



Pastor Steve Langford

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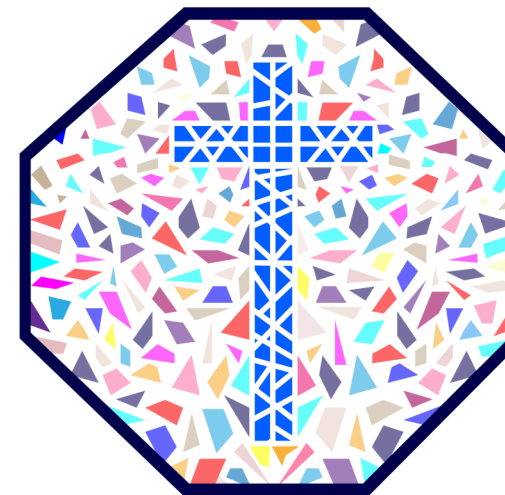
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# Newsletter



**FIRST UNITED**  
**METHODIST CHURCH**  
HIGH SPRINGS

March 2023 | Volume 33 | Issue 3

## Weekly Schedule for First United Methodist Church of High Springs

### Sundays

"The Way Out" AA 7:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Youth 5:00 - 7:00 PM

### Mondays

Middle Grades Afterschool 2 - 6 PM  
**First Mondays**  
Friendship Circle 1:30 PM  
New Joy Circle 6:30 PM  
**Second and Fourth Mondays**  
Girl Scout Troop #2177 5:30 PM  
**Third Mondays**  
W.A.C.O.S. 6:30 PM

### Tuesdays

"Off Our Rockers" Game Group 2 PM  
Kid's Club (K - 5th) 2 - 6 PM  
"The Way Out" AA 6:30 PM  
**First Tuesdays**  
Circle of Faith 6:30 PM

### Wednesdays

Emmaus Prayer Group 9AM  
Middle Grades Afterschool 2 - 6 PM  
Dinner 6:00 PM  
Coffee Chat (Youth) 6:30 PM

### Thursdays

Women's Bible Study 10am-12pm  
Kid's Club (K-5th) 2 - 6 PM

### Fridays

"The Way Out" AA 6:30 PM



March Events

- Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> - Holy Communion
- Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Circle 1:30pm
- Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> - New Joy Circle 6:30pm
- Tue. 7<sup>th</sup> - Circle of Faith 6:30pm
- Thu. 9<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> - Men's Walk to Emmaus ( pg. 5)
- Thu. 16<sup>th</sup> - Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> - Women's Walk to Emmaus (pg. 5)
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> - Family Movie Night 7pm
- Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> - W.A.C.O.S. 6:30pm
- Tue. 21<sup>st</sup> - Board Meeting 6:30pm
- Mon. 21<sup>st</sup> - Newsletter Deadline
- Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> - Florida UM Children's Home Day on Campus (pg. 7)



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays

- Caroline Roder-2<sup>nd</sup>
- Laurie Roder-3<sup>rd</sup>
- Connie Piper-7<sup>th</sup>
- Clayton Cameron-9<sup>th</sup>
- Kylie Deckard-11<sup>th</sup>
- Alice Martin-12<sup>th</sup>
- Art Reeves-12<sup>th</sup>
- Steven Ring-13<sup>th</sup>
- Jerry Rogers-16<sup>th</sup>
- Kay Thomas-19<sup>th</sup>
- Gerald Wight-20<sup>th</sup>
- Ronnie Wisener-23<sup>rd</sup>
- Casey Glant-25<sup>th</sup>
- Charles Stewart-26<sup>th</sup>
- April Woodard-31<sup>st</sup>



Anniversaries

- Tom & Heather Clarich-6<sup>th</sup>
- Art & Mary Reeves-9<sup>th</sup>
- Dennis & Margaret Hogue-20<sup>th</sup>



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HIGH SPRINGS  
FINANCIAL SUMMARY  
JANUARY 2023

OPERATING ACCOUNTS		INCOME		Amt.
General Fund Checking (+ CU Share account)		Budgeted		\$30,525
	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	Local Missions	\$360
	26,597	31,225	Unbudgeted Giving	\$778
Savings-UM Foundation		Misc.		<u>\$288</u>
	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	Total:	<u>\$31,951</u>
	4,148	6,166		
RESERVES		BUDGETED EXPENSES		Amt. % Budget YTD
	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	Worship	\$684 24.00%
	64,629	60,815	Christian Ed and Discipleship	\$84 1.44%
OTHER INV. (Scholarship)		Missions		\$778 7.07%
	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	Support Systems	\$14,753 8.75%
	218,867	211,091	Congregational Vitality	\$10 0.45%
LIABILITIES (Short Term)		Facilities		\$5,430 10.71%
	12/31/2022	1/31/2023	Apportionments	<u>\$3,585 16.67%</u>
	0	0	Total	<u>\$25,324 9.64%</u>
		Net Income (Deficit)		<u>\$6,627</u>



March Sunday Volunteer Schedule

5<sup>th</sup>

- Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty  
Bill & Clara Bemby
- Lock-Up - TBD
- Flowers - none
- Scripture Reader - Dana Lynch
- Communion-Margaret & Dennis Hogue

19<sup>th</sup>

- Usher/Greeter -Nanette Dougherty  
Bob Piper  
Billy & Norma Mitchell
- Lock-Up - TBD
- Flowers -Connie Casey
- Scripture Reader - Dana Lynch

12<sup>th</sup>

- Usher/Greeter-Dana Lynch  
Chester & Margaret Patterson
- Lock-up-Brian Hontz
- Flowers-Judy Northway
- Scripture Reader-Nadine Pasquot

26<sup>th</sup>

- Usher/Greeter-Nanette Dougherty  
Dana Lynch
- Lock-Up - TBD
- Flowers-Jennifer Jones
- Scripture Reader-Margaret Hogue

Sign up to volunteer at Connection Central.

The Pastor’s Page (continued from page 2)

Excerpts of the Request for an Expanded Profile and Consultation

We acknowledge that in this time and season, congregations and clergy need to be able to respond to a variety of perspectives on same-sex marriage and ordination standards. We see the option of an expanded profile and consultation as a tool to guide us all in a transitory, liminal season. We reject the practice of compartmentalizing churches and clergy into categories according to their actual or perceived perspectives. The Bishop and Cabinet will not treat clergy or congregations that make this request any differently than others who do not make this request. This is an expression of respect and compassion allowing us to honor the differences among us and to strengthen our common mission.

The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church already: 1) Guarantees a thorough consultation process with clergy and churches around clergy appointments. (Par. 425-430) 2) Gives clergy the sole decision whether or not to perform weddings. (Par. 340.2) 3) Gives Boards of Trustees the authority to determine building usage policies. (Par. 2533) Should the language in the Book of Discipline related to marriage and ordination change at a future date, the Florida Conference Bishop and Cabinet will provide a way for congregations to more clearly state their perspectives on these matters by requesting an expanded profile and consultation.

The DS will meet with the SPRC to discuss the process for utilizing the annual church profile as a way of sharing the congregation’s perspective on prohibiting church use for same-sex weddings and its unwillingness to receive a pastor who identifies as part of the LGBTQ community. The SPRC will represent to the DS the majority view of the church Trustees who ultimately determine facility use related to weddings.

Should the SPRC, in consultation with the DS, choose to expand its church profile to include one or both of these limitations on weddings and clergy appointments, the expectation is that the highest degree of compassion be extended to all persons, inside and outside of the church, who are impacted by these decisions.

The Pastor’s Page

What’s Our Next Step?

At our recent townhall meeting I mentioned that Art Reeves, Margaret Hogue and I would schedule meetings with anyone who requested to have questions answered regarding the denominational split. Less than 5 members requested a meeting. A majority of members spoke to Art, Margaret, and me, and let us know that they would prefer to not have a church-wide vote to disaffiliate. The next step in the process is for the FUMC HS church board to hold a vote to consider scheduling a church-wide vote to disaffiliate from the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Denomination. The board will vote at its March 21, 2023, meeting.

To help our congregation better understand this process I wanted you to share some history on the disaffiliation. Originally the split of the denomination only offered two options, 1). if a church was open to having a LGBTQ+ pastor and performing same sex marriages, the church would remain in the UMC, and 2.) if not, the church could disaffiliate and join other Methodist denominations, mainly the newly formed Global Methodist. As you have heard me say so many times, our church has a lot of members who are not in either of those groups, but in this scenario, would be forced to choose one of these two options. Also, with only these two choices, I believe our church would be severely divided. Fortunately, the Florida Conference has provided an additional choice, which is called Request for an Expanded Profile & Consultation. The profile and consultation encourages our church to remain United Methodist, but allows our church to not have a LGBTQ+ pastor or conduct same sex marriages in our church. Excerpts of the profile and consultation for your perusal can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

Since my arrival we have focused on building the Body of Believers. We have focused on being united on loving each other and reaching out to share the love of God with our community and the world. I have seen your love flourish. I know there are things we disagree on. Despite our differences, backgrounds and preferences God has asked us to live, love, and work together to build unity as part of the family of God. I long for unity not division. I am encouraging you to prayerfully consider where you stand on the issue of disaffiliation and share that with one of our Board members. The Board needs your input on the call for a church-wide vote. Thank you for your attention to this matter. God Bless You and God Bless FUMC of High Springs.

Your Pastor,

Steve



## From your Lay Leader

As we enter March, I want to let you all know that we are making progress in getting the Teams started up that were established by the Spiritual Gifts Workshop and follow up. Some of our Teams were already established and have new members added. Others are brand new, and will be meeting to select leaders and begin work. I have posted a list of all the Teams with their goals at Connection Central. If you did not participate in the Spiritual Gifts Workshop, but are interested in serving on a Team, please look at the list. If you are interested in or have questions about any of them, please let me know, and I'll answer questions or put you in touch with the right person. We also now have on the Church Board a Church Vitality committee whose members will help in getting the Teams started and will later serve as liaisons to the Board for them. The Church Vitality Committee consists of myself, Casey Glant, Susan Walker, and Sharon Fielding.

The Worship Team has decided to make a small change in the Holy Communion service. To further reduce any bread contamination, and make the gluten free wafers easier to access, we'll put a small table in the aisle, so that you make pick up a wafer on your way to the altar. We will also have a basket on the table for our traditional offering for the Congregational Care fund. Most of you know that some church members have the unusual tradition of leaving small offerings on the Communion rail for the purpose of helping congregation members in need. Instead of leaving money on the rail, please use the new basket if you choose to make an offering. In other worship news, the new kneeling cushions were brought to you by the Worship Team, paid for by donations from the Friendship Circle, New Joy Circle, the Circle of Faith and several anonymous donations. I want to thank you all for your generosity.

Please feel free to come to me with any questions or comments that you have about the Church.

**God bless!**

**Margaret Hogue**

# Youth Calendar

March

April

May

**5TH  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**12TH  
NO YOUTH**

**SPRING BREAK  
13TH - 17TH**

**19TH  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**26TH  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**2ND  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**9TH  
NO YOUTH**

**16TH  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**23RD  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**30TH  
YOUTH 5-7 PM**

**7TH  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**14TH  
NO YOUTH  
(MOTHER'S DAY)**

**21ST  
YOUTH 5-7PM**

**28TH  
NO YOUTH  
(MEMORIAL DAY  
WEEKEND)**

### Coffee\* Chat

**Wednesdays\*\*  
6:30 - 7:30  
in the youth room**  
This time is available for  
homework and fellowship.

\*Coffee Optional  
\*\*Please remember to RSVP and  
bring \$\$ for dinner



### Family movie night every month!

3/17 | 4/14  
5/19 | 6/9

7 PM Showtime

Titles are in the calendar found  
on our website or Breeze.



Our next fundraising  
opportunity is  
March 18th for our  
Spring Flea Market.

All help is  
appreciated, even if  
it's just for an hour!





## JOIN US FOR A DAY ON CAMPUS – 2023

### Saturday, March 25th

Day On Campus is returning for 2023 on Saturday, March 25th! Come and learn the latest news about our ministry and the impact your support is making on young lives. You'll be able to tour the campus, attend special programming and performances featuring our youth, and enjoy a free picnic lunch. We will be carpooling from our Church to the Enterprise Campus.

#### Sessions include:

Foster Care Service at the Children's Home  
What Makes a Trauma Informed Ministry?  
Planned Giving 101  
Schedule of Events

9:00 Gates Open  
9:30 Break-out sessions and tours begin  
11:00 Program in the gym  
11:30 Picnic Lunch under the Big Top and tours resume  
1:30 Youth present Wizard of Oz in the gym

Please RSVP by March 15th-signup sheet at Connection Central.

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

### FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH | 7PM SHOWTIME

Showing: *Darby O'Gill and the Little People* (1959)

Location: HSFUMC Fellowship Hall

Admission: Free

What to bring: comfy camp chair or blanket

We will have popcorn, beverages, & sweets for \$1 each.

Upcoming Features:

Apr 14th - Lilo and Stitch (2002)

May 19th - Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken (1991)

June 9th - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)

March 2023

### FUMC of HIGH SPRINGS BOARD MEMBERS 2023

Art Reeves-Chairman of the Board

Brain Hontz-Board Secretary

Margaret Hogue-Lay Leader

Sharon Fielding-Lay Representative to Annual Conference

#### Trustees

Chair-Nancy Gillman

Danny Mueller

Ted Northway

#### Finance

Chair-Bob Alvin

Art Reeves

Bob Kuitert

#### Staff Parish Relations

Chair-Nadine Pasquot

Marlene Jennings

Brian Hontz

#### Church Vitality

Chair-Margaret Hogue

Sharon Fielding

Casey Glant

Susan Walker

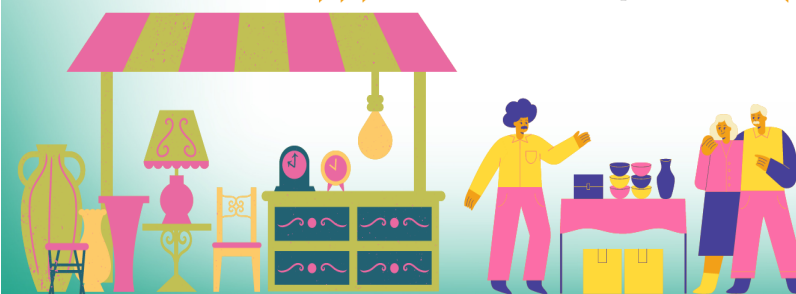
## Spring Flea Market and Not New Sale

### March 18th | 8 am - 1 pm

Not New Sale Donations accepted  
March 5th - 16th.

Please bring all items to the Fellowship hall and  
place them in the designated area.

»» No clothes, please. ««



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



# Have you heard of the Walk to Emmaus?

Are you interested in going on a walk this Spring?

Warren Willis UM Camp & Conference Center in Leesburg, Florida is having a three-day experience of Emmaus designed to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action.

Dates for this event are:  
**Men's Walk-March 9-12**  
**Women's Walk- March 16-19**

Questions? Contact Mary Coleman 352-222-5592

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2023

JUNE 18 - 23 | BAYOU LE BATRE, AL  
BACK TO THE BAYOU...AGAIN!

The cost is \$500 per person\*.

All fundraising profits will be split among participating youth.

Next fundraising opportunity is March 18th  
for a Spring Flea Market!

Next Mission Trip dinner is April 5th.

We have eight spaces, which includes two adults and six youth. We can add up to six more youth pending Youth Works space allowance.

\*Rising seventh graders through high school

Welcome to  
**Sweet Home  
Alabama**

## The Story of St. Patrick's Day

Like many stories in history, the story of St. Patrick has little to nothing to do with what most celebrate, for it is not about Leprechauns, four leave clovers, pots of gold, or snakes. Patrick was born in Britain in the fourth Century during a time of great uncertainty for the Roman Empire, which gave protection to Britain against Barbaric invasions. The Roman legions were called back to defend other regions of the Empire, leaving Britain open to attacks. Just before Patrick's 16th birthday, while at a family holiday villa by the sea, Irish pirates attacked. While Patrick's family escaped, he and many of the family workers were taken captive. While they were en route to Ireland, Patrick was sold as a slave to a Druid tribal chieftain and he was given the task of herdsman.

Though raised in a Christian home, Patrick had not made a decision to follow Christ. But, through his many sufferings as a slave serving in harsh weather and conditions, his love and fear of God grew stronger and he realized his calling to share the Gospel. He earned the name "Holy boy" among fellow slaves.

Through God's grace, he escaped at age 22 and traveled 200 miles to Ireland, and two years later made it back to his family in Britain. He began studying to become a priest and bishop, when he got a calling to return to Ireland. Against the advise of family and church leaders, who didn't think the pagan Druids were worth saving, Patrick returned to the Green Ilse to spread the Gospel of Jesus and also taught people how to read and write. Enslavement, torture, imprisonment, and eventually death in Christ, St. Patrick is an inspiration for all of us to stand firm in Christ and tell others about the greatest gift anyone can ever receive-salvation through Christ Jesus! Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Overnight Summer Camp at Warren Willis is open to rising 4th graders through graduated seniors.

Register at [www.umccc.org/programs/classic-camps/](http://www.umccc.org/programs/classic-camps/)  
We have chosen to go during week four (July 10-15)  
and will provide transportation.

Scholarship information will be available soon!

**March 19th Following Service - Camp info meeting**  
**Special guest Kali Grenus, Program Coordinator at Warren Willis**

**Summer Camp Fundraiser Dinner | April 19th**  
**Camp Fundraiser Dinner and Dessert Auction | May 10th**