

## 8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

|                                                      |                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>                         | Charley Reeb                                          |
| <b>PRELUDE</b>                                       | Blessed Assurance/Kim Matthew H. Corl                 |
| <b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>                               | Kim DuBreuil                                          |
| <b>*HYMN 369</b>                                     | Blessed Assurance                                     |
| <b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 883</b>                     | Kim DuBreuil                                          |
| <b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>                                 | We Will Glorify                                       |
| <b>PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b> | Charley Reeb                                          |
| <b>OFFERTORY</b>                                     | My Lord, What a Morning/arr. Althouse Caroline Agee   |
| <b>SERMON</b>                                        | The Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) Andy Whitaker Smith   |
| <b>INVITATION, CONFESSION, &amp; PARDON</b>          |                                                       |
| <b>THE GREAT THANKSGIVING</b>                        | Kim DuBreuil                                          |
| <b>COMMUNION</b>                                     |                                                       |
| <b>*HYMN 377</b>                                     | It Is Well With My Soul                               |
| <b>*BENEDICTION</b>                                  | Andy Whitaker Smith                                   |
| <b>*RESPONSE</b>                                     | As We Go                                              |
| <b>POSTLUDE</b>                                      | Just a Closer Walk With Thee/Marohnic Matthew H. Corl |

## 9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

|                                             |                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>                | Kim DuBreuil                                        |
| <b>INVITATION, CONFESSION, &amp; PARDON</b> |                                                     |
| <b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>                     | Children of God, Grace Like Rain, Made Alive        |
| <b>PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER</b>             | Charley Reeb                                        |
| <b>OFFERTORY</b>                            | Every Table Is An Altar                             |
| <b>SERMON</b>                               | The Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) Andy Whitaker Smith |
| <b>COMMUNION</b>                            |                                                     |
| <b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>                    | It Is Well With My Soul                             |
| <b>*BENEDICTION</b>                         | Andy Whitaker Smith                                 |

## 11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

|                                                      |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>                         | Charley Reeb                                        |
| <b>PRELUDE</b>                                       | Lift High the Cross/Ore Matthew H. Corl             |
| <b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>                               | Charley Reeb                                        |
| <b>*HYMN 159</b>                                     | Lift High the Cross                                 |
| <b>*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 883</b>                     | Charley Reeb                                        |
| <b>*GLORIA PATRI</b>                                 | Glory Be to the Father                              |
| <b>PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE</b> | Charley Reeb                                        |
| <b>OFFERTORY</b>                                     | Behold the Lamb of God/Corl Chancel Choir           |
| <b>HYMN 405</b>                                      | Seek Ye First                                       |
| <b>SERMON</b>                                        | The Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) Andy Whitaker Smith |
| <b>INVITATION, CONFESSION, &amp; PARDON</b>          |                                                     |
| <b>THE GREAT THANKSGIVING</b>                        | Charley Reeb                                        |
| <b>COMMUNION</b>                                     |                                                     |
| <b>*HYMN 377</b>                                     | It Is Well With My Soul                             |
| <b>*BENEDICTION</b>                                  | Andy Whitaker Smith                                 |
| <b>*RESPONSE 666</b>                                 | Shalom to You                                       |
| <b>POSTLUDE</b>                                      | Blessed Assurance/Corl Matthew H. Corl              |

Fanny Crosby's beloved hymn *Blessed Assurance* was inspired by the music written by her friend Phoebe Knapp. Crosby felt the first line of the tune suggested the text "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine". *Lift High the Cross* exhorts us to lift the cross as a symbol of the love of Jesus, a symbol which challenges Christians to live a Christ-like life.

\*Please stand if you are able

## 11:00AM THE CURRENT

|                              |                                        |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> | Kim DuBreuil                           |
| <b>*SONGS OF PRAISE</b>      | Children of God, God So Loved, The Way |
| <b>CENTERING PRAYER</b>      |                                        |
| <b>OFFERTORY</b>             | How Deep The Father's Love For Us      |
| <b>*DOXOLOGY</b>             |                                        |
| <b>SERMON</b>                | Lift High The Cross Kim DuBreuil       |
| <b>COMMUNION</b>             | Kim DuBreuil                           |
| <b>*SONG OF RESPONSE</b>     | Every Table Is An Altar                |
| <b>*BENEDICTION</b>          | Kim DuBreuil                           |

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The Lord brought Israel into the wilderness, & they were hungry & thirsty.  
**ALL: "What shall we eat, or drink?"**  
 LEADER: The Lord provided manna and water to heal them.  
**ALL: Come, let us worship the LORD our Healer, who leads us through the wilderness and provides for our every need.**

## 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](http://firstumc.org/connect).**

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

### Presence in Worship (Feb 22)

In Person: 825  
 Online: 1,966  
 Total: 2,791



**Acolytes/Crucifers:** Cameron Vessels, 8:15am

**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**  
 Deb Meyer  
 Janet Patton  
 Linda Schlachter

**Death**  
 Lois Goble, 2/17  
 Jim Mills, 2/22

**Altar Flowers**  
 In memory of Carol Ann Sargeant, my angel in heaven, in honor of our anniversary, by her husband Dick Sargeant

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



**Explore First, March 11, 5pm**  
 Are you on a journey searching for God or looking to join our church? We invite you to take your next step by attending Explore First. You'll hear from our pastors, have dinner, and have the opportunity to consider joining the church during one of our Sunday services. Please RSVP to [kdubreuil@firstumc.org](mailto:kdubreuil@firstumc.org) to receive the details for this event.

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**MONDAY:** Matthew 4:1  
 Lent begins not with victory but with going. Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness—into a place of exposure, uncertainty, and confrontation. He does not pack provisions, strategies, or guarantees; he simply goes. Every initiation into deeper faith requires this step into the unknown, where we will face things we expect and things we never saw coming. Lent is less about declaring, "I will win," and more about whispering, "I will go," trusting that obedience itself is holy ground.  
**Reflection:** Where is God inviting you simply to go—without knowing how the story ends?

**TUESDAY:** Matthew 4:2-4  
 The wilderness exposes hunger—not only physical hunger, but the deeper ache for security, affirmation, and control. When Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread, the invitation is subtle: satisfy yourself, protect yourself, rely on your own power. But self-discovery often begins when we recognize what truly sustains us and what only numbs us. The wilderness asks hard questions about what feeds our lives and whether we are willing to depend on something deeper than immediate relief.  
**Reflection:** What hunger has surfaced in you during difficult seasons, and what does it reveal about what you truly depend on?

**WEDNESDAY:** Matthew 4:5-7  
 On the mountain, the temptation shifts from survival to spectacle: prove yourself, demand a sign, force certainty. Yet Jesus does not treat the wilderness as a contest to win or a stage to dominate. His mission is not to overpower the devil but to face him—to stand in the confrontation without surrendering his identity. Lent invites us to face what confronts us, not to conquer everything in dramatic fashion, but to remain steady in who we are before God.  
**Reflection:** What are you being asked to face right now—not to defeat in one moment, but to meet with honesty and trust?

**THURSDAY:** Matthew 4:8-10  
 The final temptation reveals what stands at the center of the wilderness: worship. Power is offered as a shortcut, as if glory could be seized rather than received. But Jesus refuses the bargain. He does not grab at kingdoms; he anchors himself in faithfulness. Lent teaches us that we cannot predict what waits on the other side of obedience, but we can choose where we place our allegiance. "I will go," does not mean, "I know what I will gain." It simply means we trust the One who leads.  
**Reflection:** Where are you tempted to choose control or recognition over quiet faithfulness?

**FRIDAY:** Matthew 4:11  
 The wilderness does not have the final word. After confrontation comes clarity; after endurance comes strengthening. Jesus emerges not triumphant in spectacle but grounded in identity, ready for what lies ahead. The light that guided him into the wilderness now reveals what has been formed within him. Lent works the same way: we go as far as the light will take us, trusting that even what frightens us may also resurrect us. And when we return—from wilderness back to community, back to the table—we come changed, held, and empowered for what is next.  
**Reflection:** As you move through this Lenten season, what is being formed in you that will shape how you return to the world?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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)**



**Stewardship**  
 We are so grateful for the generosity shown by our church family. As February comes to an end, we are only \$86,409 or 2.7% away from our pledge goal for 2026. If you haven't already, we encourage you to complete your estimate of giving in support of the church's ministries. Cards are available in the Fellowship Center, Sanctuary, or online at [firstumc.org/stewardship](http://firstumc.org/stewardship). Thank you for blessing the ministries of the church!



**Summer Camp 2026**  
 We will be attending Week #4, July 6-11 2026. Please register on the Warren Willis Camp website ([wwumccc.org/summer-camps](http://wwumccc.org/summer-camps)). If your child/youth will need a ride to and from camp, please sign up on our church website for a space on one of our three mini busses we will bring to camp. If you have any questions or concerns, please do reach out to either Megan or Emily for help or more info. We look forward to experiencing camp with our students this summer!



**Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction: Let's Hang Him and Read the Will, March 6 at 6:30pm & March 7 at 4:30pm**  
 All is not well in the little burg of Beautyrest Springs. Their most prominent (and hated) citizen is dead! Was it murder? Your help is needed to unravel the mystery in this hilarious soap opera spoof which will keep you guessing until the very end. This event will include dinner and a silent auction. Purchase tickets at [firstumc.org/events](http://firstumc.org/events).

**SIT WITH A PROFESSIONAL**

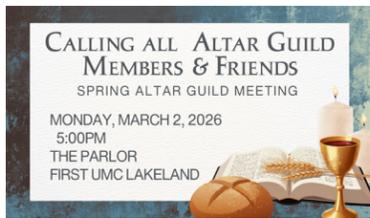
Bring your questions about:

- Retirement
- Estate planning
- Trusts or wills
- Health care powers of attorney
- Advance directives

**Wednesdays**  
 02/25/26 - 03/25/26

Location: Fellowship Center  
 Time: 5:00 PM  
 Tip: Grab your dinner and join us!

**Sit with a Professional**  
 Sit with a Professional and get your questions answered about retirement, estate planning, trusts or wills, health care powers of attorney, and advance directives. Join us on Wednesdays from Feb 25 through Mar 25 at 5pm at the Fellowship Center. Bring your questions, grab your dinner, and join us for this informative and helpful time together.



**Calling All Altar Guild Members and Friends!**  
Our Spring Altar Guild Meeting will be Monday, March 2, in the FUMC Parlor at 5pm when we will welcome Forrest White to share his inspirational stories about missions. Hope to see you then and there.

## 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**  
No KIC Choir this week so families can serve together at kidsPACK  
6:00 - 7:30pm KIC Friends (Infants 6 weeks - 5th Grade)

**Thursdays**  
9:00-10:30 Pray and Play

**Family Serve Opportunity, Mar 4, 4pm**

Join us in the Welcome Center to serve as a family as we help with kidsPACK as we pack meals for local children who may not have enough food for the weekend. If you cannot come right at 4 PM, come join us when you can! Mr. Bill will also be serving a special kid-friendly dinner in addition to the regular Wednesday Night meal that night. Adults \$10, and children (12 and under) \$5. Please register at [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children) if you plan to stay for dinner so we can give a headcount to Mr. Bill.

**Easterific Adult and Youth Volunteer Registration OPEN NOW**

Children's Ministry is looking for adults and teens eager to join a fantastic community outreach event happening on April 4 from 10 am to noon. Easterific is a great opportunity to team up with us and spread God's love in our community. Check out [firstumc.org/children](http://firstumc.org/children) to find out how you can help and to sign up.

**Easterific Candy Donations Needed!**

We are now collecting individually wrapped candy for our Easterific goodie bags and need your help. Special "bunny" bins just for candy donations can be found in the Welcome Center, Narthex, and Fellowship Center.

**KIC Family Mission Trip Interest Meeting, Mar 8, 11am**

We are so excited to be returning to Epworth by the Sea in Georgia for our Family Mission Trip Jul 22-25! If your family is interested in going, we would love to have you join us for our info meeting on Mar 8 at 11am in C112. This will be a time to hear more about what we do on the trip and ask any questions you may have. This trip is for children who will have finished Pre-K 4 next summer and up!

## 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, March 1:**  
9:30am Youth Choir  
10:30am Donuts and Discussion  
3:30pm Youth Praise Band & Vibe Team  
5pm Youth Group  
5:30pm Parent Study

**Tuesday, March 3:**  
5pm Youth Dance Ministry

**Wednesday, March 4:**  
4:45pm Youth Handbells  
6pm Confirmation  
6pm Open Gym  
6:30pm Middle School and High School Bible Studies

**Youth Serve Saturday, Toby Water Warriors, Mar 7, 9am - 12pm**

Join us with Toby's Water Warriors for our March Serve Saturday at Lake Wire! Help us keep Lakeland's lakes beautiful by picking up trash around the shoreline. We'll meet at Church at 9am and will be back at Noon. Please wear closed-toed shoes and outdoor clothing for lakeside pickup. All supplies will be provided. Please register by Mar 5 at [firstumc.org/youth](http://firstumc.org/youth).

**Youth Lock-In, Friday Mar 13, 6pm - Saturday Mar 14 until 9am**

All 6th - 12th graders are invited to join us for our GLOW PARTY LOCK-IN here at Church. We will provide a free dinner, snacks, dessert & breakfast for our students. They only need to bring a bag with a change of clothes, sleeping bag and pillow. Students are also asked to wear neon colors for our black light games in the gym. Please register by Mar 11 on our website [firstumc.org/youth](http://firstumc.org/youth).



**Easter Lilies**

It's time to order your lilies to be used in the church during the coming Easter season. If you'd like to honor or remember a loved one with a lily, please fill out an order form at [firstumc.org/lilies](http://firstumc.org/lilies). Orders must be received by March 26 (cost is \$15 per plant). You may take your lily home with you after the 11am Easter service.

## 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).

**Lent Study Groups - Why Did Jesus Have to Die?**

Deepen your faith this season as we explore Adam Hamilton's latest book, Why Did Jesus Have to Die? If you've ever wondered why and how Jesus' makes a difference in our relationship with God and others, this study is for you. There are various times and days available to participate in this study. To join a group below, register at [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Sundays**

- 9:30 am Sendero Class, room C-204

- 9:30 am Genesis Class, room C-202

- 11 am Study Group, Parlor

**Wednesday Nights led by Pastor Andy and Pastor Kim**

Feb 25-Apr 1, 6pm, Rm C-207

**JOY (55+) March Outing: The Florida Holocaust Museum, Fri, Mar 6, 9am - 4pm**

Join the JOY (55+) group for a moving and educational day at The Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. We will explore powerful, immersive exhibits such as "History, Heritage, & Hope," featuring authentic artifacts like a Danish rescue boat and a Nazi boxcar. Cost is \$25 which includes museum admission and church bus transportation. Deadline to register is today. Learn more and register at [FirstUMC.org/Events](http://FirstUMC.org/Events).

**Divorce Recovery Class, Wed, Mar 4 - May 27, 6-7:30pm, Rm C-201C**

Find Healing and Hope After Divorce. If you are navigating the difficult journey of separation or divorce, you don't have to walk alone. Join our Divorce Recovery Class led by Tiffany Beardsley to find support, healing, and a community that understands. This group offers a safe space to process your experience and gain tools for a healthier future. For more information or to register, visit [firstumc.org/groups](http://firstumc.org/groups).

**Guys Having Coffee Next Meetup is Sat, Mar 7, 8am, Black & Brew (at the library)**

Are you looking for a low-pressure way to connect with other men in the community? Started by Dan Bough as a space where men can slow down, grab a cup of coffee, and just be themselves. No RSVP required. No agenda. No pressure. Show up when you can, stay as long as you'd like, and share as much or as little as you want. Whether you're looking for meaningful conversation, a few laughs, or simply a welcoming place to connect with other men. Learn more at [GuysHavingCoffee.org](http://GuysHavingCoffee.org).

## MISSIONS

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

**First Sunday 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. The list of requested items is posted at [firstumc.org/firstsundayfood](http://firstumc.org/firstsundayfood). Thank you for your generosity and a reminder to please donate only requested items.

**KidsPACK**

Our next packing event will be Wed, Mar 4. 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](mailto:safetyskip@gmail.com)) Note: Please mark your calendars for the first Wednesday of each month through May for the 2025-26 school year.

## 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.)

**Strawberry Picking, Sat, March 14, Berry Sweet Acres**

Meet us in Plant City at Berry Sweet Acres and bring cash. Strawberries are \$4/lb. This is a family-friendly event!

**Camping at Hillsborough State Park, Mar 19-22**

Choose within these days any span of days that work for you—we have 16 spots but can only bring 4 cars, so coordinate with us to carpool! The cost is \$25 +\$5/day for supplies. We have the tents, yard games, and meals, if you'll bring a shareable snack and your own sleeping bag. Register at [firstumc.org/college-young-adults](http://firstumc.org/college-young-adults) no later than Mar 11.

**YAs Serve: Polk County Bully Project, Mar 12, 4-7pm**

We'll clean the dog shelter and walk dogs, but registration is required. Head to [firstumc.org/college-young-adults](http://firstumc.org/college-young-adults) for more info and to register.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 1, 2026

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

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