



Dear Friends,

153! That is a lot of fish! In the Gospel of John, after the resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee. They have spent the night fishing and have caught nothing. At

dawn, Jesus calls from the shore, telling them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. When they do, they haul in a miraculous catch — 153 fish, so many they can hardly pull the net ashore, and yet the net is not torn (John 21:11).

This Easter, we are casting our nets with hope, just as the disciples did. As St. Gregory the Great once said, "The net was not broken, for the unity of the Church is preserved, even when it draws in multitudes." We ask that every member of our church join in unity to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are praying for 50 new members this season—to join us in the joy and work of new life in Christ. Already, we are

seeing signs of growth—new faces, new ministries, and a renewed spirit of joy among us. God is moving in powerful ways, and there is room for everyone at the table.

If you've been looking for a church home, or if you know someone who is, now is the perfect time. Join us in this season of new life. Let's cast our nets together—and watch what God will do!

Peace of Christ,

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

Senior Pastor

SANCTUARY FLOWER NOTICE

The cost for our Sunday Flower arrangements has increased from \$130.00 to \$165.00 (\$82.50 each). The new rate will begin May 1, 2025. Contact Ginger Raines (GRaines@FUMCPensacola.com) with any questions.

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 11

Join us on Mother's day at First Church as we celebrate our mothers and all those who are like mothers to us. We will have a special photo booth and refreshments in The Wright Place, Dining Room all morning.

OFFICE CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 26

Please note that the church office and MCA will be closed for Memorial Day, on Monday May 26.



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, Pensacola. This year's theme is "Make Us One" based on our United Methodist communion liturgy.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ALWF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We will be welcoming over 400 clergy and laity from all over our annual conference to First United Methodist Church of Pensacola. We would like all persons on our campus to feel welcomed and informed.



Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome and encouraged. If you would like to help us by greeting/hosting please fill out the online form <u>HERE</u> or scanning QR code. Contact Lisa Bond at <u>LBond@FUMCPensacola.com</u> with any questions.



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 the season of 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. Join us at the next Coffee with the Pastors to learn more about First Church, 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.

INFORMATION FOR THOSE WANTING TO JOIN.

Join us at the next Coffee with the Pastors to learn more about First Church.

Contact Lacey Adair,
Director of Membership.
with any questions.
LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com

Visit the church's website or the Church Office to fill out a membership form.



All visitors that are interested in joining First Church are invited to attend our upcoming Coffee with the Pastors on **Sunday, May 4**, at 9:45am in the Consulate Café (white building on corner). This small gathering is a great time to get to know each other, ask questions of our clergy, and to be informed about the mission and ministries of First United Methodist Church of Pensacola. Contact Lacey Adair (<u>LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com</u>) for more information.





ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Get ready for an unforgettable week of faith, fun, and friendship! Come grow in faith, make new friends, and experience the BEST week of summer! All kids (completed PreK – 5th) are invited to join the party from 9:00am – Noon each day for great lessons games, crafts, worship, and missions. \$10 donation per child is appreciated. Registration is required. Click <u>HERE</u> or scan the QR code.



WISH LIST

We have created a VBS wish list through Amazon. Click <u>HERE</u> or scan QR code to view needed items. Contact Lisa Bond with any questions.



WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT VBS?

In order to provide a safe, fun, and loving VBS we need your help! We are calling upon the church to help us with this grand outreach opportunity to share the love of God to the community of Pensacola. There are various places to serve during Vacation Bible School such as: Prayer, snacks, crew leaders (leading children to various stations), station leader assistants (assisting a station leader), registration (checking the children in upon arrival) and many more. Email Lisa bond LBond@FUMCPensacola.com for more info.



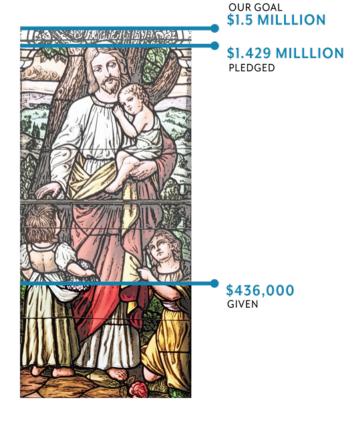
CAMPAIGN UPDATE - AS OF MAY 1, 2025



BUILDING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- The bathrooms on the sanctuary level are completed. The bathroom off of the front office has been tiled.
- The work continues in the Lower Sanctuary with preparation for flooring, installation of ceiling tiles, and painting.
- Bovard is returning May 12 to complete our stained glass work.
- Our new chiller units have been installed and two of our air handlers have been replaced. The units in the tower will be installed late June.
- We have removed the stained glass on the north side and placing them on the east side of the 2nd floor of Wesley Abbey. We are closing the spaces where the windows have been removed in preparation for sheet rock.







CHURCH-WIDE BLUE WAHOOS GAME

Wednesday, May 21 | 6:00pm | Blue Wahoos Park Click <u>HERE</u> or scan the QR code to register

All are invited to join us on May 21 at 6:00pm at the Blue Wahoos Park for fun and fellowship with your church family! Tickets are \$17 each. Tickets can be purchased now until June 5.







Wednesdays, April 23 - May 14

Dinner: 5:00pm | Programming: 6:00 - 7:00pm

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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

Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship with your church family! Cost is \$10/Adults, \$4/Children, \$27/Max Per Family.

MENUS:

May 7: Beef Burrito Bake, Mexican Salad, and Dessert

May 14: Grilled Teriyaki Thighs, Fried Rice, Mixed Vegetables, and Dessert

PASTOR'S LECTIONARY STUDY

LED BY PASTOR GEOFFREY & PASTOR EMILY

Wednesdays, April 23 - May 14 | 6:00 - 7:00pm | The Wright Place, Great Hall

Developing a scriptural imagination is one of the marks of Christian maturity. Join Pastor Emily and Preacher G for a four-week study as we study Easter themes from the lectionary scripture passages for each week. All you need to bring is your Bible and an open mind and heart!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHOSEN?

AN INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY BASED ON THE CHOSEN TV SERIES

FACILITATED BY HANK THOMPSON

Wednesdays, April 23 - May 14 | 6:00 - 7:00pm | The Wright Place, 2nd Floor, Room 233

The Chosen is a multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the people who met and followed him. Many who watch the series have seen the scriptures come alive and identified with Biblical characters in new ways. Participants will watch an episode of The Chosen each week (either on their own or at a designated time at church) and then together on Wednesdays study and discuss the scriptures portrayed on the screen. Come experience the Bible in a whole new way!

*Participant books are available in the church office for \$10 each or purchase online here.

WEEKLY ADULT SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wednesdays | 6:00 - 7:30pm | Choir Room

Weekly rehearsals take place on Wednesday nights from 6:00 - 7:30pm. No experience needed. Open to all adults and sings at either the 8:30 or 11:00am Main Sanctuary worship services.

MID-WEEK PROGRAMMING FOR KIDS & STUDENTS

FIRST KIDS: MID-WEEK (PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE)

Wednesdays | 5:50 – 7:00pm | Gym, Education Building (Drop-Off In Gym)

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.

FIRST STUDENTS: MID-WEEK (6TH - 12TH GRADE)

Wednesdays | 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.

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 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 extend our christian love and sympathy to: Rick Dye on the death of his wife, Patti Dye, on April 20, 2025.

Jason Onacki on the death of his mother.

NEW MEMBERS

Jeremy Rasler
Logan Boles
Julie Jernigan
Laura Munro
Jennifer, Alan & Mark Piver
Becky & Steve Robinson
Brian Trivison

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

April 13: In celebration of Nancy Orr's birthday by her sisters. April 20: In loving memory of my mother Virginia Williams by Jennifer Fleming.

April 27: In celebration of the marriage of Elisabeth Wright. and Jack Carro on April 26, 2025. Elisabeth is the daughter of Joseph and Robin Wright.

THE LIVING TRUST APRIL 1 - 31, 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 HONOR

Frank Pilcher's 90th Birthday
By Mark and Romaine Abramovic

IN MEMORY

John Hoefflin
For the Hoefflin Scholarship Fund
By Missy Jungling

Don Worley *For the Tanzania Ministry*By Loving Friends

Candy Mosko
For the Feed the Hungry Ministry
By Nettie Eaton

STUDENTS

GRADUATING SENIORS OF FIRST CHURCH

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday, May 11 | 8:30am | Main Sanctuary

Graduating Seniors will be recognized and given Bibles at the end of the service. Libby Krehely, Sawyer Kuba, & Coulson Voeltz, class representatives, will speak at all three services.

CLASS OF 2025

Hannah Belsinger	Libby Krehely	Jack Minard	Aiden Ripley
Collier Brown	Sawyer Kuba	Hudson Mitchell	Thomas Sandfort
Pearce Ferry	Hunter Lauderdale	Berkeley Morris	Coulson Voeltz
Colton Hess	Evan McManus	Mark Piver	Emily Willert

I see God everywhere in my life. One of the times that I see God most is when I am out in nature, hiking in the woods, walking around outside, and when I am at the beach. When I go surfing, I see God in the beauty of the waves. They remind me of how special and breathtaking his creation is. I feel God's presence during tough times. When swim practice is especially challenging, he strengthens me, and when I struggle with school, he blesses me with wisdom. I also experience God through my relationships with others and the way he brings people into my life.

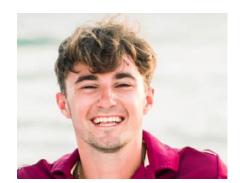
I try to make it a priority to be at church every Sunday whenever I can. The youth program has really helped shape me into who I am today. The friendships I've formed through the youth program are ones that will last a lifetime. Wilderness Trail has also had a lasting impact on me, and the memories I made there serve as a constant reminder of how beautiful God is. Church has always been a safe place for me and going and participating in the activities brings me joy even when I am not having the best day. First Church has made a positive impact in my life and has provided a space for me to explore and deepen my faith and learn about spiritual values.

I believe God has called me to serve and help others in my community. I was given the opportunity to be a president of a non-profit organization that helps charities with funding. At first I was skeptical because I didn't know if I would have the time, but the more I thought about it, the more I felt like God was calling me to do it. I feel that he has called to me to help people that are struggling and let them know that it will all be okay and that God is there supporting them the whole way.

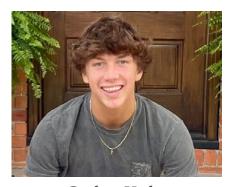
At this point in my life, I believe that God wants me to live a life that reflects my faith. I plan on being an active member of a church for the rest of my life. My hope is to find a church at college that I will love as much as I love FUMC of Pensacola. I am eager to continue learning about God and growing in my faith throughout this journey. I trust that God will guide me toward the path he has for me.

By: Coulson Voeltz

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



Sawyer Kuba



Coulson Voeltz



Libby Krehely

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

COMMUNITY DAY

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

Join us for a Spring Spectacular for our church and community. We will have a petting zoo, food trucks, Spring crafts for kids, outdoor games, a preschool playroom, live music by the Do-Dads and a knitting group on the porch! Our You're Invited Sunday School class will be our hosts. Grab a friend and join us as we welcome the community to our campus.

SAFARI VBS 2025

June 2 - 6, 2025

Click HERE to Register

Get ready for an unforgettable week of faith, fun, and friendship! Come grow in faith, make new friends, and experience the BEST week of summer! All kids (completed PreK – 5th) are invited to join the party from 9:00am – Noon each day for great lessons, games, crafts, worship, and missions. This year's VBS is: Safari: Where God's Goodness is Great! We ask that you register by May 12th.

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 midhigh and senior-high activities.

Rev. Heather Nysewander

Director of Student Ministries HNysewander@fumcpensacola.com

MID-WEEK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Wednesday, May 7 | 6:00 - 7:00pm Wright Street Thrift Store

Students will take their mid-week activities over to the Thrift Store on Wednesday, May 7, to volunteer with the various organization needs of the store.

SENIOR BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 10 | 9:00am -11:00am | The Wright Place and Wesley Abbey

Graduating seniors will gather together for a morning celebrating their accomplishments and fellowshipping with

family and friends as they come to the end of their senior year. Included will be a breakfast in the Wright Place, after which we will move to the Wesley Abbey for the remainder of our program. Please RSVP how many will be in attendance. If you did not receive an email from First Students, please email Heather Nysewander at hnysewander@fumcpensacola.com.

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

Sunday, May 11 | 8:30am Service Main Sanctuary

Graduating seniors will come forward to receive a Bible and a blessing from the congregation at the 8:30am service. The students will also select a member of their cohort to address each service on Sunday, May 11.

FINAL MID-WEEK GATHERING

Wednesday, May 14 | 6:00 - 7:00pm Youth Building

Join us for our final Mid-Week celebration before summer! Make sure to bring a change of clothes for messy/water games.

END OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 17 | 9:30am Laguna's and Pensacola Beach

Click HERE to Register

Come on out to Laguna's Adventure
Park for a morning of fun at the park!
From 10:00am to 12:00pm, we will be
at Laguna's Adventure Park (Laguna
Beach Bar and Grill). The fee for two
hours will be \$64.99. Students will
need to purchase their own tickets upon
arrival or online. Following this, students will have the option of spending
the rest of the afternoon at the beach
as a group. Students are encouraged to
wear a swimsuit and bring their beach
gear for the afternoon. Students should
also bring money for meals and any
snacks they may want to get.

Continued on next page

FIRST STUDENTS CONT.

FINAL SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING

Sunday, May 18 | 5:30 - 7:00pm The Youth Building

Come join us for our final Sunday Night Youth Group Gathering before summer! Be sure to bring a change of clothes and a towel as things might get a little messy.

MID-HIGH WEEK

June 2 - 6 | 9:00am - Noon

Click HERE to Register

All completed 6th - 8th Graders are invited to join us for a week of water games, field trips, fellowship, and faith formation. A follow-up email will be sent regarding field trips and activities. A fee of \$60 per student is asked to help cover the cost of curriculum, supplies, and field trips. Fee waivers are available upon request when needed. Please contact Rev. Heather Nysewander to learn more (HNysewander@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 even smaller groups of 5 people.

Rev. Emily Kincaid

Associate Pastor EKincaid@FUMCPensacola.com

NEW STUDY: STEWARDS OF EDEN

Starting Sunday, May 4 | 9:45 - 10:45am | Consulate 2nd Floor, Room 209

The Intergenerational class will be studying "Stewards of Eden: What Scripture Says about the Environment and Why It Matters" and anyone is welcome to attend. This 7-week study considers the biblical mandate to care for the land, domestic and wild animals, and people on the margins. Contact Pamela Brown at pdb0072@gmail.com for more information.

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 - MCGUIRE'S IRISH PUB

Thursday, May 8 | 11:30am
Click HERE to Register - By May 6
Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of
fellowship and lunch at McGuire's
Irish Pub. Pensacola's locally owned
award-winning restaurant has a turnof-the-century, New York Irish Saloon
theme. The atmosphere is exciting, and
the food is fantastic!

SILVER & GOLD

Thursday, May 22 | 11:00am - 1:00pm | The Wright Place | \$10 Click HERE to Register - by May 18 Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship with friends. It will include a delicious lunch provided by Ruth's Kitchen, along with a presentation from Alex Thomas with the Pensacola Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. She will discuss with us the history of the beautiful Pensacola Lighthouse, the storms it has weathered over the years and exciting upcoming events to look forward to. Doors open at 10:30am.

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30am | The Wright Place, 2nd Floor, Room 205 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY DAY

Community Day 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 May 10.

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! Wright Street Thrift's best selling items are men's shirts. Keep us in mind as you clean out your closets!

HAUNTED HOUSE 2025

Click HERE to Volunteer

We have an exciting opportunity to bring back the Haunted House that our church was known for in the 80's. This will be used as a fundraising initiative for the youth program. Our goal is to have the Haunted House open to the public for one to two weekends in October, depending on volunteer response. Our hope is that this with this fundraiser and help of our students, we can build a foundational youth group fund that would allow us to reach more of our own community and communities beyond for Christ. Just as with our church's Joyful, Joyful Campaign, we want to continue to build our youth program to be a place where students will come to find Jesus for many, many years to come. We will need volunteers of all ages, so adults are welcome and encouraged to sign up! We have set a deadline of May 23 to determine if we'll have the volunteers to pull this off. Contact Heather Nysewander (HNysewander@FUMCPensacola.com) with any questions.

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. So join us on Wednesdays this month for these delicious meals.

Adults: \$10, Kids (2-9 years old): \$4 Max Family Cost: \$27

May 7: Beef Burrito Bake, Mexican Salad, and Dessert

May 14: Grilled Teriyaki Thighs, Fried Rice, Mixed Vegetables, and Dessert No Dinners May 14 - 28

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Church and Society is the agency within the Church that educates, advocates and connects in an effort to implement the Social Principles and other policy statements of The United Methodist Church. Continually advocating with policy makers, organizing the grassroots, and educating future leaders, Church and Society works to live faithfully, seek justice, and pursue peace.

Dr. Rick Branch RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

NEHEMIAH ACTION

Tuesday, May 6 | 6:00 - 7:00pm First Baptist Church of Warrington JUST Pensacola is an organization made up of 17 local faith communities that represent a wide variety of Pensacola and Escambia residents who are ethnically, religiously, and geographically diverse. They are united by a common desire to make Pensacola a better place to live, work, and do business...to make it a more just place for all people. Once a year, these 17 congregations come together in an exciting meeting to generate power to address serious problems in our community. That meeting is called the Nehemiah Action, and the problems we are focusing on

this year are:

- The deficit in affordable housing for middle/low income households, and
- The problems in our criminal justice system - specifically children and adults being arrested and then being unable to get jobs due to minor, non-violent offenses

You can learn more about the details of these issues at JUSTPensacola.org. It takes people power to address these serious problems in our community. Our congregation has a goal to have 200 people in attendance at the Nehemiah Action on Tuesday, May 6 at the First Baptist Church of Warrington to show our local decision makers (the ones that have the ability to change these systems) what we care about. Everyone is invited to attend. If you would like to support these issues and represent First United Methodist Church just by showing up, contact Karen Varnson at kgvarnson@fumcpensacola.com and say "I would like to attend the Nehemiah Action with First Church."

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.

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
<u>JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com</u>

MINISTRY UPDATE

We had a very successful training class in partnership with Gulf Breeze United Methodist church and our program is

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

IN-PERSON & ONLINE 8:30 & 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary & ICON AT 11:00am in Wesley Abbey





Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA