



Dear First Church Family,

The season of Lent is upon us, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5. During this sacred time which mirrors Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness, God invites us to step away from distractions and

draw nearer to God through intentional spiritual disciplines—prayer, fasting, generosity, and acts of service. John Wesley called these "means of grace," which conveys that, while God's grace is always available to us, these are proven channels of experiencing that grace in our lives. These practices help us focus on what truly matters as we journey toward the cross and the joy of resurrection.

This year, my own Lenten fast will be giving up social media. In place of scrolling and screen time, I am committing to spending more time praying and reading—seeking to be fully present with God and with those around me. I encourage you to consider what you might set aside this season and what you might take on to deepen your faith. As you set aside or "fast" from something, you might contemplate taking up a new habit by volunteering in one of the many ministry opportunities here at First Church.

Another meaningful way to engage with Lent is by walking the Labyrinth and the Stations of the Cross, provided by the Center for Sacred Space in Wesley Abbey during Holy Week, Tuesday through Thursday. You can learn more at <u>FUMCPensacola.com/</u>

<u>Lent</u>. This quiet, prayerful experience offers a space to reflect on Christ's journey and listen for God's voice. I hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity.

I also want to remind you to turn in your commitment card for our Joyful, Joyful Generosity Campaign if you haven't already. Your sacrificial giving allows our church to continue its mission of worship, discipleship, and service and to make new spaces for new people to experience God's love. As we trust in God's faithfulness and give generously, we get to participate in the new life God is birthing here at First Church. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to God's work.

As we journey through this Lenten season, may we be open to the Holy Spirit's transformation, ready to listen for the voice of God, and eager to receive the gift of faith. I look forward to walking this sacred path with you.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Emily Kincaid Executive Pastor, First UMC Pensacola

#### **BURNING OF THE PALMS SERVICE**

### Sunday, March 2 | 10:45am | Front of Sanctuary

Join us for a brief service to prepare for the coming Lenten Season. We will burn the palm branches used at last year's Palm Sunday service, and the ashes will be used to mark the crosses on our foreheads in the Ash Wednesday service.

# JOYFUL, JOYFUL DEDICATION SUNDAY

## Sunday, March 2

The Joyful, Joyful Worship Series will culminate with a special Dedication Sunday! Join us at one of our services at 8:30 or 11:00am as we offer our commitments to the future of our church through the Generosity Campaign. In celebration of Fat Sunday & Dedication Sunday, a guest jazz band called "The New Orleans Ramblers" will join us in our Main Sanctuary Services and ICON will enjoy special jazz music. You are then invited to stay for a FREE celebration brunch (9:30 - 11:00am) OR lunch (12:00 - 1:00pm) in the Activities Center, complete with live jazz music, beads, and moon pies!

Menu: Pancakes with Toppings and Bacon, Red Beans & Rice with Sausage, Cornbread Biscuits, and Coleslaw

# What is Joyful, Joyful Generosity Campaign about?

The heart of Joyful, Joyful is planting seeds for the future of our church, our worship, and our community. Inspired by the great hymn, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," we are stepping forward in faith to ensure that our church remains a place of joy, beauty, and vibrant worship for generations to come.

We believe God is leading us to enhance the worship experience at First Church by restoring, improving, and expanding our sacred spaces. The generosity campaign that will allow us to accomplish this has a goal of \$1.5 million. On Sunday, March 2 we will ask each member to consider a commitment to this vision for the future. And, for now, just pray: "Lord, what do you want to do through me to fulfill your will for First Church and bring more joy to the world? Visit <a href="FUMCPensacola.com/Joyful">FUMCPensacola.com/Joyful</a> to learn more.



Lent is a solemn religious observance that begins on Ash Wednesday and covers approximately six weeks (40 days, not counting Sundays) before Easter. Lent is a time of preparation and reflection through prayer, self denial, and repentance

#### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS IN LENT**

Wednesdays, March 5 - April 9 | 5:00 - 6:00pm | The Wright Place

Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship with your church family! Cost is \$10/Adults, \$4/Children, \$27/Max Per Family.

# **ASH WEDNESDAY** - March 5

### **NOON ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Wednesday, March 5 | 12:00pm (30-min) | Wesley Abbey

In connection with our Respite Ministry, we are offering an accessible 30-minute Ash Wednesday service. This service is open to the community and will offer a judgment-free, safe, and flexible space for those who are unable to sit through a typical worship service. We will have a sermon by Rev. Emily Kincaid and music by our music ministry.

#### TRADITIONAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 5 | 6:00pm | Main Sanctuary

The traditional service at 6:00pm in the Main Sanctuary will have a sermon by Rev. Emily Kincaid and music led by the Sanctuary Choir. Please note that there will not be any children's programming in the evening, however, the nursery will be available for infants - 5 years old. We encourage the whole family to attend the service together!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9 | 6:00 - 6:45pm | Main Sanctuary

Each of these special Lenten services features a guest speaker from around the United Methodist Conference, music by our Music Ministry, and Holy Communion.



**MARCH 12: Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost**Pastor of Asbury First United Methodist Church,
Rochester, NY



APRIL 2: Rev. Carlea Jordan

Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Pensacola, FL



MARCH 19: Rev. Ryan Martin Pastor of First United Methodist Church, Bonifay, Fl



APRIL 9: Ella Jane Hoffmaster Candidate for Ministry in the United Methodist Church



MARCH 26: Rev. Scott Grantland
Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church,
Auburn, AL



#### **LENT FOR KIDS**

Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9 | 6:00pm | Chapel

Children (K-5th) will participate in a worship time geared just for them with an activity time to follow. Drop-off in Chapel and Pick-Up in Gym.



crafts

Smokin' Jokers Food Truck

The Do-Dads

cotton

hands-on music play Preschool Playroom SATURDAY, MARCH 8 10 Am - 1 Pm

THE CONSULATE
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2 EAST WRIGHT (PALAFOX & WRIGHT)



All ages are invited to participate in this special day set aside to serve our beautiful community. Come help clean, paint, organize, do yard work, and more as we put hands and feet to our call to serve and love one another. Childcare is available for children 5 and under.

Scan the QR or visit FUMCPensacola.com/GreatDayofService for more info and to sign up!



Holy Week

VISIT <u>FUMCPENSACOLA.COM/LENT</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### **PALM SUNDAY SERVICES**

Sunday, April 13 | 8:30, 11:00am, & ICON at 11:00am

# FIRST KIDS: PALM SUNDAY PARADE & FAMILY HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

Sunday, April 13 | 9:45 - 10:45am | The Wright Place

#### **EASTER EGG HUNT & LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS**

Sunday, April 13 | Noon | Lawn

#### **LABYRINTH & STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Tuesday, April 15 – Thursday, April 17 10:00am – 2:00pm & 4:00 – 7:00pm | Wesley Abbey

## **JOURNEY TO THE CROSS CONCERT**

Tuesday, April 15 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary

#### PASSOVER & LAST SUPPER REMEMBRANCE MEAL

Thursday, April 17 | 5:30pm | The Wright Place Click <u>HERE</u> to register or visit FUMCPensacola.com by April 14

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

Thursday, April 17 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary

#### **GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

Friday, April 18 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary



LOCATED AT THE MARILYN KAPNER LEVIN CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY AND CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

AND THE ALLEN R. LEVIN FAMILY ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION WING



### **About Us**

Gulf Coast Kid's House is a private, not-forprofit children's advocacy center which provides services to victims of child abuse in Escambia County.

We combine all of the professionals and resources needed for the intervention, investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases in one child-friendly place. Children and their families also receive mental health counseling at our center.



# How You Can Help

ADVOCATE It is our responsibility as adults to protect the children in our lives. Learn how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child abuse by taking our Know Child Abuse training. Go to KnowChildAbuse.org or schedule a group training by calling (850) 595-5800. Learn the signs and call *1-800-96ABUSE* to report suspected child abuse.



**VOLUNTEER** Gulf Coast Kid's House has a very small staff and relies heavily on volunteers. You can help in a variety of ways, from administrative to prevention education to special events.

3401 N. 12th Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32503 | (850) 595-5800 www.gulfcoastkidshouse.org | www.knowchildabuse.org

# WHAT'S HAPPENING at

# **FIRST CHURCH** for

# **FIRST KIDS**

First Kids is our children's ministry at First Church. All children 3 years old (as of Sept. 1, 2024) through the 5th grade are invited to be a part of this ministry. We have a great time connecting with each other while singing, playing, learning about God, and learning about ourselves.

### Lisa Bond

Director of Children's Ministry LBond@fumcpensacola.com

# FIRST FAMILIES, FIRST FRIDAY! PARENT'S NIGHT

Friday, March 21 | 5:30 - 7:30pm
Let's grow some friendships this spring!
We will have fun for littles (ages 1-4)
and fellowship for grownups. Kiddos
will play together and share a meal with
our childcare team while parents enjoy
fellowship and dinner (you don't have
to cook)! Please RSVP with your child's
ages to Lisa Bond at lbond@fumcpensacola.com. Drop off kids in the Education Building. Adult dinner will be served
in the Consulate.

## **SUMMER CAMP**

FUMC Pensacola offers children's half day and full day camps every week of the Summer! Last year's weekly camps included Sports Camp, Animal Planet, Pensacola Landmarks, Summer Splash and more. Registration will begin March 5 at <a href="FUMCPensacola.com/SummerCamp">FUMCPensacola.com/SummerCamp</a>. Spaces are limited.

# COMMUNITY DAY: THE MAGIC OF MUSIC

Saturday, March 8
10:00am - 1:00pm | The Consulate
FUMC Pensacola's Community Day
presents: The Magic of Music, featuring
award-winning Children's musician
Roger Day! We will also feature crafts,
cotton candy, hands-on music play,
a preschool playroom, The Do Dads
Musical Group, and Smokin' Jokers
Food Truck.

# **FIRST STUDENTS**

First Students is our youth ministry at First Church for students in the 6th-12th grades. We have many combined activities and occasionally separate into midhigh and senior-high activities.

# Rev. Heather Nysewander

Director of Student Ministries HNysewander@fumcpensacola.com

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

First United Methodist Church of Pensacola is committed to encouraging youth who are active members of our congregation in higher education. Generous donors within our congregation have established scholarships to provide financial support and encouragement to students during their college career. The church awards scholarships in various amounts in August of each year to undergraduate and seminary students with priority given to graduating high school seniors. Some of the scholarships have specific requirements that also must be followed.

Applications are available on March 1 and must be submitted by March 31 at FUMCPensacola.com/Scholarships. The committee makes selections in April and the scholarships are awarded at the Senior Breakfast in May. Additional scholarships can be found through the Alabama West Florida United Methodist Foundation (alwfumf.org and www.gbhem.org/scholarshipsapplication).

#### **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

March 14 - 16 | Blue Lake, AL
Confirmands who have signed up by
March 1 will be attending the Bishop's
Confirmation Retreat this year. If there
are any questions about signing up or
the dates, please reach out to Heather Nysewander at HNysewander@
FUMCPensacola.com.

## **ESCAMBIA COUNTY SPRING BREAK**

March 16 - 22

Aside from Sunday school, there will be no youth events the week of spring break. We will be back to our normal schedule on Sunday, March 23.

## **DOWNTOWN SCAVENGER HUNT**

Sunday, March 23 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm Meet at the Youth Building

Students will have choir, then meet in the youth building for dinner before the scavenger hunt begins. Please take note that this event may be postponed if we don't end up with enough chaperones to drive students from place to place. If you would like to volunteer to be a driver, please reach out to Heather at <a href="mailto:hnysewander@fumcpensacola.com">hnysewander@fumcpensacola.com</a>.

# FIFTY FORWARD

50 Forward is First Church's ministry for adults over the age of 50 (but all ages are welcome to participate). It provides opportunities for adults to be in community with one another and share in the gifts and graces of the more experienced members in our congregation.

#### Jennifer Piver

Director of 50 Forward Ministries JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com

## **LUNCH OUT - HOT SPOT BARBECUE**

Thursday, March 13 | 11:00am
Click HERE to Register by March 11
Join us for our monthly lunch outing with friends. We will gather at Hot Spot Barbecue for Southern Style Barbecue.
This family operated restaurant opened in 2013 and has been recognized for their award winning Barbecue. They will tell you "Only the best meats are selected, seasoned with our special dry-rub, and cooked in our outdoor smokers". Don't forget to add some southern side dishes and a piece of pie to your barbecue lunch!

# FIFTY FORWARD CONT.

# SILVER & GOLD - PENSACOLA OPERA'S ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Thursday, March 27 | 11:00am The Wright Place | \$10

Click HERE to Register by March 23 Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship with friends and the Pensacola Opera's Artists in Residence program. Now in its 18th season, Pensacola Opera's Artists in Residence program has become an important incubator for emerging talent in the opera world. Four singers and one pianist/coach join the Pensacola Opera for a 22-week residency, serving as musical ambassadors for the company from September through March. Doors Open at 10:30am.

### **COFFEE WITH FRIENDS**

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30am Wright Place, 2nd Floor, Room 205 We have a small, friendly group that meets each week for coffee and fellowship in the Church Library. We have no agenda other than to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends... new and old. Anyone is invited to join us. Coffee and pastries are provided.

## **GRAND MONDAY NIGHTS**

Mondays | 7:00 - 8:00pm

Grand Monday Nights is a free weekly webinar to help you grow as a Christian grandparent. In these webinars, you'll get practical ideas and information on grandparenting, learn how to nurture your grandchildren's faith and overcome obstacles, and find encouragement. This is a ministry provided by the Legacy Coalition. Register at legacycoalition. com/grand-monday-nights.

# **ADULT DISCIPLESHIP**

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is our mission here at First Church. John Wesley believed that to be formed as a disciple, as a follower of Jesus, you need the large community (the church). But where the real Christian formation happened was in the small groups of the class meetings and even smaller groups of 5 people.

**Rev. Emily Kincaid**Associate Pastor
<u>EKincaid@FUMCPensacola.com</u>

# SOIL, SOUL, AND SCRIPTURE: A LENTEN EXPLORATION OF BEATITUDES

Sunday, March 23 11:30am - 4:15pm First Presbyterian Church, Milton \$45.00, includes lunch Click HERE to Register

The Beatitudes are a remedy for the temptations of our day—big wealth, big power, big emotion, big media—but where do we go to find this remedy? How do we find mercy in a world in love with power? Join us for an afternoon of sacred reading, earth-walking, and soul-sharing sure to lead us back to the Beatitudes, their truth, and their healing. This event is hosted by Center for Sacred Space.

# WEDNESDAY DINNERS

It's good to gather around the table with each other. It's a form of communion. The table is a place where strangers can become friends and friends can become family. So join us on Wednesdays this month for these delicious meals.

Adults: \$10, Kids (2-9 years old): \$4 Max Family Cost): \$27

3/5: Baked Pork Chop, Lima Beans, Scallops potato, Dinner Roll, & Dessert

3/12: Shepherd's Pie, Irish Flag Salad, Irish Soda Bread, & Dessert

*3/19:* Meatloaf, Roasted Potatoes, Salad, Yeast Roll, & Dessert

**3/26:** Garlic Parmesan Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Yeast Roll, & Dessert

# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### WRIGHT STREET THRIFT STORE

Wright Street Thrift is a one-of-a-kind volunteer opportunity. Here, your efforts help grow ALL of our missions. Our goal is to have no less than three volunteers on duty during store hours. If you're looking for a meaningful, fun spot to make your mark on missions, we need you. You can serve on Wednesdays or Fridays (12:00 - 2:30pm or 2:30 - 5:00pm) or Saturdays (10:00am - 12:00pm or 12:00 - 2:00pm). Email <a href="mailto:Thrift@FUMCPensacola.com">Thrift@FUMCPensacola.com</a> to volunteer or with any questions.

# RESPITE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Click HERE to Volunteer

This ministry is dedicated to fostering a compassionate community for individuals living with dementia and providing vital support for their caregivers. Respite meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am - 2:00pm in the Wesley Abbey. We currently have a waitlist of participants and are in need of volunteers to be part of this life-giving ministry! If you would like to find out more, visit FUMCPensacola.com/Respite.

Save the Date! Our Rally For Respite will be on Thursday, April 24. We will be hosting our largest day of Respite yet in April. All are encouraged to join us for a day of games, music, special guests, all themed around our beautiful city. This will be a celebration of all things Pensacola and will be an opportunity to learn more about how to get involved with this exciting ministry.

Continued on next page..

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Mission and Outreach is at the heart of who we are at First Church. By supporting various missions and ministries, we strive to serve our community in love, sharing with them the message of Christ through example.

#### Lisa Bond

Director of Missions LBond@fumcpensacola.com

### **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY RESULTS**

The results are in! This year we brought in a total of 188 lbs of food for Manna Food Bank! Thank you to all who brought in donations and for supporting Manna and the work they do in our community.

# **MUSIC & WORSHIP**

Since our beginning Methodists have been "a singing people," and we especially love our Music Ministry at First Church led by Dr. Rick Branch with Heidi Branch (Assistant Music Director) and Jacob Hall (ICON Worship Leader). Anyone is invited to join our choirs, no matter the skill level. Check our choir schedules or contact Rick if you would like to be a part.

### Dr. Rick Branch

Music Minister RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

## **YOUTH CHOIR**

Sunday, March 30

You sing for the 11:00am sanctuary service on Sunday, March 30. Warm up in the choir room at 10:35am.

Rehearsals every Sunday in March at 4:30pm except for March 16 (Happy Spring Break).

#### SANCTUARY CHOIR

Wednesday, March 5

You sing for the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00pm. Warm up at 5:35pm.

# Saturday, March 22

Spring Break Day Trip to New Orleans Meet at the church at 7:45am.

# **CHURCH & SOCIETY**

Church and Society is the agency within the Church that educates, advocates and connects in an effort to implement the Social Principles and other policy statements of The United Methodist Church. Continually advocating with policy makers, organizing the grassroots, and educating future leaders, Church and Society works to live faithfully, seek justice, and pursue peace.

Dr. Rick Branch
RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

# JUST PENSACOLA NETWORK MEETING

Sunday, March 30 | 12:00pm The Wright Place, Great Hall

Please join us for this church wide lunch and meeting of our JUST Pensacola teams. We will have updates on our current Affordable Housing issue, find out more about this year's Nehemiah Action, and begin to think about who we can invite to the Nehemiah Action. Even if you aren't currently a Network Member, please come learn more about our mission and how you can get involved.

## Save the Date:

April 8 - Rally

May 6 - Nehemiah Action

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The United Methodist Women is a ministry of FUMC Pensacola. The Circles provide women opportunities for fellowship, support, and community service.

#### Pat Franklin

UWF President patricia608@cox.net

United Women in Faith is beginning a new journey at First Church and we want everyone to come along. Please visit our website, sign up for our newsletter and announcements, and RSVP to events at <a href="https://www.fumcpensacolauw-faith.com">www.fumcpensacolauw-faith.com</a>.

## **BUNCO CIRCLE**

Thursday, March 13 | 5:30pm Consulate Cafe

Do you love Bunco? Don't have a clue what Bunco is? That's great, we'd love for you to join us! Bunco is super easy to learn and is beside the point in this awesome night of fun for ladies.

# **LADIES NIGHT**

Friday, March 28 | 5:30pm South Market Restaurant

Ladies, if you need some "me time" or a night out with friends, we have a great event coming up! Join us at South Market on March 28 at 5:30 for a Ladies Night! Click <u>HERE</u> to RSVP.

## **BOOK CLUB CIRCLE**

Thursday, April 10 | 6:00pm Wine Bar Restaurant (Bayou)

This new group will be discussing a Reece's Book Club pick, "The Three Lives of Cate Kay" by Kate Fagan. We will meet to discuss it on April 10. Click HERE to RSVP.



**IN-PERSON & ONLINE** 

8:30 & 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary & ICON AT 11:00am in Wesley Abbey



# FIRST CHURCH © CARES

Congregational Care Ministry of FUMC Pensacola

If you would like to add an announcement or purchase flowers please contact: Ginger Raines at GRaines@FUMCPensacola.com

# **LOVE & REMEMBRANCE**

## Loved ones who have died:

We extend our christian love and sympathy to:

Paul and Anna Pipes on the death of their sister-in-law Jodi Pipes.

Diane Hileke on the death of her brother.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Elizabeth Cook, daughters Hayes (6) and Ellie (3)

Leigh & Kent DeSantis

#### **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

You may place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor, celebration or memory of someone. The arrangements are \$65.00 each.

February 2: Given in celebration of Neil and Jackie Jones' 60th wedding anniversary on January 30.

**February 9:** Given **in loving memory of Bill Cowart** by his family.

February 16: Given in loving memory of our daughter, Katherine Campbell Gude, daughter of Dr. Ed and Margaret Campbell. Kay was born on February 17, 1957 and died on March 25, 2012.

# THE LIVING TRUST FEBRUARY 4 - 27, 2025

The Living Trust is a special fund set up to receive gifts for memorials that you may wish to give in memory of or in honor of an individual. This is given to meet extra needs of the church above those of the annual budget. If you would like to give towards The Living Trust, contact the finance department (accounting@FUMCPensacola.com).

## **IN HONOR**

Anibel Tyrrell's 92nd Birthday

By Kay Tyrrell Richie

#### **IN MEMORY**

Walt Glenn

For the Library Fund

By Jim and Linda Babbitt

By Short Story Sisters of the United

### **Bill Cowart**

By Jim and Linda Babbitt



# Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

6 E. Wright St. • Pensacola, FL 32501 • 850.432.1434 • <u>fumcpensacola.com</u> For pastoral emergencies, contact the Church Office or Ginger Raines at 850.259.3177