

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Charley Reeb
PRELUDE Triptych on Veni Emmanuel/Corl Matthew H. Corl
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Dale & Joleen Golden with Matt, Amanda, Mallory, Parker & Harrison Kincade
*HYMN 211 O Come O Come Emmanuel, st. 1-4
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881 Kim DuBreuil
*GLORIA PATRI We Will Glorify
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE Charley Reeb
OFFERTORY Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring/Bach Jim Jackson, Clarinet
DOXOLOGY 95 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
SERMON The Hope of Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25) Andy Whitaker Smith
*HYMN 196 Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
*BENEDICTION Andy Whitaker Smith
*RESPONSE 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
POSTLUDE God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen/Fedak Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Kim DuBreuil
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Joel Ogburn & Ryan Grable, with Abbey Ogburn
*SONGS OF PRAISE Hope For Everyone,
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Presence
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER Charley Reeb
OFFERTORY O Come O Come Emmanuel
SERMON The Hope of Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25) Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONG OF RESPONSE God With Us

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Charley Reeb
PRELUDE Triptych on Veni Emmanuel/Corl Matthew H. Corl
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Dan & Tina Bough with Chris & Sarah Skoll
*HYMN 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, st. 1-4
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881 Charley Reeb
*GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father
ANTHEM Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring/Bach Jim Jackson, Clarinet
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE Charley Reeb
OFFERTORY A Place to Keep Your Son/Corl Chancel Choir
DOXOLOGY 94 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
SERMON The Hope of Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25) Andy Whitaker Smith
*HYMN 196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
*BENEDICTION Andy Whitaker Smith
*RESPONSE 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
POSTLUDE God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen/Fedak Matthew H. Corl

We begin the Advent season singing the Latin hymn “O Come, O Come, Em-manuel”. Each verse contains a description of the coming Savior. Matthew Corl’s anthem “A Place to Keep Your Son” uses similar descriptors of the coming Christ, imagined from the point of an expectant people not knowing who will come, but that God’s love will be shared with the world. During Advent, Sarah Morrison will be offering a time of musical meditation on violin before the 11:00 service.

*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Kim DuBreuil
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Lee & Janet Earls
*SONGS OF PRAISE Hope For Everyone,
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Presence
CENTERING PRAYER Kim DuBreuil
OFFERTORY O Come O Come Emmanuel
*DOXOLOGY
SERMON When Everything Is Wrong Kim DuBreuil
COMMUNION Kim DuBreuil
*SONG OF RESPONSE Lord I Need You
*BENEDICTION Kim DuBreuil

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.

Visit firstumc.org/connect or scan the QR code for: Attendance Registration, Worship Bulletins, Prayer Requests, & Online Giving



Presence in Worship (Nov 23)

In Person: 803
Online: 1,416
Total: 2,219

Giving Through October 31, 2025

YTD Budgeted Income: \$3,374,520
YTD Actual Income: 3,139,074
\$ (235,446)

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Please notify the church when you are in the hospital!
For care and love from pastors & 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.

Hospital

Tom Baroody, Ken DeVore, Joanne Paige, John Surber

Deaths

Carol Bristol, 11/19
Roger McFadden, 11/20

Baptism

Eden Elizabeth Clevenger-Glunk, 11/23
Daughter of Craig Clevenger & Lauren Glunk

Jack David & Hudson Louis Riley, 11/23
Sons of Jeremy & Kristina Riley



Poinsettia Dedications

You may order poinsettias to honor or remember loved ones for \$15/plant. Orders cannot be accepted after Thurs, Dec 11. To place an order, visit firstumc.org/poinsettia.

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

Monday: Elizabeth’s story begins in the quiet ache of long disappointment, reminding us that hope often feels distant long before it becomes visible. Advent meets us in those places where our hearts don’t match the season’s brightness, where we quietly wonder, “Where is joy supposed to be right now?” and discover that God’s work often starts long before our emotions catch up. Elizabeth’s waiting shows us that hope doesn’t require pretending; it simply asks us to remain open to a God who has not forgotten us, even when we struggle to feel festive or faithful.
Reflection: Where does hope feel thin for you today, and what would it mean to bring that honestly before God?

Tuesday: When the angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple, the sacred broke into the everyday, reminding us that God often meets us in familiar spaces that have held our joys, losses, prayers, and questions. The sanctuaries, chapels, and quiet corners of our lives become witnesses to God’s steady presence, whispering that hope is not dependent on our strength but grounded in the God who has walked with generations before us. Elizabeth’s life echoes this truth—hope often finds us as we simply remain faithful in the ordinary rhythms of each day.
Reflection: What places in your life help you remember God’s steady presence, and how might they speak hope into your Advent?

Wednesday: Elizabeth’s long-awaited pregnancy becomes a sign not only of God’s faithfulness to her personally but of God’s larger hope for the world, showing us that Advent is not just about waiting for light but becoming light for others. Her life becomes a living reminder that God is near, and in the same way, our small acts of care, kindness, and presence can become candles that brighten someone else’s darkness. Advent invites us not merely to anticipate Christmas but to embody it, becoming hope in a world hungry for reassurance that God has not forgotten it.
Reflection: Who might need a glimpse of hope from you today, and what small act could you offer?

Thursday: Elizabeth’s strength did not suddenly appear when her miracle arrived; it was shaped over years through practices of faith, worship, prayer, and community—habits that formed her heart long before she understood how God would use them. Advent reminds us that outward practices mold inward hope, and gratitude, kindness, and simple daily disciplines can create space for God’s transforming work. Just as a simple invitation to “share something good” can spark warmth in a community, our intentional practices help cultivate hope within us and around us.
Reflection: What one small practice—gratitude, service, prayer, or kindness—can you commit to today as an act of hope?

Friday: When Elizabeth recognizes what God has done for her, she retreats for a moment of quiet gratitude, allowing the truth to settle in: she has been seen. At its heart, hope is often born from the assurance that God has not overlooked us, that even in seasons of silence or waiting, we are held with care. Elizabeth becomes a reminder that God moves toward us with compassion, preparing a way forward even when we cannot yet see it, and that we, too, can embody this hope by helping others feel seen, valued, and remembered.
Reflection: Where do you most need to be reminded that God sees you, and who in your life might need that same reassurance today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To learn more about the ministries of the church and how to get connected, contact The Church Office (info@firstumc.org - 863-686-3163)



Church Movie Night, Nov 30, 5-7pm
All ages are invited to join us in the Fellowship Center for a movie night with your church family! We will be watching the Jim Carrey version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas in connection with our church-wide Advent study of The Heart that Grew Three Sizes. We will serve pizza for dinner and Christmas PJs are welcome! There is no cost to attend, but help us prepare by registering before Mon, Nov 24.



The Sights and Sounds of Christmas, Dec 14, 4pm & 7pm
Step into the magic & wonder of the holidays at our annual Sights and Sounds Christmas Concert, and rediscover the awe and hope of Christ’s birth through inspiring music, stunning visuals, and heartfelt story-telling. Whether you’re filled with childlike anticipation or seeking peace in a busy season, *Season of Wonder* promises to uplift your heart and remind you of the light that shines in the darkness.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Join us in ringing the Salvation Army bell at Grove Park Publix, starting Dec 1, 10am-8pm daily (except Sundays) until Dec 24. Choose your two hour shift at firstumc.org/events or contact Angela at 863-686-3163 or aeverett@firstumc.org to schedule.



Holiday Decorating & Upcoming Altar Guild Dates
We welcome the help of many, as the hands and feet of Jesus.
- Hanging of the Greens, Tue, Dec 2, 8:30am, & 9 am service. We will begin with refreshments and fellowship in the Narthex, followed by a service in the Sanctuary at 9am. Then begin decorating throughout the church.
- Placing of the Flowers, Thu, Dec 4
- Decoration Take-Down Day, Fri., Jan 9, 8:30am
If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

CHILDREN

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

Sundays
9:30am KIC Start (Infants 6 weeks - 5th Grade)
11am Childcare (Infants 6 weeks - VPK)
Wednesdays
4:00 - 5:15pm KIC Choir (kindergarten - 5th grade)
6:00 - 7:30pm KIC Friends (Infants 6 weeks - 5th Grade)

Thursdays
9:00-10:30 Pray and Play

Parent Advent Study, The Heart that Grew Three Sizes, Wed, Nov 19 - Dec 17, 6-7pm
Join us for an Advent study this Christmas season as we explore faith themes in the Christmas classic “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”! This class is specifically for parents of children. We are excited to provide this Advent study as a way for parents to connect with one another this season and continue the conversation together at home as a family! To register for the class please visit firstumc.org/children. (We will not meet Wed, Nov 26).

Children’s Advent Study, The Heart That Grew Three Sizes, Wed, Nov 19 - Dec 17, 6-7:30pm
Join us on Wednesday nights for an engaging exploration of The Heart That Grew Three Sizes, designed for children of all ages. Adults will participate in the same Advent study, fostering meaningful discussions that families can continue at home. The study will run from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, followed by a time for free play and fellowship from 7:00 to 7:30 PM for those who wish to stay. To register for this study, please visit firstumc.org/children. Please note that this Advent study will replace the usual KIC Friends Science and Bible through Play groups through the Christmas season.. (We will not meet Wed, Nov 26).

Breakfast with Santa Volunteers NEEDED, Sat, Dec 6, 9-11am
Are you ready to have fun and be a part of a wonderful community outreach event? Great, we need you! You can sign up for one shift, or multiple shifts, to fit your availability. For more information or to sign up please visit: firstumc.org/children.

KIC Club 4/5 Christmas Movie Night, Sun, Dec 7, 5-7pm
Join us in your favorite Christmas pajamas for a festive celebration for 4th and 5th graders as we watch the 2018 animated classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas. We'll be serving up delicious pizza, popcorn, and hot chocolate, making it a perfect chance to invite your friends to join the fun. Head to firstumc.org/children and register by Dec 5.

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-35)

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



Community Bible Reading, Tuesdays, 6-8pm
We meet at Jen’s house to share a meal together, play some games, and discuss Scripture. We laugh a lot, share our burdens, sponsor families for the holidays, and have a good time. Scan the QR code to join so that you can see the address & hear updates. (No meets on the last Tuesday of each month.)

YA Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt, Sat, Dec 6, 5:30pm-9pm
Meet at the Welcome Center café area to hear the rules and divide into teams. We'll then drive around town with our teams, snapping pics of Christmas lights. Then we'll head back to the church to count up our points with cookies and hot chocolate. Head to firstmc.org/events for more info & to register.

YAs Serve: Parker Street Christmas Store, Thurs, Dec 11, 6-8pm
Meet at Parker Street Ministries (719 N. Massachusetts Ave, Lakeland) to help us set up the store for families to come shop for their children’s wish lists.

YA Ornament-Making: Sun, Dec 14, 12-2pm, Room C-205
Come eat some snacks with us as we make ornaments, try our hand at Christmas movie trivia, and say goodbye to some of our college students until next semester! This is a free event with all materials provided.

Collecting Used Gift Cards
Do you have a grocery store gift card laying around with a dollar or two left on it or a random restaurant or gas card that has been sitting in your wallet for months to places you don’t visit? Our young adults could use these! Bring them to the administrative office with a “Young Adults” label on it, and we’ll put them to good use!

YOUTH

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

Sunday, Nov 30:
9:30am Youth Choir Practice
10:30am Donuts and Discussion
5pm Church Movie Night- How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Tuesday, Dec 2:
5pm Youth Dance Ministry

Wednesday, Dec 3:
4:45pm Youth Handbells
6pm Open Gym
6:30pm Middle School and High School Grinch Advent Study

Middle School Christmas Party, Sun, Dec 7, 5-7pm
Join us for our Winter Wonderland Christmas Party! Come dressed in white and light blue, and don't forget to bring a \$5 white elephant gift for your small group exchange. For more info. or to register visit firstumc.org/youth.

High School Christmas Progressive Dinner, Sun, Dec 7, 5-8:30pm
Dress in your Christmas BEST! We will be leaving at 5pm for appetizers, then to dinner, and ending up at our last stop for dessert and \$5 White Elephant Gift Exchange. For more info. or to register by visit firstumc.org/youth.

Rock the Universe, Jan 23-25, 2026
Get ready for an unforgettable weekend of faith, music, and fun at Rock the Universe, Florida's biggest Christian music festival! For more info or to register by Nov 30, visit firstumc.org/youth.

2026 Confirmation Kick Off Meeting, Wed, Jan7, 6-7:30pm
Our Confirmation curriculum is a 15-week journey that includes a weekend retreat* (Feb 6-8) to Warren Willis Camp. This class is for 7th grade students and older. For more information or to register by Dec. 11 visit firstumc.org/confirmation.

MISSIONS

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

KidsPACK
Our next packing event will be this Wednesday, Dec 3. 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) Note: Please mark your calendars for the first Wednesday of each month through May for the 2025-26 school year.

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. The list of requested items is posted at firstumc.org/firstsundayfood. Thank you for your generosity and please donate only requested items.

Philip O’Brien Elementary School
First UMC will take homemade baked goods to teachers and staff at our partner on Dec 18. If you’re willing to bake some holiday goodies please reach out to either of our O’Brien passion team leaders - Ann Skellenger (abraham409@aol.com) or Joleen Golden (joleengolden@yahoo.com). We’re asking for the items to be individually wrapped or in small clusters IF possible for placement in goodie bags. All items need to be dropped at the church office on Dec 17 by 4pm.

Migrant Family Christmas
If you’re willing to “adopt” a child supported by Called to Serve Farmworkers for Christmas, please email fwhite@firstumc.org. Each child has a couple of wishes and some clothing needs. You will receive more details via email on or about Dec 1.

Fifth Sunday
Our Giving Tree has a sale table in the Welcome Center today to benefit Residing Hope Children’s Home. Open Sun, 8am-12:30pm; Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm; Wed, 4-6:30pm.

ADULTS

For more information, 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.

Financial Peace University starts Wednesday evenings on Jan14, 6-8pm
If you’ve felt like you can never get ahead with money, listen: You can change your future- and the best way is with other people walking alongside you. Financial Peace University has helped nearly 10 million people win with money! And you can join one of these classes completely free. Indicate your interest at firstumc.org/fpu and we’ll be in touch about how you can get your year-long membership for FREE!

Grinch Advent Study led by Pastor Andy, Wednesdays Dec 3, 10, and 17, 6pm, C-204
Join Pastor Andy for a fun and engaging Advent Study using the resource, The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch by Matt Rawle. What Can We Learn from the Grinch? Explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Let’s look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. Books are available at Our Giving Tree Bookstore. Register at firstumc.org/groups.

Experience a Day with the Polk County Sheriff’s Department, Thu, Jan 15, 2026
Go behind the scenes with an exclusive, all-day tour of the Polk County Sheriff Office’s operations. Get an inside look at how the agency works and gain a deeper understanding of its functions. The tour includes complimentary transportation and lunch. Secure your spot by registering at firstumc.org/events.

