

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	This is My Father’s World/Carter	Andy Whitaker Smith Matthew H. Corl
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*HYMN</b>	For the Beauty of the Earth	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 887</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>	We Will Glorify	
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Holy, Holy, Holy/arr. Court	Jim Jackson, clarinet
<b>DOXOLOGY 95</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	Are You Coming to the Party? (Luke 14:15-24)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN 2222</b>	The Servant Song	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb
<b>*RESPONSE</b>	As We Go	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Pageantry/Corl	Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Children of God, They Will Know We are Christians By Our Love, Give Unto The Lord	
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Jesus Does	
<b>SERMON</b>	Are You Coming to the Party? (Luke 14:15-24)	Charley Reeb
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Take You at Your Word	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	Prelude on Dix/Corl	Charley Reeb Matthew H. Corl
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Archie Buie
<b>*HYMN 92</b>	For the Beauty of the Earth	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 887</b>		Archie Buie
<b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>	Glory Be to the Father	
<b>ANTHEM</b>	Holy, Holy, Holy/arr. Court	Jim Jackson, clarinet
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		Archie Buie
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing/Young Chancel Choir; Jane Warren, piano	
<b>DOXOLOGY 94</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	Are You Coming to the Party? (Luke 14:15-24)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN 463</b>	Lord, Speak to Me	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Charley Reeb
<b>*RESPONSE 666</b>	Shalom to You	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Pageantry/Corl	Matthew H. Corl

\*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Children of God, Follow You Anywhere, Take You at Your Word	
<b>CENTERING PRAYER</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	You Search Me (Psalm 139)	
<b>*DOXOLOGY</b>		
<b>SERMON</b>	Stranger or Strange Land	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>COMMUNION</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Your Love is All Around Me	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP	
LEADER: We return to this sacred place each week.	
<b>ALL:</b>	<b>To remember who we are and whose we are.</b>
LEADER: God renews us with grace, hope, and purpose.	
<b>ALL:</b>	<b>And we go forth, ready to live the Gospel.</b>

ABOUT OUR SERVICES	
<b>We are glad you joined us today! Whether you are a member or a guest, please take a moment to register your attendance at <a href="https://firstumc.org/connect">firstumc.org/connect</a>.</b>	

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 (Aug 24)

In Person: 724  
Online: 1,234  
Total: 1,958

**Giving Through August 17, 2025**  
YTD Budgeted Income: \$2,589,748  
YTD Actual Income: 2,311,632  
\$ (278,116)

Questions? Call Patrick Hamrick 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/Crucifers:** Amber Smith & Dylan Smith, 11am

CONGREGATIONAL CARE	
<b>Please notify the church when you are in the hospital!</b> <b>For care and love from pastors &amp; the church, call or email the church office and leave word about your hospitalization. If you are unable to do this, ask a friend or relative to do it for you.</b>	
<b>Hospital</b>	
Ken DeVore, Mac McCastlain, Al McCullough, Patsy McFadden, John Schlachter	
<b>Death</b>	
Harriet Warren, 8/22	

<b>Baptism</b>
Riley Madison Jeffries, 8/24 Daughter of Austin & Kori Jeffries
Lemon, Liam & Lex Taylor, 8/24 Children of Ross & Brittany Taylor

**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	
<b>Weekly Text:</b> Luke 14:15-24	
<b>Monday:</b> What does the banquet represent in the context of our faith? How can we relate it to our understanding of God’s Kingdom?	
<b>Tuesday:</b> What are some common excuses people make today that prevent them from accepting God’s invitation? Have you experienced making excuses in your own life?	
<b>Wednesday:</b> How do you feel about the owner’s reaction to those who declined the invitation? What does this teach us about God’s nature and His desire for inclusivity?	
<b>Thursday:</b> The owner instructs his servant to bring in those who are often marginalized. How can we actively engage in inviting others into our faith communities? What practical steps can we take?	
<b>Friday:</b> Reflect on your current priorities. Are there areas in your life where you might be putting other commitments before your relationship with God? How can you recalibrate those priorities? How can you respond to God’s invitation this week? Consider setting aside time for prayer, community service, or reaching out to someone who might need encouragement in their faith journey.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<b>To learn more about the ministries of the church and how to get connected, contact The Church Office (<a href="mailto:info@firstumc.org">info@firstumc.org</a> - 863-686-3163)</b>	



**Fifth Sunday Table Giving**  
Stop by Our Giving Tree Christian Bookstore and check out the 5th Sunday Sale Table, featuring delicious goodies and the dishes to serve them in! Everything is 50% off, and every dollar raised goes directly to support Residing Hope. Don't miss this sweet way to shop with purpose and give back!



**Welcome FSC Students!**  
We're so glad you're here! First United Methodist Church of Lakeland is excited to welcome Florida Southern College students to worship with us this fall through the FSC's new Sunday Worship Shuttle. Whether you're looking for a church home away from home or simply a place to connect, we are excited to have you join us! Come as you are, bring a friend, and experience the warmth of our community here.



**It's still possible to join a Disciple Bible Study!**  
Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of Scripture and grow in your faith! Two classes are open - "Disciple 1" and "Jesus in the Gospels". Classes begin on Sep 8 at 6pm. Register at [firstumc.org/DBS](https://firstumc.org/DBS).



**KIC Choir**  
KIC Choir will start September 10th! This musical opportunity for children in grades K-5 is a unique and fun way for kids to praise God through various forms of music including singing, movement, Orff instruments & choir chimes. Rehearsals are Wednesdays (4:00 - 5:15) and include a variety of musical activities. Visit [firstumc.org/music](https://firstumc.org/music) to register.



**Calling all Men - Florida Man Summit coming to First UMC Sat Sept 27**  
Join United Methodist Men from all over Florida as we gather for our Florida Man Ministries Summit. In this one-day event, we'll worship, learn practical skills, explore tools for ministry, and be equipped to lead transformative men's ministry. Lunch is provided with registration (\$30 in advance, \$35 at the door). Guests include Rick Vance, the new General Secretary (CEO) of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, Jad Denmark, Nic Lee, and other men's leaders across Florida. Register at [floridamanministries.com](https://floridamanministries.com).



## CHILDREN

For information regarding Children's Ministry events, contact Megan Gallagher, Director of Children's Ministries: [mgallagher@firstumc.org](mailto:mgallagher@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x280

**Sundays**  
**9:30am KIC Start (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**  
**11am Childcare (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)**

**Wednesdays**  
**6-7:30pm KIC Friends (Infants 6 weeks - 5th Grade)- See below for more information**

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

**KIC Club 4/5, Sunday, Sep 7, 5:00-7:00pm**

Attention 4th and 5th graders! You're invited to join us for a planning event where we'll chat about our upcoming monthly gatherings. If you have ideas on potential destinations, we'd love to hear them, so make sure to come! This year, our meetings will alternate between Friday and Sunday nights to give everyone a chance to participate. To sign up for the event, visit [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children) by Sep 6.

**KIC Family Event: "KIC Off Carnival" - Sunday, Sep 21, 5-7pm**

Join us for this FREE event for all families with children from birth through 5th grade. We will have games, carnival food like corn dogs and cotton candy, and more! Part of the night will be for enjoying the food and games. Another part of the night will be a time for families to hear all about our upcoming events and programming, and how they can plug in this year to Children's Ministry. Sign up at [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children).

**Children's Parent Study: Faithful Families - Starting Sep 28, 6-7:30pm**

Join us for this 8-Week study that guides parents through the basics of establishing a faith practice at home as we gather with others to share stories, reflect on Scripture, journal, and engage in thoughtful conversation. Along with the study, parents are encouraged to engage in hands-on faith practices with your family, based on the book Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home.

**Wednesday Night KIC Friends (K - 5th Grade): Science and the Bible, 6-7:30pm**

Have you ever thought about how magnets relate to the Bible or how a science experiment can reveal something about God? Join us on Wed nights to explore these intriguing questions and discover even more! We ask that you register just once to help us prepare enough materials for everyone. For more details, check out [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Wednesday Night KIC Friends Fun (6 weeks - PreK 4), 6-7:30pm**

While parents attend a class or engage in various activities on campus, rest assured that your little one is having a blast making friends and learning about God. They'll enjoy a Bible story followed by a fun activity or craft that ties into the lesson. Remember, registration is necessary, and parents must remain on campus throughout the event. For more information and to sign up, visit [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Pray and Play Thursdays, 9:00-10:30am (Beginning Sep 4)**

A special time for non-school age children and their caregivers (parents, grandparents, nanny, etc.). Join us to connect and grow together as we navigate the joys, challenges, and ever-changing phases of life with littles.

## ADULTS

For more information, contact Warren Pattison, Director of Adult Ministries: [wpattison@firstumc.org](mailto:wpattison@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x227. Registration for groups, classes, and courses is available at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**MidWeek Meal and Classes Returns this Wednesday, Sep 3**

Our Wednesday meal and classes restart for the Fall this Wednesday. Join us for dinner followed by Bible study and groups. Dinner service starts at 5pm in the Fellowship Center, \$10/adults, \$5, children 12 & under. Classes start at 6pm.

**We Need Your Input to Help Us Plan! Tell Us When You're Available!**

Help us plan when future adult group opportunities should be scheduled. Stop by the Welcome Center poster displays to easily share your preferred days and times. Just grab a sticker and mark your availability on the chart. Your input guides our planning!

**Learn American Sign Language!**

Free Beginner ASL classes resume on Monday, September 8. Whether you want to connect with others, explore ministry interpreting, or learn to sign songs, we have a class for you. Join us in person or on Zoom from 6:30-7:30pm for Basic ASL Vocabulary and 7:30-8:30pm for Songs in Sign. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Parables with Pastor Charley, Wed, Sep 3-Oct 8, 6 PM, Rm C-207**

Explore Jesus' Parables with Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Charley Reeb. Discover the profound spiritual truths hidden within Jesus' most impactful stories. Pastor Charley will offer a fresh perspective on how these timeless narratives speak to our modern lives. Whether you're new or revisiting these teachings, this is a welcoming space for all to grow. Just bring your Bible; no prior preparation is needed. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Financial Peace University Fall Session begins on Wednesday, Sep 3**

Weekly classes to kickstart your journey towards financial peace will be held on Wednesday nights starting at 6 PM. You'll learn to pay off debt fast, save more money, and build lasting wealth. Normally \$95, we have invested in licenses to enable you to take this class for FREE! Secure your spot today and register at [firstumc.org/fpu](http://firstumc.org/fpu).

**Women's Book Club, Wed, Sep 3, 6pm, Rm C-205**

You're invited to an evening of fellowship and meaningful connection at our Women's Book Club! This month, we'll be discussing Amanda Cox's *Between the Sound and Sea*. Join us to share perspectives and grow in faith together. Our Women's Book Club meets once a month on the first Wednesday. Register today at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

## 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.

**Sunday, Aug 31:**  
**10:30-11am Donuts and Discussion**  
**3:30-5pm Youth Praise Band**  
**5-7pm Youth Group**

**Tuesday, Sep 2:**  
**5-6pm Youth Dance Ministry**

**Wednesday, Sep 3:**  
**5:15-6pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal**  
**6-6:30pm Open Gym**  
**6:30-7:30pm Middle School and High School Bible Studies**

**Youth & Parent Connect Night, Sun, Sep 14, 2025, 5-7pm**

Join us for a fun Youth & Parent Connect Night filled with Intergenerational Trivia! For more info or to register visit [firstumc.org/youth](http://firstumc.org/youth).

**Pumpkin Patch Training, Sun, Sep 14, 6:45-7:30pm**

**Pumpkin Patch Training, Wed, Sep 17, 5:30-6:30pm**

Pumpkins are coming! All youth and adults who are interested in serving at the Pumpkin Patch must attend one of the trainings. For more info or to register visit [firstumc.org/youth](http://firstumc.org/youth).

**Youth Serve Saturday, Sep 20, 9am-12pm**

Join us as we partner with Children's Clothes Closet Volunteers to make a difference in our community! For more info or to register by Sep 17 visit [firstumc.org/youth](http://firstumc.org/youth).

**Youth Musical Info Meeting, Sun, Sep 21, 12:15pm**

If you're interested in musical theatre, come find out more about this year's musical called "Disney's Dare To Dream Jr.!" Parents and students are invited to attend. For more info 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](mailto:fwhite@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x224.

**Philip O'Brien Elementary School**

The 2025-26 school year is here! Please consider helping our partner school in one of more of these ways: 1) Serve as a kindergarten reading pal for an hour each week. Training required. Must be screened by PCSB; 2) Saturday library days beginning Sept. 20 from 10am-Noon at the school. Help the students develop as avid readers!!! Contact either of our O'Brien passion team leaders for additional information - Joleen Golden ([joleengolden@yahoo.com](mailto:joleengolden@yahoo.com)) or Ann Skellenger ([abraham409@aol.com](mailto:abraham409@aol.com)).

**Food Collection**

We will receive food at the Missions Depot next Sunday immediately following the 11am worship services until 1:30pm. Our donations have dropped off considerably. Please contribute if you can. Even one jar of peanut butter helps! The list of requested 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.

**Lake Parker Cleanup**

It's time to serve with the City of Lakeland's Toby's Water Warriors. We will be cleaning up trash around Lake Parker on Sept 27, a Saturday, meeting there (910 E Granada St.) at 8:45am and working until 11am. Please let me know if you'd like to join us. Children are welcome when accompanied by a parent.

**KidsPACK**

Our first packing event will be Oct 1, not Sept 3. KidsPack was able to pack at their facility over the summer, so September packing is covered; however we will be delivering meals for three weeks in September. We will need a huge turnout for Oct 1 since we will be packing for five weeks. Setup begins in the Welcome Center at 9am while packing begins at 4pm. If you have questions, please contact our KP leader Skip Stevenson ([safetyskip@gmail.com](mailto:safetyskip@gmail.com)) Note: Please mark your calendars for the first Wednesday of each month through May for the 2025-26 school year.

## YOUNG ADULTS

For more information, contact Jen Swygard, Director of Young Adult Ministries: [JSwygard@firstumc.org](mailto:JSwygard@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x226; Follow us on IG: @1stLKLDYoungAdults or FB: 1st LKLD Young Adults to stay connected



**Community Bible Reading (CBR)**

Community Bible Reading (CBR) meets on Tuesdays (except the last Tuesday of each month) from 6-8pm, beginning Sep 2, at the home of Jen Swygard. We'll enjoy dinner together while discussing Scripture. To join, sign up through the Church Center app (scan the QR code) for the address.

**YA Girls Clothing Swap**

On Friday, September 12, from 7-8:30pm in room C112, bring clothes and accessories you'd like to give away and swap them for some new-to-you styles.

**College Back-to-School Brunch**

College students—stick around after the 11:00 services on Sun, Sep 28, for a back-to-school brunch in the courtyard by the swan fountain. Be sure to visit [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups) and join our "College & Career Group" to see all of our monthly college activities.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
AUGUST 31, 2025

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

REV. DR. CHARLEY REEB, SENIOR PASTOR  
REV. ANDY WHITAKER SMITH, ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
REV. KIM DUBREUIL, ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
REV. EMILY HOTH0, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
BISHOP TOM BERLIN, FLORIDA AREA BISHOP

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