

ALL SERVICES

WELCOME		Charley Reeb
PRELUDE	A Journey Through the Valley/Smith	Youth Handbells
CALL TO WORSHIP		Harper Mayes
OPENING SONG	You Are My Strength	Youth Choir
ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INTRO TO CHALLENGE VIDEO		Madeline Coppola
VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/PASSING OF THE PEACE		Kyle Francavilla
SONGS OF PRAISE	Lay Me Down, In the River	Youth Praise Band
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER		Chloe Warren
OFFERTORY		Luke Pattison
OFFERTORY SONG	God is in this Story	Youth Dance Ministry
SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 40:28-31	Alex Michel
SERMON		Ava Hutchings
COMMUNION/LIGHTING OF CANDLES	Oh Come to the Altar	Youth Praise
BENEDICTION		Emily Felgenhauer

The prelude "A Journey Through the Valley" was composed by Youth Handbells member Gavin Smith. This piece was inspired by Psalm 23:4, which reads: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." This contemplative work tells a humble story of faith through adversity, exploring themes of loneliness, despair, courage, enlightenment, and comfort through musical elements.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these services possible!

Acolyte: Cameron Vessels	Kaylyn Santonastaso Kelsie Santonastaso Gavin Smith Emily Smith Amber Smith Benjamin Whitaker Smith	Youth Volunteers: Josh Agee Andrea Bailey Karen Buie Elaine Clemens Matthew Corl Will Corl Linda Gainer Brad Jackson Joanne Jackson Shawn Joyner Jeff Michel Jenn O'Steen David O'Steen Kathy Otto Angie Pattison Jamie Roberts Samantha Rogers Riley Short Trish Warren Morgan Whitaker-Smith
Crucifer: Ben Whitaker-Smith		
Tech Booth: Joey Beck Nicholas Harrison Elliot Rogers	Youth Handbells: Sofia Birri Ashlyn Lisenby Alex Michel Luke Pattison Lily Roberts Kaylyn Santonastaso Amber Smith Dylan Smith Emily Smith Gavin Smith Chloe Warren	Youth Staff: Conner Ellis Youth Intern Lina Blackwood Youth Praise Band Coordinator Kyle Francavilla Youth Ministries Coordinator Emily Felgenhauer Director of Youth Ministries
Greeters/Ushers/ Communion Servers: Edith Allen Elena Crawshaw Aaron Jackson Jeffrey Jackson Elaina Pflaum Bailey Warren	Youth Praise Band: Caroline Agee Sofia Birri Layla Camacho Bryce Lawton Bailey New Lily Roberts Kaylyn Santonastaso Emily Smith Gavin Smith	
Youth Choir: Caroline Agee Ivessie Arman Ansley Baber Sofia Birri Henrik Boone Layla Camacho Mya Camacho Emmalyn Harrison Amelia Kiley Ashlyn Lisenby Ella Lisenby Charleigh McMullen Alexander Michel Gabi Monacelli Sofia Monacelli Sebastian Morrison-Davis Sophia Parham Luke Pattison Lily Roberts Megan Rosenburg	Youth Dancers: Caroline Agee Sofia Birri Maddison O'Steen Lily Roberts Kaylyn Santonastaso Kelsie Santonastaso	

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Do you know? Have you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of everything.

ALL: God doesn't get tired. No one can realize the depth of God's understanding.

LEADER: God gives strength and power to the weak and weary. Even youths will burn out and young people fall;

ALL: But those who rely on God will be energized. They will soar like eagles, run without weariness, and walk without tiring. But when we rely on God, we are energized. We can do what we thought we lacked the strength to do, and achieve what we didn't think possible.

ABOUT OUR SERVICES

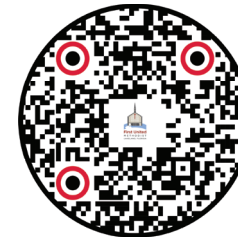
We are glad you joined us today! Whether you are a member or a guest, please take a moment to register your attendance at firstumc.org/connect.

Visit firstumc.org/connect or scan the QR code for:

Attendance Registration, Worship Bulletins, Prayer Requests, & Online Giving

Presence in Worship (April 26)

In Person: 703
Online: 1,440
Total: 2,143



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

Giving Through March 31

	2026	2025	Inc (Dec)	% Inc (Dec)
Budgeted Income	\$ 1,042,800	\$ 1,020,204	\$ 22,596	2.21%
Actual Income	839,261	854,527	(15,266)	-1.79%
	\$ (203,539)	\$ (165,677)		

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Please be sure that the church office is notified if you wish to have a visit or prayer when you are in the hospital.

Hospital
Karen Middleton

Deaths
Gail Bluebaugh, 4/16
Phil Arthur, 4/23

Altar Flowers
In loving memory of Adam Kimball, our son, husband and father by Marilyn, Nelson, Tabitha, Makenzie and Phoenix

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.

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)

First UMC of Lakeland is hiring!

Please see current job postings at firstumc.org/employment.



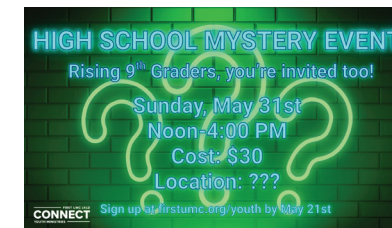
Senior Sunday
Mark your calendar on Sunday, May 17 for our Graduation Sunday here at First Church. We will be celebrating the graduating seniors at the 9:30am and 11am Traditional Services. This will be a very special morning for our congregation. We will be having a special video played during the service. You won't want to miss it.



Farewell Party for Whitaker-Smith Family
Youth and parents are invited on Sunday May 17 during regular youth group time(5-7pm) to honor Pastor Andy, Ben and Morgan the entire night. We will have Ben's favorite food, Andy's favorite ice cream, play some fun games and Andy will share words with our ministry. We will also have a time to share how much they have all meant to us as well. You won't want to miss it!



Warren Willis Summer Camp (Children & Youth) July 6-11 (Week #4):
Registration is now available for students moving up to 4th grade all the way through those who have just graduated 12th grade. To sign up for camp, head over to www.mccc.org/summer-camps/. If you're interested in the Chance to Go Scholarship or need to arrange transportation to and from camp, check out firstumc.org/youthfor for all the details.



High School Mystery Event
Join us on May 31, from Noon - 4pm for our High School Mystery Event! Youth can bring extra \$\$ for snacks. This event is for rising freshmen through current seniors and will be an awesome chance for our high schoolers to bond and have fun! We can't wait to see you there! Cost is \$30 per person (due at registration) Register at www.firstumc.org/youth.



Youth Beach Day
Join us for summer fun at Anna Maria Island Beach on Wednesday, June 3. This is a FREE event. Youth will need to meet at the church at 8am and we will be back at 4:30pm. This is a great event to invite friends to come with us. Register at www.firstumc.org/youth.



Genesis Class Annual Pancake Breakfast
The Genesis Sunday School Class will hold its annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on Sat, May 9 from 7am-12pm. All proceeds go to benefit families in need in the Lakeland area. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship on your way to Mayfaire by the Lake. The cost is \$5/Adults, \$3/Child or \$15/Family. Tickets are available at the door.



Handbell Ringers & Singers: Celebrate the Seasons, May 31, 4pm
Join us for a joyful and uplifting musical experience as we "Celebrate the Seasons" through the unique artistry of handbells, ChoirChimes, and song! This special concert features a talented group of musicians who not only ring but also sing in harmony - sometimes at the very same time. The shimmering tones of the handbells and the warm resonance of ChoirChimes blend with vocals to create a rich and inspiring soundscape that captures the essence of every time of year. This is a free concert, however a love offering will be taken to help support their mission tour in June 2026.

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

KIC Club 4/5 End of the Year Pool Party, May 8, 6-8pm
Fourth and fifth graders are invited to celebrate the end of the year at the Dammer's house. We'll be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, and enjoying a relaxing evening by the pool. Please sign up at firstumc.org/children by May 6.

Vacation Bible School (KIC Camp), June 22 - 26, Adult Volunteer Registration
Adult volunteers are a vital part of VBS and we can't do it without you! Don't worry if you have children who are younger and don't quite qualify for VBS yet, we have a full preschool program exclusively for our onsite volunteers and even offer a nursery if you have little ones, 6 months and older, too! We love our volunteers and have many ways you can serve. Check out all of the options and register now by visiting www.firstumc.org/vbs.

Vacation Bible School (KIC Camp) 2026, June 22-26
Registration for children who have completed VPK 4 - 5th grade and youth volunteers is now open! To register visit www.firstumc.org/vbs.

Warren Willis Summer Camp (Children & Youth) July 6-11 (Week #4):
Registration is now available for students moving up to 4th grade all the way through those who have just graduated 12th grade. To sign up for camp, head over to <https://www.wmccc.org/summer-camps/>. If you're interested in the Chance to Go Scholarship or need to arrange transportation to and from camp, check out firstumc.org/children for all the details.

KIC Family Service Retreat, Wednesday, July 22 - Saturday, July 25
Registration is officially open for our Fourth Annual Family trip to St. Simon Island, GA! Join us for a retreat filled with service opportunities, time to connect as a family, devotions, and more! For more details or to register, please visit firstumc.org/children.

YOUTH

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

Sunday, May 3:
No programming due to Youth Sunday

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

Serve Saturday, Saturday May 16, 9am-12pm
Join us on Saturday, May 16th, in room C-112 for our upcoming Serve Saturday! This is a great opportunity to come together as a team and help prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School. We'll be organizing supplies and getting everything ready to create a fun, welcoming environment for the kids who will be attending VBS in June. For more information visit firstumc.org/youth.

Youth Retreat at Annual Conference, June 4-6
Youth (ages 12-17) are invited to the 3-day Florida Annual Conference gathering—an opportunity to worship, learn, and engage in church decision-making. Open to both voting members and observers, this retreat helps students grow as leaders and find their voice in the future of the church. Led by Warren Willis Camp staff and leaders, youth will be guided, supported, and connected throughout the experience. For more information visit firstumc.org/youth.

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.

Divorce Recovery Class, Wednesdays through May 27, 6-7:30pm, 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.

The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life, Weds, 6-7:30pm, Rm C-207
How do we actually follow Jesus in the rhythm of everyday life? Join us for this six-week Adam Hamilton study starting April 15, as we explore five essential practices: worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith. Whether you're brand new to faith or a longtime believer, these sessions offer practical ways to deepen your walk with Christ. No prior Bible knowledge required—just a heart ready to grow! Sign up at firstumc.org/groups.

Financial Peace Summer Session, June 10-August 5, Wednesday Nights 6-8pm, C-204
Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-week class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and invest for your future! Attend in person or via Zoom. Sign up at firstumc.org/groups.

MISSIONS

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

Better Together Job Fair
On April 23 we had 552 job seekers on campus for our first job fair in partnership with Better Together - 80 job offers were extended that day and 164 job interviews were scheduled or conducted! More than 50 volunteers helped with this transformative event with 18 employers and 12 resource partners in attendance. Thanks to the missions council team - led by Barbara Herr; April Lawrence; Michele McMullen, Alice Ray Overstreet and Diana Starling. They put in countless hours over the last several months to make this event a huge success. We're already making plans for another job fair in the fall.


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. Thank you for your generosity and a reminder to please donate only requested items.

KidsPACK
Our final packing event of the 2025-26 school year will be this Wednesday, May 6. 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) Thanks to Skip for another great job of leading this year!

Renewed Hope Missions
First UMC will send a mission team Aug 4-11 to serve in the Dominican Republic with this important mission. We're targeting young adults for this team, but all are welcome. Estimated trip cost for the trip based on 10 people is \$927 (single occupancy), \$843 (double occupancy) plus airfare (currently about \$610). Please do NOT let the cost deter you from serving. We have ways for you to raise funds to be on the team. For additional information contact Forrest White (fwhite@firstumc.org).

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, 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.)

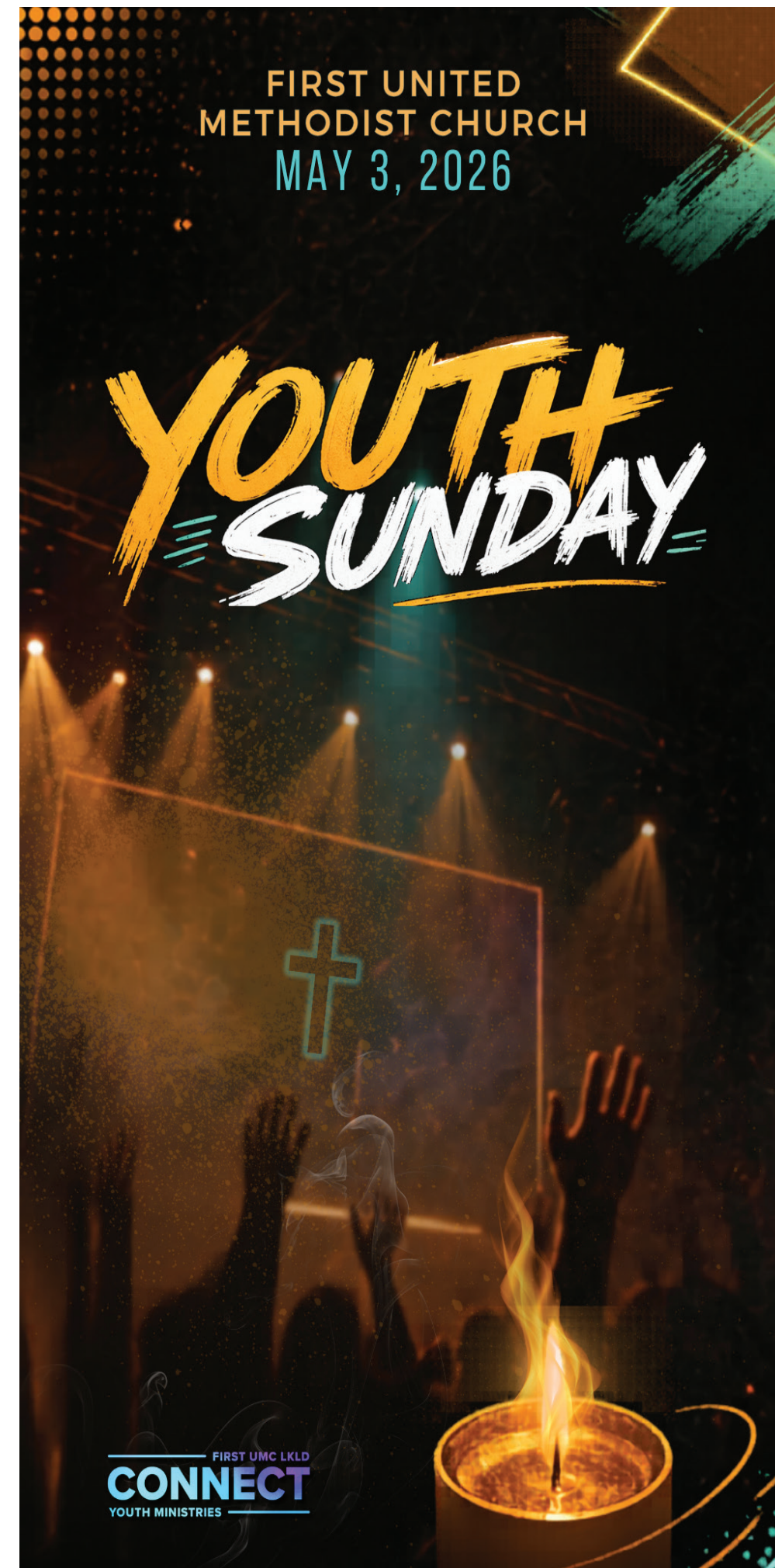
Mayfaire at Lake Morton, Sat, May 9, 9am
Shop around—just in time for Mother's Day! Come eat pancakes at FUMC fellowship center, (\$5) to raise money for missions, then walk the lake with us and check out all the vendors. The church will also be open for an AC break, restrooms, and Our Giving Tree Bookstore.

YAs Serve: Lake Parker Cleanup Sat, May 16, 9am-11am
We'll meet at the boat ramp and have gloves, trash bags, trash grabbers—bring a water bottle and wear closed-toe shoes. We're partnering with Toby's Water Warriors to help keep God's creation clean!

YA Girls & Guys Nights, Thurs, May 21, 6-8pm
Girls will meet at Jen's house to paint jumbo clothes pins as chip clips; guys will meet at Ian's house for a board game night. Head to firstumc.org/groups to register and find these South Lakeland addresses.

Nature Walk at Circle B Bar Reserve, Sat, May 30, 9am-11am
Meet at the Circle B Welcome Center. We'll be walking and talking, enjoying God's nature! Bring a hat & a water bottle.

YA Sunday School, Room C-206, Sun, May 31, 11am-12pm
Go to the Welcome Center and head upstairs. The room is beside the baby grand piano. We'll be learning about the cultural-historical context of Ephesians.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
MAY 3, 2026

YOUTH
SUNDAY

FIRST UMC LKLD
CONNECT
YOUTH MINISTRIES