STEWARDSHIP 2027

Rejoice, Pray, Give

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LAKELAND, FL 33801

November 1, 2026

Dear Church Family,

**"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."**
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

These words offer a beautiful invitation for our life together: rejoice, pray, and give. As we prepare for Commitment Sunday on November 22, we invite you to embrace these practices as a prayerful foundation for your stewardship.

Rejoice in God's faithfulness. Take a moment to remember how God has worked in your life and through our congregation. Every act of care, every opportunity to worship, and every child, youth, and adult welcomed and connected into our church family gives us reason to rejoice. Our generosity begins not with an obligation, but with gratitude for the gifts we have received.

Pray about your part in our shared ministry. In the weeks ahead, ask God to guide your commitment of time, talent, and financial resources. What might it look like to give with greater trust and joy? Each household's circumstances are different, and each commitment matters. Our invitation is to discern how YOU can participate.

Give from a grateful heart. Paul calls us to "give thanks in all circumstances." When we prayerfully share the financial gifts that have been entrusted to us, we are able to love God through engaging weekly worship experiences, we are able to offer opportunities to fellowship, connect, and serve with each other, and we are able grow in Christ's love to engage and impact our community by extending Christ's love and welcome beyond our walls.

On Sunday, November 22, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday at all services. Please come prepared to offer your commitment for the coming year as an expression of gratitude and hope for the ministry we share.

In this mailing you will receive a summary report on the 2027 Operating Budget and Pledge Card. Please review and pray for your response for the upcoming year to the church you love! Please specifically ask God how you can become more involved at First Church over the next year. The most helpful way you can respond is by returning your pledge card to a worship service on November 22. We will collect these commitment cards and pray over them that day at worship! You can also return these pledge cards to the church office or complete your pledge card online at www.firstumc.org/give.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to give, serve, pray, and care. Your faithfulness strengthens our congregation and helps make our shared ministry possible.

May we move into this season with joy in God's goodness, prayerful trust in God's guidance, and generous hearts ready to respond.

With gratitude,

Marcus

Rev. Marcus Zillman, II
Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church