



BACK TO SCHOOL
BACK TO CHURCH

BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO LIFE: THE HOLY TASK OF LIFELONG LEARNING



It's August again—the familiar rituals return: sharpened pencils, fresh notebooks, nervous excitement, new backpacks, and perhaps new schools. As summer fades, our thoughts turn naturally to going back to school. But school isn't just for students. As Christians, we are lifelong learners, always called deeper into the mysteries of God.

In Romans 12:2, Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." The Christian life is a continual education in Christlikeness. The Greek word Paul uses for "transformed" is *metamorphoō*, from which we derive "metamorphosis." It's the process of becoming more than we currently are, not through human strength alone, but through openness to God's ongoing teaching and renewal.

Early Methodists took seriously John Wesley's belief that Christian formation requires lifelong learning. Wesley himself was a voracious reader, constantly urging Methodists toward spiritual growth through disciplined study and engagement with Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. But lifelong learning isn't merely an individual pursuit; it's

communal. We grow best in dialogue with one another, as we learn from each other's insights, wisdom, and experiences. Proverbs 27:17 famously reminds us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." In our church community, each of us is both teacher and student. Our journey of learning in Christ is enriched by the diverse gifts, backgrounds, and questions we bring to our shared life.

This August, let's renew our commitment not just to sending our children back to school, but to embracing our own schooling in discipleship. Read a book that challenges you. Join a Bible study, Sunday School class, or small group. Seek conversation with someone whose perspective is different from your own. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew your mind and enlarge your heart.

In God's school, graduation is never the goal—transformation is. May we always remain eager, curious, and humble learners, open to the lifelong curriculum of grace.

Practice Resurrection,

Geoffrey Lentz
Senior Pastor

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BOLD to SAY

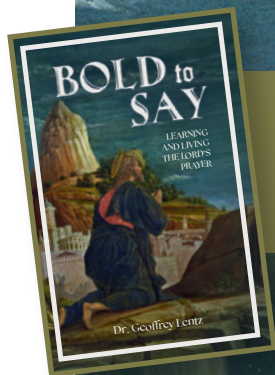
LEARNING & LIVING THE LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

August 20 - October 1 | 6:00pm
The Wright Place, Great Hall

SUNDAY MORNING SERIES

August 24 - October 5
8:30, 11:00am Main Sanctuary
& 11:00am ICON



Will be available for
purchase on Sundays &
Wednesdays for \$14.99.

As the new school year begins, First Church is diving deeply into the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Geoffrey has authored an inspiring new book titled *Bold to Say: Learning & Living the Lord's Prayer*. On Wednesday nights during Pastor's Bible Study, we will explore this powerful book together, while each Sunday morning we will focus on a different petition of the prayer during our Main Sanctuary and ICON services. The Bold to Say series is both a thorough exploration and practical guide to the most cherished prayer in Christian tradition. Far from being a mere ritual, the Lord's Prayer serves as a revolutionary call—urging us to abandon complacency, embrace radical discipleship, and actively participate in God's unfolding kingdom. With clarity, courage, and conviction, this study invites us to reclaim the profound meaning behind these familiar words and empowers us to live them boldly.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1 – August 20 & 24: *Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

Week 2 – August 27 & 31: *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Week 3 – September 3 & 7: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Week 4 – September 10 & 14: *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

Week 5 – September 17 & 21: *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Week 6 – September 24 & 28: *Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.*

Week 7 – October 1 & 5: *Amen.*

Join us as we journey together into the transformative power of the Lord's Prayer!



With our young people going back to school and re-entering the rhythm of the school year, we want to invite you to make church a part of your weekly routine. Join us on Sunday for services. Join us on Wednesday for mid-week dinner and programming. Make church part of the rhythm of your life. You'll be glad you did.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 10 | 8:30, 11:00am, and ICON

All children & students are invited to attend Blessing of the Backpacks during all services (8:30 & 11:00am Main Sanctuary Services and ICON at 11:00am). At the beginning of the service, you will be invited to come down to receive a blessing over the school year. Make sure to bring your child's backpack, school bag, or their lunch box to be blessed.

PROMOTION SUNDAY/SUNDAE SUNDAY

Sunday, August 17 | 9:45 - 10:45am

To mark the beginning of the new school year and to celebrate the kick-off of a new semester of children, youth, and adult programming in the church, we will have a special Sunday with delicious treats and a focus on education. During the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45am), adults are invited to gather in the Great Hall for an ice cream sundae bar and coffee. There will also be information about all our Sunday School and Mid-Week education opportunities for those interested in being a part of a small group or class. Our Kids and Students will enjoy a sundae treat in their own program areas (the Education Building and the Youth Building). And they will be promoted to their new Sunday School class.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Lord,
Open my **EYES** to see new friends
Open my **EARS** to listen
Open my **MIND** to learn new things
Open my **HANDS** to help others
Open my **HEART** to love like you

Philippians 4:13- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

MIDWEEK at First Church

starting August 20

During the Spring & Fall we have a Fellowship Dinner from 5:00 to 6:00pm in The Wright Place as well as seasonal studies and programming for all ages from 6:00 to 7:00pm.

FREE DINNER FOR MIDWEEK KICK-OFF

Wednesday, August 20 | 5:00 – 6:00pm | The Wright Place

On Wednesday, August 20th, we are kicking off our regular Midweek activities with a FREE dinner in The Wright Place! Join us for a time of fellowship and delicious food, reconnect with old friends, and meet some new ones. This is also a great opportunity for evangelism so invite your friends and family! *Menu: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Green Salad, and Dessert.*

MIDWEEK STUDIES AND AGE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

6:00 – 7:00pm

After dinner, we will kick-off our new Midweek studies and activities! There is something for every age. In The Wright Place, hang around after dinner for the Pastor's Bible Study with Dr. Lentz. Kids and Students will have programming in their own areas and in the gym. Nursery will be available for those attending Bible study.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

BOLD TO SAY

LEARNING & LIVING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Wednesdays | 6:00 – 7:00pm | The Great Hall

Everyone is welcome to gather in the Great Hall after dinner for the Pastor's Bible Study. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz will be leading us in a study called "Bold to Say: Learning & Living the Lord's Prayer". See page 3 for more info.

NURSERY

5:30 – 7:00pm | Education Building

Nursery is available for infants up to 2 years old for parents attending class and choir practice. No registration required.



FIRST KIDS PROGRAMING

Our Wednesday programming for Kindergarten–5th Grade starts at 3:00pm with a time for great extracurricular classes, developing relationships in small group settings, and having fun singing and playing together. This program lasts until dinner. After dinner, parents can attend classes while kids continue their fun with our Midweek program starting in the gym. *More details can be found in the First Kids section on page 8.*

KidConnect (for K–5th Grade)

Wednesdays | 3:00 – 5:15pm | Starts in Wesley Abbey
[Register Online starting August 6](#)

First Kids: Midweek (for Preschool–5th Grade)

Wednesdays | 5:50 – 7:00pm | Gym, Ed. Building



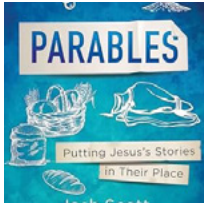
FIRST STUDENTS PROGRAMING

6:00 – 7:00pm | Youth Building

Students, 6th to 12th Grade, are invited to the Youth Building for fellowship, games, learning, and worship on Wednesday evenings.

BACK TO CHURCH: ADULT STUDIES

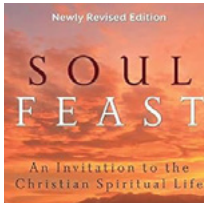
August is a great time to join a Sunday School Class! All classes meet from **9:45 - 10:45am on Sunday mornings**. See below for locations and more information on what each class is studying in the coming weeks. You can visit any class or contact class leaders or Pastor Emily, EKincaid@fumcpensacola.com for more information on what class is right for you.



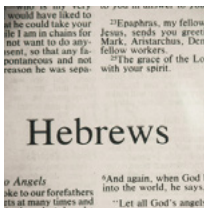
PARABLES | by Josh Scott
with Intergen Class | Led by Alex and Pamela Brown
Starting August 10 | Consulate, Room 209
Order book [HERE](#)



CONTEXT | by Josh Scott
with Duell-Lipscomb Class | Led by Elaine Norman
Starting August 10 | The Wright Place, Room 204
Order book [HERE](#)



SOUL FEAST | by Marjorie Thompson
with Soul Feast Class | Led by Linda Shearlock,
Starting August 10 | The Wright Place, Room 203
Order book [HERE](#)



BOOK OF HEBREWS
with Bonding with the Bible Class | Led by Bill Bond
The Wright Place Room 206



LECTIONARY
with You Are Invited Class | Led by Patrick Houghton
Consulate, 2nd Floor, Rm 205
Find resources [HERE](#)



PARENTING TOGETHER
with Parent Trap class | Led by Lea Farrington
Starting August 20 | The Wright Place, Room 233

MENTAL HEALTH EVENT



FINDING LIGHT *in The darkness*

Caring for Self & Others

Sunday, August 24 | Noon - 5:00pm
at First United Methodist Church of Pensacola

First United Methodist Church of Pensacola & Center for Sacred Space are hosting the 4th Annual mental health symposium "Finding Light in the Darkness: Caring for Self and Others" on Sunday, August 24. The event is open to all people. We'll be discussing the issues of anxiety, depression, chronic illness, divorce, grief & loneliness, substance misuse, and trauma. Participants will hear from licensed clinical therapists, spend time in peer support guided by a clinician and spiritual director, and have a time of silent reflection.

No one should suffer with mental health diseases alone. Through this event we are trying to build a community that can become a place of hospitality and welcome to those dealing with mental health issues, where there is no judgment or stigma, and by which all people can find support as we walk alongside each other while we deal with mental health issues.

We will also provide childcare for those attending (limited availability for infant - 5th Grade) for a \$5 registration fee. This fee will cover lunch.

Registration is required. Visit [FUMCPensacola.com/Mental Health](https://FUMCPensacola.com/MentalHealth) or scan the QR code.

hosted by

CENTER FOR
SACRED SPACE


FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

register here

\$11 lunch
included



6 East Wright Street | Pensacola, Florida 32501 | 850.432.1434 | FUMCPensacola.com



BLUE LAKE RETREAT

REFRESH • RECALIBRATE • REUNITE



Dr. Jason Borders

CHURCH-WIDE BLUE LAKE RETREAT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

October 17 - 19 | (Friday Night - Sunday Morning)
Blue Lake, Andalusia, AL

The weekend will include break out sessions, pumpkin carving, canoeing, roasting marshmallows, playing games, and fellowshiping! Dr. Jason Borders, Huntingdon College Professor of Religion, will be our retreat speaker. To find out more about our speaker, visit FUMCPensacola.com/Retreat. We hope you will join us for a great weekend with your First Church family!

Visit FUMCPensacola.com/Retreat or scan the QR code to register!



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 offer our christian love and sympathy to:

Janice Park on the death of her son, **Jay Constant**, on June 21, 2025.

Members who have died:

We offer our christian love and sympathy to:

The family of **Mary Nell Cowart**. Mary Nell died on July 9, 2025.

The family of **Kay Margedant**. Kay died on July 11, 2025.

BAPTISMS

Addison Jayne Beffa daughter of Tyler & Jamie Beffa was baptized on Sunday, July 20, 2025.

CELEBRATIONS:

Anderson Luke Seager, was born July 2, 2025. Anderson is the son of Luke and Savannah Seager. Proud grandparents are Donell and Paul Seager.

Karling Lorraine Thompson, was born July 7, 2025. Karling is the daughter of Chip and Joanne Thompson. Proud grandparents are Hank and Karen Thompson.

Lucille Maron Hawks, was born July 25, 2025. Lucy is the daughter of Josh and Kate Hawks. Proud grandmother is Malinda Hawks and proud great-grandmother is Marion Hawks.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

July 6: Given in celebration of **Cindy and Steve Brown's 50th wedding anniversary** on July 19.

July 13: Given in loving memory of **Antoinette "Toni" Hudson, Del and Karon Blevins heavenly birthdays**. The father and mothers of Shelly Blevins and Lorraine Hudson.

July 20: Given in loving memory of **Teressa Bradley** by Wayne, Tricia, Ryan and the boys.

July 27: Given in loving memory of **Matt Bryant on his 36th birthday** on July 13th by Jeff, Terrill, Chris, and Katie Bryant.

WHAT'S HAPPENING at FIRST CHURCH for

BACK TO SCHOOL BACK TO CHURCH



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

END OF SUMMER BASH

Wednesday, August 6 | 5:00pm | Lawn

All are invited to join us for a special end-of-summer celebration with a hot dog bar, Sweet Love Ice Cream Bus, Water Slide, Yard Games, & Music. FREE! No registration is required.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**Sunday, August 10 | 8:30,
11:00am, and ICON**

All children & students are invited to attend Blessing of the Backpacks during all services (8:30 & 11:00am Main Sanctuary Services and ICON at 11:00am). At the beginning of the service, you will be invited to come down to receive a blessing over the school year. Make sure to bring your child's backpack, school bag, or their lunch box to be blessed.

PROMOTION SUNDAY & SUNDAY SUNDAY

Sunday, August 17 | 9:45 - 10:45am

Children that attend Sunday School on August 17 will be "graduating" to their next class! Please bring your child (K-5th Graders) to the Big Room on the 2nd Floor of the Education Building at 9:45am. We will have a special ice cream sundae treat and fellowship time, then the children will get to meet their new teachers!

KINDERGARTEN BIBLE SUNDAY

**Sunday, August 24 | 11:00am
Wesley Abbey (ICON Service)
(Meet at 9:30am in Chapel)**

Kindergarten Bible Sunday marks the beginning of our Kindergartener's "official" journey in worship at our church. Parents and kindergartners are invited to come to the Chapel at 9:30am to hear about the "K" year and learn about ways to encourage their child's faith journey. Children will be released to go to their Sunday Class during our gathering while parents stay behind to hear about the K year and how to worship with your children. Then, families will attend the ICON worship service at 11:00am in Wesley Abbey where the "K"s will be presented with their Kindergarten Bibles. Parents, please text Lisa Bond at 850-549-8967 and indicate what name you would like announced (ie Lisa Renee Bond or Lisa Bond).

KIDCONNECT (for K-5TH GRADE)

**Wednesdays, Starting August 20
3:00 - 5:15pm | Starts in Wesley Hall**
[Register HERE](#) starting August 6.

All children, Kindergarten to 5th Grade, are invited to join us for KidConnect our midweek connection time including worship, classes, and choir! Kids will have the opportunity to choose from an array of classes upon registration (starting August 6). Each week, from 3:00 - 4:25pm, kids will meet for worship, enjoy classes, and connect with friends. Afterwards, from 4:30 to 5:15pm, they can join our Elementary Choir/Music program. Parents can drop off in the Wesley Hall and pick up at 5:15pm in the Activities Center. Families are then invited to Family dinner from 5:15 to 6:00pm. Then from 6-7pm, parents can attend classes while kids continue their fun starting in the gym. (See First Kids:Midweek)

FIRST KIDS: MIDWEEK

(for PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE)

**Wednesdays, Starting August 20
5:50 - 7:00pm | Gym & Ed. Building**

After dinner, this Wednesday evening program is a great time of fellowship and faith building for Preschoolers and Elementary kids. Each age group will have a devotion/story and play time while parents enjoy a class and fellowship with others. Drop-off and pick-up is in the gym.

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 mid-high and senior-high activities.

Rev. Heather Nysewander

Director of Student Ministries
HNysewander@fumcpensacola.com

END OF SUMMER BASH

Wednesday, August 6 | 5:00pm | Lawn

All are invited to join us for a special end-of-summer celebration with a hot dog bar, Sweet Love Ice Cream Bus, Water Slide, Yard Games, & Music. FREE! No registration is required.

SWEAT WEEK

August 7 - August 9

[Click HERE to Sign Up](#)

We will be taking three days to work alongside local missions in our community! Though there is no fee this year, we need to know numbers to communicate with those we will be volunteering with so that they can have projects in mind for us to take on. Thursday and Friday we will be volunteering from 8:30am to 1:00pm. On Saturday, we will be volunteering from 7:00am to 10:00am. Following our Saturday volunteer time, we will be having a beach day until 3:00pm.

Continued on next Page...

FIRST STUDENTS CONT.

SWEAT WEEK CONT.

Family is more than welcome to join us at the beach. Students will need to bring money for lunches all three days as well as money for breakfast on Saturday and a water bottle. They should also wear clothes they don't mind getting sweaty and potentially dusty or dirty in and comfortable, closed toed shoes for Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, students should bring all they will need for the beach (towel, suit, sunscreen, chair, etc...). For any questions, reach out to Rev. Heather Nysewander at hnysewan-der@fumcpensacola.com.

END OF SUMMER BASH

Wednesday, August 6 | 5:00pm | Lawn

All are invited to join us for a special end-of-summer celebration with a hot dog bar, Sweet Love Ice Cream Bus, Water Slide, Yard Games, & Music. FREE! No registration is required.

RIISING 6TH GRADE PARENT MEETING

Sunday, August 10 | 12:25pm - 1:15pm | Youth Building

All parents of rising 6th graders are welcome to attend a meeting (your student can join us as well) to learn about our youth ministries programs and to ask any and all questions that come up regarding your 6th grader joining the youth group.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 11 | 8:30, 11:00am, and ICON

All children & students are invited to attend Blessing of the Backpacks during all services (8:30 & 11:00am Main Sanctuary Services and ICON at 11:00am). At the beginning of the service, you will be invited to come down to receive a blessing over the school year. Make sure to bring your child's backpack, school bag, or their lunch box to be blessed.

FIRST STUDENTS PARENT MEETING

Sunday, August 17 | 4:15pm - 5:15pm | Youth Building

Before we kick off the fall semester with Eggstraganza, parents of our youth are

invited to an informational meeting. Included in this meeting will be medical release forms, a moment to check our rosters to make sure our information is accurate, and a discussion of upcoming events this year. There will also be opportunity for you as parents to learn how you can get plugged in and help our students grow in their faith development.

SUNDAE SUNDAY & EGGSTRAVAGANZA (Sunday evening Kick-Off)

August 17 | 9:45 - 10:45am and 5:30 - 7:00pm

Join us for Sunday school where we will be enjoying ice cream sundaes! In the evening to kick off the start of the school year with our new 6th Grade friends as well as our school year scheduling, we will be celebrating with EGGS, as we have been traditionally celebrating for 20+ years! This will be an evening to not wear clothes you want to keep clean.

BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN

Senior High

Monday, August 18 | 7:30am
Whataburger on N. 9th Ave.

Mid-High

Thursday, August 21 | 7:00am
Whataburger on Gregory St.

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 - CALVERT'S IN THE HEIGHTS

[Click HERE to Register](#) by Aug 12

Thursday, August 14 | 11:30am

Join us for our monthly lunch outing with friends. We will be gathering in a private room at Calvert's in the Heights. This is a one-of-a-kind English-themed restaurant serving Pensacola with their

own versions of English cuisine and tasty American bar foods which includes a stunning view over Escambia Bay.

FRIDAY NIGHT @ THE WRIGHT

[Click HERE to Register](#) by Aug 17

Friday, August 22 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

(Doors Open at 5:30pm)

The Wright Place | \$15

Join us for a fun-filled evening of fellowship, music and a delicious meal! We are excited to welcome The Dudads, a band made up of our very own First Church family. They are bringing us an uplifting, toe-tapping evening filled with a blend of blues, rock and country music. Don't miss this evening of great fellowship, tunes and a Southern BBQ dinner provided by Ruth's Kitchen.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, September 7 | 9:30 - 10:45am

The Wright Place, Great Hall

We invite all grandparents to a special Grandparents Day Brunch, hosted by the kids and students of First Church! Come celebrate with us, whether your grandchildren are present or not, for food, fellowship, and activities. Parents, please note that this celebration is for grandparents and grandchildren only. Parents, we ask that you take this time to attend a Sunday class and allow the kids to honor all grandparents.

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30am | Library

We have a small, friendly group meeting weekly for coffee and fellowship. 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.

QIGONG/TAI CHI WITH JEAN PARKER

Wednesdays & Fridays | \$5 per class |

9:45 - 10:45am | Franklin Building

QIGONG, the "meditative martial art", has its roots in Chinese Medicine, and is a close cousin to the better-known tai chi. The slow, graceful motions are simple and repetitive, making the practice of qigong accessible to just about anyone.

Continued on next page...

FIFTY FORWARD CONT.

QIGONG/TAI CHI CONTINUED

Some benefits include: increased energy, better balance, improved muscle strength, reduced joint pain, lowered inflammation, decreased stress, anxiety and depression, improved overall well-being and more. Join us and bring a friend! Dress comfortably. You can sit for class, or hold on to the back of a chair. Even lie down. For more information contact Jean (jeanp347@gmail.com).

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, overcome obstacles, and find encouragement. This is a ministry provided by the Legacy Coalition. Register at legacycoalition.com/grand-monday-nights.

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). 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

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS (K - 5TH)

**Wednesdays, beginning August 20
4:30 - 5:15pm**

All children (even if not in the Kid-Connect program) are invited to join Mr. Rick and Mrs. Heidi for Children's Choir. We will have fun learning musical concepts and learn some songs to sing for Choir Dedication and the White Christmas Program. If they are part of the KidConnect program, they will be brought to the Music Suite. Otherwise, please bring them to the

Music Suite at 4:30pm. All children will be picked up in the Henry Roberts Activity Center (gym) at 5:15pm.

YOUTH CHOIR KICK-OFF

**Sunday, August 17, 4:30 - 5:20pm
(just before the Eggstravaganza)**

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome. There will be fresh, hot cookies!

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsal Schedule:

Wednesday, August 6 | 6:30-7:30pm

(note the time change so you can enjoy the End of Summer Bash before the rehearsal)

Wednesday, August 13: no rehearsal

Wednesday, August 20: and following weeks: rehearsals from 6:00 -7:30pm

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS RETREAT!

**Friday and Saturday
September 5 & 6 | Times TBA**

This is the first introduction to the music selected for our December 14 concert with orchestra. All interested persons are invited to join us, even if you aren't a member of the Sanctuary Choir.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Mondays | 4:15 - 5:15pm

Music Department, 3rd Floor

We have a couple of positions available in the Handbell Choir. If you can count to 4 and know the difference between your right and left hands, you just might be the person we're looking for! Contact Rick (rbranch@fumcpensacola.com) for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER KITCHEN HELP NEEDED

If you like to cook with amazing friends, try out new recipes, or want to be the hands that feed our church and community, we need you! Please join us for 2-3 hours one day a month. We have lunches and dinners all during the week. Please contact Mici Kuba (MKuba@FUMCPensacola.com) or Eric Penley (EPenley@FUMCPensacola.com) for more information and specific times.

RESPIRE MINISTRY

Since launching in November 2024, we've seen God's hand at work in incredible ways—our Respite program has grown, lives are being touched, and our community is flourishing. Now, as we look ahead to fall 2025, we're setting our sights on a bold goal: welcoming 10 friends to Respite each day. To make that vision a reality, we need more hands, more hearts, and more people willing to say, "Yes, I'll help." This ministry is a living expression of Christ's love, and we invite you to be part of it. Whether you can offer a few hours a week or just one day a month, your presence can bring comfort, joy, and dignity to those we serve. Whether it's offering a warm smile, lending a listening ear, or simply showing up in love—your time can make a lasting impact. Please also join us in praying for continued growth, for new friends to join us, and for the volunteers who will help carry this mission forward. We believe God is doing something special here and we invite you to be part of it. Sign up today. Be a blessing. Receive one, too. Contact Respite Director, Kirstin Gartner for more information at kgartner@fumcpensacola.com.

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 then even smaller groups of about 5 people.

Rev. Emily Kincaid
Associate Pastor
EKincaid@FUMCPensacola.com

UWF WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 21 | 12:00pm

Please mark your calendars! All women of First Church are invited to a United Women in Faith taco luncheon following the 11:00 services in the Wright Place. This event is open to women age 16 and up. More information to come soon.

BACK TO CHURCH: ADULT STUDIES

Starting Sunday, August 10

9:45 - 10:45am | Various Locations
August is a great time to join a Sunday School Class! See [Page 6](#) for locations and more information on what each class is studying in the coming weeks. You can visit any class or contact class leaders or Pastor Emily (EKincaid@fumcpensacola.com) for more information on what class is right for you.

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. Cost is \$10/adult, \$4/child, \$27/family max. So join us on Wednesdays this month for these delicious meals:

5:00 - 6:00pm | The Wright Place

8/20 (FREE): Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, and Chocolate Cake

8/27: Chicken Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Mexican Caesar Salad, and Dessert

9/3: Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole, Mandarin Orange Salad, Yeast Roll, and Dessert

9/10: Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Lima Beans, Yeast Roll, and Dessert

9/17: Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Wild Rice, Peas and Carrots, Yeast Roll, and Dessert

9/24: Beef Stroganoff with Egg Noodles, Pats Salad, Yeast Roll, and Dessert

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. In Acts 6, Stephen was among those chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since Jesus' time, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

Jennifer Piver
Pastoral Care Staff
JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com

MINISTRY UPDATE

We had a very successful training class in partnership with Gulf Breeze United Methodist church and our program is up and running. Supervision meetings are being held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. If you have had a life event and feel you would benefit from meeting one on one with a Stephen Minister or you would like to become a Stephen Minister, contact Jennifer Piver.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

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

stay connected   [fumcpensacola](https://fumcpensacola.com)



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA**

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For pastoral emergencies, contact the Church Office or Ginger Raines at 850.259.3177