

4PM WORSHIP

WELCOME	Charley Reeb	
PRELUDE	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!/Corl	Matthew H. Corl, AAGO
*HYMN 234	O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1,2,3, & 6)	
THE BIDDING PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith	
THE ANNUNCIATION	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Charley Reeb
	Ring the Bells (It's Christmastime)/Crane	KIC Choir
THE BIRTH OF JESUS	Luke 2:1-7	Kim DuBreuil
HYMN 217	Away in a Manger	
THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS	Luke 2:8-20	Andy Whitaker Smith
	Shepherd's Joy/Hayes	
	Youth Choir; Debbie Klise, flute; Sarah Morrison, violin; Warren Pattison, drum	
THE VISIT OF THE MAGI	Matthew 2:9b-12	Kim DuBreuil
HYMN 254	We Three Kings	
CHILDREN'S SERMON		
PASSING OF THE PEACE		
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith	
OFFERTORY	Behold That Star/Mayo	Youth Choir and KIC Choir
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE	John 1:1-14	Andy Whitaker Smith
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION	Andy Whitaker Smith	
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES		
*HYMN 239	Silent Night	
*BENEDICTION	Charley Reeb	
POSTLUDE	Postlude on a Noel/Bedard	Matthew H. Corl, AAGO

7PM WORSHIP

WELCOME	Charley Reeb	
PRELUDE	Christmas Medley/Raney	Clarion Brass, Timpani and Organ
*HYMN 234	O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1,2,3, & 6)	
THE BIDDING PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith	
THE ANNUNCIATION	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Kim DuBreuil
HYMN 230	O Little Town of Bethlehem	
THE BIRTH OF JESUS	Luke 2:1-7	Andy Whitaker Smith
	For Unto Us a Child is Born/Handel	Chancel Choir
THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS	Luke 2:8-20	Kim DuBreuil
HYMN 238	Angels We Have Heard on High	
THE VISIT OF THE MAGI	Matthew 2:9b-12	Andy Whitaker Smith
HYMN 245	The First Noel (v. 3-5)	
PASSING OF THE PEACE		
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Kim DuBreuil	
OFFERTORY	We Sing With Choirs of Angels/Trenney	
	Chancel Choir and Clarion Brass	
SERMON	The Light in Our Darkness (John 1:4-5)	Charley Reeb
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE	John 1:1-14	Andy Whitaker Smith
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION	Andy Whitaker Smith	
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES		
*HYMN 239	Silent Night	
*BENEDICTION	Charley Reeb	
POSTLUDE	Toccata on In Dulci Jubilo/Phillips	Clarion Brass, Timpani and Organ

5:30PM WORSHIP

WELCOME	Charley Reeb	
MUSIC	We Fall Down	
MUSIC	Hope For Everyone	
THE BIDDING PRAYER	Kim DuBreuil	
THE ANNUNCIATION	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Andy Whitaker Smith
MUSIC	Angels We Have Heard on High, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
THE BIRTH OF JESUS	Luke 2:1-7	Kim DuBreuil
MUSIC	Away In A Manger	
THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS	Luke 2:8-20	Andy Whitaker Smith
MUSIC	Go Tell It On the Mountain	
THE VISIT OF THE MAGI	Matthew 2: 9b-12	Kim DuBreuil
MUSIC	We Three Kings	
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith	
OFFERTORY	Light Of The World	
SERMON	The Light in Our Darkness (John 1:4-5)	Charley Reeb
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION	Charley Reeb	
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE	John 1:1-14	Andy Whitaker Smith
*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES	Silent Night, Joy To The World (It's Christmas)	
BENEDICTION	Charley Reeb	

11PM WORSHIP

MUSIC OF THE SEASON	Strings	
WELCOME	Charley Reeb	
*HYMN 234	O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1,2,3, & 6)	
THE BIDDING PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith	
THE ANNUNCIATION	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Charley Reeb
HYMN 230	O Little Town of Bethlehem	
THE BIRTH OF JESUS	Luke 2:1-7	Kim DuBreuil
SPECIAL MUSIC	Gesu Bambino/Yon	Diana Russel & Karen Buie
THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS	Luke 2:8-20	Andy Whitaker Smith
HYMN 238	Angels We Have Heard on High	
THE VISIT OF THE MAGI	Matthew 2:9b-12	Kim DuBreuil
HYMN 254	We Three Kings	
SERMON	The Light in Our Darkness (John 1:4-5)	Charley Reeb
INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON,	page 12	Andy Whitaker Smith
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith	
OFFERTORY	O Holy Night/Adam	Jenny Heidtman
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING,	hymnal page 13	Kim DuBreuil
GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP	Strings	
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE	John 1:1-14	Charley Reeb
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION	Andy Whitaker Smith	
*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES		
*HYMN 239	Silent Night	
*BENEDICTION	Andy Whitaker Smith	
POSTLUDE	Carillon on Joy to the World/Bennett	Matthew H. Corl, AAGO

Whether you are a member or a guest, please take a moment to register your attendance on the registration pad before passing it on to your neighbor or online 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 (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, 4pm; Luke Pattison, 7pm

Thank you to the following musicians for providing music this evening:

Don West and Kyle Lanier - Trumpets  
Jeanie Berry - French Horn  
Bryan O'Steen - Trombone  
Andrew Sallee - Tuba  
Evan West - Timpani  
Mark Thielen - Violin  
Sarah Morrison - Violin  
Tracy Thielen - Viola  
Audra McWhinnie - Cello

We are glad you are here!  
To learn more about the ministries of the church and how to get connected, contact The Church Office ([info@firstumc.org](mailto:info@firstumc.org) - 863-686-3163).

Church offices are closed Dec 25, Dec 26, & Jan 1.

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](https://firstumc.org/stewardship). Thank you for blessing the ministries of the church and helping us make a difference!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Hospital

Charles Polstra  
John Surber  
Hugh Roberts

Altar Flowers

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



## 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**  
**Merry Christmas. We will be back January 7**

**Thursdays**  
**Merry Christmas. We will be back January 8**

*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.*

**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/children](http://www.firstumc.org/children) 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 fellowshiping together. Registration is required for this event and there is a cost to attend. Please visit [www.firstumc.org/children](http://www.firstumc.org/children) for more information and to register.

## 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 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](http://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 by Jan 7 visit [firstumc.org/youth](http://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](http://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](http://firstumc.org/youth).

## MUSIC & FINE ARTS

For information regarding Music Ministry events, contact Karen Buie: [kbue@firstumc.org](mailto:kbuie@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x238 or Matthew Corl: [mcorl@firstumc.org](mailto:mcorl@firstumc.org), (863) 686-3163 x274

**Central Florida Chamber Players, Jan 24, 7:30pm, \$10/person**  
This talented group of musicians is comprised of professional string players from the Central Florida area, including Orlando, Gainesville, Tampa and Polk County. Under the direction of Mark Thielen, we will be treated to an array of traditional favorite compositions for string orchestra as well as hymn arrangements and selected American Works. This concert is sponsored by Boone Distributors. Purchase tickets at [firstumc.org/concert-series](http://firstumc.org/concert-series).

**Fine Arts Sunday, Feb 1**  
Join us for a unique worship experience where creativity and faith come together in powerful expression. This special service celebrates the many ways God speaks through the arts - music, visual art, & dance. Come ready to see, hear, and feel the beauty of God's presence through the talents He's given His people. We will celebrate Fine Arts Sunday in our 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 worship services and all are welcome!

**Jazz Room & Valentine's Dance Feb 13, 7pm, \$15/person**  
This Valentine's Day weekend, step into a carefree New York style Jazz Room and dance the night away, without leaving town! This special event features live jazz performances by The Jeff Phillips Trio in a cozy & relaxed environment. Whether you're celebrating with someone special or enjoying a night out with friends, this is the perfect setting to relax, listen, and be inspired. Ticket price includes table snacks and one drink from the craft mocktail & soda bar.

## 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 Jan 4 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](http://firstumc.org/firstsundayfood). Thank you for your generosity and please donate only requested items.

**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](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, 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!

## 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 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://FirstUMC.org/Groups).

**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](http://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](http://FirstUMC.org/Events).

