

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)/Larson	Matthew H. Corl
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Andy Whitaker Smith
*HYMN	Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone	
*PSALTER 858	Psalm 146	Andy Whitaker Smith
*GLORIA PATRI	We Will Glorify	
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE		Nicki Taylor
OFFERTORY	I Love You, Lord/Sherman	Handbell Ringers & Singers
DOXOLOGY 95	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
SERMON	When Jesus Comes (Luke 18:35-43)	Riley Short
*HYMN 454	Open My Eyes That I May See	
*BENEDICTION		Riley Short
*RESPONSE	As We Go	
POSTLUDE	In the Cross of Christ I Glory/Carter	Matthew H. Corl


9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		
CALL TO WORSHIP		Jeremy Hearn
*SONGS OF PRAISE	O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, Made Alive, From the Day	
PASSING OF THE PEACE/PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER		Nicki Taylor
OFFERTORY	Brokenness Aside	
SERMON	When Jesus Comes (Luke 18:35-43)	Riley Short
*SONG OF RESPONSE	Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone	
*BENEDICTION		Riley Short

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PRELUDE	Amazing Grace/Callahan	Matthew H. Corl
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Nicki Taylor
*HYMN 378	Amazing Grace	
*PSALTER 858	Psalm 146	Nicki Taylor
*GLORIA PATRI 70	Glory Be to the Father	
ANTHEM	I Love You, Lord/Sherman	Handbell Ringers & Singers
BAPTISM	Benjamin Thomas Daniels Son of Ben & Meg Daniels	
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE		Nicki Taylor
OFFERTORY	The Prayer	Holly Parrish & John Partain
DOXOLOGY 94	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
SERMON	When Jesus Comes (Luke 18:35-43)	Riley Short
*HYMN 454	Open My Eyes That I May See	
*BENEDICTION		Riley Short
*RESPONSE 581	Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service	
POSTLUDE	Toccata on Amazing Grace/Pardini	Matthew H. Corl

\*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT		
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS		
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONGS OF PRAISE	O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, Made Alive, From the Day	
CENTERING PRAYER		Warren Pattison
OFFERTORY	Beautiful Things	Youth Dancers
DOXOLOGY		
SERMON	Blind Beggar	Andy Whitaker Smith
COMMUNION		Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONG OF RESPONSE	Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone	
*BENEDICTION		Andy Whitaker Smith


CALL TO WORSHIP	
LEADER: We gather as God’s beloved people.	
ALL:	Wherever we are, however we are.
LEADER: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community.	
ALL:	So this becomes a place where all are welcome. Let us worship God.

ABOUT OUR SERVICES	
Visit <a href="https://firstumc.org/connect">firstumc.org/connect</a> or scan the QR code for: Attendance Registration, Worship Bulletins, Prayer Requests, & Online Giving	
Presence in Worship (March 5) In Person: 836 Online: 784 Total: 1,620	
Crucifers and Acolytes: Fischer Oglesby, 11am	

Text to Give: Text any amount to 855-485-1651, and you will receive a link to contribute.
8:15am Sanctuary Service: Traditional worship presented in a new way with a fresh approach to time-honored hymns and a variety of styles of music.
9:30am Fellowship Center: A more contemporary, relaxed atmosphere with worship music of today.
11am Sanctuary Service: Traditional hymns with organ accompaniment, as well as musical pieces from our various fine arts groups.
11am The Current: A unique worship experience with contemporary worship music and settings. Communion is offered each Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE	
Baptism	Samuel Revan-Alexander Stanton, 3/12 Son of Andrew & Katherine Stanton
Hospital	Debbie Dettmer, Doris Devlin, Julie Holman, Roxanne McQuillen, Jim Spiridigliozzi, LaDonna Weatherford
Altar Flowers	In memory of Sandra Gann Allen by her family
	In memory of PFC Jason M. Meyer’s 20th heavenly birthday Love, Mom & Dad


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).



W+3  
Worship Plus Three  
Invite · Grow · Serve


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.

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)




UMCOR  
United Methodist Committee on Relief

**UMCOR Sunday**  
The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.



The Cost of Poverty Experience

**Cost of Poverty Experience, Mar 26, 12:15-3:30pm, C201a, Lunch provided**  
COPE is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live as a typical low-income family in the United States. It is a simulation and debriefing that provides a glimpse into what it’s like to walk for a month in the shoes of families trying their best just to survive. All participants must register through the COPE system. Find the event at [firstumc.org/cope](https://firstumc.org/cope).



**Easter Lilies**  
ORDERS DUE BY MARCH 30 | \$15 PER PLANT  
[FIRSTUMC.ORG/LILIES](https://firstumc.org/lilies)

**Easter Lilies, firstumc.org/lilies, \$15**  
It’s time to order your lilies to be used in the church during the upcoming Lenten season. If you’d like to honor or remember a loved one with a lily, please visit [firstumc.org/lilies](https://firstumc.org/lilies) or call 863-686-3163. Orders must be received by March 30 (cost is \$15 per plant).




PHOTO OPS • EGG HUNTS • GAMES • SNACKS • CRAFTS  
**EASTERIFIC**  
10-12 PM | APRIL 1ST

**Easterific, Apr 1, 10am-12pm**  
This will be a free, drop-by event where you can come for a bit or stay the entire morning. Activities will include games, crafts, creative egg hunts for different ages, a photo op for the entire family, snacks, and more.



## CHILDREN

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

### Sundays

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

**11am Sunday School (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**

**5-7pm: Sunday Evening Programming (K-5th Grade)**

### Wednesdays

**4-6pm Kids PRAISE (K-5th Grade)**

**6:30-7:30pm Small Group (K - 5th Grade) Childcare is available for children VPK and younger for adults participating in on-site classes and groups. (Registration available: [firstumc.org/children/](http://firstumc.org/children/))**

### Thursdays

**9-10:30 Pray and Play**

**4th and 5th Grade at Family Fun Center, Mar 24, 6-8pm, \$10**

What does laser tag, putt putt golf, pizza, and tokens all have in common? Everyone loves them! You do not want to miss it! We will have pizza, participate in 2 attractions, and games! Cost for the event is \$10.00 and everything is included. For additional information or to register by March 17 visit [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children).

### Easterific, Apr 1, Help Needed

Easterific is a few weeks away and we could use your help! We will be collecting individually wrapped candy to place in goodie bags. You can find bins for donations in our Welcome Center, Narthex, and Fellowship Center. We are also in need of volunteers for the day of the event please visit [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children) to sign up.

### VBS Donations Needed

Game on! Time to clean out the playroom. We need your board games for VBS decorating this summer. Bring us your old board games, missing pieces and all! You can bring to the front office during weekday work hours (8:30am - 4:30pm) or to the children's check in desk on Sunday mornings. Then look for them the week of June 26-30th all around the church! Stay tuned VBS

### VBS Twist & Turns June 26-30, 8:45am-12pm:

Children who have completed Kindergarten - 5th grade, you will need to bring your A-game for this VBS! Registration is now open for children, and volunteers! For more information or to register by May 21 visit [firstumc.org/vbs](http://firstumc.org/vbs)

### Created by God, Apr 21-23, Warren Willis Camp + Conference Center

Created by God is a comprehensive, faith-based study of human sexuality for 5th graders and their parents or guardians. The Created by God curriculum was developed by Dr. James H. Ritchie. For additional information or to register visit [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children)

### Warren Willis Summer Camp (Children & Youth), Jul 10-15

Registration is now open for students rising into 4th grade through graduated 12th graders. For more information, and to register visit [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children).

## YOUTH

For information regarding our Youth Ministry events, contact  
Emily Felgenhauer, Director of Youth Ministries:  
[efelgenhauer@firstumc.org](mailto:efelgenhauer@firstumc.org), (863) 687-9750 x253.

### Sundays:

**9:15-10am Youth Choir**

**10-10:45am Donuts and Discussion, C201D**

**5-7pm Youth Group, Fellowship Center (Pick up at C building)**

### Tuesdays:

**5-6pm Youth Dance Ministry, C201B&C**

### Wednesdays:

**6-7:30pm Open Gym and MS/HS Bible Study, C201**

**6-7:30pm Confirmation**

### Confirmation Service, Apr 2, 5:00pm

Join us in the Sanctuary as we celebrate our Confirmands taking the next step in their faith journey. There will be a reception in the Welcome Center following the service. All are welcome to attend.

## MISSIONS

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

### Florida UMC Children's Home Day on Campus, Sat, Mar 25, 7:30am-4pm

Want to see some of how lives are being changed here in person? Day on Campus returns after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. There will be campus tours, break-out sessions, special programming and performances featuring the youth as well as a free picnic lunch. First United will provide transportation. Contact Sean Hults ([shults@firstumc.org](mailto:shults@firstumc.org)) to reserve a seat on the bus or with questions.

### Hurricane Ian Recovery

We will take our first of what we pray are many teams to serve Hurricane Ian survivors in Lee County Apr 27-29. We plan to leave First United around 5pm on Thur the 27 and return after the work day on Sat the 29. Cost is \$75 per person, which covers all food, transportation and lodging at a host church. You do NOT have to be ERT trained or a handywoman/handyman to serve. We will do home repair (with supervised instruction), but our primary goal is to provide a caring Christian presence and remind survivors that God hasn't forgotten them. For more details or if you have questions, email Forrest White, Director of Missions ([fwhite@firstumc.org](mailto:fwhite@firstumc.org)).

Next Sat, Mar 25, a team from First United will be helping a person in Polk County whose trailer was damaged in the storm. Work will include roof tarping and debris removal. Start time is 8am (meet at the site). Should be done no later than 12pm. For details on site location and work plans please contact Susan Ehrhardt (863.289.2362 or [susan.w.ehrhardt@gmail.com](mailto:susan.w.ehrhardt@gmail.com))

### First Sunday Food Collection, Apr 2

We will receive food at the Missions Depot immediately following the 11am worship services until 1:30pm. (Note: We shortened the collection time because we haven't had much if any traffic past 1:30 in several months.) Servants at First United sort and box donations. The list of required items can be found at [firstumc.org/firstsundayfood](http://firstumc.org/firstsundayfood).

### Engage Lakeland, Apr 15, 9:30am-12:30pm

We will be back in our "adopted" neighborhood to distribute flowers and food and do some light yard work. Meet at 9:30am in the First United bus parking lot adjacent to facilities building. Back around 12:30pm. Open to all ages. Children younger than middle school age must be accompanied by a parent. Registration required at [firstumc.org/engage](http://firstumc.org/engage).

## ADULTS

For more information or Zoom/Online credentials, contact Warren Pattison,  
Director of Adult Ministries: [wpattison@firstumc.org](mailto:wpattison@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x227.

### NAMI Family-to-Family, Weds, 6:30-8:30pm, Parlor

This is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. NAMI Family-to-Family not only provides information and strategies for taking care of the person you love, but you'll also find out that you're not alone. Recovery is a journey, and there is hope. More information and register at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

### Parent Connect Night: Self-Care as a Parent, Sun, Mar 19, 5:30 pm, room C-206

Parenting is hard, and practicing self-care is an important part of being faithful to the callings of parenting. Join us for a special conversation with Rev. Andy Whitaker-Smith on what we can do to care for ourselves as we parent our teens. Register at [firstumc.org/events](http://firstumc.org/events).

### Tai Chi, Thursdays, beginning March 23, 6 pm, room C-201D

Join us on Thursday Evenings for a new exercise class! Tai chi is a practice that involves a series of slow gentle movements and physical postures, a meditative state of mind, and controlled breathing. Karl Olexa is leading this class which is open to teens and adults. Whether you have experience, or this is your first time trying it out, this class is for everyone! 6 weeks starting March 23 through May 4 (except no class on April 6, Maundy Thursday). There is no cost for the class, but you may make a Love Offering if you would like. Each participant must complete the Activity Waiver and Release Form. Register at [firstumc.org/events](http://firstumc.org/events).

### Youth Parent Social Night, Mar 26, 5:15pm

On the third Sunday of the month, we have an informal time of connection and socializing for parents of teens. This month we're heading to Mojo Federal on Tennessee Ave. So that we know how many to anticipate, registrations are helpful. Register at [firstumc.org/events](http://firstumc.org/events).

### Sunday School for Adults

Our Adult Sunday School classes are currently meeting in person with the option to join online. Visitors are welcome to participate in any of these classes. For more information on connecting with a particular class, email Warren ([wpattison@firstumc.org](mailto:wpattison@firstumc.org)).

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MARCH 19, 2023

MAKING DISCIPLES OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION  
**OF THE WORLD**

REV. RILEY P. SHORT, 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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