

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Andy Whitaker Smith
PRELUDE Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom/Chapin Matthew H. Corl
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Mike, Missy, Corbin & Colin Dammer
*HYMN 202 People, Look East!
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 884 Andy Whitaker Smith
*GLORIA PATRI We Will Glorify
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE Andy Whitaker Smith
OFFERTORY Carol of the Huron/Hatch Handbell Ringers & Singers
DOXOLOGY 95 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
SERMON The Joy of the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20) Charley Reeb
*HYMN 218 It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
*BENEDICTION Charley Reeb
*RESPONSE 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
POSTLUDE Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Marohnic Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Andy Whitaker Smith
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Don, Kelly & Megan Gallagher
*SONGS OF PRAISE Presence (For Advent),
Angels We Have Heard On High, Life Is Beautiful
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER Andy Whitaker Smith
OFFERTORY Magnificat (Hallelujah)
SERMON The Joy of the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20) Charley Reeb
*SONG OF RESPONSE Joy To The World (It’s Christmas)
BENEDICTION Charley Reeb

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Archie Buie
PRELUDE People, Look East!/Langlois Matthew H. Corl
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Steve & Carole Wicorek with Ella & Sophia Parham
*HYMN 202 People, Look East!
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 884 Archie Buie
*GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father
ANTHEM Carol of the Huron/Hatch Handbell Ringers & Singers
PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE Archie Buie
OFFERTORY I Wonder as I Wander/Corl Chancel Choir
DOXOLOGY 94 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
SERMON The Joy of the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20) Charley Reeb
*HYMN 218 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
*BENEDICTION Charley Reeb
*RESPONSE 204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel
POSTLUDE Carillon on Carol of the Advent/Te Velde Matthew H. Corl

“Huron Carol”, Canada’s oldest Christmas song, was written in the native language of the Huron/Wendat people and tells the story of the birth of Jesus. The music is adapted from a French carol. Eleanor Farjeon’s “People, Look East” calls not only people, but all of creation to prepare for the coming Christ.

*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS Andy Whitaker Smith
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Alex & Jen Swygard
*SONGS OF PRAISE God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,
Angels We Have Heard On High, Life Is Beautiful
CENTERING PRAYER Andy Whitaker Smith
OFFERTORY The First Noel
*DOXOLOGY
SERMON When Light Shines Andy Whitaker Smith
COMMUNION Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONG OF RESPONSE Let The Light In
*BENEDICTION Andy Whitaker Smith

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 (Dec 7)
In Person: 851
Online: 1,326
Total: 2,177

Goal: \$3,197,400



Pledged: \$2,471,511

Stewardship

Our 2026 Stewardship Season is nearing its conclusion, and we are so grateful for the generosity shown by our church family. Currently, we are \$725,889 away from reaching our goal. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to complete your estimate of giving in support of the church’s ministries for 2026. Giving cards are available in the Fellowship Center, Sanctuary, or online firstumc.org/stewardship. Thank you for blessing the ministries of the church and helping us make a difference!

Giving Through December 7, 2025
YTD Budgeted Income: \$3,845,383
YTD Actual Income: 3,565,342
\$ (280,041)
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
Shawn Joyner

Deaths
John “Sonny” Powell Sr., 12/4

Altar Flowers
To dedicate Altar Flowers in Memory or in Honor of a loved one, visit firstumc.org/altar-flowers or contact Angela Everett: 863-686-3163.



DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Weekly Text: Luke 2:8-20

Monday: Why do you think God chose to reveal the birth of Jesus to shepherds?

Tuesday: In what ways can you experience and share the joy mentioned in the angel’s message?

Wednesday: How does this passage challenge or inspire your faith?


Thursday: What steps can you take to seek out Christ in your daily life, as the shepherds did?

Friday: How do you respond to the message of Christ in your life?


Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to embrace the joy and peace you bring into our lives. May we, like the shepherds, seek you earnestly and share the Good News with others. Amen.

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)



The Sights and Sounds of Christmas, Today, 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.



Blue Christmas Service, Dec 18, 7pm, Chapel
Join us for a Blue Christmas service. This gentle, reflective gathering offers a space of comfort and hope during the holiday season. All are welcome.



Ring the bell for Salvation Army!
Grove Park Publix, 1617 US Highway 98 S.
Mon, Dec 1st through Christmas Eve
Two hour shifts from 10am - 8pm
To sign up for a shift, visit firstumc.org/salvation-army



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Family Service	4:00pm	Traditional Service	7:00pm
Contemporary Service	5:30pm	Communion Service	11:00pm

Family Service – 4:00pm, Sanctuary
Contemporary Service – 5:30pm, Fellowship Center
Traditional Service – 7:00pm, Sanctuary
Communion Service – 11:00pm, Sanctuary

Come experience beautiful music, candlelight, and the spirit of Christmas. All are welcome!

CHILDREN

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

Visit firstumc.org/children to learn more!

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

There will be no programming or childcare for children on Dec 28 for KIC Start (9:30-10:30) and the 11:00 service. There will be no KIC Friends (Wednesday nights) Dec 24 or 31.

Birthday Party for Jesus, December 21, 9:30-10:30am during KIC Start

All children are invited to wear their pajamas to church for the day. During KIC Start we will be having a birthday party for Jesus. Two years and up will be participating and mini cupcakes will be served at the end of the service time. If your child has any special dietary needs, please feel free to bring them an appropriate snack.

KIC Club 4/5 Mad Science Night, Sun, Jan 11, 5-7pm

Join us for an exciting evening of science activities designed to spark your curiosity and creativity! 4th and 5th graders are invited to come dressed in clothes that can handle a little mess. We'll be serving delicious Publix popcorn, chicken, chips, and even making ice cream for dessert. It's going to be a fun night you won't want to miss!

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.

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.

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.

Grinch Advent Study led by Pastor Andy, Final Session Wed, Dec 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.

Financial Peace University starts Jan 14, 6-8pm, Room C-204 or via Zoom.

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 for 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!

Beginner Slow-Flow Christ-Centered Yoga Spring Session begins Mon, Jan 5

Join us for a beginner-level, slow-flow yoga class with Be Still Movement, focusing on rest and worship through physical movement, meditation, and breath prayers. Come as you are and experience a time of stillness and community. Classes are led by Sarah Lloyd, a certified Holy Yoga instructor and Registered Yoga Alliance Teacher (RYT-200). Mondays, 6-7 PM starting January 5. Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.

Women's Book Club, Wed, Jan 7, 6 pm, Room C-205.

Looking for a great way to start the new year? We invite you to join the Women's Book Club for our Jan meeting. Our first Book Club discussion of the year will focus on the compelling novel Under the Tulip Tree by Michelle Shocklee. We meet to connect, converse, and grow in faith together. New members are always welcome. Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.

New Women's Bible Study: Exploring the Apocrypha begins Thurs Jan 7

Ladies, deepen your understanding of Scripture by joining our new study of the Apocrypha, led by Rev. Terry Heck beginning Thursday, January 8 at 10 am in Room C-204. Often described as the literary "bridge" connecting the Old and New Testaments, the Apocrypha is a fascinating collection of Jewish and Christian writings from 250 B.C. to A.D. 100. We will use the resource Immersion Bible Studies: Apocrypha by David A. Silva (Available at Our Giving Tree Bookstore). Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.

Experience a Day with the Polk County Sheriff's Department, Thurs, Jan 15

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.



Biblical Greek, Weds, 6-7:30pm, Jan 14-April 29

Come enlighten your understanding of the New Testament text by learning the original language it was written! We'll start at the beginning with the alphabet, play games to memorize vocabulary, and build our grammar skills. Each week we'll read the Lord's Prayer in Greek and work up our ability to translate some simple Scriptures, ultimately doing a short devotion for each lesson.

YOUTH

For information regarding our Youth Ministry events, contact

Emily Felgenhauer, Director of Youth Ministries:

efelgenhauer@firstumc.org, (863) 687-9750 x253.

Sunday, Dec 14:

9:30am Youth Choir Practice

10:30am Donuts and Discussion

4pm & 7pm Sights and Sound

Wednesday, Dec 17:

4:45pm Youth Handbells

6pm Open Gym

6:30pm Middle School and High School Grinch Advent Study

2026 Confirmation Kick Off Meeting, Wed, Jan 7, 6-7:30pm

Our Confirmation curriculum is a 15-week journey that includes a weekend retreat* (February 6-8) to Warren Willis Camp. This class is for 7th grade students and older.

For more information visit firstumc.org/confirmation.

MISSIONS

For more information regarding Missions, contact Forrest White,

Director of Missions: fwhite@firstumc.org, (863) 686-3163 x224.

Big Red Bus

OneBlood will be on campus for your blood donations today from 8:30am-12:30pm.

Migrant Family Christmas

If you're willing to "adopt" a child supported by Called to Serve Farmworkers for Christmas, please email Forrest (fwhite@firstumc.org). Each child has a couple of wishes. This year there's a request for a Walmart gift card per child instead of clothing, which empowers parents to choose gifts for their children or food for their family. You will receive more details via email.

Philip O'Brien Elementary School

First UMC will take homemade baked goods to teachers and staff at our partner this Thursday, 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 this Wednesday by 4pm.

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 Ornament-Making, Today, 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.

Round Robin/ White Elephant Christmas Gift Exchange, Tues, Dec 16, 6-8pm

We're keeping it funny or (re)useful—find something you already have or buy something between \$5-10 for our gift exchange! Make sure it is wrapped/in a bag, and come join the game to see who wins what mystery gift! We'll share a meal and celebrate the season—invite a friend! Scan the QR code above for home address!

