

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	O Praise Him, Alleluia/Floeter	Matthew H. Corl
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*HYMN</b>	All Creatures of Our God and King	
<b>*PSALTER 862</b>	Psalm 150	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>	Just As I Am/Sherman	Handbell Ringers & Singers
<b>DOXOLOGY 95</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	Learning to Doubt Our Doubts (Matthew 11:2-6)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN</b>	Be Thou My Vision	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb
<b>*RESPONSE</b>	As We Go	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Rejoice, the Lord is King/Forrest	Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	House of The Lord, O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, Cornerstone	
<b>BAPTISM</b>	Tate Walter Johnston & Claire Evans Johnston Son & Daughter of Tim & Sarah Johnston Lenox Ariel Johnston Son of Greg Johnston & Cristina DeArmas Johnston	
<b>PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Hills and Valleys	
<b>SERMON</b>	Learning to Doubt Our Doubts (Matthew 11:2-6)	Charley Reeb
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Firm Foundation (He Won’t)	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	Fanfare and Trumpet Tune/Jordan	Matthew H. Corl
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*HYMN 163</b>	Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know	
<b>*PSALTER 862</b>	Psalm 150	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*GLORIA PATRI 70</b>	Glory Be to the Father	
<b>ANTHEM</b>	Just As I Am/Sherman	Handbell Ringers & Singers
<b>BAPTISM</b>	Remington George Daniel Oakley Son of Justin & Chelsie Oakley	
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Now the Green Blade Rises/McChesney	
	Handbell Ringers & Singers	
<b>DOXOLOGY 94</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	Learning to Doubt Our Doubts (Matthew 11:2-6)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN 172</b>	My Jesus, I Love Thee	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb
<b>*RESPONSE 666</b>	Shalom to You	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Grand Choeur/Dubois	Matthew H. Corl

\*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	House of The Lord, Presence, Wesley Prayer (Come Like a Fire)	
<b>BAPTISM</b>	Henley Monroe Palazzo-Butler, Daughter of Austin Butler Austin Lee Butler, Son of Austin Butler and Tonia & Corey Terry	
<b>CENTERING PRAYER</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	God With Us	
<b>DOXOLOGY</b>		
<b>SERMON</b>	Gym of Grace: Communal Piety (1 Chronicles 16:23-31)	Nicki Taylor
<b>COMMUNION</b>		Nicki Taylor
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Living Hope	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Nicki Taylor

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We come together in worship. Our hearts united in praise to our God!  
**ALL: We thank God for the gift of community! We give thanks for all gathered here!**  
LEADER: Iron sharpens iron. Together we connect, grow, strengthen our faith, to serve our community.  
**ALL: May we join together to make disciples. May we join together for the transformation of the world!**

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 14)

In Person: 881  
Online: 1,496  
Total: 2,377

**Giving Through Mar 24, 2024**  
YTD Budgeted Income: \$1,057,800  
YTD Actual Income: 873,309  
\$(184,491)

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; Alex Michel, 11am

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**Hospital (as of Apr 15)**  
Marlene Johns, Bonnie Taylor

**Death**  
Ronald Grove, 4/13

**Altar Flowers**  
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:** In Matthew 8:5-13, we find a remarkable story of faith that astounds Jesus. A centurion, a Roman officer in charge of a hundred soldiers, approaches Jesus with a desperate plea for his paralyzed servant. The centurion's faith and understanding of Jesus' authority and power leave a profound impact on both Jesus and those witnessing this encounter. The first thing we notice about the centurion is his humility. Although in charge of many soldiers, he was quick to recognize his lack of power and authority in the presence of Jesus. In other words, the centurion knew he was helpless and needed a power greater than he could provide. This is the first step to having great faith. We must recognize our need for help. What problem do you need help with today that is beyond your capacity or ability to solve?

**Tuesday:** Another remarkable thing we notice in this text is how the centurion's faith transcended physical presence. The centurion believed that Jesus could heal his servant without being physically present. This is how much he believed in the power of Jesus. The centurion trusted that Jesus' authority and power was not limited to time or space. This unwavering faith of the centurion reminds us to trust Jesus even when our situation seems hopeless. Have you ever been faced with what you thought was a hopeless situation only to see God move in ways you thought were impossible?

**Wednesday:** Jesus was so amazed at the faith of the centurion that he boldly declared it was the greatest demonstration of faith he had ever seen in all of Israel. And Jesus was saying this about a pagan Gentile centurion! This is an important lesson about how faith in Jesus is not confined to a specific group of people but is open to everyone. Jesus loves all people and desires for everyone to put their trust in him. Jesus is the help and hope of the world and there is no prerequisite to experiencing his saving love and abiding strength. Do you remember the first time you decided to trust Jesus as your Savior and rely on him? How has that decision made a difference to your life?

**Thursday:** Jesus granted the centurion's request and healed his servant. The centurion's faith moved the heart of Jesus. The message of Sunday was that one of the fastest ways to move the heart of Jesus is to expect him to act in your life. Our willingness to trust Jesus and rely on him pleases him immensely. He wants us to take his hand and depend on his strength and wisdom. When was the last time you prayed expectantly, trusting Jesus to act in your life?

**Friday:** Begin your day today with this prayer: "Dear Lord, thank you for the example of the centurion's faith. Help us approach you with humility, acknowledging our need for your intervention. Strengthen our faith, Lord, and help us to trust in your authority and power. May our faith move mountains and bring glory to your name. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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)



**Called Charge Conference, Apr 23, 7pm, C201A**  
All elected Church Council members are invited and encouraged to attend a Called Charge Conference for the express purpose of approving the compensation package for an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, currently appointed outside the Florida Conference for the position of Church Administrator. Only Church Council members, and retired elders, deacons, and diaconal ministers who hold membership in our church are voting members of the Charge Conference. At the conclusion of the Called Charge Conference, Church Council Chair, Betsy Filipkowski will convene our Church Council to conduct the business of the quarterly gathering.



**Handbell Ringers & Singers: From Darkness to Light, Tonight, 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).



**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 information visit [firstumc.org/youth](https://firstumc.org/youth).



**Church Directory Pictures Make-up Dates, May 6-7**  
To sign up for a photography appointment, visit [ucdir.ucm.org](https://ucdir.ucm.org). Type in the church code "FL845" and the password "photos". Then pick a day and time that work best for you!



## CHILDREN

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



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

Registrations for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade, youth volunteers, and adult volunteers are now open! To learn more and register by May 10 visit [firstumc.org/vbs](http://firstumc.org/vbs).

#### Sundays

**8:15am Childcare (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**

**9:30am Sunday School (Infants 6 weeks - 5th Grade)**

**11am Childcare (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**

**5-7pm: Sunday Evening Programming (K-5th Grade/\$5 per person)**

#### Last Sunday Evening, Apr 21, 5-7pm

Our final Children's Sunday evening program for the school year will take place on Apr 21. Children from kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join us for an evening of fun. The program will kick off with a meal in the fellowship center at a cost of \$5/person. Check-in will start at 4:50pm and pick-up time will be at 7pm in the C Building. Our once a month "Fun Day Sunday" events will start in May. Stay tuned for more information!

#### 4th & 5th Grade Event, Friday, 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](http://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](http://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](http://firstumc.org/events).



#### 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](mailto:cmoore@firstumc.org).

## 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](http://firstumc.org/groups).

#### Parent Social Night, Tonight, 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](http://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](http://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](http://firstumc.org/events).

#### Genesis Class Pancake Breakfast, May 11, 7am-12pm

The Genesis Sunday School Class will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast. All proceeds go to benefit families in need in the Lakeland area. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship on your way to Mayfaire by the Lake. The cost is \$5/Adult, \$3/Child or \$15/Family Ticket. Tickets are available at the door.

## 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)**

**3-4:30pm VIBE Team**

**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**

#### Middle School Mystery Event, Jun 2, 2-7pm

This event is for our rising sixth graders through current seventh graders (rising eighth graders), and will be a super fun opportunity for our Middle School students to bond! For more info or to register by May 13 visit [firstumc.org/youth](http://firstumc.org/youth).

#### Youth Serve Saturday, May 18, 9-12pm

Join us at the church we are going to help make sets for VBS this year. For more information or to register visit [firstumc.org/youth](http://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](http://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](http://firstumc.org/youth).

## MISSIONS

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

#### Better Together, Today

Leaders from Better Together will be at First UMC for two congregational info 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 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 Jobs works with churches around the country to connect people with employment opportunities. Please join us at one of these information sessions! Visit [bettertogetherus.org](http://bettertogetherus.org) for more information.

#### 2024 Hurricane Recovery Team Change

We have rescheduled our next mission team serving Hurricane Ian survivors in Southwest Florida. It will be May 30-Jun 1. We 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 rescheduled team is May 9.

#### 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.

#### 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)).

#### First Sunday Food Collection, May 5

We will receive food at the Missions Depot immediately following the 11am worship services until 1:30pm. The list of items is posted at [firstumc.org/firstsundayfood](http://firstumc.org/firstsundayfood). Thank you for your generosity and a reminder to please donate only requested items.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 21, 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

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