

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	Prelude on Houston/Powell	Kim DuBreuil Matthew H. Corl
<b>LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE</b>		
<b>*HYMN 206</b>	I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light	Patrick Hamrick & Fiona Hamilton
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 883</b>		
<b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>	We Will Glorify	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Comfort and Joy/Gray	Kim DuBreuil A Cappella Praise
<b>SERMON</b>	The Peace of Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)	Charley Reeb
<b>INVITATION, CONFESSION, &amp; PARDON</b>		
<b>THE GREAT THANKSGIVING</b>		
<b>COMMUNION</b>		Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*HYMN 238</b>	Angels We Have Heard On High	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		
<b>*RESPONSE 204</b>	Emmanuel, Emmanuel	Charley Reeb
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Festive Angels/Raney	Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE</b>	JP, Meghan, Piper, Anniston & Ledger Phillips	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>		
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER</b>		Kim DuBreuil
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Peace	
<b>SERMON</b>	The Peace of Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)	Charley Reeb
<b>COMMUNION</b>		
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Your Love Is All Around Me	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		
		Charley Reeb

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>PRELUDE</b>	Prelude on Houston/Behnke	Kim DuBreuil Matthew H. Corl
<b>LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE</b>		
Jamie, Lily & Sophia Roberts with Matthew Miranda & Andrew Kush		
<b>*HYMN 206</b>	I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light	
<b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 883</b>		
<b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>	Glory Be to the Father	Kim DuBreuil
<b>PRAYER/THE LORD’S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b>		
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Comfort and Joy/Gray	Kim DuBreuil A Cappella Praise
<b>SERMON</b>	The Peace of Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)	Charley Reeb
<b>INVITATION, CONFESSION, &amp; PARDON</b>		
<b>THE GREAT THANKSGIVING</b>		
<b>COMMUNION</b>		Kim DuBreuil
<b>*HYMN 238</b>	Angels We Have Heard on High	
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		
<b>*RESPONSE 204</b>	Emmanuel, Emmanuel	Charley Reeb
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	Toccatina on Angels We Have Heard on High/Elliott	Matthew H. Corl

Written in the first person, “I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” invites the singer to join Christ in discipleship on a journey of faith. From a Wesleyan standpoint, it also outlines sanctifying grace. The French carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” invites Mary and Joseph to join in praise with the angels; Mormon Tabernacle organist Richard Elliott composed the delightful postlude on this carol.

\*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT		
<b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE</b>		
<b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>	Be Still, The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours), Great Are You Lord	Andy Whitaker Smith Don & Ann Skellenger
<b>CENTERING PRAYER</b>		
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	Peace	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*DOXOLOGY</b>		
<b>SERMON</b>	When Christmas Isn’t Christmas	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>THE GREAT THANKSGIVING</b>		
<b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>	Your Love Is All Around Me	Andy Whitaker Smith
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		
		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](https://firstumc.org/connect).**

**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 (Nov 30)**  
In Person: 818  
Online: 1,276  
Total: 2,094

Goal: \$3,197,400

Pledged: \$2,114,191

**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 \$1,083,209 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](https://firstumc.org/stewardship). Thank you for blessing the ministries of the church and helping us make a difference!

**Text to Give:** Text any amount to 855-485-1651, and you will receive a link to contribute.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE	
<p><b>Please notify the church when you are in the hospital!</b></p> <p><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></p>	
<b>Hospital</b>	Ken DeVore, Joanne Paige
<b>Deaths</b>	Kathy Langford, 11/16 Tom Baroody, 11/25 Jim Martin, 11/28
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	In memory of John Watkins by Weebo Watkins & Family
	In memory of Cindy Vinion, Mr. Carrington B. Hoefer, Mrs. Bertha H. Stevens and Mr. & Mrs. Lindner C. Hoefer by Peter Hoefer

**POINSETTIA DEDICATION ORDERS**

\$15 per plant  
Order deadline is December 11  
Visit [firstumc.org/poinsettia](https://firstumc.org/poinsettia) to fill out an order form

**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](https://firstumc.org/poinsettia).

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
<p><b>Weekly Text:</b> Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p><b>Monday:</b> Joseph faced a challenging circumstance when he discovered Mary was pregnant. His initial reaction was one of concern and righteousness. How do you react to unexpected or difficult news? What can we learn from Joseph’s desire to act justly while showing compassion?</p> <p><b>Tuesday:</b> Read Matthew 1:20-21. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, providing clarity and reassurance about Mary’s pregnancy. Have you ever felt God guiding you in a confusing situation? What does this passage teach us about trusting God’s plans over our understanding?</p> <p><b>Wednesday:</b> Read Matthew 1:22-23. Joseph’s acceptance of the angel’s message shows his willingness to embrace God’s purpose. What might God be calling you to embrace in your life right now? How can we prepare our hearts to accept God’s calling, even if it disrupts our plans?</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b> Read Matthew 1:24-25. Joseph’s immediate obedience to the angel’s command exemplifies his faith and commitment. What are the challenges you face in being obedient to God’s calling? How can we cultivate a spirit of obedience in our daily lives?</p> <p><b>Friday:</b> Read Matthew 1:18-25. Joseph’s peace came from trusting God’s plan amidst uncertainty. His actions had a profound impact on the world. How does trusting God provide peace in your life? In what ways can we share this peace with others?</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b> Eternal God, thank you for the example of Joseph and his unwavering peace in trusting your plan. Help us to embrace your calling in our lives, even when it feels daunting. May we reflect your peace in our hearts and share it with those around us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p><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></p> <div><div></div><div><p><b>The Sights and Sounds of Christmas, Dec 14, 4pm &amp; 7pm</b></p><p>Step into the magic &amp; 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, <i>Season of Wonder</i> promises to uplift your heart and remind you of the light that shines in the darkness.</p></div></div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>Blue Christmas Service, Dec 18, 7pm, Chapel</b></p><p>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.</p></div></div> <div><div></div><div><p><b>Christmas Eve Services</b></p><p>You are warmly invited to join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services as we celebrate the hope, joy, and light of Christ’s birth. We offer a variety of service styles so you can choose the one that best fits your family’s Christmas tradition.</p><p>Family Service – 4:00pm Contemporary Service – 5:30pm Traditional Service – 7:00pm Communion Service – 11:00pm</p><p>Come experience beautiful music, candlelight, and the spirit of Christmas. All are welcome!</p></div></div>





**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](http://firstumc.org/events) or contact Angela at 863-686-3163 or [aeverett@firstumc.org](mailto:aeverett@firstumc.org) to schedule.

## 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**

Visit [firstumc.org/children](http://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**

**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](http://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](http://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.

## YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-35)

**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, 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.)

**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!

**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!



**Awakened to Grace** is a year-long daily devotional series from the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, guiding readers from Advent 2025 through Christ the King 2026. This first volume, Advent-Epiphany (Nov. 30-Feb. 21), leads you from Hope to Service through daily scripture, reflections, prayers, journaling prompts, and a simple Daily Office rhythm. Walking through themes like Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Incarnation, and Epiphany practices such as Prayer, Scripture, Silence, Fasting, Sabbath, and Service, it invites a steady, grace-filled journey of renewed discipleship. You can download or purchase the devotional at [www.wesleyanrooted.org](http://www.wesleyanrooted.org).

## 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, Dec 7:**  
**9:30am Youth Choir Practice**  
**10:30am Donuts and Discussion**  
**5pm Middle School and High School Christmas Parties**

**Tuesday, Dec 9:**  
**5pm Youth Dance Ministry**

**Wednesday, Dec 10:**  
**4:45pm Youth Handbells**  
**6pm Open Gym**  
**6:30pm Middle School and High School Grinch Advent Study**

**2026 Confirmation Kick Off Meeting, Wednesday, January 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 or to register by Dec. 11 visit [firstumc.org/confirmation](http://firstumc.org/confirmation).

## MISSIONS

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

**Food Collection**  
We will receive food at the Missions Depot today immediately following the 11am worship services until 1:30pm. Servants at First United sort and box donations. 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 please donate only requested items.

**Migrant Family Chrismtas**  
If you're willing to "adopt" a child supported by Called to Serve Farmworkers for Christmas, please email Forrest ([fwhite@firstumc.org](mailto: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. We committed to cover 50 children and still have a long way to go.

**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](mailto:abraham409@aol.com)) or Joleen Golden ([joleengolden@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**Big Red Bus**  
OneBlood will be on campus for your blood donations next Sunday from 8:30am-12:30pm.

## 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).**

**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](http://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](http://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](http://firstumc.org/events).

# First United Methodist Church

December 7, 2025

