

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Kim DuBreuil
PRELUDE What Child is This/Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/McDonald-Bach	Jenny Heidtman, Piano
CALL TO WORSHIP	
*HYMN 240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 885	Betty Batey
*GLORIA PATRI	We Will Glorify
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE	Betty Batey
OFFERTORY O, Come All Ye Faithful/Pathetique Sonata/Taylor-Beethoven	Jenny Heidtman, Piano
DOXOLOGY 95 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
SERMON I Can See Clearly Now (Matthew 9:27-31)	Kim DuBreuil
*HYMN 220 Angels From the Realms of Glory	
*BENEDICTION	Kim DuBreuil
*RESPONSE 204	Emmanuel, Emmanuel
POSTLUDE Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee/Beethoven-arr. Hayes	Jenny Heidtman, Piano

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Kim DuBreuil
CALL TO WORSHIP	
*SONGS OF PRAISE Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Joy To The World (It's Christmas), Joyful, Joyful	
BAPTISM Malachi Jude Kurrack	Son of Noah Kurrack & Fabiola Casillas
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER	Kim DuBreuil
OFFERTORY We Have A Savior	
SERMON I Can See Clearly Now (Matthew 9:27-31)	Kim DuBreuil
*SONG OF RESPONSE I Can See Clearly Now	
BENEDICTION	Kim DuBreuil

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Kim DuBreuil
PRELUDE What Child is This/Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/McDonald-Bach	Jenny Heidtman, Piano
CALL TO WORSHIP	
*HYMN 240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 885	Archie Buie
*GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father	
ANTHEM Candlelight Carol/Rutter	Deb Meyer
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE	Archie Buie
OFFERTORY O, Come All Ye Faithful/Pathetique Sonata/Taylor-Beethoven	Jenny Heidtman, Piano
DOXOLOGY 94 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	
SERMON I Can See Clearly Now (Matthew 9:27-31)	Kim DuBreuil
*HYMN 220 Angels From the Realms of Glory	
*BENEDICTION	Kim DuBreuil
*RESPONSE 204	Emmanuel, Emmanuel
POSTLUDE Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee/Beethoven-arr. Hayes	Jenny Heidtman, Piano

The music we now use for Charles Wesley's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" was written by Mendelssohn in a piece for the 400th anniversary of Gutenberg's printing press. Mendelssohn thought it would never work with sacred words. Thanks to Jenny Heidtman for sharing her gifts with us this morning.

*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Jeremy Hearn
CALL TO WORSHIP	
*SONGS OF PRAISE Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Joy To The World (It's Christmas), Joyful, Joyful	
CENTERING PRAYER	Dale Golden
OFFERTORY We Have A Savior	
*DOXOLOGY	Dale Golden
SERMON The Miracle of Giving! (Matthew 2:1-12)	Dale Golden
COMMUNION	Dale Golden
*SONG OF RESPONSE I Can See Clearly Now	
*BENEDICTION	Dale Golden

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The Child is born, and the Light still shines.
ALL: **We come, rejoicing in God's endless gift of love.**
 LEADER: The manger may be empty, but our hearts are full.
ALL: **Christ is with us—yesterday, today, and always.**

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 21)

In Person: 902

Online: 1,040

Total: 1,942

Giving Through December 14, 2025

YTD Budgeted Income: \$3,923,861

YTD Actual Income: **3,759,636**

\$ (164,225)

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; Ashlyn Lisenby, 11am

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.

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

Day 1: "I can see clearly now the rain is gone."

Matthew 9:27. The song lyrics begin with the removal of an obstacle, just as the faith of two blind men in our scripture reading is for them, whether they are physically or spiritually blind (or both). They cry out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

What "rain" or obstacles are currently obscuring your spiritual vision?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I admit that the world and personal struggles are distracting me, making me blind to Your truth. Help me identify the "rain" in my life and refocus on You, the source of light and healing. Amen.

Day 2: "I can see all obstacles in my way...Gone are the dark clouds..." Matthew 9:28. Jesus didn't heal them immediately; he waited, showing persistence in faith.

Are you seeking Jesus persistently, or do you give up when things get tough?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the assurance that You hear my cries. Strengthen my persistence. When my vision is clouded and doubts arise, help me keep my eyes fixed on You. Amen.

Day 3: "Do you believe I am able to do this?" Matthew 9:28-29. Jesus asks whether they believe he can do this.

Where are you struggling to believe in Christ's power? Can you answer with a bold "Yes, Lord"?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I believe You can do the impossible in my life. Increase my faith where I am weak, and remove my self-doubt. Let it be done according to my faith. Amen.

Day 4: "It's gonna be a bright, bright, sunshiny day." Matthew 9:30. The men's eyes are opened, and their sight is completely restored. They move from total darkness, where they were once spiritually blind, to seeing the truth and light through Jesus.

Reflect on areas where God has already restored "sight." Perhaps it is being present in this moment.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, thank you for bringing me out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Help me live and walk in that light every day. May I reflect Your mercy, kindness, and love. Amen.

Day 5: "Ooh, yes, I can make it now, the pain is gone." Matthew 9:31. Jesus charged them not to tell anyone, but they were so overcome with joy that they went out and spread His name everywhere.

Consider how you can share your story of restored vision or faith with others. Are you ready to boldly testify to God's goodness and help others come to know Christ's saving grace?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me the courage to share my story of Your healing power. Let my life be a powerful witness to Your love and grace. I pray for the spiritual awakening of those around me, that their eyes may be opened to see Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

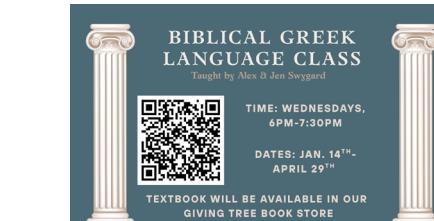
To learn more about the ministries of the church and how to get connected, contact The Church Office (info@firstumc.org - 863-686-3163)

Thank you so much to everyone who gave their time to ring the Salvation Army Bell this holiday season!



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 \$568,137 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!



Biblical Greek, Weds, 6-7:30pm, Jan 14-April 29
Come learn Biblical Greek with Alex & Jen Swygard as we explore the Greek alphabet, basic Greek grammar, and devotional application of the biblical Greek language. This biblical language provides a new perspective in which to encounter the New Testament stories, so come join us as we grow together! Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.



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
NO Children's Ministry Programming or childcare TODAY during the 9:30 and 11:00. See you January 4!

Wednesdays
We will be back January 7.

Thursdays
We will be back January 8.

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! Please visit www.firstumc.org for more information and to register.

We Need Christmas Trees!

If you have decided this is your last year with your Christmas tree, we are collecting Christmas trees to help us build a snowy forest for Vacation Bible School next summer! Please feel free to drop it off anytime in the Children's check-in area.

KIC Family: Family Fun Center, Jan 25, 2:30-4:30pm

Join us at Family Fun Center for our January KIC Family event! Open to children of all ages and their parents. Come meet and visit with other parents and have some fun fellowshipping together. Registration is required for this event and there is a cost to attend. Please visit www.firstumc.org/children for more information and to register.

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 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!

Tender Hearts Book Study Group, Wed, Jan 14-April 15, 3:30-5:00 PM, Parlor.

Have you lost a loved one recently? If so, please consider joining us for an 8-week study of Dr. Alan Wolfelt's "Understanding Your Grief." In this study, you will learn essential steps for finding Hope and Healing of your Heart. Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.

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.

YOUTH

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

Sunday, Dec 28:
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will resume Youth Programming January 4.

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

Youth Serve Saturday, Jan 10, 9-12pm

Join us for a morning of service at Lakeland's Public Library, located on Lake Morton! For more info or to register visit firstumc.org/youth.

Youth Parent Study, Wed, Jan 14, 6-7:30pm

Youth parents are invited to join us for a powerful new study, *Behind Closed Doors* by Jessica Peck. This book opens honest, faith-filled conversations about parenting teens with wisdom, grace, and confidence. For more info or to register visit firstumc.org/youth.

Youth Parent Connect Night, Sun, Jan 11, 5-7pm

Youth Parents, come join other youth parents as we have an open conversation with Pastor Andy and Pastor Kim about theology and seek their spiritual wisdom while your teens are at youth group. For more info or to register visit firstumc.org/youth.

MISSIONS

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

Food Collection

We will receive food at the Missions Depot next Sunday immediately following the 11am worship services until 1:30pm. Servants at First United sort and box donations. Please contribute if you can. Even one jar of peanut butter helps! The list of requested items is posted at firstumc.org/firstsundayfood. Thank you for your generosity and please donate only requested items.

KidsPACK

Our next packing event will be Wednesday, Jan 7. 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.

Migrant Family Christmas

Thank you to everyone who "adopted" a child supported by Called to Serve Farmworkers for Christmas. Your generosity provided gifts for 50 children.

With gratitude

Thanks to everyone who participated in the many mission partnerships of First UMC in 2025. You are a blessing to many!

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: @1stLKLYoungAdults 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, serve the community together, 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.)

There will be no Bible Study Tues, Dec 30, we'll see you Jan 6, 6-8pm!

Pickle Ball, Sat, Jan 3, 10am-12pm

Meet at the Bartow Pickleball courts (type that into your GPS, and it'll know what you're talking about!) bring a paddle and a water bottle (we'll have a couple extra paddles if needed). No skill required—we'll teach you how to play and all laugh at our own inabilities!

January Serving opportunities

When we served at Dream Center in November, the men really needed new underwear and socks, so we'll be collecting all sizes Jan-March and dropping them off periodically. We'll also join Kids Pack on Wed, Jan 7, 4-5pm in the Welcome Center.

Bible & Brunch, multi-UMC YA gathering, Sat, Jan 10, 10am-12pm

Several UMC churches' YA groups will be gathering together at Shepherd's Community Chapel campus. This will start a new monthly practice, so stay tuned if you cannot attend this one!

Bonfire, Sat, Jan 24, 6-8pm, Swygard family farm

Did you know Alex Swygard grew up on a farm? Come pet some goats, play with bunnies, feed a cow, run with some chickens, and eat some s'mores around an evening bonfire at Alex's family home (dinner provided). Message Jen Swygard for this north Lakeland address!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 28, 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 HOTH, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

BISHOP TOM BERLIN, FLORIDA AREA BISHOP