

## Prayers, Presence and Gifts

### Altar Flowers

Flowers are donated to the Glory of God and in Memory or in Honor of loved ones.  
To donate an arrangement, contact Lea Ellen: ldewitt@firstumc.org, 863-686-3163

### Hospital as of April 26

Lori Dettmer  
Chris Drash  
Vern Kressin

### Baptisms:

Leona Mae Meradith, April 25  
Daughter of Mike and Lauren DeWitt Meradith

Evan James Swartz, April 25  
Son of John and Erin DeWitt Swartz

### Presence In Worship April 18

In Person: 377  
Online: 1062  
Total: 1439  
Podcast: 23

### Pastors Monthly Bible Study, Tuesday, May 4, 6:30pm on Zoom

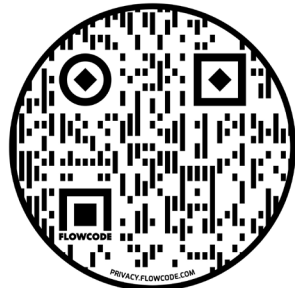
- Women will meet with Rev. Betty Batey, Pastor of Visitation  
Contact GroupLife @ firstumc.org for Zoom credentials
- Men will meet with Rev. David McEntire  
Email David for credentials: dmcentire@firstumc.org

### Bible Study and Faith Formation

We have Bible study and faith formation resources for all ages available on our website at firstumc.org/grow. For more information on these opportunities, email Warren, wpattison@firstumc.org.

### Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a convenient way to continue to financially support the ministry of the church. Several ways include ACH, electronic checks (eChecks), debit or credit card, and text to give. For more information and to view several helpful resources visit: firstumc.org/give or contact Harriet Mayes, hmayes@firstumc.org or 863-686-3163 x 217.



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.

**Attendance & Resources:** firstumc.org/connect

**News:** firstumc.org/news

**Online Giving:** firstumc.org/give

**Prayer:** firstumc.org/pray

Rev. David McEntire, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Melissa Stump, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Andy Whitaker Smith, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Sharon Austin, District Superintendent  
Bishop Ken Carter, Florida Area Bishop

## 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		David McEntire
OPENING SONG	<i>Open Up the Heavens</i>	9:30 Praise Band
CALL TO WORSHIP		David McEntire
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>God is Here Today/arr. Trenney</i>	Virtual Kids Praise
SONGS OF PRAISE	<i>Move; My Lighthouse</i>	9:30 Praise Band
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER		David McEntire
OFFERTORY	<i>Truth I'm Standing On</i>	Katie Grace Cassidy, solo
SERMON	<i>CONNECT 4: DISCIPLE/ Matthew 16:13-19</i>	Melissa Stump
CONFESSION, PARDON AND THE GREAT THANKSGIVING		Melissa Stump
COMMUNION		
CLOSING SONG	<i>All My Fountains</i>	9:30 Praise Band
BENEDICTION		Melissa Stump

\*Please stand as you are able

## 11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		David McEntire
PRELUDE	<i>Prelude on Hanover/Corl</i>	Matthew H. Corl, AAGO
*CALL TO WORSHIP		David McEntire
HYMN 181	<i>Ye Servants of God</i>	HANOVER
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 885		David McEntire
*GLORIA PATRI		
PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		David McEntire
OFFERTORY	<i>God is Here Today/arr. Trenney</i>	Virtual Kids Praise
SERMON	<i>CONNECT 4: DISCIPLE/ Matthew 16:13-19</i>	Melissa Stump
CONFESSION, PARDON AND THE GREAT THANKSGIVING		Melissa Stump
COMMUNION		
HYMN 540	<i>I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord</i>	ST. THOMAS
*BENEDICTION		Melissa Stump
*POSTLUDE	<i>Ite Missa Est/Phillips</i>	Matthew Corl, AAGO

\*Please stand as you are able

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Who do we say Jesus is?

**ALL: It should be well understood. It is why we worship.**

LEADER: But who is he to us? And why do we choose to follow him?

**ALL: We will continue to discover the Risen Christ and share his story with the world.**

MAY 2, 2021

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Contact Information  
72 Lake Morton Drive,  
Lakeland, FL, 33801  
863-686-3163  
firstumc.org  
#1stLKLD

### Coffee with the Pastors - This Afternoon

If you have been attending either in person or virtual and would like to join our membership please join us for Coffee with the Pastors from 5:pm - 6:30pm this afternoon in the Fellowship Center. We will observe social distancing protocols and wear masks. In this casual and informative time together, you'll learn more about the church, get to know our pastors and review expectations regarding membership. We will also offer this meeting through zoom as well.

It is important you register so the link for the Zoom meeting can be sent to you along with other information and material about joining the church. Please register online at [www.firstumc.org/membership/coffee-with-the-pastors](http://www.firstumc.org/membership/coffee-with-the-pastors). If you have any questions, please email Diana Russell at [drussell@firstumc.org](mailto:drussell@firstumc.org)

### Neighborhood Ministries

The mission of Neighborhood Ministries is to share the love of Jesus Christ with the community by providing a safe, recreational and spiritual experience for students. Our programs are free of charge to participants.

We are looking for staff and volunteers.

- Volunteers: Adults with a Florida Driver's license and between the ages of 21-70 are needed to drive Monday - Friday from 2:15pm - 4:00pm to pick up our students from school. If you are available but not wanting to drive, we also need riders/chaperones for afterschool pickup.
- Staff: We are looking for NHM staff to join our [after school and summer programs](#). Our afterschool program serves students K-12th grade. Our summer program serves students K-5th grade. Join us to serve as a mentor to students in our community and be a part of our ministry.

If you are interested in being a part of Neighborhood Ministries please contact Stephanie Keen: [skeen@firstumc.org](mailto:skeen@firstumc.org)

## YOUTH

### Youth Group Sunday 4:30-5:30pm - Meet in F-Building Gym

Join us Sunday evenings as the pastors lead youth through discussions around scripture, games, small group breakouts and music. All middle and high school students are welcome and encouraged to attend. Snacks will be provided! Safety protocols are in place: temperature checks, masks are required and we will be following distancing guidelines.

**All Youth and Parents are Invited! Friday, May 7, 6-7:30pm, F Building Gym:** We encourage all youth, parents and adult volunteers to join us to meet with candidates for our Youth Director position, Amber and David LeMasters.  
**No Youth Group Next Sunday, May 9 to honor Mother's Day.**

### Senior Sunday this year will be May 23.

We will recognize those graduating from High School in worship at the 9:30 and 11:00 services. More info will be provided about registration and submitting information in the coming weeks.

## CHILDREN

**For information regarding Children's Ministry events or Zoom links, please contact Cristi, [cmoore@firstumc.org](mailto:cmoore@firstumc.org).**

### Thursday Art Night - May 6 6:30pm on Zoom

You don't need to be an artist. Just bring a piece of paper, a pencil and something to color with and create your own masterpiece!

### Preschool Pals every Tuesday at 10am

Preschool friends age 2 and up - this is for you! Join us Tuesday mornings via Zoom at 10am for a short Bible lesson and some fun activities.

### Virtual Sunday School Rooms

Don't miss out on Sunday School! You can access this any time during the week at [firstumc.org/children/childrens-sunday-school/](http://firstumc.org/children/childrens-sunday-school/). There are rooms for each age level that include Bible stories, activities, games, devotions and much more.

## ADULTS

**For more information or Zoom Credentials, contact Warren, Director of Adult Education, [wpattison@firstumc.org](mailto:wpattison@firstumc.org)**

### Sunday School for Adults

Many of our Sunday School classes are meeting online. Check the start times as some have shifted to accommodate in-person worship times. Visitors are welcome to participate in any of these classes.

**BYKOTA** (Be Ye Kind One To Another) welcomes Rev. Larry Rankin in May as he teaches on "The Prophets" and the ways they call the people of God to repentance and faithfulness. The May 2 lesson is "What is a Prophet?" and will look at Moses and Miriam. Meets via Conference Call to (863) 250-1152 or online (email Warren for link). NOTE MEETING TIME: Class starts at 9:00am Sundays.

**Genesis** is journeying through a new study on Proverbs, coinciding with our sermon series. The book is Proverbs: Pathways to Wisdom by Dominick S. Hernández. Videos for the lessons are available on Amplify Media. The class is meeting in person, with the option to join via Zoom. Masks are required. NOTE MEETING TIME AND LOCATION: Class starts at 9:15am Sundays in the choir room, E-2. Email Warren for the Zoom link.

**Homebuilders** is our longest-running Sunday school class, having started in the 1940s. Rev. Brian Tiffany teaches from the Standard Lesson Series Bible study. May's theme is "Courageous Prophets of Change" with the May 2 lesson "Speaking Truth to Power" based on 1 Kings 22:15-23, 26-28 when Micaiah prophesies against Ahab. Meets via Conference Call to (863) 250-1141 or online (email Warren for link). Class starts at 9:30am Sundays, call is open starting at 9:20am.

**Koinonia** welcomes all who desire to grow in their love of God and neighbor. The class does Bible study based on the Lectionary scripture readings and church calendar. Rev. Terry Heck teaches. Meets via Zoom. Contact Warren for Zoom link and more information. Class starts at 9:30am Sundays, call is open starting at 9:20am.

**Searchers** class is open to all who are searching for Christian community. They are exploring 1 Corinthians, using the study by Jaime Clark-Soles. Rev. Betty Batey is leading. Videos for the lessons are available on Amplify Media. Meets via Zoom. Contact Warren for Zoom link and more information. NOTE MEETING TIME- Class starts at 9:15am Sundays, call is open starting at 9:05am.

**Sendero** is studying the Minor Prophets, using the Genesis to Revelation resource facilitated by Mark Van Cleave. Delve into the special message of each prophet. Some of the ideas explored are: wrath and compassion, justice and righteousness, God's reign of peace, and visions of restoration. The class meets via Zoom. Contact Warren for login information. Class starts at 9:30am Sundays.

**Vanguard** uses the Adult Bible Studies series. May's theme is "God Revealed" and explores the ways God has revealed God's self across the biblical narrative. Dr. Tom Reuschling is teaching. Supplemental videos for the lessons are available on Amplify Media. Meets via Conference Call to (863) 250-1038 or online (email Warren for link and for access to Amplify Media). Class starts at 9:30am Sundays, call is open starting at 9:20am.

## MISSIONS

**For information on Mission opportunities listed below or questions, contact Forrest, Director of Mission Ministries, ([fwhite@firstumc.org](mailto:fwhite@firstumc.org))**

### Speaking to Groups

Our missions director, Forrest White, is inviting himself to your place! He would love to speak to your Sunday school class or small group, either in person when you're gathering again or via Zoom, and share with you about missions and service and hear what you have to share with him. To schedule a visit, send him an email ([fwhite@firstumc.org](mailto:fwhite@firstumc.org))

### Costa Rica Virtual Mission Trip

Please join us May 11-13 for a virtual mission trip with Costa Rica Mission Projects (CRMP) and prayerfully consider joining us for our return trip to serve alongside them, January 8-15, 2022. The virtual mission trip will be conducted via Zoom from 6-7:30pm nightly beginning that Tuesday as we join a local prayer service. Wil Bailey, CRMP founder and director, asks that we commit to being present each night of the virtual mission trip, as though we were actually on a journey to Costa Rica. Wil has led several virtual trips during the pandemic and has lots to share. There will be reading to do in advance. First United sent a team to serve with CRMP during the summer of 2019. We had two mission trips scheduled with them during 2020, both of which were cancelled because of Covid-19. To register for the virtual mission trip, email Forrest White, Director of Missions ([fwhite@firstumc.org](mailto:fwhite@firstumc.org)). You'll receive the Zoom credentials in early May.

### Monthly Food Collection

Our next collection for our migrant ministry partners - Mulberry UMC Food Pantry and Called to Serve Farmworkers - is May 16 from 1-4 pm at the Missions Depot, where we will have volunteers waiting to take donations. Please note: This is a change from our regular second Sunday collection. We pushed it back for May only to avoid Mother's Day. Please purchase only dried black or pinto beans (no cans) and please limit bags of rice and beans to a maximum of 12 pounds. Provide only requested items and NO glass jars.

Rice (maximum 12-pound bags)  
Dried Beans (pinto and black, maximum 12-pound bags)  
Maseca flour  
Spaghetti sauce  
Peanut butter  
Canned tuna and chicken  
Vienna sausage  
Canned veggies (especially corn)  
Jiffy peanut butter  
Dried Beans (pinto and black,