

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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	<i>Ding Dong Merrily on High / Kinyon</i>	Ringers & Singers
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES		
	(8:15am) Ronda Mayes and Scott, Amanda, Madison & Avery McKinley	
	(11am) Daniel & Tana Moorey and David Shinn	
*HYMN 203	<i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	ELLACOMBE
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 887		Melissa Stump
*GLORIA PATRI		
WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC	<i>Walk to Bethlehem / Gray</i>	Youth Choir
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER		David McEntire
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		David McEntire
*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING		
OFFERTORY		
	(8:15am) <i>Lo, How a Rose / Burkhardt</i>	Matthew H. Corl
	(11am) <i>As We Prepare for Jesus' Birth/Peterson</i>	Chancel Choir
*DOXOLOGY, 95		
SERMON	<i>Simple Christmas: Hope / Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12</i>	Andy Whitaker Smith
*HYMN 216	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	ES IST EIN ROS
*BENEDICTION		Andy Whitaker Smith
*RESPONSE 234	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)</i>	ADESTE FIDELES
POSTLUDE	<i>Sleeper, Awake! / Manz</i>	Matthew H. Corl, CAGO

## 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Center)

GATHERING	<i>Song of Hope</i>	
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	<b>Please sign &amp; pass the registration pad.</b>	Waite Willis/David McEntire
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel</i>	
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	Curt, Kimberly, Jackson & Katie Grace Cassidy	
SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High; Glory (Let There Be Peace); My Soul Magnifies the Lord</i>	
CONGREGATIONAL GREETING		Waite Willis
PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		David McEntire
OFFERTORY	<i>A Cradle in Bethlehem</i>	Susan Wuitschick, solo
SERMON	<i>Simple Christmas: Hope/Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12</i>	Andy Whitaker Smith
CLOSING	<i>Sanctuary</i>	
BENEDICTION		Andy Whitaker Smith

## 11:20am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Center)

GATHER TOGETHER		
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREET ONE ANOTHER		Jeremy Hearn
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE	Tom, Angie, Noah & Josh Kurrack	
SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Open Up the Heavens; Come Thou Long Expected Jesus; Build Your Kingdom Here</i>	
PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		Anna Brook Opalinski
OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY	<i>Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel</i>	
SERMON	<i>Simple Christmas: Hope/Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12</i>	Melissa Stump
COMMUNION	<i>O Come To The Altar</i>	
DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING		Melissa Stump

December 9, 2018

72 Lake Morton Drive  
 Lakeland, FL 33801  
 863-686-3163  
[firstumc.org](http://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: Stephen Levinsky and Chloe Lynn

11am: Brandon Wicorek and Caitlin Moran

Fresh flowers are placed on our altars to the glory of God and in memory of Mark C. Hollis by the Hollis Family.

## Opportunities

**Sights and Sounds:** Join us today at 4pm and 7pm in the Sanctuary as we celebrate *The Sights and Sounds of Christmas*, featuring our children, youth and adult choirs and the Handbell Ringers and Singers, A Cappella Praise and the Sights & Sounds orchestra. Make this wonderful concert a part of your family's holiday plans. Admission is free and childcare is provided for ages six weeks through four years old. Fine Arts Patrons and Sponsors will enjoy reserved seating in the front of the sanctuary.

**Order Poinsettias Today:** Poinsettias will be placed in worship areas for Christmas services in honor of or in memory of loved ones (\$12/each). Orders due by December 14. Order at [firstumc.org/poinsettias](http://firstumc.org/poinsettias) or visit the Church Office.

**Ring the Salvation Army Bell:** Join us at the Highland City Towne Center Publix (5185 Hwy 98 S). We will ring in two-hour shifts until Christmas Eve from 10am-8pm (except Sun). To sign up, contact Lea Ellen in the Church Office at 863-686-3163 or visit [firstumc.org/serve](http://firstumc.org/serve) to use our volunteer scheduling software. *Note: the links to the software are in the left column of the page. There is a link if you already have an account and another to create one.*

**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 until 7pm, Fri from 10am-4pm and Sun from 9am-12:30pm. Save 20% on all Nativities through Christmas

**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. We need volunteers for Mon and/or Thu from 8:30 - 11am and 11am-2pm. For information, contact Nina Rehberg ([nrehberg@firstumc.org](mailto:nrehberg@firstumc.org) or 863-686-3163). Please consider volunteering for this important ministry.

**Advent Love Feast:** A potluck lunch will be offered following the 11:20am worship service on Sun, Dec 16, in the Fellowship Center. We will gather for a time of sharing food, celebrating Advent and sharing how we are experiencing God in this Advent season. There will also be a time to "stuff stockings" with adult-sized socks for the homeless. If you would like to attend or provide food or socks, contact Pastor Andy ([awhitakersmith@firstumc.org](mailto:awhitakersmith@firstumc.org)).

**Christmas Caroling on Sat, Dec 15:** Join your church family for caroling from 5-8pm. Meet in F-1. Church vehicles will be available. Refreshments will be served after caroling.

**We want everyone included in our Church Directory - including winter visitors.** Beginning Jan 13 there will be sign up tables outside worship areas. This is the final photo opportunity. Sign up now at [firstumc.org/directory](http://firstumc.org/directory) for an appointment Jan 29 - Feb 2. Participants receive a complimentary 8"x 10" portrait and directory. Everyone receives a \$10 off coupon and all seniors 60 and above, military and first responders are eligible for an additional 20% off. We need you to make our directory complete!

**Annual Pecan Sale:** Pecans are available from the UMW for holiday baking and gifts. \$9/ cinnamon or chocolate and \$12/pieces and halves. Purchase in Our Giving Tree Bookstore and Gift Shop, at Wednesday evening PHOENIX, at Tracy's Hair Designs, 1211 S Florida Ave (863-688-5962) or by contacting Pat Bradford (863-859-3339 or [Pbrad65034@aol.com](mailto:Pbrad65034@aol.com)). They will be sold outside worship areas and in the fountain courtyard today.

**Our Wed afternoon Advent class continues:** Led by Jason Rogers, the group is using *Awaiting the Already*, a tour through the Gospel narratives. Learn what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel and that each Gospel writer invites us to encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ. Weds through Dec 19 at 4pm in Room C-205. Register at [firstumc.org/advent](http://firstumc.org/advent) or call 863-682-1912.

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

**Make plans now for Family Christmas Live:** Dec 23 at 6pm in the Fellowship Center. We'll have 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.

**United Methodist Women:** All women are invited to the Dec 10 General Meeting at 10:30am in the Fellowship Center. The program is: *Incarnation: The Sacred Space of God with Us/in Us*. Make a lunch reservation (\$4/full lunch) by Dec 5 by emailing [UMWreservations@firstumc.org](mailto:UMWreservations@firstumc.org).

## 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](mailto: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" exploring The Politicians, The Relatives, The Couple, The Bethlehem Locals and The Child. Room C-207
- **The Genesis Class** welcomes you as they begin "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:** They are exploring the Gospel of Matthew, with Rev. Terry Knight leading. Room C-205
- **The Searchers Class** begins their Advent study of Matt Rawle's book, *The Redemption of Scrooge*, led by Nina Rehberg. Explore Charles Dickens' character from *A Christmas Carol* in a new and engaging way. 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

**From Hurt to Hope:** Sun at 9:30am through Dec 30 in Room C-201B. If you find this season of the year difficult or simply want to be around people who are seeking support, understanding and joy, we invite you to attend. Led by Rev. Terry Heck. Our goal is to help one another find a way out of the storms of life and to move "From Hurt to Hope." Register at [firstumc.org/adults](http://firstumc.org/adults), email [GroupLife@firstumc.org](mailto:GroupLife@firstumc.org) or call 863-682-1912.

## Missions

**Monthly Mission Opportunity:** We're sending a work team on the third Sat of each month to assist in Florida Annual Conference Disaster Recovery. The next date is Dec 15. Departure and return times will be determined by the location of each project and communicated at least two days in advance. Paperwork must be filled out and returned to Forrest White at least two weeks before serving. The Conference requires youth be age 14 or older. Contact Forrest White for more information and paperwork ([fwhite@firstumc.org](mailto:fwhite@firstumc.org) or 863-686-3163) by Dec 1.

**Sager Brown Depot Mission Trip:** May 19-24, we are sending a mission team to work with the United Methodist Committee on Relief in LA. Join us Dec 16 at 10:30am for an informational meeting in the Parlor. Contact Joe Dionisi with questions ([jdi01@aol.com](mailto:jdi01@aol.com)).

## Children

### Sunday School at 9:30am:

- **Nursery through fourth grade:** An angel tells Mary some amazing news. Luke:1:30-31
- **Fifth grade:** Mary hears from the angel that she will give birth to the Messiah. Luke 1:46-47

**Tonight:** There is no programming due to Sights & Sounds. The Nursery will be open for children six weeks through four years old.

**Mon:** Pray & Play from 10-11:30am

**Wed:** Advent Classes for children from 6:30-7:30pm. **Childcare is available 6:30-7:30pm for children six weeks through PK2 for families participating in events on campus. Reservations are required. Please visit [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children).**

**Thu:** Early Connections from 9-10:30am

**For more information, contact Cristi Moore** ([cmoore@firstumc.org](mailto: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.

**Tonight:** No programming. We hope you enjoy the *Sights & Sounds of Christmas*.

**Dec 16:** Youth Christmas Party from 5-7pm. White elephant gifts, ugly Christmas sweaters, great food, prizes and games!

**Dec 20:** Join us to serve at Talbot House, 5:15-6:30pm.

**Second Sunday Gathering:** Join us today in the Welcome Center from 9am-12:15pm for food and fellowship.

### Advent Time of Prayer and Communion:

Wed, Dec, 12 and 19 from 10-10:20am in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to come & go, pray, listen to Christmas music, view beautiful pictures and receive Holy Communion.

## Prayers, Presence, Gifts

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](http://firstumc.org).

### Prayers

**Hospitalized** (as of Dec 3)

Betty Albury, Mary Ruth Chesson, Audrey McClymont and Norma McCullough

### Baptism

Emily Taylor, Dec 3

Daughter of Eric & Cara Taylor

### In Memoriam

Richard Smith, Dec 3

### Presence In Worship Last Sunday

8:15am Traditional:	279
9:30am Contemporary:	523
11am Traditional:	303
11:20am Contemporary:	142
Online viewers week of Nov 25:	124

### Gifts

Needed Each Sunday: \$ 69,357  
Received on Nov 25 \$69,314  
Received to Date: \$ 3,011,780

### 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](mailto:hmayes@firstumc.org) or 863-686-3163).