



A HISTORIC MOMENT OF GRACE AT FIRST CHURCH



Dear Friends,

With joy and deep gratitude, I write to share an extraordinary moment in the life of First United Methodist Church. For the first time since 1890, our church has the honor of hosting the Alabama-West Florida Annual

Conference—a sacred gathering of clergy and lay leaders from across our connection.

In the Wesleyan tradition, we call this “holy conferencing.” It’s not about winning arguments but seeking the mind of Christ in community. John Wesley listed holy conferencing as one of the “means of grace,” alongside the sacraments. That means Christ is truly present when we gather, listen, discern, and grow together.

At Annual Conference, delegates will make motions, debate, disagree, and vote. On the surface, it may seem mundane—even bureaucratic. But in today’s hyper-individualistic and divided world, this coming together is a kind of miracle. The Spirit of God moves when we meet in holy conversation and worship, modeling unity in the midst of diversity. As Bishop

Rueben Job once said, “Christian conferencing is the church in conversation, prayerfully discerning the mind of Christ.”

Hosting Annual Conference is more than a logistical privilege—it is a spiritual calling. We will welcome delegates, pastors, and leaders into our sanctuary, our fellowship spaces, and, perhaps most importantly, into the warmth of our hospitality. This is a gift First Church is already known for. I believe God will bless us as we serve meals, open doors, pray together, and witness the holy work of the Church in motion.

Let us prepare not just our building, but our hearts. Be in prayer for the work of the Conference, for our bishop and delegates, and for every person who walks through our doors. May First Church be a place where peace is pursued, and the church is built up in love (Romans 14:19).

Practice Resurrection,
Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Senior Pastor



ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 8 - 10, 2025

The Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church will hold its 2025 Annual Conference session Sunday, June 8 - Tuesday, June 10 at First United Methodist Church of Pensacola. This year’s theme is “Make Us One” based on our United Methodist communion liturgy.

COMBINED 11:00AM SERVICES

Sundays June 8, June 22, & June 29

Please note that we will have combined 11:00am services in the Main Sanctuary on June 8 for our Pentecost Celebration with the Bishop, June 22 due to staff being out for Choir Tour, and June 29 for our Youth Choir Home Concert. We will still have our 8:30am Main Sanctuary service these Sundays.

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 15

Join us on Father's Day at First Church as we celebrate our fathers and all those who are like fathers to us.

OFFICE CLOSED - JUNETEENTH

Thursday, June 19

Please note that the church office and MCA will be closed for Juneteenth on Thursday, June 19.

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR REV. BRENNAN PEACOCK

Sunday, July 6 | 9:45am

We are excited to welcome the Rev. Brennan Peacock, as Associate Pastor, effective July 1, 2025. Pastor Brennan's first Sunday with us will be July 6, with a welcome reception at 9:45am in The Wright Place. He will be preaching at the 11:00am ICON service. Pastor Brennan will provide leadership in the ICON worship service and extend the culture of ICON into a new church and community in Beulah.

PENTECOST

celebration

WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Article provided by UMC.org

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including

England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Pentecost Sunday Celebration with Guest Preacher Bishop L. Jonathan Holston!

*8:30 & Combined 11:00am Services | Main Sanctuary
Reception with Cake at 9:45am | The Wright Place*

On the Day of Pentecost, we have the great honor of welcoming our new Bishop, L. Jonathan Holston, to our congregation. Bishop Holston's assignment to the Alabama Panhandle Episcopal Area began last September and we're excited to have him with us ahead of this year's Annual Conference. The Bishop will preach in the Main Sanctuary at 8:30 and 11:00am and we will have a reception welcoming him at 9:45am in The Wright Place, where we will also have our Pentecost birthday cake. ***Please note that the ICON service will be combining with the Main Sanctuary at 11:00am.***

THE GREAT FIFTY
50
DAY CHALLENGE

THE GREAT 50 DAY CHALLENGE

First Church is answering the call and taking the challenge again this year! We are asking all of our members to invite people to church during Lent and Easter and to help welcome fifty new people into the life of our church. We will have people joining starting on Easter Sunday, through Pentecost, on June 8. Contact Lacey Adair (LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com), Director of Membership with any questions and visit the church's website (FUMCPensacola.com/Membership) or the Church Office to fill out a membership form.

Summer Sunday School Sessions

SUNDAYS, JUNE 15 - AUGUST 3
9:45-10:45AM
THE WRIGHT PLACE, GREAT HALL



Summer Sessions will begin on June 15! Join us each week during the Sunday School hour, 9:45am in the Great Hall, whether you're part of a Sunday School class or not. Summer Sessions are a great way to meet new people!

LIVING OUR FAITH: A 7-Week Study on the Social Principles (2024), Led by the Rev. Emily Kincaid

PURPOSE: To understand what The United Methodist Church teaches through the Social Principles, why it matters, and how to live it out faithfully in daily life.

WEEK 1 – June 15: WHY THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES MATTER

Themes: Introduction, Wesleyan social holiness, faith in action

Readings: Preamble to the Social Principles (2024 Book of Discipline, Part 9) Micah 6:6–8; Matthew 5:13–16

Guiding Questions: Why does the Church make social statements? How do these principles shape our discipleship?

WEEK 2 – June 22: CARING FOR CREATION

Themes: The Community of All Creation; stewardship and justice

Readings: Community of All Creation (2024 BoD, Part 5) Genesis 1:26–31; Psalm 24:1

Guiding Questions: What does it mean to care for creation? How is ecological responsibility a spiritual practice?

WEEK 3 – June 29: FAITH AND THE ECONOMY

Themes: Economic Community; justice, equity, and the common good

Readings: Economic Community (2024 BoD, Part 9) Amos 5:11–15; James 5:1–6

Guiding Questions: What does economic justice look like from a Christian perspective? How can our spending, giving, and work reflect our faith?

July 6: BREAK

Reception at 9:45am for incoming pastor, the Rev. Brennan Peacock

WEEK 4 – July 13: RELATIONSHIPS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Themes: Social Community; personal and communal ethics

Readings: Social Community (2024 BoD, Part 9) Galatians 3:26–29; John 13:34–35

Guiding Questions: How do we honor the image of God in others? What is our responsibility toward the marginalized?

WEEK 5 – July 20: INCLUSION, RACE, AND GENDER

Themes: Social Community continued; justice in diversity

Readings: Isaiah 58:6–12; Acts 10:34–35

Guiding Questions: What does inclusive love look like in practice? How does the church witness to justice in society?

WEEK 6 – July 27: POLITICAL WITNESS & FAITHFUL ACTION

Themes: Political Community; civic engagement and Christian witness

Readings: Political Community (2024 BoD, Part 9) Romans 13:1–10; Matthew 25:31–46

Guiding Questions: What is the Church's role in public life? How can we live out these principles in our communities?

WEEK 7 – August 3: JUST PENSACOLA

With speakers Alex and Pamela Brown



JOYFUL JOYFUL

FIRST CHURCH GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN



OUR GOAL
\$1.5 MILLION

\$1.48 MILLION
PLEDGED

\$472,366
GIVEN

works best for you. Today, we're excited to announce our second milestone in the Joyful, Joyful Building Project. Earlier this year, we announced the opening of our new bathrooms on the Sanctuary level and at the bottom of the sanctuary's tower stairs. Now, in the past week, we have thankfully finally finished the restoration of our stained-glass windows in our Main Sanctuary. And we closed on the property in Beulah, bringing the dream of Beulah Chapel that much closer to a reality. In addition, much of the new entrance on the side of the Consulate is now up and nearly completed. And the renovation of our Lower Sanctuary is very close to complete. We hope to announce those milestones soon. These improvements are part of Phase 1 of our Building Project (you can learn more about the phases by visiting fumcpensacola.com/joyful). Phase 1 began in October of last year and will be completed in the coming months thanks to the generosity of you, our members and friends.

OUR PROGRESS

PHASE 1 OF THE JOYFUL JOYFUL BUILDING PROJECT

The Joyful, Joyful Generosity Campaign & Building Project is still going strong. You can see an update of our progress in the chart to the right. So far, we've had just over 200 households make a commitment of \$1,448,703 to the campaign. We give thanks to God and continue to celebrate the generosity of this congregation. We're so close to reaching our goal! If you can still help us meet (or even push beyond) our goal of \$1.5 million for this campaign, we would love to hear from you. You can scan the QR code or visit the church's website fumcpensacola.com/joyful. Every gift matters regardless of the size. Commitments can be met over the next three years (four tax years) in whatever way

- ☒ NEW BATHROOMS
- ☐ NEW OFFICES
- ☒ STAINED GLASS RESTORATION
- ☐ NEW CHILLER & HVAC SYSTEM
- ☐ HURRICANE DAMAGE REPAIR
- ☐ WESLEY ABBEY RENOVATIONS



Visit FUMCPensacola.com/Joyful
for more information and to give.

Teaming with TANZANIA



Teaming with Tanzania is a conference mission initiative of the Alabama-West Florida Conference and the United Methodist Church of Tanzania that began in 2018. Additionally, in 2019 First Church partnered with Nyegezi United Methodist Church, a church in Tanzania. We helped provide financial support for the construction of a permanent building, sent multiple teams to serve alongside them, and have continued to grow and learn from each other over the past 7 years.

CONTINUING THE PARTNERSHIP

As we continue to team with Tanzania, it is important to remember that this is a partnership. As a partnership we are serving alongside our brothers and sisters in Tanzania, empowering them to be a force for good, a force for change, and a force for God's spirit to move in Tanzania.

The Teaming With Tanzania Partnership focuses on three areas:

- Promoting Leadership Forming Education
- Helping Provide Greater Access to Needed Health Care
- Increasing Access to the Life-changing Gospel

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to continue to support our sister church Nyegezi UMC and the Teaming with Tanzania initiative. The mission project for our VBS this year was Bibles and Bricks which raised money to provide Bibles in Swahili in addition to supporting the continued construction of Nyegezi UMC.

Additional areas of support include:

- Sponsor a student
- Go on a mission trip
- Support the three conference priorities

GET INVOLVED

To learn more about the Teaming with Tanzania partnership and get involved, contact the conference Teaming with Tanzania coordinators Lisa Bond (LBond@fumcpensacola.com) or Lee Ann Boykin (lboykin@apumc.com).





**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 18**

YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER & TALENT SHOW

Dinner (5:00pm, The Wright Place)

Talent Show (6:00pm, Wesley Abbey) - [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Come out and enjoy "dinner and a show" put on by our talented youth.

This is one of their biggest fundraisers to help pay for their summer choir tour. Enjoy an hour-long show of our youth singing, dancing, playing instruments, telling jokes, and who knows what else they'll come up with this year! Cost for dinner is \$10/Adult, \$4/Child, with a max family cost of \$27. A love offering will also be taken at the Talent Show. Dinner is at 5:00pm in The Wright Place. The Talent Show will follow at 6:00pm in Wesley Abbey. The menu includes Spaghetti, Salad, & Dessert.

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

Members who have died:

We extend our christian love and sympathy to:

The family of Ann Murray. Ann died May 20, 2025 in Tallahassee, FL.

The family of David McPherson. David died May 29, 2025.

Loved ones who have died:

We extend our christian love and sympathy to:

Charlie Davis on the death of his brother, **Bob Davis.**

CELEBRATIONS:

The marriage of Alexa Thompson and John Michael Russell on May 2, 2025.

The marriage of Ryan Worley and Valeria Nazarova on May 25, 2025.

**Parents of college graduates please contact the church LAdair@fumcpensacola.com to let us know if your child graduated this year from college, grad school or medical or doctorate and let us know from which school. We would like to recognize their accomplishment in the July witness.*

NEW MEMBERS

Erin Carter

Anne & Dennis Connolly

Jim & Jean Hamilton

James Mash

Francis Miller

Leslie & Kevin Trippe

Gianna Deyell

Remi Foreman

Edwin Hartgrave

Wheeler Henderson

Huylan Lamarche

Alexis McIntosh

Piper Shearlock

Chloe Stump

Henry Weis

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

May 4: Given in celebration of the marriage of **Alexa Thompson and John Michael Russell** on May 2, 2025.

May 11: Given in honor of our mother, **Mary Anne Boutin**, by her daughters Mary Alice Vitale and Lacey Adair.

May 25: Given in celebration of the marriage of **Ryan Worley and Valeria Nazarova.**

THE LIVING TRUST MAY 1 - JUNE 4, 2025

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

IN MEMORY

Rosa Southall

My Mother, For Mother's Day

By Pamela Greunke

WHAT'S HAPPENING at FIRST CHURCH for

FIRST KIDS

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

Lisa Bond

Director of Children's Ministry
LBond@fumcpensacola.com

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each week of June, we will focus on God's goodness through video stories and activities to keep our kids on their faith journey all Summer long. This is a great chance for your kids to stay connected during the Summer.

4TH/5TH GRADE OVERNIGHT

June 17-18 is our tentative date. We will be taking a fun trip with our 4th/5th graders to celebrate our 5th graders last year in our Elementary program. If your child is interested in going, please contact Mrs. Lisa ASAP.

COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday, June 14 | 10:00am - 1:00pm | The Consulate

This is a great family activity complete with water games, crafts, Lego room, Preschool playroom, Humane Society Truck, The Smoking Jokers BBQ and Ice Cream Truck. Invite some friends and come downtown for some fun.

SPORTS SPECTACULAR (For K - 5th Graders)

July 7 - 11 | Church Campus

[Click HERE to Register](#)

(Space is Limited)

This fun sports camp is a favorite for staff and campers alike! Join us for The Ultimate Summer Camp Showdown! Lace up your sneakers and bring your A-game for a high-energy week packed

with sports, teamwork, and friendly competition! Highlights: Blue Wahoos, Obstacle Course Inflatable & Hunter Pool.

BLUE LAKE SUMMER CAMP BLAST (For completed 3rd - 5th graders)

July 21 - 26 | Blue Lake Camp
Andalusia, AL

Join us for a fun week at Camp Blast! We will explore our relationship with God, make new friends and experience all the things that makes camp so much fun! Mrs. Lisa and other members of our church will be on the team that week and are looking forward to experiencing camp with your child. To register, go to bluelakecamp.com and find CAMP BLAST.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 9:45 - 10:45am

Students are still meeting for Sunday School over the summer. We look forward to seeing your student with us on Sunday mornings!

FINAL WILDERNESS TRAIL PAYMENTS

Deadline: June 1

Online Payment Option (please indicate Wilderness Trail in the payment notes). If you have signed your student up for Wilderness Trail, please have your final payment in by July 1, 2025. You may pay online using the church website. If you are unsure how much you owe, please contact Rev. Heather Nysewander to find out. If something

has come up and your student can no longer attend Trail, please let Rev. Heather Nysewander know ASAP.

WILDERNESS TRAIL

July 13 - 19

Wilderness Trail 2025 is kicking off on July 13! We will be spending three full days hiking through the Virginia Wilderness, among some of God's amazing landscapes. We will return on the 19th, however, should we decide among the chaperones to divide the drive back into two days, then it will be on the 20th.

SWEAT WEEK

July 31 - August 2

Registration to come. We will spend three days working on local missions. More details to come. Keep an eye on your email!

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, and we are considering additional training classes in the near future. If you have had a life event and feel you would benefit from meeting one on one with a Stephen Minister, contact Jennifer Piver.

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 - CACTUS FLOWER CAFE' - 12TH AVENUE

Thursday, June 12 | 11:30am

[Click HERE to Register](#) by June 10.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship and lunch out at Cactus Flower Cafe'. We will have a private room, and lunch will include traditional Mexican food items that are fresh, clean, and family recipes made with love! The owners believe Fresh is always Best!

XYZ TRIP - EMERALD COAST SCIENCE CENTER - FWB

Bring Your Grandchild! (6 and Up)

Thursday, June 19 | \$15/person

Buses Leave First Church at 9:30am

Limited Seating

[Click HERE to Register](#) by June 17.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship as we travel to the Emerald Coast Science Center. They are committed to serving children and families through STEAM programs and exhibits as it is their mission to inspire and grow a scientifically engaged community. This is a perfect opportunity to include your grandchild on an XYZ Trip! Our day will include a special presentation on the center, an opportunity to explore the exhibits and a boxed lunch. If you would like to bring your grandchild they must be included in your headcount for registration.

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

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

***Note: No meeting June 2 or 9**

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.

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY DAY

Community Day is held each month on 2nd Saturday from 10:00am - 1:00pm. This is a day when we welcome the community to our campus for fellowship and fun. We need people to greet, help children with crafts, or just come and be among us. Please come check it out one Saturday or contact Lisa Bond at 850-549-8967 for more info. The next Community Day is June 14.

WRIGHT STREET THRIFT STORE

Wright Street Thrift is actively looking for volunteers on Wednesdays with the goal of adding one more shopping day to the schedule. 80% of the Thrift's income is split between our district missions and our local missions. Come find a niche for yourself in hospitality, sorting, pricing and/or designing at Wright Street Thrift!

ASSISTED PARKING MINISTRY

Volunteers are needed on Sundays (30 minutes prior to each worship service) to greet church members and guests, as well as assisting with parking and transporting guests who need extra help. Contact Jennifer Piver (JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com) for more information.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

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

Dr. Rick Branch

Music Minister

RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Wednesdays | 6:00 - 7:30pm

You rehearse June 4 and 11. You do NOT rehearse June 18 and 25.

Monday, June 9

Warm up in the choir room at 5:30pm. Pre-Ordination Service Concert at 6:30pm. Ordination Service at 7:00pm.

YOUTH CHOIR TOUR & HOME CONCERT

June 21 - 28 & June 29

Our Youth Choir will be on tour June 21 - 28. The Home Concert will be on Sunday, June 29 at 8:30 & 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary. Please be in prayer for our Youth Choir and their chaperones for safe travels and spiritual encounters.

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://www.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