





Dear Friends,

Summer at First Church began with wonder. From May 31 - June 4, we welcomed children into a week of worship, learning, play, music, friendship, and discovery through this year's Vacation Bible School

theme: Space Adventure: Made for Wonder.

This year's VBS was especially meaningful because our own First Church team wrote the curriculum. It was inspired by the starry ceiling recently painted in the Upper Room, where the beauty of the heavens points us toward the wonder of God. In that space, the stars are not just decoration. They are a kind of prayer. They remind us of one of the oldest songs of creation: "The heavens are telling the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

There is something deeply faithful about looking up. The stars remind us that creation is larger than we can imagine, and yet the God who made the galaxies also knows us by name. Scripture tells us that God "determines the number of the stars" and "gives to all of them their names" (Psalm 147:4). That is an astonishing thought. The same God who names the stars also calls our children beloved. The same God who fills the night sky with wonder fills young hearts with curiosity, joy, and faith.

Vacation Bible School is one of the ways we help children practice wonder. We do not simply teach them facts about God. We invite them to see the world as a gift. We help them ask big questions. We sing, play, create, listen, and pray so they can begin to know that they were made by God, loved by God, and called into God's beautiful story.

That is why this theme matters: Made for Wonder. Wonder is not childish. Wonder is one of the first movements of faith. Before we can explain everything, we stand in awe. Before we can understand the mystery of God, we are invited to receive it. A child looking up at the stars is closer to prayer than they know. As summer begins, we give thanks for the children of our church, for the volunteers who lead and served, and for the holy joy of Vacation Bible School. May this week help our children discover not only the beauty of the stars above them, but the love of God surrounding them.

This summer, may we all look up again. May we recover the sacred gift of wonder.

Practice Resurrection,

Geoffrey
Geoffrey

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Senior Pastor



AWFUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Click [HERE](#) or scan QR to Sign Up

First United Methodist Church of Pensacola is hosting the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference June 7-9, 2026. We will be welcoming clergy and laity from all over our annual conference. 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 sign up. Contact Lisa Bond at LBond@FUMCPensacola.com with any questions.



WELCOME BISHOP MANDE MUYOMBO

Sunday, June 7 | 8:30 & Combined 11:00am | Main Sanctuary

First Church is honored to welcome Bishop Mande Muyombo as our guest preacher on Sunday, June 7. On this special Sunday, the 11:00am ICON service will worship in the Main Sanctuary. Bishop Muyombo serves as Resident Bishop of the North Katanga Area of The United Methodist Church, overseeing the North Katanga and Tanzania Conferences in Africa. Please join us in extending a warm First Church welcome.

ADAM HAMILTON

Author of Creed, Wrestling with Doubt, and The Message of Jesus



THE
HOLY
SPIRIT

GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER
AT WORK IN US

Summer Sunday School Sessions

June 14 - August 2 | 9:45-10:45am
The Wright Place, Great Hall

Pastor Emily will be leading Summer Sessions in the Wright Place Great Hall during Sunday School, 9:45 - 10:40am each Sunday beginning June 14 through August 2 (with the exception of July 5 due to the holiday weekend). We will be studying Adam Hamilton's new study on the Holy Spirit. Participant books are available through cokesbury.com or [Amazon](http://Amazon.com). We will have a few copies at the front desk for purchase. All are welcome - come learn with us!

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17



YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER & TALENT SHOW

Dinner (5:00pm, The Great Hall)

Talent Show (6:00pm, The Upper Room)

Click [HERE](#) or scan QR code 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 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 Show will follow at 6:00pm in The Upper Room. The menu includes Spaghetti, Salad, & Dessert.



SERVE TOGETHER SPOTLIGHT

Serve Together is how we live out our calling at First Church — by using our gifts to serve God, one another, and our community. Throughout the year, opportunities are available both inside our church and beyond our walls, and we regularly share an updated Immediate Needs (at FUMCPensacola.com/Serve) list highlighting where help is most needed right now. Our featured immediate need is:



SUMMER RESPITE MINISTRY VOLUNTEER

First Church Respite Ministry provides a safe, joyful, and engaging environment for individuals living with dementia while offering their caregivers meaningful time for rest and renewal.

Need: 5 Respite Volunteers (Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00am – 2:00pm)

Why It Matters: These volunteers allow us to welcome individuals currently on our waitlist and allows us to continue ministry during the busy summer months.

Contact: Kirstin Gartner | KGartner@fumcpensacola.com

A STANDING PRAYER FOR PEACE

On Peace with Justice Sunday (May 31), First United Methodist Church dedicated a new Peace Pole in memory of Mary McMillan, a Pensacola native, Methodist missionary, teacher, and peace activist. The dedication was sponsored by First Church's Church and Society Committee, and the pole has been placed in the church yard at the corner of Palafox and Wright Street as a visible prayer for peace in the heart of our city.

Mary McMillan served for decades as a United Methodist missionary in Japan, especially in Hiroshima, where she taught at Hiroshima Jo Gakuin, a Methodist school and college. Her ministry was shaped by the aftermath of World War II and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. In a city marked by terrible suffering, McMillan gave her life to Christian education, friendship between peoples, care for survivors, and the work of reconciliation. Her life reminds us that peace is not an abstract ideal, but a daily Christian vocation.

A Peace Pole is an international symbol of prayer and hope. Each pole bears the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in several languages. The movement began in Japan after World War II as a response to the devastation of war and the deep longing for a more peaceful world. Today, Peace Poles stand in churches, schools, parks, and public spaces across the globe as visible reminders that peace is both a prayer we offer and a calling we receive.

Our Peace Pole is located where the church meets the city. At the corner of Palafox and Wright Street, it is available not only to our congregation, but also to neighbors, visitors, and the wider Pensacola community. In times of war, violence, grief, or conflict, we hope this will become a place where people can pause, pray, remember, and recommit themselves to the way of peace.

For Christians, peace is more than the absence of conflict. Peace is the gift of Christ, who is our peace, and the work of the Spirit, who calls us to reconciliation, justice, mercy, and love. To pray, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," is to join our voices with the prophets who dreamed of swords beaten into plowshares, with the angels who sang of peace on earth, and with the risen Christ who greeted his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you."

As we dedicate this Peace Pole in memory of Mary McMillan, we give thanks for her witness and recommit ourselves to the ministry of peace with justice. May this pole stand as a prayer in the heart of our city. May it call us to pray for peace, work for justice, and live as ambassadors of reconciliation.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.



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 offer our christian love and sympathy to:

We offer our Christian love and sympathy to Phyllis Johnson and family on the death of her father, **Dale R. Johnson**. Dale died on May 20, 2026.

Murray Jones and family on the death of **Marilyn Jones**. Marilyn died May 27, 2026.

Loved ones who have died:

We offer our christian love and sympathy to:

The Bower Family on the death of **Brian Carter**, son-in-law of Karen Bower.

Debra Messer on the death of her mother, **JoAnne Messer**.

CELEBRATIONS

The marriage of **Patricia Kay McAuley** to **Allen Litvak** on Sunday, May 24, 2026. Tricia Kay is the daughter of Dr. Laura and Earle McAuley.

BAPTISMS

Annie Jo Truncale, Millie Truncale & Elliana Truncale, daughters of Christine & Joseph Truncale, were baptized on Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Brenda Cheryl Johnson was baptized on Sunday, May 17, 2026

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

May 3: Given in loving memory of **Patricia Brinson** by her family.

May 10: Given in celebration of **Lilly Kate Adair's 18th birthday** on May 22. Given by her family. And in celebration of **Brady Keller's 1st Mothers Day**. Given by her family.

THE LIVING TRUST MAY 1 - JUNE 3, 2026

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 OF:

Pat Brinson

For the Brinson Laney Music Scholarship

- By Robin and Bob Anderson
- By Bonnie Byrd
- By Jane and Mike Dunn
- By Julie Seabrook

Don and Jackie Oakes

For the Feed the Children Program

- By Kay Richie, Amanda Bennett and Family

Dale Johnson

- By Caren Fleit
- By Ben Stovall
- By Gayl Ray
- By Jeffrey Gilbert
- By Karen Dinowitz
- By Glen Monks
- By Les Robins
- By Jennifer Fleming
- By John Wiley
- By Rebecca McMullen

IN HONOR OF:

Bella and Tucker Trivison's Graduation

- By Laura Mehle

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

SPORTS CAMP

June 15 - June 18
8:30am-1:00pm | \$96

[Click HERE to Register](#)

A high-energy week where campers learn sports skills, teamwork, and confidence through races, challenges, and games. Led by Coach Willis and his team, Sports Camp is designed to keep kids active while building friendships and having fun.



YOUTH CHOIR TALENT SHOW AND SPAGHETTI DINNER

Wednesday, June 17 | 5:00pm
Dinner (Great Hall), 6:00pm Show
(The Upper Room)

[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 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 Show will follow at 6:00pm in The



Upper Room. The menu includes Spaghetti, Salad, & Dessert.

MOM'S COFFEE

Tuesday, June 30 | 3:30 - 5:00pm
Starbucks on Gregory

Moms are invited to take a break and enjoy kid-free conversation and fellowship over coffee. This casual gathering is a chance to connect with other moms and recharge during the summer. RSVP to Lisa Bond (850-549-8967) for childcare.

MOVIE NIGHT

(PARENTS' NIGHT OUT)

Wednesday, July 1 | 5:00 - 8:00pm
The Upper Room

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Drop the kids (preschool - 5th grade) off for a fun movie night at church while parents enjoy an evening out. Dinner will be provided, making this a simple and enjoyable night for the whole family. Registration is required with a suggested donation (\$10 per child).



CAMP SMALLEDWIN

Wednesday, July 15 | 5:00 - 9:00pm | Education Building | \$5

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Designed for children who have completed Kindergarten - 2nd grade, Camp Smalledwin brings the excitement of camp into one fun evening. Kids will enjoy games, crafts, and a cozy campfire-style experience.



BLUE LAKE CAMP BLAST

Monday, July 20-Friday, July 24

Check-In: Monday at 2:00pm;

Check-Out: Friday at 9:15am

Blue Lake Camp, Andalusia, AL

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Students who have completed 3rd-5th grades are invited to experience a week of summer camp filled with archery, crafts, field games, campfires, and more. Blue Lake Camp offers a memorable week of faith, friendship, and adventure.



GRANDPARENTS' GOOFY GOLF

Friday, July 31 | 5:00 - 7:00pm

Meet in Gym

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Children and their grandparents are invited for an evening of mini golf, fellowship, and fun. Transportation from the church to the golf course will be provided. Registration required.



END OF SUMMER SPLASH

Wednesday, August 5

5:00 - 7:00pm | Front Lawn

Celebrate the end of summer with a giant waterslide, hot dogs, and plenty of family fun. This annual event is a great way to connect with friends before the school year begins.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday | 9:45 - 10:45am

Education Building

Children are invited to join us each week for engaging lessons, activities, and fellowship designed to help them grow in faith while having fun with friends.

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.

Denise Van Atta
Interim Student Ministries Director
DVanAtta@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!

YOUTH CHOIR TOUR & HOME CONCERT

June 20 - 27 & June 28

Our Youth Choir will be on tour June 20 - 27 . The Home Concert will be on Sunday, June 28 at 8:30 & 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary. Please pray for safe travels and spiritual encounters.

Choir Tour Members: John Patrick Fairchild, Bailey Fitzgerald, Molly Fitzgerald, Cameron Fitzgerald, Peyton Gagnet, Wheeler Henderson, Jones Hess, Nathan Hulstrand, Alexandra Johnson, Caroline Kennedy, Lawson Killingsworth, Ruth Kincaid, Hylan Lamarche, Aiden Lamarche, Helen Lauderdale, Eliza Lentz, Jack McAuley, Collin Porto, Chloe Stump, Malia White, and Anabelle Layne

Chaperones: Heidi Branch, Rick Branch, Lisa Bond, Liz Lentz, Cody Titus, Christy Stump, Denise Van Atta

SENIOR ADULTS

The Senior Adult ministry at First Church is 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 Senior Adult Ministries
JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com

LUNCH OUT - RESTAURANT NOLA DOWNTOWN

Thursday, June 11 | 11:30am

[Click HERE to Register](#)



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship and lunch at Restaurant NOLA - Downtown. We will enjoy fellowship and some of Louisiana's favorite dishes in a private room. The menu includes delicious options such as Oysters, Gumbo, Po-Boys, Steaks and Seafood Platters.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH MAJOR ALEX BOYKIN

Thursday, June 25 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm | Wright Place | \$10

[Click HERE to Register](#)



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship, lunch catered by The Honey Baked Ham Company and learn what it is like to be a Hurricane Hunter with Major Alex Boykin. He is a Command Rated Pilot in the United States Air Force Reserve and currently flies with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, known as The Hurricane Hunters, where he serves as an Instructor Pilot, and, for the past four years, the Mission Commander of the Hurricane Awareness Tour. He is a native of Richmond Virginia and a graduate of the Virginia Military institute, the Air Force Air Command and Staff College, and multiple courses from the Air Force Special Operations

School. He is a former Special Operations Pilot, a Tabbed Air Commando with seven combat deployments. As a Hurricane Hunter he has 76 Hurricane Eye Wall Penetrations and over a hundred flights through Tropical Depressions, Storms, and Pacific Atmospheric Rivers. He has been featured on National Geographic, Netflix, CNN, NBC, CBS, ABC, News Nation, and numerous other media outlets. Alex calls Pensacola home and is involved with several organizations around town.

POPCORN & MOVIE - REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES

Tuesday, June 30 | 2:00pm -

4:00pm | The Wright Place | No Cost

[Click HERE to Register](#)



Lights, Camera, Popcorn! Join us for an afternoon of fellowship! We will watch Remarkably Bright Creatures which follows Tova, a widowed aquarium cleaner, whose unlikely friendship with Marcellus, a witty giant Pacific octopus, and a drifting young man sparks a journey of mystery, healing, and renewed wonder. Adapted from Shelby Van Pelt's bestselling novel, the film blends warmth, charm, and emotional depth. With Sally Field leading a strong cast and Olivia Newman directing, it promises a heartfelt and uplifting watch. Snacks will be served. Feel free to bring your family and friends!

GRANDPARENTS' GOOFY GOLF

Friday, July 31 | 5:00-7:00pm

Meet in Gym

[Click HERE to Register](#)



Children and their grandparents are invited for an evening of mini golf, fellowship, and fun. Transportation from the church to the golf course will be provided. Registration required.

Continued on next page...

SENIOR ADULTS CONT.

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30am

Church Library

We have a small, friendly group that meets each week for coffee and fellowship in the Church Library. 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 and overcome obstacles, and find encouragement. This is a ministry provided by the Legacy Coalition. Register at legacycoalition.com/grand-monday-nights.

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. 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).

LIBRARY

First Church has one of the finest and most comprehensive church libraries in the country. This impressive collection is managed by a staff of volunteers who put hours of service to keeping our library current and active. The library is located on the basement level of the Administrative Building on the campus of First UMC Pensacola.

Rev. Emily Kincaid

Associate Pastor

EKincaid@FUMCPensacola.com

WESLEY WACOB LIBRARY UPDATES

The library staff has created a special section featuring resources for teachers, making these materials easier for members to find and use. Please take a moment to explore the collection.

A limited collection of classic literature is also being established. Donations of hardcover classic books are welcome and will help expand this growing collection.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

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

stay connected   fumcpensacola.com



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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