishop

8:15am & 11am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		David McEntire
PRELUDE	(8:15am) <i>Toccata on Gloria/Corl</i>	Matthew H. Corl, CAGO
	(11am) <i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	String Ensemble
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES	(8:15am) Virginia Askew, Mary Hinson and Nick Martin	
	(11am) Doug & Raya Sue and Shelby Hallman	
*HYMN 238	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 888		David McEntire
*GLORIA PATRI, 70		
WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC	<i>Still, Still, Still/Hayes</i>	Jane Warren, piano
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER		Andy Whitaker Smith
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		Andy Whitaker Smith
*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING		
OFFERTORY	(8:15am) <i>Christmas Fantasy/Callahan</i>	Lee Lallance, piano; Matthew Corl, organ
	(11am) <i>Christ, the Holy Child, In Me/Cox</i>	Chancel Choir, String Ensemble
*DOXOLOGY, 95		
SERMON	<i>Simple Christmas: Peace / Luke 2: 13-14</i>	Melissa Stump
*HYMN 251	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
*BENEDICTION		Melissa Stump
*RESPONSE 234	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)</i>	ADESTE FIDELES
POSTLUDE	<i>Go, Tell It/Corl</i>	Matthew H. Corl, CAGO

9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Center)

GATHERING	<i>The First Noel</i>	
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Please sign & pass the registration pad.	Waite Willis/David McEntire
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Make Room</i>	Michiel Crawford
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Roger, Jan and Jean Tunks
SONGS OF PRAISE	Christmas Carol Sing Along; <i>O Holy Night</i> (Casey Cleveland, solo)	
CONGREGATIONAL GREETING		Waite Willis
PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		Andy Whitaker Smith
OFFERTORY	<i>Love Came Down to Bethlehem</i>	Praise Band
SERMON	<i>Simple Christmas: Peace / Luke 2: 13-14</i>	Melissa Stump
CLOSING	<i>Silent Night (verses 1 and 3)</i>	
BENEDICTION		Melissa Stump

11:20am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Center)

GATHER TOGETHER		
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREET ONE ANOTHER		David McEntire
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE		Jim and Debbie Hatch
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Walk to Bethlehem/Gray</i>	Youth Choir
SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High; Hark the Herald Angels Sing</i>	
PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		David McEntire
OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY	<i>Winter Snow</i>	
SERMON	<i>Simple Christmas: Peace / Luke 2: 13-14</i>	David McEntire
COMMUNION	<i>God With Us</i>	
DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		David McEntire

December 23, 2018

72 Lake Morton Drive
 Lakeland, FL 33801
 863-686-3163
firstumc.org

First United Methodist

We are glad you joined us today! Whether you are a member or a guest, please take a moment to register your attendance on the registration pad before passing it on to your neighbor. Thank you for helping ensure our records are accurate.

Worship Notes

Acolytes and Crucifers:

8:15am: Aubrey Upton and Amelia Lynn
11am: Abbey Wood and Ella Parham

Opportunities

Giving life to missions is the mission statement of "Our Giving Tree" Bookstore and Gift Shop. Shop Mon, Tue and Thu from 10am-5:30pm, Wed from 10am-7pm, Fri from 10am-4pm and Sun from 9am-12:30pm. Save 20% on all Nativities through Christmas!

Church Offices will be closed on Dec 25 and 26. They will reopen on Thu, Dec 27.

Our Brain Fitness Club begins in Jan 2019: This program, designed for early memory loss patients, will help them learn healthy brain activities and lifestyle adaptations. Contact Vicki Pitner for more information (vpitner@firstumc.org or 863-686-3163).

Family Christmas Live: Join us tonight at 6pm in the Fellowship Center for an impromptu live Nativity. Bring children dressed in a costume from the Nativity. If you don't have one, we have some to share! There will not be age-level programming or a Nursery tonight so families may enjoy the service together.

How are you observing a Holy Advent? Explore the many opportunities for a meaningful Advent on our website at firstumc.org/advent. You'll find info on the #PictureAdvent daily photo challenge, studies, online classes and retreats, daily devotions, prayer practices and more.

Our Jan JOY (Just Older Youth) 55+ luncheon is Thu, Jan 10, at 11:30am in the Fellowship Center. \$10/person. RSVP to Lea Ellen (863-686-3163).

Wed evenings beginning Feb 6: *Financial Peace University.* Dave Ramsey's popular and practical course shows you baby steps to take to be in control of your money and your future. Visit firstumc.org/adults for more information and registration.

We want everyone included in our Church Directory - including winter visitors. Visit firstumc.org/directory now to schedule a session from Jan 29 to Feb 2. Appointments can be made at tables on Sun mornings starting Jan 13. Everyone receives a \$10 off coupon and seniors (60+), military and first responders are eligible for another 20% off.

Groups, Studies and Classes for the New Year! Visit firstumc.org/adults for more information on these opportunities.

Sun evenings beginning Jan 13:

- *Anatomy of Peace:* In a polarized and often angry world, we'll explore how we can change the world around us in a way which brings people together rather than causing more division.
- *The Way of Prayer:* Experience different forms of prayer practices and various dimensions of God's grace and love. Prayer is explored through a variety of modes like music, dance, gazing, silence, or acts of service.
- *Serving from the Heart:* Discover how to meet the challenges ahead by discovering your gifts and talents now. You will complete a profile of your unique traits, all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and neighbor.

Beginning Jan 20: *Bible Basics:* Learn basic themes, histories, personalities, and meanings of the Bible as you discover tools and resources to deepen your understanding of Scripture.

PHOENIX Dinner will resume on Wed, Jan 9. We will not have dinner or classes on Dec 26 or Jan 2.

Wed evenings beginning Jan 16:

- *A Disciple's Path:* Learn about Methodism through spiritual practices designed to help you better love God and others.
- *Simon Peter:* Study Adam Hamilton's new book on an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call.
- *The Daniel Plan:* Learn simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your life on a daily basis. Areas explored are faith, food, fitness, focus and friends. The first session is a free information session.

Adult Sunday School

Classes are from 9:30-10:30am. We welcome visitors to any class. For more info, contact Warren Pattison (wpattison@firstumc.org or 863-682-1912). You can listen live to Rev. Brian Tiffany's lesson with the Homebuilders Class - dial 863-225-0968 at 9:30am.

- **The BYKOTA Class** is led by Dr. Doug Hallman teaching "The Characters of Christmas." Explore The Politicians, The Relatives, The Couple, The Bethlehem Locals and The Child. Room C-207
- **The Genesis Class** welcomes you for "Advent Again!" an original study taught by Rev. Jose Bove. Room C-202
- **The Homebuilders Class** is taught by Rev. Brian Tiffany. They follow the Adult Bible Studies curriculum. Dec theme is "Our Love for God." Chapel
- **The Koinonia Class** is exploring the Gospel of Matthew, with Rev. Terry Knight leading. Room C-205
- **The Searchers Class** continues their Advent study of Matt Rawle's book, *The Redemption of Scrooge*, led by Nina Rehberg. Room C-206
- **The Sendero Class** is studying *The Gift of the Nutcracker* by Matt Rawle. Discover how this classic whimsical story can help us to understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child and the kingdom he came to establish. John Naser leads. Room C-204
- **Storyline** is an intentionally intergenerational class for adults. Their Advent study is Magrey deVega's book *Awaiting the Already*, led by Jason Rogers. Room C-201C
- **The Vanguard Class:** During Dec, they are exploring the theme "Our Love for God" with texts from Genesis. Bishop Bob Fannin is teaching. Room C-203

Our Church Council voted to commit to a three year fundraising project to support ministries in Lakeland, Cuba and Haiti. The Lakeland project is a partnership with several churches to build a new triplex at the Lakeland Salvation Army Center of Hope. Our portion is \$25,000. In Cuba we want to finish the Education Building for our sister church, Tabernáculo de la Unción in Camaguey, and the goal is \$25,000. In Haiti we have a goal of \$12,500 for clean water wells, solar batteries for New Hope Hospital and funding for 10-20 Micro Credit Loans in Cap-Haïtien. You will find small white churches in the entry areas each Sunday where you can share your gift towards these projects.

Children

Sunday School at 9:30am:

- Nursery through fourth grade: Lowly shepherds were the first people told of Jesus' birth. Luke 2:8, 10-11
- Fifth grade: The King of kings and Lord of lords was born in a stable - hardly regal. Luke 2:6-7

Tonight at 6pm in the Fellowship Center:

Family Christmas Live (no supper or programming).

Mon: No Pray & Play

Mon: Christmas Eve Services

Wed and Thu: Church Offices are closed. No programming or Early Connections.

Dec 30: No programming.

For more information, contact Crsti, Moore (cmoore@firstumc.org or 863-682-1912).

Youth

Sunday Morning Bible Study (sixth-twelfth grades) at 9:30am in F-1: Join us for in-depth study and discussion.

No youth programming tonight. Please join the church for the Family Christmas Live at 6pm in the Fellowship Center.

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services

No programming Dec 26 or 30.

2019:

Jan 7: Youth Council Meeting, 7pm, F1
Jan 8: Spring/Summer Parent Meeting, 7pm, F1

Missions

kidsPACK USA: Due to the holidays the Jan kidsPACK USA Meal Assembly will take place on Jan 9. Join us at 9am in the Welcome Center for set up and 4pm for packing. Contact Nelson Kimball (nrkimball@aol.com) for information.

College students and young adults: Our church will send a team to serve with Costa Rica Mission Projects (costaricamissionprojects.com) June 15-22. Join us for an information meeting today at 10:30am in the Parlor. Contact Forrest White for information (fwhite@firstumc.org or 863-686-3163).

Worship Opportunities

Tonight, Dec 23:

Family Christmas Live, 6pm

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Worship Services

5pm: Family Worship, Sanctuary

7pm: Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9pm: Contemporary Worship,

Fellowship Center

11pm: Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Dec 31: Watch Night Service

7pm & 11pm: Chapel

The Watch Night Service is John Wesley's Covenant Service that includes Holy Communion.

The First United Methodist prayer line is available 24/7. Call 863-686-3163 x*652 and leave your request. The prayer line is regularly checked by our intercessors and your request will be prayed for. (Please note: you must enter the * before the extension). You may also submit a confidential prayer request on our website at firstumc.org.

Prayers, Presence, Gifts

Prayers

Hospitalized (as of Dec 17)

Aleene Mayo and David Swindell

Presence In Worship Last Sunday

8:15am Traditional:	298
9:30am Contemporary:	539
11am Traditional:	387
11:20am Contemporary:	183
Online viewers week of Dec 9:	355

Gifts

Needed Each Sunday: \$ 69,357
Received on Dec 9: \$ 62,548
Received to Date: \$ 3,173,344

Electronic Donations

VIA QR CODE: Scan the code with your phone's QR Reader and follow directions.

VIA TEXT: Text the amount you would like to give to 863-617-7899. Make sure to include a "\$" before the amount and follow instructions.



For more information on electronic giving, please contact Harriet Mayes (hmayes@firstumc.org or 863-686-3163).