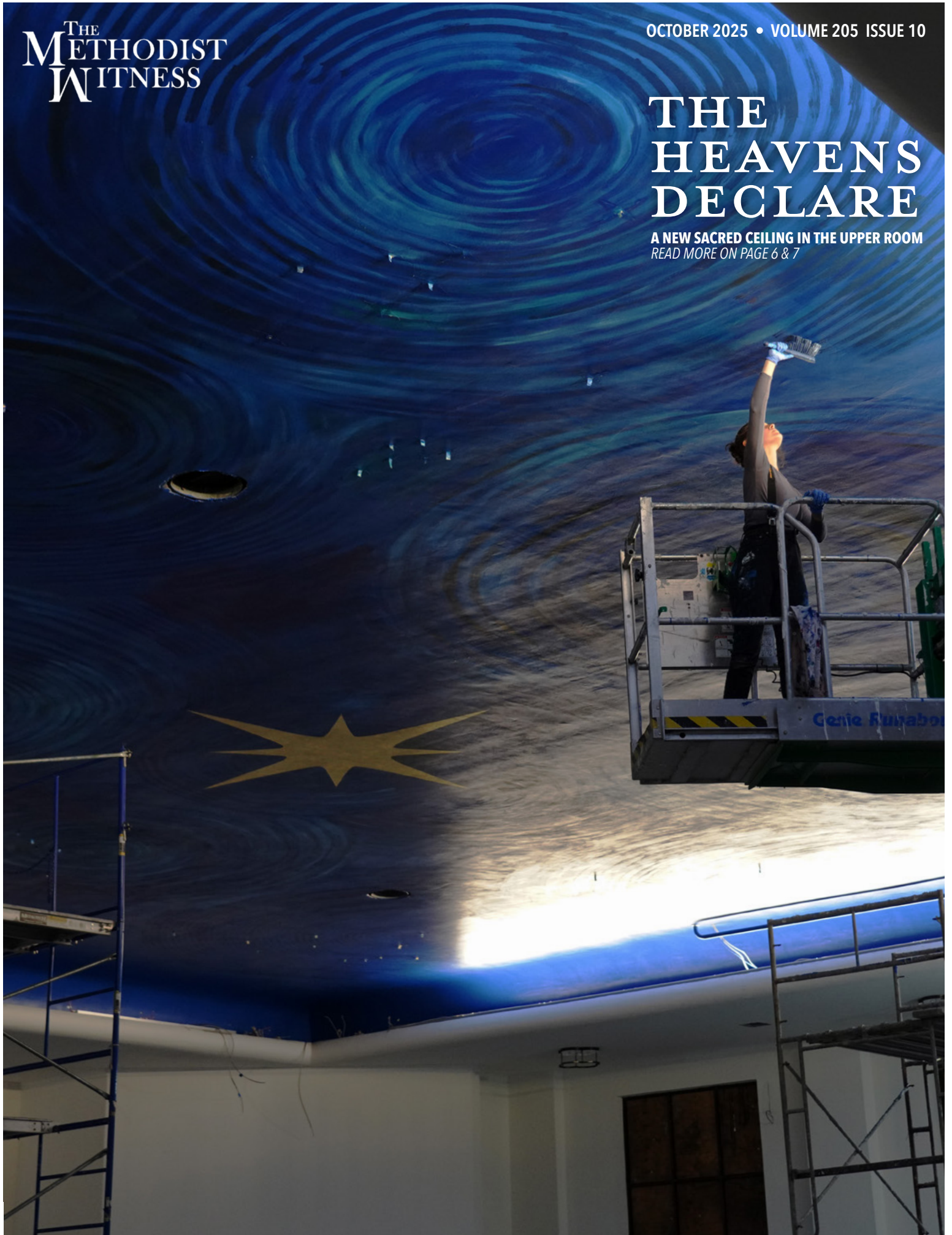


# THE HEAVENS DECLARE

A NEW SACRED CEILING IN THE UPPER ROOM  
READ MORE ON PAGE 6 & 7



## CALLED TO BE GOD'S AMEN CORNER



When a preacher is really preaching, the “Amen Corner” comes alive. You know the ones—the people who don’t just listen quietly, but lean in, nod, and call out, “Amen!” when the truth is spoken. Their voices give energy to the Word. Their “Amen” makes it clear: this is God’s truth, and we are in it together.

That’s exactly what the last word of the Lord’s Prayer is all about. Amen is more than punctuation—it is faith. It is trust. It is our yes to God’s kingdom and our confidence that God hears and answers prayer.

Over these last weeks, we have been walking through the Lord’s Prayer as a church family. We have not just studied it—we have prayed it, wrestled with it, and allowed it to shape us. And now, as we bring this initiative to a close, I believe we are not the same as when we began. We end transformed.

And here’s the good news: the prayer doesn’t end—it continues in us. To say Amen is to take up the calling of being God’s “Amen Corner” in the world. It means we affirm God’s truth

not only with our lips but with our lives. We say yes to God’s kingdom not only with words but with action.

This fall, we bring that spirit of Amen into our stewardship theme: **HEART**. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” And you—First Church—have shown that you are a people of generous hearts. Your giving of treasure, time, and talent has been your Amen to God’s work in this place. Every pledge, every act of service, every offering is another way of saying, “Yes, Lord—we believe, we trust, we follow.”

So let’s keep being God’s Amen Corner together. Let’s keep praying boldly, giving generously, and living faithfully. Because the world needs to hear a resounding “Amen” to God’s love, and by God’s grace, we are here to speak it.

Practice Resurrection,

Geoffrey Lentz  
Senior Pastor



What is God calling you to give to First United Methodist Church of Pensacola in 2026? We kick-off our stewardship season on October 12. During this time we ask our congregation to prayerfully consider how you will support the missions and ministries of FUMC Pensacola. We will conclude with **Consecration Sunday on November 9** with a special brunch and lunch!

## ALL SAINTS BANNER

*October 15 - November 2*

The All Saints banner will be in the Wright Place on Wednesday evenings, as well as in the foyer between the Wright Place and Main Sanctuary, and ICON lobby on Sunday mornings starting October 15. You are invited to place a small bell on the banner in memory of those we love who have died. All Saints Sunday is November 2.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

*Monday, October 20 | 6:00pm | Wesley Hall*

We encourage all council members to attend, and as always, the meeting is open to all members of the congregation.

## COMBINED 11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE

*Sunday, October 26 | 11:00am | Main Sanctuary*

Please note that our ICON family will join with the service in the Main Sanctuary Music & Worship Arts Dedication Sunday.

## CLUSTER CHARGE CONFERENCE

*Monday, October 27 | 6:00pm | Gulf Breeze UMC*

Members of the Church Council are invited to join us for our our Pensacola Area Cluster Charge Conference. Councils from area churches will be voting on the lay leadership and reviewing various district and church council reports.



# Music & Worship Arts DEDICATION SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 8:30 & 11:00AM | MAIN SANCTUARY**

Our children, tween, youth, handbell, & adult choir members will perform along with the Perdido Brass, and the ICON Band during our Main Sanctuary Services. It's a celebratory Sunday as we worship together in song and dedicate all of our choirs and musicians to the glory of God.

*Please note that our ICON family will join with the Main Sanctuary Service at 11:00am.*





**October 26**  
**5:30 - 7:00pm**  
Parking Lot off Guillemard

**CRAFTS, GAMES,  
COSTUME CONTEST  
& MORE!**



- \* Sign up to decorate your vehicle. (Scan QR Code)
- \* Bring change for Serving the Hungry

# MIDWEEK at First Church

## FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Wednesdays | 5:00 – 6:00pm | The Wright Place

Join us for a time of fellowship and delicious food, reconnect with old friends, and meet some new ones. The cost of dinner will be \$10/Adult, \$4/child (2-9 years old), \$27/Family Max.

### MENUS:

*October 1:* Oktoberfest Meal: Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, and Dessert

*October 8:* Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese, Kale Salad, and Dessert

*October 15:* Chicken Stir Fry, Rice, Green Beans, Asian Salad, and Dessert

*October 22:* Red Beans and Rice, Cornbread Biscuit, Green Salad, and Dessert

*October 29:* Cider Glazed Pork Chops, Sweet Potatoes, Yeast Roll, Broccoli Salad, and Dessert

## MIDWEEK GAME NIGHT

*Hosted by Respite Ministry*

Wednesday, October 1 | 6:00 – 7:00pm | The Wright Place, Great Hall

Join us for a Midweek Game Night hosted by our Respite Ministry, this is a great chance to see some of the fun activities our "friends" get to enjoy each week. You'll also learn more about the important work the Respite ministry does to support individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

This is also a perfect opportunity to get a taste of what our midweek programming is all about before Session 2 kicks off the following week on October 8. Come play, learn, and get to know the wonderful people of our Respite ministry!

### Here's what you need to know:

- Who: Everyone is welcome! Youth are invited to join the game night instead of their normal programming.
- Kids: Programming will be available for children in the gym starting at 5:45pm, as well as nursery care.
- What: Games, fellowship, and a chance to connect with others.

## SESSION 2: ADULT STUDIES

*October 8 - November 19*

### READING THROUGH NEHEMIAH

*taught by Alex Brown*

Wednesdays, October 8 - November 19 | 6:00 - 7:00pm | 2nd Floor Wright Place, Room WP233

Join me for a 7-week journey through the first half of Nehemiah! Each week, we'll dive into one chapter, uncovering powerful truths and practical lessons from one of the Old Testament's most inspiring leaders. Together, we'll explore how Nehemiah's story speaks to our lives today—and how we can live out those truths in meaningful ways. It's going to be a rich, thought-provoking study.

### WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays, October 8 - November 19 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

All are welcome to join this multi-generational walking group as we explore downtown Pensacola. We will meet, weather permitting, in front of the Church Office building at 6:00pm. Contact Denise Van Atta (DVanAtta@FUMCPensacola.com) for more information.

### A STUDY OF CHRISTIAN ART THROUGH THE LECTIONARY

*taught by Rev. Emily Kincaid and Rev. Brennan Peacock*

Wednesdays, October 8 - November 19 | 6:00 - 7:00pm | Conference Room

Join us as we study scripture and how artists have interpreted God's word through artistic expression throughout history. No book required.

## **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.

## **WEEKLY ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL**

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

Weekly rehearsals take place on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 7:30pm. No experience is needed. The Adult Sanctuary Choir is open to all adults and sings on Sunday mornings alternating between the 8:30 and 11:00am Main Sanctuary worship services each week.



## **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 10](#).*

### **KIDCONNECT (FOR K–5TH GRADE)**

Wednesdays | 3:00 - 5:15pm | Starts in Wesley Abbey

[Register Online](#)

### **FIRST KIDS: MIDWEEK (FOR PRE-K – 5TH GRADE)**

Wednesdays | 5:50 - 7:00pm | Gym, Education 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.

# THE HEAVENS DECLARE

A NEW SACRED CEILING IN THE UPPER ROOM



*Artist Daniela de Castro, lead artist, stands in front of the beginnings of "The Heavens Declare" mural.*

First United Methodist Church of Pensacola is transforming the ceiling of its Upper Room worship space into a breathtaking star map, a sacred canvas designed and painted by acclaimed Pensacola artist Daniela de Castro, whose own story of creativity makes her uniquely suited for the project.

Born in Venezuela and arriving in the United States at age 15, de Castro has become one of Pensacola's most celebrated artists. Known for her vibrant murals and multimedia installations, her work is inspired by the human connection experienced through art, and the belief that art challenges viewers to see the world differently. She shared her story and vision in a moving TEDxPensacola talk, "The Power of Street Art," reflecting on how public art opens doorways to new realities.

"Daniela is the perfect choice for this project," said Rev. Geoffrey Lentz, Senior Pastor of First Church. "Just as street art awakens us to imagine a different world, this ceiling invites worshippers to behold the cosmos as created and redeemed by God."

## **A Sacred Tradition, Reimagined**

For centuries, churches have lifted eyes and hearts heavenward with painted ceilings. From Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel to the star-studded domes of Byzantine basilicas, sacred ceilings remind worshippers of God's transcendence and majesty. First Church's new ceiling continues this tradition with a modern interpretation inspired by the images of the James Webb Space Telescope.

The design, titled "The Heavens Declare — A Star Map Ceiling for Worship," will feature:

- A deep indigo sky painted across the tray ceiling, functioning like a flattened dome.
- Gold-leaf constellations including Aquarius, Leo, Taurus, and Scorpius, symbolizing the four Gospel writers anchoring the corners of creation.
- A radiant Star of Bethlehem at the center, representing Christ, the Morning Star.
- Biblical constellations such as Orion and the Pleiades, alongside visible planets, blending astronomical accuracy with sacred symbolism.



*Artist Krist Lien applies gold leaf to the Star of Bethlehem.*



“Our ceiling will shimmer with gold stars that catch the light,” said Rev. Geoffrey Lentz. “Like the heavens themselves, it will declare the glory of God.”

### Connecting with the Wider Tradition

The theme of stars is already dear to Pensacola’s worship tradition, seen above the altar at St. Michael Basilica and in the dome at Christ Episcopal Church. First Church’s ceiling will echo these precedents while offering a fresh, contemporary vision.

### The Artist at Work

Daniela de Castro’s artistry has been celebrated across Pensacola—from monumental murals to her role in building the City of Pensacola’s Artist in Residence Program. Her ability to merge classical technique with modern, socially engaged art makes her work both visually stunning and deeply meaningful.

“This project brings together my love for public, immersive, and intentional art.” de Castro said. The scale of the ceiling and the

selection of the heavenly bodies are about feeling moved beyond ordinary perception and connecting with a deeper emotional and spiritual reality.

Daniela is being assisted by artists Krist Lien and Eniko Ujj.

### About the Upper Room and ICON Service

The Upper Room space, once the temple room of the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, has been lovingly transformed into a worship space designed for ICON, our ancient–future service. ICON blends modern music and art with timeless liturgy. This service currently meets in our Wesley Hall space downstairs. The new ceiling will be the signature feature of this sacred space, bridging tradition with fresh vision.

We look forward to celebrating the grand opening of the Upper Room on January 11, 2026.



*Artist Daniela de Castro uses brush to create galaxy like swirls.*



*Mural progress as of September 26, 2025*

## BEULAH CHAPEL WORK DAY

*Saturday, October 4 | 9:00am - 12:00pm | 6200 W Nine Mile Road*

With our annual conference's help, we made a commitment to meet the spiritual needs of expanding communities and establish a satellite campus in Beulah. Since then, we have identified and purchased property located at 6200 W Nine Mile Rd to begin ministry in the community. We invite you to join us at Beulah Chapel to get some painting and other work done! Email Denise Van Atta ([DVanAtta@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:DVanAtta@FUMCPensacola.com)) if you plan to attend.



# LET'S SAY, THANK YOU!

## OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH!

During the month of October, there will be a card collection box in the Church Office and the Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to write to your Pastors and let them know personally, how much they are loved and appreciated.

Help us to let Rev. Emily Kincaid, Rev. Brennan Peacock, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz, Rev. Heather Nysewander, and Rev. Dr. Rick Branch know how great they are!



## SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

*Sunday, November 16 | 12:00 - 2:00pm*

*The Wright Place, Great Hall*

[Click HERE to Register](#) or scan QR Code



Since the release of Safe Sanctuaries in 1998, churches have changed the way they attempt to prevent abuse of the vulnerable and protect staff and volunteers. FUMC is offering a Safe Sanctuary training for all who volunteer in our children, youth, Serve the Hungry, Respite, Congregational Care, Disaster Relief teams and other ministries. Lunch will be provided. All volunteers are required to attend this session, unless their ministry coordinator has already trained them within the last year. Check with the staff person related to your ministry area if you have questions.



# 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](mailto:GRaines@FUMCPensacola.com)*

## LOVE & REMEMBRANCE

### Member who have died:

*We offer our christian love and sympathy to:*

**The family of Michael Bower** (mother, Karen Bower; daughter, Mary Bower Bailey; son, Cecil "Wil" Bower; and sister, Lani Titus.) Mike died on September 15, 2025. *The service of death and resurrection will be held on Sunday, October 5 at 2:00pm in the Main Sanctuary.*

### Loved ones who have died:

*We offer our christian love and sympathy to:*

**Joyce Callahan** on the death of her brother, Clyde Allen.

## BAPTISMS

**Mary Hagan Brantley**, daughter of Taylor and William Brantley, was baptized on Sunday, September 14, 2025.

## CELEBRATIONS:

**Lily Simone Bryant** was born on August 17, 2025 to **Chris and Joanna Bryant**. Proud grandparents are **Jeff and Terrill Bryant**.

The wedding of **Aiden Patterson and Linley King** on September 13, 2025.

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*You may place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor, celebration or memory of someone. NOTICE: The cost for our Sunday Flower arrangements has increased from \$130.00 to \$165.00 (\$82.50 each).*

**September 7:** Given in celebration of **Bob and Sharon Espersen's 58th wedding anniversary** on September 9.

**September 28:** Given in celebration of **Hank and Karen Thompson's 45th wedding anniversary** on September 27.



## ART SPACE AT THE WRIGHT PLACE ARTIST OF THE MONTH: RUTH GORDON

*On Display through November 9 | The Wright Place, Dining Room*

*Meet the Artist: Sun, Oct 26 | 9:30 - 11:00am & Reception: Tues, Oct 28 | 4:30 - 7:30pm*

Ruth Gordon is a member of FUMC Pensacola and has generously donated all the displayed artwork in the Wright Place. Proceeds from the sale of her work will go to support the mission and ministries of our church.

Ruth is a retired elementary principal who loves art. She received an AA degree from PJC, a BA from FSU, and a MA from UWF. After retirement, she has immersed herself in the local arts community.

For years her artist statement was: "I see something that makes me want to paint it or I get an idea for a painting that I feel I just have to paint! I love painting best with acrylic paint in bold colors! My favorite subject matter is big bright flowers and colorful large landscapes." However, after severe illness about three years ago, Ruth was no longer able to paint as she once did. She forgot how to use various art supplies and even how to paint. After attending a workshop on Archetypes she was inspired. With lots of trial and many changes, art has again become something she loves! The art on display in the Wright Place is a collection of art from throughout Ruth's career and a few of her most recent pieces from the Pillars Show at Luna Art Gallery and the Collage Show in The Wright Place.

Ruth is a member of Pensacola Museum of Art, a member of Pensacola Museum Art Guild, a Lifetime Member of of Artel, and a member of Pensacola Pen Women, a member of the Paint Out Group, and a member of the Collage Group. She is an emeritus member at Quayside Art Gallery and the Art Study Club. Her work has been displayed in the following other places: Quayside Art Gallery, Artel Gallery, Gallery 1060 at First City Art Center, Pensacola Museum of Art, Pensacola State College in the Switzer Gallery, Fine Arts Show at Pensacola Interstate Fair, Art Study Club's Exhibits in various locations, and Paint Out Exhibits in various locations!

*Our beautiful "Art Space at The Wright Place" is open to local artists to display and sell their work. Each artist will be able to have their work displayed and available for purchase for a month. Contact Mici Kuba ([MKuba@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:MKuba@FUMCPensacola.com)) with any questions.*

**ART  
SPACE  
- AT THE -  
WRIGHT  
PLACE**

# 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](mailto:LBond@fumcpensacola.com)

### PARENTS NIGHT OUT: YOUTH CHOIR FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, October 4 | 3:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Activities Center**

[Click HERE to Register](#) by October 2  
How would you like a night out while supporting good cause? Infants -5th graders can be dropped off in the Activities Center for an evening of fun while parents enjoy an evening out. Proceeds will go to support the Youth Choir! Registration is required with a suggested donation (\$20 per child). Dinner menu includes pizza, fruit, and dessert.

### MOMS' COFFEE BREAK

**Tuesday, October 7 | 3:30 - 5:00pm**  
**Starbucks on Gregory**  
**(501 E. Gregory Street)**

Drop your kids off at church and join us at Starbucks for a well deserved coffee break while we provide childcare. Contact Lisa at 850-549-8967 if you can join us.

### CHILLTIME FOR KIDS

(FOR 3RD-5TH GRADE)

**Tuesdays, starting Oct 14 | 3:00 - 4:00pm | Cordova Mall Food Court**

All 3rd-5th graders are invited for a time with friends, food and faith focus. Friends are welcome and all are asked to bring money for their food court snack. (Transportation from church for MCA kids and other upon availability leaves

at 2:45 and returns at 4:15pm) To sign up, contact Lisa Bond by text at 850-549-8967.

### TUSCAN OVEN FAMILY NIGHT & YOUTH CHOIR FUNDRAISER

**Thursday, October 16 | 5:00 - 8:00pm**  
**Tuscan Oven (4801 N. 9th Ave)**

Join us as we all gather at Tuscan Oven for an evening of fun and fundraising. Come anytime that evening, eat, visit and mention FUMC Youth Choir and Tuscan Oven will donate money. (Lunch & Take outs orders are also included in fundraiser- just don't forget to mention FUMC youth choir).

### TRUNK-OR-TREAT

**Sunday, October 26 | 5:30 - 7:00pm**  
**Guillemard Parking Lot**

Join us for an afternoon of fun for all ages! We will have crafts, games, costume contests, and more! Registration is open to reserve a spot for your decorated vehicle. Click [HERE](#) to Register your Vehicle We ask that all participants keep the decorations "G-Rated" for the children. No blood, gore, or scary themes, please! You are asked to also provide your treats to hand out. There will be a prize for the best-decorated vehicle! Vehicles will need to arrive by 4:15pm.

### KIDCONNECT (for K-5TH GRADE)

**Wednesdays | 3:00 - 5:15pm**  
**Starts in Wesley Hall**

[Register HERE](#)

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 | 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](mailto:HNysewander@fumcpensacola.com)

### UPCOMING OCTOBER LESSONS

SERIES - CAMPFIRE STORIES:

SPOOKY TALES FROM THE BIBLE

Youth will spend this month learning about God's presence, grace, and power in the face of some of the spookier tales of the Bible. Youth will also learn that despite our human failings, there is a God who is ever patient with us, full of compassion, and has resurrected us in Christ. Throughout each week we will be covering a different story, leading up to the first week of November and All Saint's Sunday.

**October 5:** The Writing on the Wall - Daniel 5:1-31

*Continued on next page...*

*October 12:* The Witch of Endor - 1 Samuel 28:3-25  
*October 19:* The Living Dead - Ezekiel 37:1-14  
*October 26:* Facing Legion - Mark 5:1-20  
*November 2:* All Saint's - John 11:32-44  
*\*November 2: daylight saving time ends.*

## OCTOBER WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

*Wednesdays | 6:00pm - 7:00pm*

*October 1:* Game Night with the Respite Ministry in the Wright Place

*October 8:* Baking/Cooking Night

*October 15:* Field Trip Bible Study (Starbucks on Gregory St.)

*October 22:* Game Night

*October 29:* Volunteer Night

## BEULAH WORK DAY

*Saturday, October 4 | 8:00am -*

*12:00pm | 6200 W Nine Mile Road*

Youth are invited to take part in helping prepare the Beulah property to become the first United Methodist Church in Beulah. Brings some water, work gloves, and clothes you don't mind getting sweaty and messy!

## BURGERS AND BINGO

*Sunday, October 5 | 12:15pm -*

*2:00pm | The Wright Place*

Join us for a fun-filled evening of fellowship with the First Church Youth as they host Burgers & Bingo! It's going to be fun spending time with the future of First Church as we laugh, break bread and win some Bingo prizes. [Click HERE to Register](#) (Youth do not need to register).

## TUSCAN OVEN YOUTH CHOIR FUNDRAISER

*Thursday, October 16 | 5:00 - 8:00pm*

*Tuscan Oven (4801 N. 9th Ave)*

Join us as we all gather at Tuscan Oven for an evening of fun and fundraising. Come anytime that evening, eat, visit and mention FUMC Youth Choir and Tuscan Oven will donate money.

(Lunch & Take outs orders are also included in fundraiser- just don't forget to mention FUMC youth choir).

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

*Sunday, October 26 | 5:30 - 7:00pm*

*Guillemard Parking Lot*

Join us for an afternoon of fun for all ages! We will have crafts, games, costume contests, and more! Registration is open to reserve a spot for your decorated vehicle. Click [HERE](#) to Register your Vehicle We ask that all participants keep the decorations "G-Rated" for the children. No blood, gore, or scary themes, please! You are asked to also provide your treats to hand out. There will be a prize for the best-decorated vehicle! Vehicles will need to arrive by 4:15pm.

## 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](mailto:RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com)

## SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT PRACTICE

*Wednesdays | 6:00 - 7:00pm*

*Choir Room*

We are working on Christmas music for the first hour of each rehearsal, from 6:00 -7:00pm. If you would like to join us, but haven't yet, please let Rick know.

## ALL CHOIRS

KINDERGARTEN - ADULT

Choir Dedication Sunday is October 26 at the 8:30 and 11:00am Main Sanctuary services. The children and youth choirs will sing at the beginning of each service and then be free to join their families by 15 minutes into each service.

## YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS

*Sunday, October 5:* no rehearsal

*Sundays, October 12 - 26:* regular rehearsals

## TUSCAN OVEN YOUTH CHOIR FUNDRAISER

*Thursday, October 16 | 5:00 - 8:00pm*

*Tuscan Oven (4801 N. 9th Ave)*

Join us as we all gather at Tuscan Oven for an evening of fun and fundraising. Come anytime that evening, eat, visit and mention FUMC Youth Choir and Tuscan Oven will donate money. (Lunch & Take outs orders are also included in fundraiser)

## RESPITE

Kirstin Norris

Respite Director

[KNorris@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:KNorris@FUMCPensacola.com)

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.



## 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](mailto:JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com)

### BURGERS & BINGO

**Sunday, October 5 | 12:15 - 2:00pm**

**The Wright Place | FREE**

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for a fun-filled evening of fellowship with the First Church Youth as they host Burgers & Bingo! It's going to be fun spending time with the future of First Church as we laugh, break bread and win some Bingo prizes. Register online or to the church office TODAY.

### LUNCH OUT - CACTUS CANTINA

**Thursday, October 9 | 11:30am**

**5121 N 12th Ave**

[Click HERE to Register by Oct 7](#)

Join us for our monthly lunch outing with friends at Cactus Cantina Mexican Grill. We will enjoy fellowship and fresh Mexican cuisine in a private banquet room. The menu includes a variety of Mexican dishes to choose from and includes their made fresh daily, thin and crispy chips and salsa.

### SILVER & GOLD - ROBYN A.

#### RENNICK, SOUTHERN STORYTELLER

**Thursday, October 23 | 11:00am -**

**1:00pm | \$10 | The Wright Place-**

**Doors open at 10:30am**

[Click HERE to Register by Oct 19](#)

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship and lunch from Ruth's Kitchen. We are excited to have Robyn A. Rennick return with her humorous style of Southern Storytelling. This year she looks to the Animal Kingdom to make us laugh and to make us wonder about the connections between people and our furry friends. From scary roosters to osprey and snakes, Robyn tells stories and poems about having moved to Gulf

County and finding out Gulf County is a Wild Place. Then she shifts to animals and Christmas miracles which will leave us inspired and looking towards Christmas. Doors open at 10:30am

### 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. 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](mailto:jeanp347@gmail.com)).

### GRAND MONDAY NIGHTS

**Mondays | 7:00 - 8:00pm**

[legacycoalition.com/grand-monday-nights](http://legacycoalition.com/grand-monday-nights)

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.

## 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](mailto:EKincaid@FUMCPensacola.com)

### FIND YOUR TRUE SELF: AN ENNEAGRAM DAY RETREAT WITH REV. EMILY KINCAID

**Thursday, November 13 | 9:30am to 4:00pm | The Wright Place | \$60.00 (includes lunch)**

[Click Here To Register](#)

This retreat is hosted by Center for Sacred Space. The Enneagram is a personality typing system consisting of nine distinct types, each characterized by unique motivations, fears, and behaviors. The Enneagram system not only categorizes personality types, but also provides insights into how these types interact with each other. Each type has a core belief that shapes their worldview and behavior. Understanding your Enneagram type can lead to greater self-awareness and personal growth, as it highlights motivations, fears, and potential areas for development. Learning objectives for the event include the following:

- Basic understanding of the Enneagram as a tool for spiritual growth
- Identify and reflect on personal Enneagram type and core motivations
- Understand the connection between personality patterns and the "True Self"
- Practice compassionate self-awareness and nonjudgmental observation
- Apply Enneagram insights to relationships and community
- Develop a personal "growth intention"

## 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](mailto:RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com)

### J.U.S.T. PENSACOLA

The FUMC Church & Society Committee is pleased to announce that J.U.S.T. Pensacola recently launched its seventh year of working for justice and peace. Dozens of church members and local residents participated in multiple house meetings across the area, discussing a wide range of problems and concerns. The next event to mark on your calendar is J.U.S.T. Pensacola's annual Community Problems Assembly at 6 p.m. Oct. 28, with the location to be announced soon. All are welcome! For more information about J.U.S.T. Pensacola, go to [justpensacola.org](http://justpensacola.org).

If you wanted to attend one of the September JUST House Meetings, but were not able to, then you are invited to attend our final Make Up House Meeting on Thursday, October 2, at 6:00pm in the Ike Terry Rehearsal Hall (choir room) hosted by Rick and Heidi Branch. Please let Rick know if you like to join us: [RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com).

## 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. Cost: Adults - \$10, Children (2-9 years old) - \$4, Max Family Cost - \$27 | [Pay Online](#)*

**October 1:** Octoberfest meal:  
Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, and Dessert

**October 8:** Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese, Kale Salad, and Dessert

**October 15:** Chicken Stir Fry, Rice, Green Beans, Asian Salad, and Dessert

**October 22:** Red Beans and Rice, Cornbread Biscuit, Green Salad, and Dessert

**October 29:** Cider Glazed Pork Chops, Sweet Potatoes, Yeast Roll, Broccoli Salad, and Dessert

## 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.**

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA**

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