



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 11, 2018 | 9:30 A.M.



A 20th century Crucifix by the African, Job Kekana  
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## *WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH*

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this Lent. Founded in 1821, First Church is the oldest Protestant church in the area and the oldest Methodist church in Florida. This historic church, with four regular Sunday services, has a membership of 3200 and is overflowing with life. If you are visiting, we hope that you will consider becoming a member of our church family. You may join any Sunday by profession of faith or transfer of membership. Come and be a part of what God is doing here in 2018.

## UMCOR SUNDAY

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. In the United Methodist Church, the Fourth Sunday in Lent is designated as UMCOR Sunday. UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief and it is our missions focus during the month of March. Donations UMCOR receives today, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover their costs of doing business. This allows all other specified relief contributions given at any other time to go directly where they are needed most. Donations today should be marked UMCOR Sunday and placed in the offering plate or turned into the front office. If you can't give today, we encourage you to donate anytime this month. Your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Thank you.

## NURSERY & CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Nursery is available this morning for children up to five years old. If you need help locating the nursery, please see an usher or greeter for assistance. Also, children's worship bulletins and crayons are available in the narthex.

## VISITOR / NEW MEMBER CLASS

We welcome all visitors and new members that are interested in learning more about First Church to an introductory class that consists of four parts. The class assembles at 9:30am in room PH101 next door in the Perry Home. Today's class, Ministries of First Church, is about all the programs and ministries of the church. Next week, Serving at First Church will help you find your place to use your gifts and talents in service in the church and community. Join us each week.

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of George and Melinda Smith's 50th wedding on March 9.



## *NEXT WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH*

Join us next week here at First Church as we come together to worship God on the Fifth Sunday in Lent. Dr. Wachob will preach for the 8:00 and 9:30am worship services here in the Main Sanctuary and then the ICON service at 11:00am in Wesley Abbey. Rev. Brandon Bures will preach for the 11:00am Main Sanctuary service. Next Sunday's readings: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*; *Psalms 51:1-12 (UMH 785)*; *Hebrews 5:5-10*; *John 12:20-33*.

# ***OUR WORSHIP OF GOD***

9:30 A.M.

## **WELCOME**

## **PRELUDE**

“Prelude in G Minor” *J. S. Bach*

Dr. Rick Branch, *organ*

## **\*CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us give thanks for the steadfast love of God,  
**and the wonderful works done for us.**

Let us offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,  
**and tell of God’s deeds in songs of joy.**

[Psalm 107]

## **\*HYMN**

“To God Be the Glory”

**No. 98**

## **\*COLLECT**

Rev. Brandon Bures

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **MISSION MINUTE: UMCOR**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## **\*GOSPEL LESSON**

John 3:14-21

## **SERMON**

Dr. Wesley H. Wachob

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **CONFESSION, PARDON, & PEACE**

**No. 12**

## **REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE**

Please register your attendance on the registration pad. If you are visiting with us, include your address, telephone number, and email address so that we may welcome you in a more personal way.

## **OFFERTORY**

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” *arr. Mark Hayes*

Heidi & Rick Branch, *piano*

## \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are invited to come forward to the altar to receive the elements of Holy Communion.

## INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Anyone who wishes to join the church today, please come forward during the last stanza of the closing hymn.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

(stanzas 1–3 & 6) **No. 378**

“Amazing Grace”

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*GOING FORTH

## POSTLUDE

“Fantasia” *Johannes Pachelbel*

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\*Stand as you are able

### *HYMN NOTES*

“To God Be the Glory” (words by Fanny Crosby, 1875; Music by William H. Doane, 1875)—Fanny Crosby is probably the most popular and widely sung hymn author in America. The blind author’s gospel song was not included in the famous Gospel Hymns 1-6 published by Ira D. Sankey and had been all but forgotten in America until it was included in the song book for the Billy Graham Greater London Crusade in 1954.

### *THOSE SERVING TODAY*

9:30. GREETERS – Dona Hill & Carol Ross. COMMUNION STEWARDS – Amy Voeltz & Kelly Davies. COMMUNION SERVERS – Ruth Klarner & Diane Ward, Lay Persons.

## TODAY'S LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES

**First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9.** Because they complained, God sends “fiery serpents” which kill many Israelites. When the people repent, God instructs Moses to make a sign (a bronze serpent on a pole) by which they may live.

**Psalm: 107:1-3, 17-22.** A Psalm of praise to God. The writer recalls that many were sick, called on God for help, and were healed. Therefore, all are called to praise the Lord.

**Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10.** Paul tells the Church at Ephesus that they, who were dead in their sin, were made alive by God in Christ. “By grace you have been saved through faith.”

**Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21.** John shows how Moses’ lifting up the serpent (first lesson) prefigures the lifting up of “the Son of Man . . . that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” Through Christ, God offers salvation to all.

## DAILY READINGS: LENTEN CHALLENGE

If you don’t already have a devotion or ritual that you practice during Lent, we encourage you to challenge yourself to read the daily lections found in each week’s bulletin for the season of Lent. The daily readings expand the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion by providing daily citations for a three-year cycle. These readings complement the Sunday readings: Monday through Wednesday readings help the reader reflect on and digest what they heard in worship. Thursday through Saturday readings help prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead.

	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Old Test.</i>	<i>New Test.</i>
MONDAY	107:1-16	Exodus 15:22-27	Hebrews 3:1-6
TUESDAY	107:1-16	Numbers 20:1-13	1 Corinthians 10:6-13
WEDNESDAY	107:1-16	Isaiah 60:15-22	John 8:12-20
THURSDAY	51:1-12	Isaiah 30:15-18	Hebrews 4:1-13
FRIDAY	51:1-12	Exodus 30:1-10	Hebrews 4:14-5:4
SATURDAY	51:1-12	Habakkuk 3:2-13	John 12:1-11

## MISSION FOCUS

### **MARCH FOCUS: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

See the information on the Welcome panel and on the insert to today’s bulletin.

**CALLS TO ACTION: 1)** Be a part of UMCOR Sunday **2)** Put together UMCOR Cleaning, Hygiene, and/or school supply kits and bring them in during the month of March. Kit packing lists are available on the insert and separate checklists are available at the entrances and in the Church Office.

## NOTES

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EASTER LILY ORDERS

Each year we honor, celebrate, and memorialize individuals and events by placing Easter Lilies in our sanctuaries and lobbies for the coming Easter season. If you would like to order a lily this year, please fill out the order forms located in the pews and place them in the offering plate or turn them in to the Church Office. You can also order online. The order deadline is Palm Sunday, March 25.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Join us this Wednesday between 5:00 and 6:00pm in The Wright Place for a delicious meal and good fellowship. The menu will be **Meatloaf, Mac-n-Cheese, Field Peas, and Corn Bread**. Make your reservations in the registration pads, by calling the church office (432-1434), or online. After dinner everyone is encouraged to join in worship at the Wednesday Night Lenten service in the Main Sanctuary. We look forward to seeing you there.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN WORSHIP

Each Wednesday during the season of Lent we will have a special worship service at 6:00pm. Each service will feature a guest speaker from around the Alabama–West Florida Conference, special prayers, songs, and the reading of holy scripture. This week's guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Nathan Attwood (Marianna UMC). Parents are welcome to drop their children (K – 4th grade) off at the chapel for a special program during the service.

## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE WRIGHT PLACE | MARCH 16

The Fifty Forward Ministry invites everyone to this month's Friday Night at The Wright Place on March 16 from 6:00–8:00pm. We'll enjoy a delicious meal with entertainment from Greg Lyon. Call the Church Office to reserve your spot.

## EASTER EGG HUNT | MARCH 18

Children of all ages are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt next Sunday, March 18. Following our morning services, at 12:30pm, we will all meet in Alabama Square (corner of Reus and De Soto) to enjoy a picnic lunch, an egg hunt, and a time of fellowship. All families are asked to donate a dozen stuffed eggs (no chocolate please) per child. They should be dropped off at the Church Office or Children's Ministries office. Please put your child's age group on the bag. An offering will be taken for lunch. There will also be a cookie contest. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and your Easter baskets.

## UMW: CALL FOR PRAYER AND SELF DENIAL 2018 | MARCH 19

For nearly 150 years, United Methodist Women (UMW), motivated by love and Christian caring, has been at the forefront of reaching isolated populations of women and girls with life-changing educational and leadership opportunities. Join us at FUMC on Monday, March 19, for the UMW's annual Call for Prayer and Self-Denial event where we will discuss issues that affect these populations and learn how we can help. There are two events to choose from: a lunch with program at Noon and a dinner with program at 5:00pm. The menu for lunch and dinner will be Salad Greens with Chicken & Fruit, Crackers, and a Beverage. The 2018 offering will provide educational opportunities for women and girls who are chronically underserved and marginalized (economically disadvantaged and displaced groups, such as female-headed households and low-income families). RSVP to Connie Vance at [conniegv@bellsouth.net](mailto:conniegv@bellsouth.net) or 434-0869.