

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

THE *Advent Edition*  
METHODIST  
WITNESS



This special edition of The Methodist Witness includes a variety of church events happening during the joyous season of Advent and Christmas at First United Methodist Church. From entertaining and inspirational concerts to spirited giving opportunities, there is some way for you and your family to get involved this holiday season.

*Advent Services* —————

**December 2nd** - 1st Sunday of Advent, Hope  
**December 9th** - 2nd Sunday of Advent, Love

**December 16th** - 3rd Sunday of Advent, Joy  
**December 23rd** - 4th Sunday of Advent, Peace

## *6 Christmas Eve Services*

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### **Midday Christmas Eve Service, 12:00 Noon, Main Sanctuary**

A contemplative service with communion designed for those who need an earlier service.

### **Service for Families with Young Children, 4:00pm, Wesley Abbey**

A 45-minute, high energy service designed for families with preschool children. All ages welcome.

### **Candlelight and Communion Service with Children's Sermon, 6:00pm, Main Sanctuary**

A service of candlelight, Christmas carols, children's sermon and communion. Nursery provided.

### **An ICON Christmas, 6:00pm, Wesley Abbey**

A multi-sensory, cutting edge, tradition rich, art embracing and Christ centered candlelight Christmas Eve service designed for the entire family. Nursery provided.

### **Candlelight and Communion Service, 8:00pm, Main Sanctuary**

A traditional service of candlelight, Christmas carols and communion. Nursery provided.

### **Candlelight and Communion Service, 11:00pm, Main Sanctuary**

A traditional service of candlelight, Christmas carols and communion.

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## *Advent Wednesday Events*

### **Preparing the Way - An Introduction to Advent Service**

Wednesday, November 28th, 6:00pm, Wesley Abbey

Join us for this family-friendly service featuring an introduction to Advent drama. Nursery provided.

### **Charge Conference (and age level programming)**

Wednesday, December 5th, 6:00pm, Wesley Abbey

The District Superintendent, Dr. Pridgeon, will preside and deliver the sermon at this service celebrating all that God has accomplished in our midst this year. Additional Advent programming for children, tween and youth will be available during Charge Conference. Nursery provided.

### **Service of Lessons and Carols**

Wednesday, December 12th, 6:00pm, Wesley Abbey

Originating in 1880, this special service includes Scripture readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels interspersed with the singing of Christmas hymns. Nursery provided.

### **Congregational Christmas Caroling**

Wednesday, December 19th, 6:00pm, (Meet in The Wright Place)

All ages, preschool through adults, are invited to join us for a church-wide night of caroling. We will gather in The Wright Place, then break into groups and visit many of our parishioners who are home bound or in long-term care.

## Family Events

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### **Great Day of Giving**

Sunday, December 2nd, 9:00am - 10:30am, Henry Roberts Activity Center

The Great Day of Giving is a church wide opportunity for you to explore and share in the true meaning of Christmas. From 9:00am - 10:30am, you will have an opportunity to support church sponsored service programs using alternative giving and by participating in hands-on activities.

Alternative Giving is an opportunity to help others in need and complete your Christmas shopping at the same time. You can purchase giving cards to benefit various ministries as gifts for your family and friends. Also, our SERRV Mission Market will have handmade items for purchase that benefit artisans in developing countries. A number of hands-on activities will also include: preparing food boxes, making cards for shut-ins, writing letters to our military overseas, and purchasing gifts for children on the Angel and Star Trees. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas!

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## *Music and Arts*

### **White Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 2nd, 5:00pm, Main Sanctuary

The White Christmas program is an evening of festive Christmas music presented by the children, tween and youth choirs of First Church. An offering will be collected to benefit the United Methodist Children's Home. Nursery provided. Dinner following.

### **An Electric Christmas! - Electronic Music Concert**

Sunday, December 9th, 7:30pm, Main Sanctuary

Rick and Heidi Branch, along with some of their talented friends from First Church, will be performing music from the popular Mannheim Steamroller Christmas albums in the sanctuary using piano, flute, electric keyboards, synthesizers, drums, timpani, and other percussion. Come and enjoy the unique sounds of Christmas. Nursery provided.

### **Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert with Orchestra**

Sunday, December 16th, 7:30pm, Main Sanctuary

A traditional evening of classical Christmas favorites presented by the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Rick and Heidi Branch. A full professional orchestra will accompany the choir. Nursery provided. Reception following.

### **Behold the Lamb of God**

Friday, December 21st, 7:00pm, Myrtle Grove UMC

ICON, Myrtle Grove and Pine Forest UMC are joining together to present Andrew Peterson's *Behold the Lamb of God*, a modern musical presentation of the traditional nativity story. Come and experience the melodious sounds of this unique TRUE tall tale of the coming of Christ. Nursery provided.

### **Advent Wednesday Events "AWE"**

November 28th, December 5th, 12th and 19th, 6:00pm

Children and Tweens are invited to join us each Wednesday of Advent as we participate in different Wednesday Night services.

## *Youth*

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### **Retro Mid-High Christmas Lock-In**

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend our 9th Annual Mid High Lock-In on Friday, December 14th until Saturday, December 15th at 8:00am in the Youth Ministries Center. Activities include games, lessons, Christmas carols and more! Don't forget to bring a sleeping bag, toothbrush and a friend! Please RSVP to Emily Capes at [ECapes@PensacolaFirstChurch.com](mailto:ECapes@PensacolaFirstChurch.com). **Cost: \$20**

### **Senior High Progressive Dinner**

All senior high youth are invited to participate in our annual Senior High Progressive Dinner on December 15th from 6:00pm - 10:00pm. We will meet at the Youth Ministries Center and travel to three different homes as we enjoy food and fellowship together. Don't forget to bring a gift for the white elephant gift exchange and dress up like your favorite Christmas movie character! The dinner is hosted by the Wimberly's (appetizers), Lipham's (main course), and Bauder's (dessert). **Cost: \$6**

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## *50 Forward*

### **A Silver and Gold Christmas**

Thursday, December 6th, 10:30am, The Wright Place

All senior adults are invited to our annual Christmas fellowship luncheon. Come at 10:30am for punch and goodies. The program will begin at 11:00am. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 850-432-1434. **Cost: \$5**

### **Friday Nite Wright - Christmas Edition**

Friday, December 7th, 6:00pm, The Wright Place

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and dessert as Ms. Emily Capes delights us with her musical talents during this festive Christmas event. Invite a friend and make plans to attend this great event. **Cost: \$5**

### **Alabama Shakespeare Festival Day Trip to Montgomery**

Saturday, December 8th, 8:30am

Travel with us to the Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery to see a performance of "A Christmas Story" by Charles Dickens. We will depart Saturday morning at 8:30am by motorcoach and enjoy lunch before the matinee at 2pm. We will return home by 8:00pm. Cost includes performance, travel, and one meal. Reservations required. **Cost: \$75**