

8:15AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Charley Reeb
PRELUDE	Onward Christian Soldiers/arr. Curnow Jim Jackson, Clarinet; Albert McCullough, Flugel Horn
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Andy Whitaker Smith
*HYMN 98	To God Be the Glory
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 887	Andy Whitaker Smith
*GLORIA PATRI	We Will Glorify
BAPTISM	Luv Allen with her children, Michael Bryant Walker Jr. & Ariyah Amour Jenkins
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE	Charley Reeb
OFFERTORY	Total Praise/arr. Raney Handbell Ringers & Singers
DOXOLOGY 95	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
SERMON	A Turning Point (John 1: 1-45) Kim DuBreuil
*HYMN 2158	Just a Closer Walk With Thee
*BENEDICTION	Kim DuBreuil
*RESPONSE	As We Go
POSTLUDE	Just a Closer Walk/Barker Matthew H. Corl

9:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Andy Whitaker Smith
CALL TO WORSHIP	Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONGS OF PRAISE	Goodbye Yesterday, The Way, Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER	Charley Reeb
OFFERTORY	Treasure
SERMON	A Turning Point (John 1: 1-45) Kim DuBreuil
*SONG OF RESPONSE	God Is On The Throne
BENEDICTION	Kim DuBreuil

11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Charley Reeb
PRELUDE	To God Be the Glory/Corl Matthew H. Corl
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Charley Reeb
*HYMN 98	To God Be the Glory
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 887	Charley Reeb
*GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father
ANTHEM	Total Praise/arr. Raney Handbell Ringers & Singers
NEW MEMBERS	
PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER/PASSING OF THE PEACE	Charley Reeb
OFFERTORY	Onward Christian Soldiers/arr. Curnow Jim Jackson, Clarinet; Albert McCullough, Flugel Horn
DOXOLOGY 94	Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
SERMON	A Turning Point (John 1: 1-45) Kim DuBreuil
*HYMN 404	Every Time I Feel the Spirit
*BENEDICTION	Kim DuBreuil
*RESPONSE 666	Shalom To You
POSTLUDE	Every Time I Feel the Spirit/Miller Matthew H. Corl

In this morning's music we will experience several songs from the African-American church. *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* uses the images of Elijah and Moses to illustrate what Paul meant when he said we are heirs. *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* has its origins in the early years of jazz and is frequently played by Dixieland groups at funerals. *Total Praise* is an iconic Gospel song with a text based on Ps. 121 extolling God as our helper.

*Please stand if you are able

11:00AM THE CURRENT

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONGS OF PRAISE	In Tenderness, Made Alive, Build My Life
CENTERING PRAYER	Andy Whitaker Smith
OFFERTORY	All The Poor And Powerless
*DOXOLOGY	
SERMON	Were You There (Luke 23:39-43) Andy Whitaker Smith
COMMUNION	Andy Whitaker Smith
*SONG OF RESPONSE	Living Hope
*BENEDICTION	Andy Whitaker Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: As the cross draws nearer, God calls us deeper.
ALL: We come, ready for hearts to be changed.
 LEADER: In Christ, what was broken is being made new.
ALL: By grace, we rise to live as God's people.

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 (March 15)

In Person: 687
 Online: 1,414
 Total: 2,101

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

Giving Through February 28

	2026	2025	Inc (Dec)
Budgeted Income	\$ 641,723	\$ 627,818	\$ 13,905
Actual Income	\$ 518,576	\$ 538,611	(20,035)
	\$ (123,147)	\$ (89,207)	

Questions? Call Patrick Hamrick in the church office, 863-686-3163 x213

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.

Deaths

Louie Sells, 3/11
 Patsy Stokes, 3/11
 Arnold Mathers, 3/13

Baptisms

Beckham Scot Ellis, Son of Jantzen & Lindsay Ellis
 Delaney Chanel Ellis, Daughter of Jantzen & Lindsay Ellis
 Sylvia Catherine Walters, Daughter of Boomer & Elizabeth Walters

Altar Flowers

In memory of Diane Curtis on the occasion of her 82nd birthday by her family
 In memory of Sandra Gann Allen by her family
 In memory of Patricia Kelly Stokes by her family
 In memory of Joe B Tedder by his wife, children and grandchildren

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: The Limitation of "Too Late" - John 11:1-6

Limiting Belief: "You're too late."

Human Need: Control. Certainty.

Our fear of losing control creates a limiting belief that God is bound by time. Mary and Martha sent for Jesus, expecting immediate healing. When Jesus delayed, they likely felt abandoned. We often believe that if God doesn't act on our schedule, the situation is hopeless. Identify one situation where you feel God is "too late." Surrender the need to control the timeline in prayer.

Day 2: The Limitation of "If Only" - John 11:17-27, 32

Limiting Belief: "If only you'd come when we called you."

Human Need: Uncertainty. Variety.

"If only" is a phrase of imprisonment, trapping us in past regrets rather than future possibilities. Jesus redirects Martha from her past pain to the present power: "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). Jesus is not just a healer of the past; He is the source of life in the present. Stop saying "If only..." and replace it with, "Lord, you are here now. What can you do?"

Day 3: The Limitation of "I'm not ___" - John 11:38-39

Limiting Belief: "My situation is too messy/shameful/far gone to be redeemed."

Human Need: Important. Appreciated. Significance.

Shame makes us think our situation is too far gone for God to fix. Jesus still asks for the stone to be removed. He isn't afraid of the smell or mess. Our deep fear of being "exposed" can keep us from letting Jesus into our darkest, most desperate places. What "stench" (shame or hopeless situation) are you hiding from God? Ask Him to bring life to that specific area.

Day 4: The Limitation of "Death is Final" - John 11:40-44

Limiting Belief: "Death (or endings) is the final word."

Human Need: Security and Stability

The biggest limitation is fearing that death is the end rather than a new beginning. Jesus demonstrates that our physical boundaries and the finality of death do not limit God's power. The resurrection of Lazarus predicts Jesus' victory over death. Find a "dead end" in your life—such as a relationship, a dream, or a career—and declare, "Jesus is the resurrection and the life" over it.
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Day 5: The Limitation of People - John 11:43-45

Limiting Belief: "People are just spectators of God's power, not a part of it."

Human Need: Help and Serve. Love and Connection.

We are called to stop merely observing Jesus and start partnering with Him. Many Jews believed in Him, but some became active participants in the miracle. Jesus invites us to help "unbind" others—sharing hope, encouraging the discouraged, and trusting Him with the impossible. Who in your life is still "bound" by a limiting belief? Offer them encouragement or prayer today.

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)

Midweek Meal Location Change

Due to "Dare to Dream Jr." rehearsals in the Fellowship Center, the Mid-Week Meal on Wednesday, March 25, will move to the C Building, (2nd Floor of the Wesley Center), Room C-201. Dinner service begins at 5pm.

First UMC Lakeland Children & Youth Choirs Present:
DARE TO DREAM JR.
 A Disney MUSICAL REVUE
 Adult Tickets (13 & Up): \$10
 Child Tickets: \$5
 *The show will be about 1 hour long

Youth & Children's Musical: Disney's Dare to Dream Jr., March 27 at 6pm & March 28 at 3pm
 Join us for a special one-hour Disney musical revue performed by our children and youth. This inspiring show follows a group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio as they discover their dreams and the power of working together. Featuring contemporary hits, timeless classics, and brand-new medleys, it's fun for Disney fans of all ages. Purchase tickets at firstumc.org/events.

LILY DEDICATIONS
 Honor A Loved One This Easter
 FIRSTUMC.ORG/LILIES
 \$15 PER PLANT
 DEADLINE IS MARCH 26

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. 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.

Volunteers Needed!
JOB FAIR
BETTER TOGETHER
APRIL 23, 2026
10AM to 1PM
 At First United Methodist Church
Volunteer Registration
bettertogetherus.org/jobfair_volunteer/

Better Together
 On April 23, from 10am -1pm, we will play host to a Better Together Second Chance Job Fair - welcoming job seekers and hiring managers as we help individuals find fulfilling and rewarding careers. This is more than an event. It's an opportunity to help the unemployed and underemployed find career paths leading to transformation, while extending radical hospitality and reflecting Christ's love to our community. Follow the QR code for information

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

Dare to Dream Youth and Kids Musical, March 28, 3pm
Join us in supporting your KIC choir friends and youth as they present "Dare to Dream." Immerse yourself in enchanting melodies that you're sure to recognize! For ticket purchases, please visit firstumc.org/children.

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 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 Club 4/5 Water Slide Bash, April 12, 5-7pm

Get ready for an awesome night outdoors filled with a water slide and exciting water games! We'll be serving pizza for dinner, so come hungry. Feel free to invite your friends, but just a quick reminder that they need to have a medical release form on file.

YOUTH

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

Sunday, March 22:
9:30am Youth Choir
10:30am Donuts and Discussion
5pm Parent Connect Night at Lake Bonny Park

Tuesday, March 24:
5pm Youth Dance Ministry

Wednesday, March 25:
4:45pm Youth Handbells
6pm Confirmation
6pm Open Gym
6:30pm Middle School and High School Bible Studies

College Ready Night, Wednesday April 22, 6pm - 7pm
Graduating High School Seniors and Parents- Join us for our College Ready Night on April 22 where we will be joined by guest speakers from Florida Southern College to talk about college preparedness and expectations for their freshmen year. We will meet in F101 from 6-7:30pm. This will be a great night to help your senior feel ready for their next chapter, and we hope that you can join us! Please register on our website firstumc.org/seniors.

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, March 30, 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.)
For the month of March we're swapping Tuesdays, so we WON'T meet March 24, but we WILL meet March 30.

What's your hobby?

We're looking at starting gendered affinity groups, so if you like crafting, walking, board games--whatever, contact Jen Swygard with interest in starting a group! Check back next month to see which groups will meet on what days!

Board Game Night, Tues, March 30, 6-8pm

Meet at Jen's house for pizza and board games (email JSwygard@firstumc.org for this south Lakeland address).

Blueberry Picking, Sat, April 18, 10am-12pm

Meet at S & S Micro Farm in Bartow. The cost is \$4/lb.

Guys Game Group Thurs, April 2, 6-8pm

Do you like to play board games? The boys are starting a monthly affinity group! The first meet will be at Ian's home. Email JSwygard@firstumc.org for this south Lakeland address.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
FEMALE PROPHETS

THURSDAYS APRIL 9 - MAY 14
10AM | ROOM C-204

REGISTER TODAY AT
FIRSTUMC.ORG/GROUPS

New Women's Bible Study: Female Prophets, Thurs, April 9-May 14, 10am C-204
Starting Thursday, April 9, join Pastor Kim to explore Rachael Groll's "Knowing God's Voice." Discover the stories of biblical women who heard God's voice and learn to recognize, trust, and obey His call in your own life. Books are available for purchase at Our Giving Tree Bookstore. Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.

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.

Lent Study Groups: Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

Deepen your faith this season as we explore Adam Hamilton's look at the crucifixion and Christ's transformative sacrifice. There is a place for everyone to listen, reflect, and engage. Register today at FirstUMC.org/Groups to receive study updates.

Sunday Groups continue through March 29

- 9:30am: Sendero Class: Meets in Room C-204
- 9:30am: Genesis Class: Meets in Room C-202
- 11am: Open Study Group: Meets in the Parlor

Wednesday Evening Group continues through April 1

6pm - Led by Pastors Andy & Kim: Meets in Room C-207

Divorce Recovery Class, Wed, Mar 25- May 27, 6-7:30 PM, Rm C-201C

You don't have to navigate separation or divorce alone. Join Tiffany Beardsley and a supportive community to find healing and tools for a healthier future. Register at FirstUMC.org/Groups.

JOY (55+) April Luncheon: Fraud Prevention, Fri, April 10, Noon, Fellowship Center

Protect your peace of mind. A guest speaker from the Polk County Sheriff's Office will share expert strategies to safeguard your identity and finances. The cost of lunch is \$15. Register at FirstUMC.org/Events.

Come & Rest: Women's Half-Day Retreat, Sat, April 18, 8:30am-12pm, Rm C-201D

Step away from the noise and into God's presence. Join us for a peaceful morning designed to help you embrace stillness through prayerful movement and community. Guided by Sarah Lloyd, a Christ-centered yoga instructor, and Rev. Kim DuBreuil, you'll experience Christ-centered yoga, biblical meditation, and intentional stillness designed to refresh your soul in community. More information at FirstUMC.org/Events.

MISSIONS

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

Philip O'Brien Elementary

Media Specialist April Taylor requests help during the Spring Book Fair: April 1 (setup, likely starting around Noon); April 2, 6-10 (8am-2:30pm, but you don't have to be there the whole time); April 7 (5-7pm during Family Night); April 13 (last day, shopping 8am-Noon, cleanup Noon-2pm). Contact Mrs. Taylor via email (april.taylor@polk-fl.net) to help. Also, we are collecting \$25 gift cards (Publix, Aldi, Target, Walmart) to give to all teachers and staff in early May. Contact Joleen Golden (joleengolden@yahoo.com) or Ann Skellenger (abraham409@aol.com) with questions.

Disaster Recovery

We will be helping a homeowner still recovering from 2024 hurricanes in Southern Pinellas County April 10-11. We anticipate working from 8:30am-4:30pm both days. Housing at a church is available on the nights of April 9 and 10 if you don't want to drive back and forth each day. Please send an email to (Fwhite@firstumc.org) if you're willing to serve either or both days.

First Sunday Food Collection

We will receive food at the Missions Depot Sunday, April 5, 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. Thank you for your generosity and a reminder to please donate only requested items.

KidsPACK

Our next packing event will be Wednesday, April 1. 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.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 22, 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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