

THE  
**METHODIST**  
WITNESS

SPECIAL EDITION | 2017  
HISTORY OF WORSHIP  
AT FIRST CHURCH



HISTORY OF WORSHIP TIMELINE  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*including worship related points and other contextual dates*

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WORSHIP AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## EARLY YEARS (1821 - 1828)

### 1821

- A Methodist mission is established in Pensacola when Dr. Alexander Talley (1821 - 1822), the first protestant missionary to the territory, is appointed by the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to Pensacola and the surrounding areas.

### 1822

- Florida is organized as a U. S. territory, and the first session of Florida's legislative council convenes in Pensacola.

### 1824

- The Rev. Henry P. Cook (1824 - 1825) forms a "society meeting" and begins to advertise Sunday services. (Early Methodism offered three types of groups to help Christians become better followers of Jesus. The society meeting was the largest of the three groups where participants would gather for instruction and teaching.)

- Sabbath school meets Sundays at 9:00am. The children of slaves are invited to participate.

- A choir is formed and is composed of both Catholics and Methodists.

- For the first time, a guest Methodist pastor addresses the congregation.

- The City of Pensacola is incorporated and the Pensacola Lighthouse built.

- Rev. Cook's year end report to the conference lists the first written record of membership of 37 white members and 47 black members.

### 1826

- Depending upon the audience, Rev. John Lambuth (1826) preaches sermons in English, French, and some Native American languages.

- Construction of the Pensacola Navy Yard (now Pensacola Naval Air Station) begins.

- The Methodist mission in Pensacola becomes a part of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

### 1827

- Rev. Charles Hardy (1827 - 1828) preaches three times a week in town, preaches once a week to soldiers at the cantonment, and by request at the Navy Yard. Rev. Hardy also holds services "in the country."

- Meetings are held in the old theater building and in the courthouse. Sabbath School includes about 40 children.

- The officers and men of the USS Constellation donate \$173 toward the erection of a church building; \$71 is donated by the officers of the USS Erie.

- A lot is purchased at the corner of Tarragona and Intendencia streets for \$500. Construction begins on the first building of any Protestant denomination to be built in Pensacola.

### 1828

- Services are held for the first time in the new church building at Tarragona and Intendencia. The Rev. Isaac Boring (1828) preaches from Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

- Methodists are among the first to establish worship services exclusively for slaves. The Rev. Boring goes further by establishing a Sabbath School for the children of slaves.

## LEAN YEARS (1829 - 1869)

### 1829

- Rev. Adam Wyrick (1829) forms a society for Bible study and discussion.

- Rev. Zaccheus Dowling, presiding elder of the Tallahassee District, administers the sacrament in Pensacola to five different nationalities, indicating the nature of the membership of the early church.

- Construction of Fort Pickens, located on Santa Rosa Island, begins.

### 1830

- The Escambia Mission is formed at the South Carolina Conference, taking with it several societies formerly belonging to the Pensacola Mission. This cuts the membership of the Pensacola Mission in half.

- The Methodist mission in Pensacola becomes a part of the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

- Rev. John W. Talley (1830), brother of the first pastor, is appointed to the Pensacola Mission.

### 1831

- Rev. Thomas Shelman (1831) reports the addition of a pulpit, altar, sash for the upper windows, and paint on the church's exterior.

- Shelman's territory is extended to the island of Santa Rosa, for the benefit of a large number of black friends employed in the construction of Fort Pickens.

### 1832

- The Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is established. The mission in Pensacola becomes a part of this new conference.

### 1844

- The Methodist Episcopal Church splits over the issue of slavery. The newly formed offspring is called the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

### 1845

- Florida becomes the 27th state.

- The first Presbyterian congregation is organized and meets regularly in the building of the Methodist mission until their own church building is finished years later.

### 1854

- Rev. Joseph Cottrell (1854 - 1855) is the first missionary to Pensacola to bring a wife and children while he serves in Pensacola.

- Rev. Cottrell holds a revival with preaching every evening and prayer meetings every morning.

### 1857

- The mission establishes its first annual tent revival at a site about twelve miles north of Pensacola. The week-long revivals ceased during the Civil War period but continued afterwards for several years.

- Two churches are established from the camp meetings: Clear Springs church in Baldwin County and Latham's Chapel at Barrineau Park.

**1860**

- A parsonage is built next to the sanctuary on Tarragona and Intendencia, financed by Rev. W. K. Norton (1859 - 1860).

**1861**

- Florida delegates vote to secede from the United States. Florida becomes one of the six original Southern states to form the Confederate States of America.

- The Civil War begins when Confederate soldiers attack Union soldiers at Fort Sumter on April 12th.

**1862**

- Rev. Anson West (1862) is the first Methodist clergy appointment to Pensacola that does not involve a circuit.

- Most of the civilian population evacuate Pensacola in May, including West and the ministers of all other denominations. With few left to minister to, the conference abandons the mission temporarily. Federal troops occupy Pensacola from May 1862 to March 1863.

**1864**

- The unoccupied church building and parsonage at Tarragona and Intendencia are completely destroyed by fire.

- Additional city fires in 1863 and 1864 destroy an estimated sixty-two structures as well as the wharves.

**1865**

- The Civil War ends.

**1867**

- Danish sea captain Charles Boysen begins construction on a home at the corner of Palafox and Wright streets. This home, later to be known as the Governor Perry Home, is purchased by the church in 2008.

**1868**

- Florida is readmitted to the United States.

**REVIVAL (1870 - 1880)****1870**

- The Methodist mission in Pensacola becomes a self-supporting congregation with aid from the Mission Board discontinued.

- A church building is rebuilt on the lot at Tarragona and Intendencia. During construction, services are held in the courthouse near Palafox Street.

- The railroad connects Pensacola to the outside world, and the lumber boom begins.

**1873**

- Tent revivals are re-instituted by Rev. D.M. Hudson (1873 - 1874). At 51, Hudson is considered an old pastor.

**1876**

- Rev. Philip Lightfoot (1876 - 1878) is appointed as minister. Church membership surpasses what it had been before the Civil War.

**1880**

- Fire destroys many buildings in Pensacola. The Methodist church building is not damaged, but plans begin for relocation and a new building. The size of the congregation has more than doubled over the past ten years and noise generated from the proximity to the trains passing by are listed as reasons for relocation.

**SPREAD OF METHODISM IN PENSACOLA (1881 - 1905)****1881**

- Property at Tarragona and Intendencia is sold and a lot is purchased at the corner of Palafox and Garden. Arrangements are made for a building on the new lot. Foundations are laid in the fall, but the building is not completed until 1890.

- For the next two years, the congregation is without a permanent home. Church member Mary Lucia Richards writes: "While without a church we worshiped in the Baptist church until we moved into Pou's Hall ... We worshiped there two years or more, paying \$25 per month rent."

**1882**

- Annual Tent Revival is held in McDavid. In August, there is a yellow fever epidemic and many families leave the Pensacola area. Rev. Charles B. DuBose (1879 - 1882) returns to Pensacola to minister to the sick. In October, DuBose falls victim to the epidemic. The local newspaper writes "We feel our inability to write a fitting tribute to one so deserving."

- Cold weather brings the congregation back to Pensacola. Years later the congregation honors Rev. DuBose by erecting a stained glass window in his memory.

**1883**

- The population of Pensacola and the surrounding communities continues to rise, as does church membership.

**1884**

- Services are held for the first time in the basement of the new church at Palafox and Garden. The benches, pulpit, and altar railing from the 1870 sanctuary are used.

**1890**

- The upstairs portion of the sanctuary at Palafox and Garden is completed.

**1892**

- Rev. W.P. Hurt (1892 - 1894), when asked to comment about his ministry at the Palafox Street church states, "We were a singing church and the Catholics liked it. They saw the Methodists had something they did not, and they wanted it, too." On Sunday nights, Rev. Hurt mentioned that he would see persons lingering near the entrance of the church and would have the congregation begin singing "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" with gusto.

**1900**

- A special "Watch Night" service is held at the dawn of a new century on December 31st from 10:00pm until midnight.

**1905**

- Rev. Henry Johnson (1904 - 1905) gives his well liked "Sprinkling or Immersion" sermon where he argues "Paul could have baptized his jailor at Phillipi only by sprinkling because there were no tubs in jail."

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA (1906 - 1939)****1906**

- The first associate pastor of the church, Rev. J. Barney Butler (1906), leads a six week revival including street preaching, guest soloists, and prayer meetings at members' homes. An estimated 150 professions of faith are made.

- The church decides to sell the sanctuary at Palafox and Garden to the Pensacola Investment Company, which will later construct the San Carlos Hotel on this site. The church continues to lease the sanctuary while plans are made to construct a new building on Wright Street.

- After 85 years, the church receives its name when church member Annie E. McMillan, at the 11:00am service on July 1st reads, "Now when about to build for the fifth time on the magnificent site on Wright street. . . we deem the time auspicious for conferring the name upon our church to which she has long been entitled, 'The First Methodist Church of Pensacola.' If we crown her today with this honor, in coming years Reed's Chapel, Muscogee Wharf, and last, but not least, our youngest child, Gadsden Street, together with other churches which will recognize us as their fountain-head, will point with pride to their mother church, the First Methodist Church of Pensacola."

- Butler hosts another tent revival to commence on August 1st. Services are held in the evening under a large tent erected at the corner of Garden and DeVillers streets.

### 1908

- Though women didn't have the right to vote, they are invited to visit the church and pray for the most appropriate candidates seeking public office.

- The cornerstone of the present-day church on Wright Street is laid. Enclosed in the cornerstone is a time capsule containing a Book of Discipline, Christian Advocate, Alabama Christian Advocate, Missionary Voice, Pensacola News Journal, names of the Official Board, and list of the Building Committee. In 2008, the time capsule is opened during the centennial celebration service of the Wright Street sanctuary.

- A special railroad spur is erected in front of the job site on Wright Street to bring in building materials for the new sanctuary. Most of the stone comes from a quarry in Utica, Pennsylvania.

- Leading Pensacola citizen and chairman of the Building Committee, J.R. Saunders, dies unexpectedly of a stroke. His family later erects the large stained glass windows on the western wall of the Wright Street sanctuary in memory of him and his wife, Ella Day.

- A Christmas Day service is held in the Armory Hall. On December 27th, the final worship services (11:00am and 7:00pm) are held in the sanctuary on Palafox Street.

### 1909

- On Easter Sunday the church orchestra performs at 9:00am, and the children sing and perform recitations at 9:30am. Rev. C.W. Gavin (1908 - 1910) gives a homily during the morning Easter service and a full sermon during the evening service at 7:30pm.

- Wright Street is paved. In 1910 the city assesses the church \$152 for this upgrade.

- With a population of 23,000, Pensacola continues to grow, erecting the ten-story American National Bank, constructing the San Carlos Hotel, and raising a wooden bridge across Bayou Texar.

### 1910

- On January 2nd worship services and Sunday school are held in the basement of the Wright Street property for the first time. Because the heat was not working, the service was short, including a song, prayer, and administering of the sacrament.

- The Woman's Home Missionary Society (precursor to the United Methodist Women) raises over \$3,000 to purchase pews and support other aspects of the property. Several members donate other furnishings.

### 1911

- The Alabama Conference holds its annual session in the new sanctuary on Wright Street in Pensacola.

### 1912

- With the rise in popularity and availability of automobiles, Pensacola has over twenty-one miles of paved streets in 1912.

### 1914

- The first Naval flight school is established at the Pensacola Navy Yard.

- World War I begins.

### 1917

- A large Union Evangelistic Campaign is planned with Methodist evangelist Gypsy Smith, Jr. A wooden building, called the Tabernacle, is built at the corner of Gregory and Spring streets, able to seat over 3,000.

### 1918

- Rev. Isaac W. Chalker (1918-1921) commits the congregation in a series of union revival services with the Baptists, Presbyterians, and other Methodist congregations. First Church hosts the initial union service, which is the largest gathering ever held there. Each congregation sponsors the revival for two weeks, and Chalker leads in the daily prayer meetings that are held in private homes.

- "Go to Church Sunday" is initiated, which involves transporting more than 300 servicemen from the Naval Air Station to worship at nearly every Protestant church in the city. Often home-cooked meals are included before returning the men to base.

- All churches in Pensacola are closed from October 6th through November 3rd because of a Spanish influenza epidemic which kills about 65 locally.

### 1919

- In September all indebtedness is removed from the church property and the church is dedicated by Bishop W. F. McMurry.

- The Bible used in worship is the original Bible placed on the pulpit in 1839. This Bible survived two fires, the Civil War period, and two yellow fever epidemics. It is currently on display at the church.

### 1920

- Ratified on August 18th, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants women the right to vote.

### 1921

- A new organ is installed. The organ is a two manual Austin with nine ranks of pipes, gifted by James G. Pace, who formally presents it to the congregation during an 11:00am worship service. Miss Minnie Lee Nobles is the first to play it. (Rev. Chalker had kept vigil at the bedside of Pace's wife during the flu epidemic. When Pace asked what he could do to compensate Chalker and the church, Chalker replied "a quality pipe organ.")

### 1923

- For the first time churches begin reporting average worship attendance, which for First Church was 321.

- Dr. John Wesley Frazer (1922 - 1923) encourages the church to hire a paid quartet to sing with the choir.

### 1924

- Dr. Cullen Coleman Daniels (1924-1925) adds seventy members to the church rolls within 18 months. Daniels later became president of Birmingham - Southern College.

### 1926

- Pensacola's first radio station (WCOA) goes on the air in February.

- The church receives damage to the roof, organ, plaster, and paint from a hurricane hitting in late September. After repairs were completed, Rev. Otis Vaughn Calhoun (1926-1930) lit the church's Hannah Memorial Window, the large window facing Wright Street. Afterwards some referred to the church as "the church with the lighted window." It remained lit until being extinguished sometime during the Depression.

### 1927

- For the first time, First Church has over one thousand members listed on roll.

- The only paid positions in the church are the pastor, a janitor, an occasional fireman (to shovel coal into the boiler during winter), a music director (who also acted as organist), and professional singers. This year two new positions are created: a secretary and a young people's worker.

- Members are reminded on the first Sunday of every month to make an offering for the poor.

**1928**

- Two light posts are erected in front of the sanctuary in memory of John A. Kirkpatrick, longtime teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

- F. W. Hoskins, member of First Church, publishes the book titled *The History of Methodist in Pensacola, Florida: Its Rise and Progress*. This is the first history book written about the Methodist church in Pensacola.

**1929**

- Start of the Great Depression. Pensacola is somewhat insulated from the early force of the Great Depression, mainly because it had no major industries.

**1931**

- Bridges are built across Santa Rosa Sound and Pensacola Bay.

- On Mother's Day, the flowers in the chancel are placed in memory of the departed mothers of the church and in honor of the mothers living. After the service the flowers are distributed to the sick and shut-in mothers.

**1933**

- The Director of Music, Mrs. O. M. (Elsie) Varnson, obtains permission from the Board of Stewards to stand facing the choir during the singing of special numbers and at certain services.

**1935**

- General Conference expands the size of the Board of Stewards to 45 members and includes women for the first time. The first women to serve as stewards at First Church are Mrs. W. N. Lipscomb, Lenice McRee, Mrs. Jessie M. Traxler, Daisy McAllister, Ruby McConnell, Pearl Carter, Mary Allen, Roberta Tarpe, and Mrs. T. Lansing Smith.

- A committee is formed to raise money for the new Methodist hymnal.

**1936**

- The church presents the cantata "Belshazzar," and a new Watch Night Service on New Year's Eve is inaugurated.

- A worship service is held to remember Armistice Day and address world peace. Rev. J. Fletcher McLeod (1935 - 1939) was deeply committed to promoting world peace.

**1937**

- An Easter Sunrise service is held at 5:30am overlooking Escambia Bay off Scenic Highway.

**1938**

- First Church participates in a Thanksgiving service with First Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church.

**1939**

- World War II begins.

- The Uniting Conference is held in Kansas City, at which the Methodist Protestant Church, Methodist Episcopal Church and Methodist Episcopal Church, South agree to unite and form the Methodist Church.

**EXPANSION (1940 - 1969)****1940**

- Rev. William Fletcher Calhoun (1940 - 1941) preaches a "Great Paintings" sermon series on Sunday evenings in which references to famous artwork are included in each sermon.

**1941**

- In January the church participates in World Compassion Sunday, in which over 40,000 Methodist churches make a special offering for churches affected by the war.

- A summer outbreak of polio cancels the second week of Vacation Church School and the midweek prayer service.

- The congregation is asked to vote what color of choir vestments they would prefer to see: black, navy, maroon, or purple. Maroon is chosen, and the new robes are first used on October 26th.

- Over 100 attend a Thanksgiving Sunrise Service organized by the youth of the church.

- Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan on December 7th.

**1942**

- At each observance of the Eucharist from February through the end of World War II, donations collected support the Council of Bishops' initiative to send 1/3 of the funds to help the poor locally, 1/3 to help those in need overseas, and 1/3 to support those serving in the armed forces.

- The Board of Stewards approves a motion to display a Christian and U.S. flag in the Main Sanctuary.

- Announcement from 1942: "A recent survey shows that a goodly number of hymnals are missing. We have all been guilty of carrying one home. Will you please look at home and...help us renew our supply?"

- At the worship service on December 27th, Miss Virginia Schimmel unveils the "Honor Roll/Service Scroll" which lists the names of those serving in the armed forces from First Church. During the war, a gold star is placed next to the name of a serviceman killed in the conflict. Flowers are also placed on the altar or below the scroll in the person's memory. To this day, a plaque in the church's vestibule still honors the six men who were killed in World War II.

**1943**

- The first sound system for the Main Sanctuary is dedicated on September 5th.

**1944**

- In the absence of Dr. Albert E. Shafer (1943 - 1947) on Sunday, February 20th, Mathilde Killingsworth is invited to speak about her experiences as a missionary in China, becoming the first woman to "preach" from the pulpit at First Church.

- Major repairs begin on the organ. Since its last service eight years earlier, many key tops had been lost, moths had ruined the felts in the console, and some of the pistons had stopped working.

**1945**

- The traditional bouquet of seasonal flowers on the altar is replaced with a brass cross, two candlesticks, runners, and two new collection plates.

- "Let the people bow in silent prayer upon entering the Sanctuary" is written at the top of the Order of Worship in the bulletin.

- On August 15th, victory in Japan is announced. The church is opened and all are invited to "gather quietly, to give thanks to God and pray for the saddened mothers, fathers, and wives."

- A new choir for boys aged 12-16 is begun.

**1947**

- Carillon bells are installed in the towers of the church and dedicated to the glory of God and in grateful memory of the six church members who lost their lives during World War II.

- The heating system at the church is converted from coal to natural gas.

- The Women's Society of Christian Service reports 161 members, divided into eight circles. At this time there are eleven standing committees in the church, and ladies either chair or are strongly represented on more than half.

- A Christmas pageant is held with an offering collected for the Children's Home.

### 1948

- The Messenger, a newsletter for First Church, is published in March.

### 1949

- Groundbreaking for a two-story brick building to the north of the Main Sanctuary takes place. The building is to be used for Christian Education and is opened in 1951.

### 1950

- First Church donates \$50,000 toward the Conference plan to establish the Alabama Conference Assembly Camp (which came to be known as Blue Lake), fifteen miles southeast of Andalusia, Alabama.

### 1951

- The Wesley Fellowship Class donates the nativity crèche which is still displayed each Christmas in the Main Sanctuary.

### 1954

- Brown v. Board of Education ruling is handed down which states that segregation of public schools is unconstitutional.

- Dr. J. B. Nichols (1954 - 1961), along with the lay leader of Gadsden Street Methodist Church and the pastor of First Baptist, form the Human Relations Group to address topics including school integration and the dismantling of Jim Crow laws.

### 1955

- Dr. Nichols initiates the practice of the preacher wearing a black robe.

- Males in fourth through sixth grade are added as "candlelighters" and assist in the service. These candlelighters are called acolytes in 1965. Females are accepted as acolytes beginning in 1971.

- The church adds air conditioning.

- Women serve as ushers for first time.

### 1957

- Dr. Nichols launches an 8:30am Sunday morning worship service. The service follows the same format as the 11:00am service.

- The historical marker, which currently stands in front of the church, is erected.

### 1958

- The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is dedicated in memory of church lay leaders William Mackey and Edgar Malone, who died while en route to the Methodist Conference in 1951.

### 1959

- Dr. Nichols adds special services for Lent. A service is held Wednesdays at noon in the chapel, along with a music-only service on Fridays.

- The church purchases the property at the northwest corner of Belmont and Guillemard streets. It has served many purposes for children, youth, and adults. Today it is part of The Methodist Children's Academy, the preschool of First Church.

### 1961

- The church contracts an outside firm to repair various stained glass windows and stone tracery.

### 1962

- The Lay Speaker program begins at First Church to assist small churches in the Pensacola District served jointly by the same pastor.

- Radio Station WDEB broadcasts the 11:00am service during the month of September.

### 1963

- Rev. Paul Duffey (1961 - 1966) becomes the first minister to wear stoles that match the colors of the altar paraments, which concurrently had been introduced. Rev. Duffey also has the distinction of being the only pastor of First Church, to date, elected to the episcopacy. Rev. Duffey was elected Bishop in 1980.

### 1964

- Rev. Duffy begins the practice of placing a rosebud on the altar to acknowledge the birth of a baby by a member. Betty Olliff is placed in charge of the program.

### 1965

- A new pipe organ is purchased after nearly \$31,000 is raised. The new organ is a three manual instrument of 35 ranks.

- A silver Celtic cross and matching candlesticks to be placed on the altar (and still used today) are donated by Mrs. George Roark, Sr. in memory of her husband.

- The current doors of the Main Sanctuary are installed thanks to a gift from Mrs. Florida Shepard, a long-time member.

- Worship services are held next door to the church in the Scottish Rite Building one Sunday due to remodeling in the sanctuary.

### 1966

- A revival commences, which lasts six days. Pastor of the First Methodist Church of

Tuscaloosa, Alabama is the guest speaker.

- Rev. Daniel C. Whitsett (1966 - 1969) establishes the Inter-Faith Coordinating Committee of Pensacola, consisting of laity and clergy from Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant congregations.

### 1968

- The "Uniting Conference of 1968" merges the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren to become the United Methodist Church. First Church is now officially known as First United Methodist Church of Pensacola, Florida.

- A new Sunday school group called the Tifounden Class initiates "Dialogue with the Preacher" as part of the Sunday evening service. This dialogue is designed to give congregants an opportunity to ask the pastor questions they may have about the Sunday morning sermon.

- James Isaac "Ike" Terry (1968 - 1986) is hired as organist. Terry serves as organist from 1968 until he dies unexpectedly from a heart attack while playing a men's basketball game with the church in 1986.

### 1969

- First Church hosts a special World Friendship Day service on February 16th. This service is presided over by Japanese missionary Ben Sawada and includes prayers for peace in English, Arabic, Shone, Chinese, Russian, and German.

- A joint worship service is held with St. Paul UMC on the evening of April 13th.

- Sunday evening worship services are canceled for the summer, and instead, outdoor vesper services are held on the first Sunday evening of every month.

## TRUE TO OUR ROOTS (1970 - 1983)

### 1970

- Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson preaches during Holy Week. On Good Friday a special three hour ecumenical service is held that includes responsive readings, hymns, and multiple sermons from pastors of several denominations including Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Methodist.

- The church buys the property to the east of the sanctuary owned by the Pensacola House Furnishing Company. This property would later be known as The Wright Place but not before the property was leased back to the furniture company for many years.

- Rev. L. Powers McLeod (1970 - 1974) is appointed as pastor. Powers McLeod had grown up in the church when his father Rev. J. Fletcher McLeod was pastor from 1935 - 1939, having the distinction of both father and son serving at the same church. Rev. L. Powers McLeod introduced many creative elements to the worship services. One Easter Sunday during Rev. Powers appointment, worshipers entered the sanctuary to find no lights on and no Easter decorations. Then, on cue, lights turned on, music began, doors opened, and the choir entered carrying Easter flowers and singing loudly.

### 1971

- The church celebrates its 150th anniversary with a year-long celebration featuring many special events and activities, including historical vignettes, slideshow by the youth, religious art exhibit, a "Festival of Hymns" and more. The celebration culminates with a special drama entitled "From Here to Eternity" presented on December 4th, and a celebration including Bishop Goodson on December 5th. A memorial service is also held in St. Michael's Cemetery for those who had served the church during the yellow fever epidemics.

- Janice Yvonne Hulbert (Jan), as part of the 150th Anniversary service on December 5th, writes "Come with Singing! Come Rejoicing!" a new hymn set to the tune of Nettleton, which is used in the service. This hymn has been used since for other special occasions.

### 1972

- Sunday evening service is discontinued.

### 1973

- The worship style of the 8:30am service becomes less traditional. Prelude music is provided by Ike Terry on piano and Frank Horne on the double bass. A drummer often accompanies them as well. The choir sings contemporary songs and does not wear robes. Rev. McLeod delivers the sermon from a stool, rather than behind the pulpit, and does not wear a clerical robe. Communion is done by intinction.

### 1974

- An elevator is installed to the east of the sanctuary making the church more handicap accessible for the first time.

### 1975

- On Easter Sunday a cross decorated with flowers is placed on the altar. This tradition continues, with the cross eventually being moved to outside in front of the sanctuary. Today members are encouraged to bring flowers to decorate the cross as they attend

on Easter Sunday. A tradition of releasing balloons on Easter Sunday also begins. This tradition is later abandoned in the 1980s because of environmental concerns.

### 1976

- Eva Scott becomes the first woman chairperson of the Administrative Board (now called Church Council.)

- Building on the traditions of previous years, the Easter "Son-rise Service" is established at 8:00am on Easter Sunday. The choir sings "He is Alive!", a tradition that continues today.

- Wednesday Night Dinners begin.

- Dr. J. B. Nichols (Associate: 1976 - 1978) returns to First Church as an Associate Pastor under Ellis Robert "Bob" Dickerson (1975 - 1983). Dr. Nichols previously served as the Senior Pastor from 1954 - 1961.

- On Sunday, July 4th, a special service is held at 10:30am as part of the United States bicentennial celebration. The service includes patriotic hymns and a sermon by Rev. Dickerson. Following the service a picnic is held, culminating with the singing of the National Anthem and a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

### 1977

- Restoration of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary begins. This is the first major restoration of the stained glass since the 1940s.

### 1978

- A set of handbells is purchased, spurring the formation of a handbell choir.

- Floyd Hickman (1978 - 1986) becomes the new music director and establishes a music festival at the church on Sunday, April 30th. Hickman proposes that services on the fifth Sunday of the month be devoted to music and include no sermon.

- First Church and Temple Beth El hold a joint Thanksgiving service at Temple Beth El.

### 1979

- On Sunday, April 22nd, Rev. Alvis Coleman, great grandson of Rev. Charles DuBose, preaches at First Church. Rev. DuBose served as pastor of First Church from 1879 - 1882 and died during the yellow fever epidemic of 1882.

- The sanctuary receives needed renovations, including new paint and the return of the church's central brass chandelier. New dark beige carpet is also added.

### 1980

- On August 3rd Paul Duffey preaches at First Church again, this time as a bishop.

- Renovations begin on the furniture store east of the Main Sanctuary. Once completed, this building would be known as The Wright Place.

### 1981

- On All Saints' Sunday, Dickerson reinitiates the reading of the names of all church members who have died in the past year. This tradition continues today.

- On November 29th, Mary McMillan, former missionary to Japan and First Church member, preaches at First Church.

### 1982

- Rev. Godfrey Kenyon from Queen's Hall Methodist Church in Derby, England, visits and preaches at First Church from July 18 - August 22 as part of a pulpit exchange program. Rev. Dickerson travels to Derby, England to visit and preach at Queen's Hall Methodist Church during this same time. Dickerson was amazed at the lack of interest he encountered in the British church.

### 1983

- With the completion of renovations to the first floor, The Wright Place is officially dedicated.

- On October 9th, in a spirit of racial unity, First Church participates in a joint service at St. Paul UMC, a predominately black membership church.

## THE GROWTH YEARS (1984 - 2005)

### 1984

- A Law Day service is held on April 29th, including guest speaker Congressman Earl Hutto and a performance by the Navy Command Choir.

- Dr. Henry Roberts (1984 - 2006) is appointed to First Church. To date, Dr. Roberts is the longest serving pastor at First Church having filled the pulpit for 22 years.

- Sunday services are recorded on cassette tape and made available to the congregation.

### 1986

- A new pulpit Bible is dedicated on May 18th, given in memory of Charles Buford Webb by his family.

- Allen Pote (1986 - 1991) becomes music director at First Church. Pote is well known for his numerous choral compositions and

musicals which are published and sung internationally.

### 1987

- To enhance the Lenten experience, Dr. Roberts arranges for several guest preachers to deliver sermons after the Wednesday night dinner or during Sunday worship.

- Rev. Mark LaBranche (1987-1991) is appointed as Associate Pastor to follow Rev. Bud Precise (1985-1987) who returned to the North Alabama Conference.

- Rev. Karen Evans (1987 - 2011) is hired as Director of Children and Youth Programs. During her tenure at First Church, Rev. Evans' responsibilities include serving as Director of Christian Education, Minister of Program and Education, and Minister of Spiritual Formation. Rev. Evans is also well known for her energetic short sermons for children (Children's Sermon), which become an important part of the order of worship.

### 1988

- The grand piano used in worship in the Main Sanctuary is given by Erma Williams Palmer.

- The church has three Easter Sunday services including a "Son Rise" service at 7:30am, a service at 9:30am, and a service at 11:00am.

- Ginger Raines is hired as the Senior Pastor's Secretary and is responsible for scheduling baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

### 1989

- New hymnals are donated by Wallace and Barbara Odom to replace the existing hymnals from the 1960s.

- Twenty ladies spend over 1,000 hours stitching new covers for the four presiders chairs and chancel bench in the Main Sanctuary. This impressive work of the Needlepoint Guild at First Church is dedicated at a service on August 27th.

- Rev. Cathy Adkins Allen (1989 - 1990) becomes the first female elder appointed to First Church.

- Renovations take place, including completion of the 2nd floor of the Wright Place, erection of the Administration Building, reconfiguring the basement, renovating the Ark, and remodeling the 3rd floor of the sanctuary to include the Ike Terry Memorial Rehearsal Hall.

### 1991

- The Historical Committee of the church acquires several items of historical

significance, including the diary of Rev. Joseph B. Cottrell (1854 - 1855), some of the tools used in the construction of the sanctuary, and a pew from the Palafox Street church.

- For the first time membership rose to about 2,000.

- In December a third Sunday morning service is added at 9:45am. This is a service of Word and Table, offering communion weekly, whereas the other two services only offer communion on the first Sunday of the month.

### 1992

- Charles Tucker (1992 - 1993) is hired as a new Minister of Music. He organizes string, brass, and saxophone ensembles, which are incorporated into worship.

- A Service of Dedication is held on November 22nd in celebration of Dr. Roberts' first book, *The Robins are Back*.

### 1993

- On September 4th Dr. Roberts is struck by a car while jogging along Scenic Highway. He is seriously injured and requires multiple surgeries. Associate Pastor Larry Mosley (1992 - 2001) and other volunteers come together to handle church duties during his recovery time.

- An original musical production "Kindred Spirits" (written by Pat Brinson and directed by Ruth Ann Replogle) is presented as a fellowship/fundraiser for the music program. The musical highlights the events in First Church's history in song and dialogue.

- Bishop Paul Duffey preaches on October 24th, and Henry and Jane Roberts return to worship for the first time since his accident.

- Following a speedy recovery, Dr. Roberts returns to preach at all three worship services on December 12th.

### 1994

- First Church purchases the former Ford Motor Company property east of the Wright Place, which is used for storage and parking.

- The music program is fortunate to have several long-time volunteers and interim leaders, including Libby Hargrave and Floyd and Ruth Ann Replogle, who have provided their talents and leadership when needed. Floyd and Ruth Ann have been a part of the music program since the early 1970s, leading, directing, and choreographing numerous songs and musicals in the music program. Libby Hargrave, who has served

in a variety of roles as accompanist and as a music assistant, currently leads music during the 9:30am service in the Main Sanctuary.

- Rev. Richard (Rick) Branch (1994 - present) becomes the Minister of Music and organist at First Church. His wife, Heidi, serves as accompanist and Assistant Director of Music.

- On July 3rd, Sunday worship services are canceled due to Tropical Storm Alberto.

- A historical marker is placed at the site of the church's second location at Garden and Palafox streets.

- Three services are offered on Christmas Eve for the first time. Service times include a children's service at 5:00pm, a service for families at 7:00pm, and a service of candlelight and communion at 11:00pm.

### 1995

- First Church begins broadcasting a taped delay of the 8:30am worship service on radio station WBSR-AM 1450.

- Hurricane Opal hits Pensacola, causing \$220,000 damage to church property.

### 1996

- First Church celebrates its 175th Anniversary, reminding everyone to "Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future." Commemorations are numerous and include special history calendars and medallions, video documentary and vignettes about history, and a number of special events and services.

- A new sound system, given by Dot McAllister in honor and memory of Dora and Bert McAllister and their family, is installed in the Main Sanctuary.

- First Church welcomes Rev. Darryl Barrow (1996 - 1999), its first black minister, as Director of Small Group Ministries.

- First Church purchases a former TV repair shop at 106 E. Wright Street. Today, this property is known as the Franklin Building.

### 1997

- A Columbarium is added directly behind the Main Sanctuary.

- The 8:30am service is changed to more closely resemble the 11:00am service.

- Rev. Barrow begins a new contemporary-style service on Saturday night. This service is discontinued after about a year.

- Camp Meeting Sundays are held in July where congregants are encouraged to dress casually. The service includes singing of Gospel hymns, altar prayers, and testimonials.

### 1998

- On Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, the church celebrates being debt free as a result of the successful "Claim the Dream" Capital Campaign.
- The stained glass windows in the Main Sanctuary undergo repair. They are removed and shipped to Iowa to be cleaned, resealed, and repaired.

### 1999

- On Ash Wednesday, the sign of the cross is applied with ashes to the forehead of those who come to the altar.
- First Church receives the "Church for All God's Children Award" at the 1999 Annual Conference, giving special recognition to our church and the value that is placed on our children and youth. Throughout the history of First Church, children and youth have been a vital part of worship, including leading in word and song.
- Brass railings are added at spots in the balcony of the Main Sanctuary for safety.
- Property at 31 East Wright Street is purchased for use as adult Sunday School rooms, later becoming known as the Outreach Ministries Building.

### 2000

- First Church participates in an ecumenical millennium service at First Baptist.
- First Church votes to launch a capital campaign in 2001 with plans to purchase the former Fisher Pou Funeral Home property at 27 East Wright Street and to make major modifications to the Main Sanctuary, including expansion of the choir loft and adding a new organ.
- Rev. Fred Zobel (2000 - 2005) is appointed to First Church as an associate pastor. Rev. Zobel is the first associate to be appointed who is a native of Pensacola.
- Sanctuary carpets changed from beige to dark maroon.
- First Church hosts the Installation Service for its new Bishop, Larry M. Goodpastor.
- Watch Night Services (6:00pm and 11:00pm) are held on December 31st.

### 2001

- A combined worship service with special guest Bishop Paul Duffey is held at the Saenger Theater on Palafox Street to kick-off the "Building on the Dream" Capital Campaign. Morning activities include a reception and slide presentation of the campaign's objectives.
- Tom Helms, Jr. begins construction on a new organ. When completed, the organ becomes one of the largest pipe organs in the area, containing 4,153 individual pipes.
- On September 11th, following attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, an evening service is held in the Main Sanctuary.

- Following worship services on November 17th, the renovated Fisher Pou property is dedicated as the Youth Ministries Building.

### 2002

- The remodeled choir area is unveiled, with a dedication service held on February 24th.
- A new sound system and retractable electronic projection screen is added to the Main Sanctuary. The screen is located behind the modesty panel in the choir loft and is used for the first time in April. After only being used a few times, is discontinued.
- A service to honor and memorialize former pastor J. B. Nichols is held on March 3rd. Nichols died on February 23rd.
- During Lent, congregants are invited to participate in a prayer labyrinth.
- A new sacristy is dedicated in memory of Catherine Bradley Guy "Kitty" Weatherford. The sacristy is located along the hall, east of the Main Sanctuary.
- On Peace with Justice Sunday, First Church welcomes Kazuko "Connie" Kay from Hiroshima, Japan, who had been a student of missionary Mary McMillan.

- Tom Helms, Jr. premieres the new organ at a concert on August 3rd. The organ, gifted by Randall K. And Martha A. Hunter, is officially dedicated at the 11:00am worship service on August 4th.

### 2003

- Associate Pastor Rev. Zobel presides over the inaugural "Blessing of the Pets" service at First Church.

### 2004

- A ribbon cutting and Consecration Service is held on February 8th, dedicating the new

Administrative Building entrance named in honor of Dot Stewart. A large fountain, donated by the Maxwell de la Rua family, is erected in the old entrance to the building.

- Hurricane Ivan, the worst hurricane to hit the area since the hurricanes of 1906 and 1926, makes a direct hit on Pensacola on September 15th. The Main Sanctuary experiences \$472,000 damage. The Wright Place is used as a support center during recovery and the dining room serves as temporary offices for Covenant Hospice. UMCOR volunteers are housed on the second floor of The Wright Place. Worship services reconvene on September 26th, but other church activities remain suspended through October 2nd.

### 2005

- Dr. Henry Roberts announces at Charge Conference that he will retire at the upcoming 2006 Annual Conference.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE (2006 - PRESENT)

### 2006

- Dr. Henry Roberts is honored on his last Sunday as Senior Pastor on May 21st. A reception is held where the gym is renamed the Henry Roberts Activities Center. Dr. Roberts is given the new title of Pastor Emeritus and a scholarship for those going into the ministry is established in his honor. Having served as Senior Pastor of First Church for 22 years, Dr. Roberts is the longest serving Senior Pastor in the history of First Church. During his tenure at First Church he oversaw a 59% increase in membership from 1,535 members to 2,439 when he retired.
- Dr. Wesley H. Wachob, Sr. (2006 - present), is appointed and preaches his first sermon on June 18th. Prior to serving at First Church, Dr. Wachob was the Senior Pastor of the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the campus of Emory University, where he also taught in the Candler School of Theology.

- Lights are added to the towers of the Main Sanctuary and are illuminated at night.

### 2007

- A crucifer is added to carry in the cross alongside acolytes during the procession at the 8:00am and 11:00am services.

- A new sound system is installed in the Main Sanctuary.

- Lectionary at Lunch, taught by Associate Pastor Rev. Geoffrey Lentz (2005 - 2012) begins in August. The class meets on Wednesdays at noon in The Wright Place

and focuses on the lectionary scriptures for the coming Sunday.

- As part of confirmation preparations, confirmands read scripture during worship services throughout the year.
- All choirs participate and are dedicated to the ministry of music and worship of God at the annual Music and Worship Arts Dedication Sunday.
- First Church continues the longtime tradition of placing poinsettias in the Main Sanctuary during Christmas.

## 2008

- Returning to an earlier tradition, First Church hosts a true Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Easter morning. The service is held at Plaza de Luna for the first time.

• The church holds a combined service at New World Landing as part of the capital campaign to purchase the Governor Perry Home property (also known as the Scottish Rite Masonic Center) located to the west of the Main Sanctuary. The guest speaker at the combined service is Pastor Emeritus Dr. Henry Roberts.

• Dr. Robert Mills, former Senior Minister of First Baptist Church, preaches in worship at First Church on September 14th.

• On October 14th, First Church celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Main Sanctuary with a service on exactly the same date and time of the dedication of the cornerstone in 1908. This service features similar elements of the 1908 service, including scripture reading, prayer, and music provided by a quartet. In addition, the service includes the unveiling of the Main Sanctuary's 1908 cornerstone time capsule and the placing of a new time capsule to be opened on this date in 2108. First Church also officially dedicates the Perry Home/Wesley Abbey project.

• The baby grand piano in Wesley Abbey is donated in honor of Simon and Marcus Vlahovic by Jena Melancon.

• On December 24th, First Church has five Christmas Eve services at 12 Noon, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, and 11:00pm.

## 2009

• On January 11th, First Church launches its fourth Sunday morning service called ICON. This service incorporates a convergence of contemporary and traditional worship elements. The idea for this service comes from Associate Pastor Rev. Lentz, who preaches at the opening service. Over 450

people attend the first service of ICON.

• The organ in Wesley Abbey is gifted in loving memory of Lisa Wallace Geise by her family.

• On August 23rd, First Church holds the first U2charist in Pensacola. This worship service features the music of the band U2, performed by the ICON worship band.

• In the fall of 2009 an entry foyer is constructed on the north side of Wesley Abbey. A covered walkway is also added to connect Wesley Abbey to the Children's Education Building. The north lobby is named the Aldridge Entrance in honor of Watson Aldridge, who oversaw the renovation of the Perry Home and Wesley Abbey.

• On October 10th, First Church hosts the United Methodist Global Board of Missions Africa Conference. The conference connects 600 United Methodists through Skype, Facebook, and Twitter to celebrate the growing church in Cameroon.

• On Sunday, November 15th, all four regular Sunday morning services join together for one combined consecration Sunday service at the Saenger Theater on Palafox Street.

• The 11:00am Main Sanctuary service on Sunday, November 29th, includes a blessing of the prayer shawls. These shawls are knitted by members of First Church for those who are experiencing difficult times.

• On December 24th, First Church holds six Christmas Eve services with times at 12 Noon, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm (ICON), 8:00pm, and 11:00pm.

## 2010

• On Sunday, February 7th, First Church celebrates Scout Sunday and the 100th anniversary of scouting in America.

• H1N1 becomes a serious health concern in 2009 and 2010. The seriousness of H1N1 is felt personally when church member Hank Holt dies as a result of the virus. Various precautionary procedures are added, such as using antibacterial gel before communion.

• On June 27th, First Church hosts a service of healing as a response to the BP oil spill which impacted Pensacola and the Gulf Coast.

• First Church adjusts the Sunday morning worship service times to allow more time between services. The Early Service at 8:30am is changed to 8:00am. The Communion Service at 9:45am is changed to 9:30am. The

time of the 11:00am Main Sanctuary service and ICON remain the same.

## 2011

• New communion chalices are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of Pamela H. Dannelly by her husband and family. Pam was a lifelong member of First Church and long time communion steward and coordinator who died on July 24, 2015, after a battle with cancer.

• Prayer request forms are added to the pews in the Main Sanctuary and Wesley Abbey.

• The youth lead the ICON service on May 8th. This continues as an annual tradition.

• For six weeks First Church studies the Psalms together with a special sermon series titled "Summer in the Psalms." This series includes 12 sermons from the clergy of First Church including Dr. Wachob, Rev. Lentz, Rev. Mary Ann Gantt (2011 - 2015), and Rev. Scott Grantland (2011 - 2016). The sermon series begins with Rev. Lentz preaching "Hallelujah: The Soundtrack of Life," a sermon which incorporates the music of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." This sermon is widely considered to be one of Rev. Lentz's most memorable sermons during his tenure at First Church. It is also the most viewed podcast of First Church to date.

• As part of the "Summer in the Psalms" Sermon Series, First Church releases a book titled "A Living Psalter," as an attempt to appropriate the ancient hymns of Israel in a postmodern context. The book is filled with poetry, art, and short stories that provide creative reflections by members on the Book of Psalms.

• On November 13th, the life of Janet L. Knowles is remembered with the dedication of a new Palafox Street sign.

• On December 4th, First Church celebrates its 190th Anniversary in worship.

## 2012

• The Easter sunrise service returns to the lawn of First Church at 6:30am.

• On May 12th, Rev. Lentz and Rev. Gantt are awarded doctorates.

• Dr. Lentz coordinates the opening worship service of Annual Conference which takes place at Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Music for the service is led by Jeb Hunt, ICON worship leader. Rev. Rick Branch and the Senior High Boys Ensemble provide music for the closing worship service on June 6th.

- On August 19th, First Church holds the first annual Blessing of the Backpacks for students, teachers, and school administrators.

- In September, First Church begins serving Holy Communion weekly at all four Sunday morning services.

### 2013

- District Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Pridgeon fills in from January through mid-March while Dr. Wachob recovers from back surgery.

- On Easter Sunday, Bishop William H. Willimon preaches at the 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am Main Sanctuary services. Bishop Willimon's sermon is also video streamed into Wesley Abbey for the ICON service, the first time this technology is used in worship.

- On April 7th First Church begins live streaming the ICON service weekly at [FUMCPensacola.com](http://FUMCPensacola.com).

- First Church embarks on the "Embracing the Future" Capital Campaign to renovate The Wright Place, Henry Roberts Activities Center, and Kitchen.

### 2014

- In appreciation of 20 years of music ministry, the church celebrates Rick and Heidi Branch on February 16th.

- First Church experiences flooding on May 1st. Due to the damage caused by the flood, the planned renovations to The Wright Place, Kitchen, and Henry Roberts Activities Center begin early.

- On September 14th renovations and repairs to the church office are completed and a dedication ceremony is held. This space is dedicated in honor of long-time church office volunteer Betty Olliff.

- On Sunday, December 28th, Senior Pastor Dr. Wesley H. Wachob marries Drexel Gilbert. The entire congregation is invited to this joyous service in the Main Sanctuary.

### 2015

- Starting Easter Sunday, three Sunday morning services begin streaming weekly at [FUMCPensacola.com](http://FUMCPensacola.com).

- First Church begins "The Growing Season," a discipleship program which focuses on the five core visions of the church: Worship, Christian Education, Missions and Outreach, Evangelism, and Stewardship.

- On December 24th, First Church holds seven Christmas Eve services with times at 12 Noon, 3:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 6:00pm (ICON), 8:00pm, and 11:00pm.

### 2016

- First Church observes Epiphany with a special Wednesday night dinner "Epiphany Feast" and an evening Epiphany Service.

- Temple Beth El worships in Wesley Abbey while their building is renovated. In appreciation, Temple Beth El invites First Church to attend a Shabbat service.

- On November 22nd First Church hosts the Community Thanksgiving Service.

### 2017

- As part of a 5-year focus on the core visions, First Church observes a "Year of Worship" designed to teach the congregation more about how and why we worship. Throughout the year a variety of special services, events, and activities are offered.

- Daily lections are added to the worship bulletin. The daily readings expand the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion by providing daily citations for the full three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary.

- On January 8th, the first teaching bulletin, with expanded information on each aspect of the service, is used.

- New hymnals are placed in the Main Sanctuary.

- On April 9th, a community Palm Sunday parade is held. Participants parade through the neighborhoods around the church, waving palm branches, remembering Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

- An Easter Vigil service is added on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Contrasting the darkness of the crucifixion, the Easter Vigil Service is a service of light marking the beginning of Easter. Rev. Ken Autrey (2007 - present) leads this service.

- Due to the threat and impact of Hurricane Irma on Florida on Sunday, September 10th, the annual Consecration Sunday is postponed and the focus is changed to pray for those impacted by natural disasters.

- First Church welcomes guest composer and musician Mark Miller. During his visit, Miller leads concerts featuring the sanctuary choir, youth choir, and organ. These concerts include two new original compositions.

Miller also leads music for the Blue Lake Fall Retreat and during services on October 15th.

- On October 29th, First Church observes the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The services begin with "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", one of the best known hymns of Martin Luther. A special screening of the documentary "Luther and the Reformation" is shown that evening.

- In addition to our Senior Pastors, many Associate Pastors and other staff persons have played an influential role in forming how we worship at First Church. Often serving as liturgists in worship and preaching when needed, some of the Associate Pastors during the past 25 years include: Rev. Larry Moseley (1992 - 2001), Rev. Fred Zobel (2000 - 2005), Rev. Alan Gantzhorn (2002 - 2005), Dr. Geoffrey Lentz (2005 - 2012), Rev. Connie Farnell (2005 - 2006), Rev. Ken Autrey (2007 - present), Rev. Carl Dickerson (2007 - 2008), Rev. Scott Grantland (2011 - 2016), Dr. Mary Ann Gantt (2011 - 2015), Rev. Bob Sweet (2013 - 2015), Rev. Clay Farrington (2013 - 2015), and Rev. Brandon Bures (2016 - present). A complete list of Senior Pastors and Associate Pastors at First Church is available online at <http://200.fumcpensacola.com>.

- First Church would not exist if it weren't for the many individuals, both past and present, who make up the congregation and share in the weekly worship of God. During the past 200 years, in addition to Sunday worship, the countless weddings, baptisms, confirmations, and funerals have helped shape who we are as a people as we give thanks to God and incorporate service to God into the milestones of our lives.



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

Six East Wright Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501  
850.432.1434 (office) 850.432.5749 (fax)  
FUMC@PensacolaFirstChurch.com

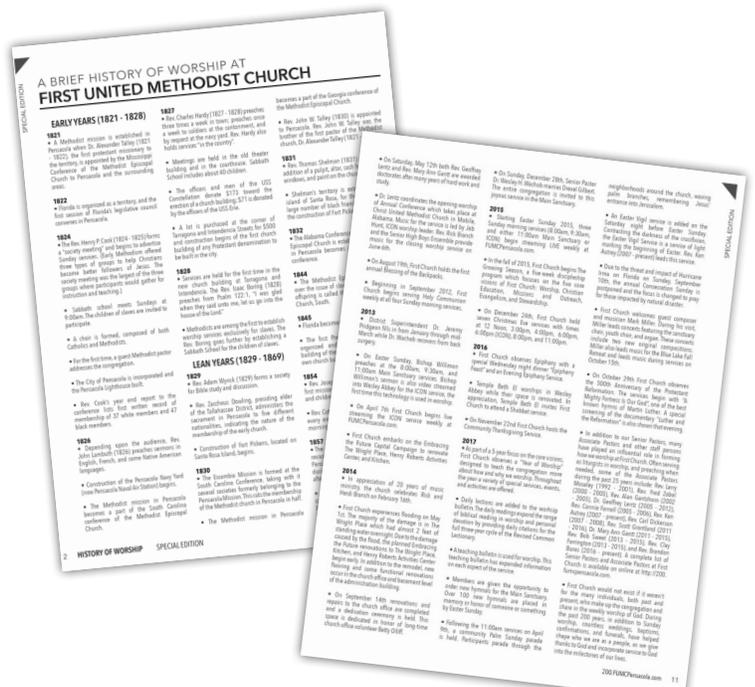
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# THE METHODIST WITNESS

## INSIDE THIS SPECIAL EDITION

Inside this Special Edition of The Methodist Witness you will find a timeline of First United Methodist Church of Pensacola from 1821 through the present, including worship related points and other contextual dates. This information was compiled as part of our focus on worship in 2017 by the Bicentennial Planning Committee.

Each December, over the next four years, timelines will also be released summarizing the history of Missions and Outreach (2018), Christian Education (2019), Evangelism (2020), with a compiled timeline of all areas released during the bicentennial year in 2021. The task of summarizing the entirety of almost 200 years of worship at First Church is an impossible feat. However, the Bicentennial Planning Committee has been careful to produce the most accurate document possible, using a variety of sources and referring to original documents when available. Any mistakes or omissions are not intentional.



The Bicentennial planning committee is co-chaired by Jeb Hunt (Creative Director) and Jeanne Tew (Church Historian). Members of the committee include Colleen Ball, Dr. Rick Branch, Greg Brock, Julia Crow, G. Todd Cunningham, Jennifer Fleming, Jerry Maygarden, Betty Olliff, Floyd Replogle, Dr. Henry Roberts, and Susan Schmidt.