

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>PRELUDE</b>	To God Be the Glory/Corl	Matthew H. Corl
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>*HYMN</b>	Awesome God/To God Be the Glory	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 889</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>	Amazing Grace/Smith & Hustad	
	Tyler Campbell, piano; Matthew Corl, organ	
<b>DOXOLOGY 95</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	The Unexpected Hero (Luke 10:25-37)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN</b>	Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>	Charley Reeb	
<b>*RESPONSE</b>	As We Go	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Exultate/Gawthrop	Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Goodbye Yesterday, My Testimony, The Way	
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Not In A Hurry	
<b>SERMON</b>	The Unexpected Hero (Luke 10:25-37)	Charley Reeb
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Less Like Me	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>	Charley Reeb	

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	Kim DuBreuil	
<b>PRELUDE</b>	Prelude on Restoration/Corl	Matthew H. Corl
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	Kim DuBreuil	
<b>*HYMN 340</b>	Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 889</b>	Kim DuBreuil	
<b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>	Glory Be to the Father	
<b>ANTHEM</b>	Amazing Grace/Smith & Hustad	
	Tyler Campbell, piano; Matthew Corl, organ	
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>	Kim DuBreuil	
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Shout For Joy!/Davison	
	Combined Chancel Choir & Youth Choir	
<b>DOXOLOGY 94</b>	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
<b>SERMON</b>	The Unexpected Hero (Luke 10:25-37)	Charley Reeb
<b>*HYMN 365</b>	Grace Greater Than Our Sins	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>	Charley Reeb	
<b>*RESPONSE 666</b>	Shalom To You	
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Exultate/Gawthrop	Matthew H. Corl

Today’s worship songs speak of the redemptive power of God’s grace. The hymns are from the American church spanning the late 18th to the 20th centuries. “Exultate” was premiered on the Mormon Tabernacle organ, and Matthew Corl has composed both prelude pieces.

\*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	Andy Whitaker Smith	
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Be Still, Presence, Nothing Else	
<b>CENTERING PRAYER</b>		
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Not In A Hurry	
<b>*DOXOLOGY</b>		
<b>SERMON</b>	Think Small - Being (Mark 3: 13-19)	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: God meets us not just in answers, but in the questions. <b>ALL:     We come with open hearts, ready to listen and learn.</b> LEADER: In the rhythms of grace, we find our way again. <b>ALL:     And we follow Christ, step by faithful step.</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 (Sep 7)**  
In Person: 699  
Online: 1,398  
Total: 2,085

**Giving Through August 31, 2025**  
YTD Budgeted Income: \$2,746,702  
YTD Actual Income: 2,493,684  
\$ (253,018)  
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:** Cameron Vessels, 8:15am; 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> Roy Harris
<b>Death</b> Roxann Fagaly, 7/31 Lynn Sangster, 9/3 Jeff Sobecki, 9/5

**Altar Flowers**  
In honor of Bishop Robert E. Fannin on his 90th birthday today by his family  
  
In memory of Charles, Sylvia & Steve Buckner by the Buckner family  
  
In memory of our beloved son, Michael, by RayaSue & Doug Hallman  
  
Happy Heavenly Birthday to Tami Carew from her husband, Bill Carew



**DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

**Monday:** Read Matthew 23:23-25. These hard words from Jesus to the Pharisees remind us that when it comes to our faith we can often miss the forest for the trees. We can get so preoccupied with the externals or become so lost in the weeds of doing everything right that we forget the heart of our faith and the reason why we follow Jesus. In following the disciplines of faith, we can forget the spirit our faith. In an effort to follow the tenets of faith we can make decisions that go against why the tenets were established in the first place. Can you think of some examples? What are some ways that can help us stay connected to the heart and spirit of faith?

**Tuesday:** Read Luke 10:25-28. In this passage an expert in the law was essentially asking Jesus, “How do I get into heaven?” It is not a bad question, but it was all about him. A better question would’ve been, “How do I live a life that is pleasing to God?” Heaven is real but as someone wisely stated, “Jesus wasn’t so much interested in helping us get into heaven as he was in getting heaven into us.” For Jesus, to get heaven into us we simply must follow the Greatest Commandment (vs. 27): Love God and love others. If we do this, we will live. The Greatest Commandment encapsulates our faith. Why do you think it is often difficult for us as Christians to remember and live out the Greatest Commandment?

**Wednesday:** Read Luke 10:29. By asking, “And who is my neighbor?” the lawyer was really asking Jesus, “Who don’t I have to love?” Jesus’ love is so boundless and relentless that we often think like the lawyer – “Surely, there must be a limit to who I have to love. Do I really have to love everybody?” Who are the people in your life you find difficult to love? Why do you struggle with loving them? Today, pray for the people you find difficult to love. Each day make a habit of praying for unlovable people. See if you notice a change in the way you see them.

**Thursday:** Read Luke 10:33-35. Most of the people who heard Jesus tell the story were Jewish. When Jesus said the word Samaritan his listeners probably gasped in disgust. Jews and Samaritans were enemies. Nevertheless, it was the enemy who was the hero of the story. The Samaritan helped the injured man (a person who was probably his enemy as well). It was “the other,” the outsider, the enemy who was closer to the Kingdom. Why do you think Jesus made the Samaritan the hero of the story and how does it inform your faith?

**Friday:** Read Luke 10:36-37. Notice the lawyer could not bring himself to say, “Samaritan.” Someone has noted that if you do the math in this parable, one out of three people was willing to help the other – one out of three. This one is a follower of Jesus. This one looks for the other in life and helps them. Remember, Jesus was also the despised and rejected one and he certainly rescued us. Who is the other in your life who needs help? Are you the one?

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>



**Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study starting Monday, Sep 29 at 6pm**  
Whether you are seeking to know Jesus for the first time or hoping to grow deeper in a faith you have carried for years, this study is for you. Jesus in the Gospels will take you on a journey through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John introducing you to Jesus through the eyes of those who first told His story. Facilitated by Jamie Roberts starting Monday, September 29 at 6pm in Room C-205. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](https://firstumc.org/groups) or scan the bulletin QR code.



**KIC Choir**  
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.



**Advent Devotional Writers**  
Be part of this year’s daily devotional book by sharing your voice and creativity! Whether it’s a short written reflection (under 500 words), a meaningful story or memory, a family tradition, a favorite recipe, an original poem, an acrostic, a skit, or even a piece of visual art-all formats are welcome. The devotion should include a title, short prayer and a verse or two of scripture. Deadline to submit your work to [adventdevotion@firstumc.org](mailto:adventdevotion@firstumc.org) is Oct 10.



## 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 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, 9-10:30am**

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).

**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!

**Financial Peace University Fall Session, Wednesdays at 6pm**

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).

**Christ-Centered Yoga Fall Series, Mon, Sep 15-Nov 24, 6pm, Rm C-201D**

Join a beginner level, slow-flow Christ-centered yoga class with Be Still Movement. Experience a time to enjoy stillness through physical movement, meditation, & breath prayers as worship to Christ. A time to slow down and come as you are. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Giggles, God & Glue New Adult Crafting and Fellowship Group, Sep 17, Rm C-202**

Calling all crafters! Come join our new adult fellowship group, GIGGLES, GOD & GLUE! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others while working on your favorite creative projects. Mark your calendars! We meet the third Wednesday of each month, with our first gathering on September 17, 2025. Come and go as you please anytime between 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM. Register at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).



**Calling all Men - Florida Man Ministries 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, Nicholas Lee, and other men's leaders across Florida. Register at [floridamanministries.com](http://floridamanministries.com).

## 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, Sep 14:**  
**9:30am Youth Choir Practice**  
**10:30am Donuts and Discussion**  
**3:30pm Youth Praise Band**  
**5pm Youth & Parent Connect Night**  
**6:45pm Pumpkin Patch Training**

**Tuesday, Sep 16:**  
**5-6pm Youth Dance Ministry**

**Wednesday, Sep 17:**  
**4:45pm Youth Handbells**  
**5:15pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal**  
**5:30pm Pumpkin Patch Training**  
**6pm Open Gym**  
**6:30pm 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: the school requests these items: pencils, glue sticks, crayons and markers; Serve as a kindergarten reading pal for an hour each week. Training required. Or serve as a classroom volunteer; Saturday library days to help students with reading skills while parents meet with staff; provide a \$25 gift card (Publix, Aldi, Walmart, Target) for Thanksgiving. We need about 80 total to cover all teachers and staff members. 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)).

**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. We will need a huge turnout 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.

**Dream Center**

Our ministry partner has added a new Kid's Club Director, Angie Feder. She comes with lots of passion and ministry experience. With Angie onboard Dream Center is looking for more volunteers, specifically to help with Saturday morning program and afterschool programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact Angie via email for more information or to serve! ([afeder@victorylakeland.org](mailto:afeder@victorylakeland.org))

## 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, Sep 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  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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

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REV. ANDY WHITAKER SMITH, ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
REV. KIM DUBREUIL, ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
REV. EMILY HOTH0, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
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