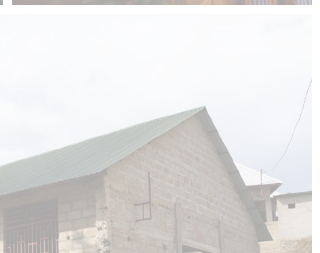
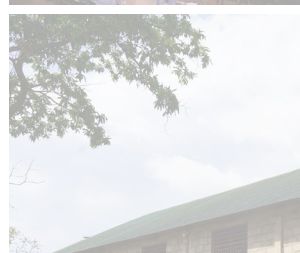
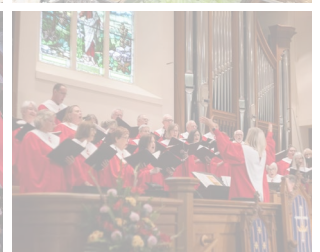
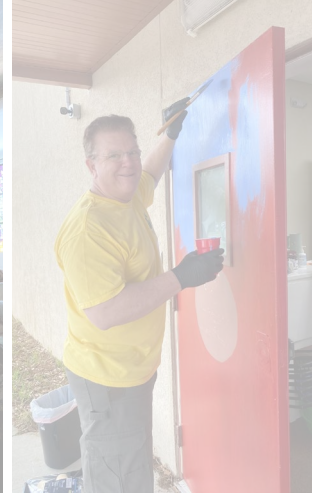


THE
METHODIST
WITNESS

OCTOBER 2026
VOLUME 206 ISSUE 10





Dear First Church Family,

“Hallelujah” is a word of praise. It is our response to God’s faithfulness in the past, God’s presence among us now, and God’s promise for the future,

Hallelujah is not something we say because everything is perfect or because we have accomplished everything we hoped to accomplish. It is what God’s people say when we recognize grace. We praise God for what we have seen, and we trust God for what we cannot yet see. Hallelujah is gratitude becoming hope.

During this year’s stewardship campaign, we will pause to celebrate what God has done through First Church. That includes the ministry made possible by generations of faithful giving and all we have accomplished together through the *Joyful Joyful* campaign. These are part of our hallelujahs: signs of what can happen when we respond generously to God’s call.

We will also look around us. Every week, your gifts help make worship, discipleship, missions, and care possible. People are welcomed, relationships are formed, and neighbors are served because this congregation gives of itself.

I invite you to add your voice to the “Raise a Hallelujah” interactive displays in the Church Office lobby, Upper Room lobby, and Beulah Chapel. Share a story of what God has done, a sign of what God is doing, or a hope for what God will do next. Together, our reflections will tell a fuller story of the ministry we share.

As we look toward 2027, I ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the ongoing missions and ministries of First United Methodist Church of Pensacola. On Consecration Sunday, November 8, we will offer those commitments in worship and gather afterward for a celebration meal. I pray we will come to that day grateful for all that God has done and ready to take the next step together.

*Hallelujah for what God has done.
Hallelujah for what God is doing.
Hallelujah for what God will do.*

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Senior Pastor



The Hallelujah icon mark, designed by Kelsey Seager, FUMC Creative Director, is itself a prayer. It is formed from the Hebrew word hallelujah (הללויה) —“Praise the LORD”— repeated eight times and woven into a single circular image. The design echoes traditions of sacred calligraphy in which holy words become visual art.

The number eight is especially significant for Christians. From the early church onward, eight has symbolized resurrection and new creation. Our logo is therefore an eightfold hallelujah: praise arranged in the shape of resurrection. It celebrates what God has done, gives thanks for what God is doing, and looks with hope toward what God will do next.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 19 | 6:00pm | Upper Room

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

ALL SAINTS BANNER

Beginning *Wednesday, October 14*, the All Saints banner will be available in the Wright Place on Wednesday evenings. It will also be displayed on Sunday mornings in the Church

Office foyer, ICON foyer, and Beulah Chapel foyer. You are invited to place a small bell on the banner in memory of a loved one who has died. Each bell bears a name, honors a life, and represents a story of faith that continues to echo among us. On All Saints Sunday, November 1, the banner will be carried into worship as a visible reminder of those who have gone before us.



hallelujah

FIRST CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN & SERMON SERIES

October 11 - November 8

What happens when we pause long enough to recognize what God has done? Throughout this five-week sermon series and stewardship campaign, we'll celebrate the signs of God's grace among us, give thanks for the people who make ministry possible, remember the saints whose faithfulness prepared the way, and consider the work God has placed in our hands today.

Together, we'll discover that "Hallelujah" is more than a word of praise; it is our response to God's faithfulness in the past, God's presence among us now, and God's promise for the future. As we look toward 2027, we invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support the missions and ministries of First United Methodist Church of Pensacola.

RAISE A
hallelujah

During the series, visit the **interactive displays** in the Church Office lobby, Upper Room lobby, and at Beulah Chapel. Add your own reflections on what God has done, what God is doing, and what you imagine God will do through our church. As they fill, they'll become a shared expression of gratitude, hope, and the stories behind our "Hallelujahs."

The Sundays Ahead

Each Sunday will invite us to see a different part of our shared story:

October 11 • Look What God Has Done

Celebrate the ways God's grace has brought new life to First Church.

October 18 • We Give Thanks for You

Give thanks for the people whose faith, service, and generosity make ministry possible.

October 25 • The Work of Our Hands

Consider the work God has entrusted to us and the lives our gifts touch.

November 1 • Hallelujah with All the Saints

Remember those whose faithfulness brought us here and the hope we carry forward.

November 8 • The Next Hallelujah

Our stewardship campaign and series culminates on **Consecration Sunday, November 8**, when we will prayerfully make our financial commitments for 2027 and celebrate what God will continue to do through our shared generosity. Following worship, we'll gather for special celebration meals: Brunch (9:30am) and Lunch (12:00pm) Downtown and Brunch (10:00am) at Beulah Chapel.

LET'S SAY, THANK YOU!

OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH!

During the month of October, there will be card collection boxes downtown in the church office and the Beulah Chapel lobby. 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. Lauren Cowan, and Rev. Dr. Rick Branch let them know how great they are!



Music & Worship Arts DEDICATION SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 8:30 & 11:00AM MAIN SANCTUARY,
9:00AM AT BEULAH CHAPEL, & 11:00AM ICON**

Join us for a celebratory Sunday as we worship through song and dedicate the musicians of First Church to the glory of God. Our children, tween, youth, handbell, and adult choirs will share music alongside the Perdido Brass in the Main Sanctuary, with music led by the Beulah Chapel Worship Team at Beulah Chapel and the ICON Worship Band in ICON. Together, we'll celebrate the many voices, instruments, and people who help lead our church in worship each week.



MIDWEEK at First Church

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

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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!

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

Menus

October 7: Bratwurst Sausage, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, and Dessert

October 14: Sloppy Joes, Macaroni & Cheese, Kale Salad, and Dessert

October 21: Chicken Pot Pie, Green Salad, and Dessert

October 28: Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Green Salad, and Dessert

NEW KID'S TABLE

Kids may choose a PB&J sandwich with fruit and chips as an alternative to the regular dinner menu.

MIDWEEK ADULT AND AGE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

PASTOR'S LECTIONARY STUDY

Wednesdays, October 7 - November 4 | 6:00 - 7:00pm

The Wright Place

Join Pastors Geoffrey, Brennan, and Emily for a five-week lectionary-based Bible study. Each week, we'll take a conversational look at the Scripture passage that will be preached the upcoming Sunday, offering space for reflection, questions, and deeper understanding.

WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays, October 7 - November 4 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

All are welcome to join this multi-generational walking group as we explore downtown Pensacola. Meet in front of the Admin building at 6:00pm (Weather Permitting).

WEEKLY ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

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.

NURSERY

5:30 – 7:00pm | Education Building

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



FIRST KIDS PROGRAMMING

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



KIDCONNECT (for K–5th Grade)

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

[Click HERE to Register](#)

FIRST KIDS: MIDWEEK (for Preschool–5th Grade)

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



FIRST STUDENTS PROGRAMING

6:00 – 7:00pm | Youth Building

Students, 6th to 12th Grade, are invited to the Youth Building for mid-week worship time! We will sing praise songs, play games, and study different series from Grow Curriculum.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

FIRST CHURCH HALLOWEEN BASH

HOSTED BY FIRST STUDENTS

**ACTIVITIES CENTER
5:00 - 6:00PM**

**TABLE-TO-TABLE TREATS • COSTUME CONTEST
CRAFTS & GAMES • GOOD FOOD • LOTS OF FUN!**

**WANT TO SPONSOR A TABLE?
SCAN THE QR CODE!**

All are invited to decorate a table and provide treats to hand out.

- 6-foot Table Provided
- G-Rated Decorations
- Prize For Best Table
- Arrive By 4:30pm




FUMC PENSACOLA
UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH
Present

CHRISTMAS CREATIONS

Holiday Market

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Christmas Creations is a long-standing Holiday Market hosted by the United Women in Faith at FUMC Pensacola. We select a diverse group of vendors to be sure you will find the perfect thing. Join us for a festive day shopping experience where you can get gifts for everyone on your list! Vendor applications can be submitted at fumcpensacolauwfaith.com.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

[un]plugged

WOMEN'S RETREAT

FRI, FEB 26 - SAT, FEB 27, 2027

EMBASSY SUITES, DESTIN-MIRAMAR BEACH

Visit FUMCPensacola.com/WomensRetreat to register.



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 current immediate needs are:



MALE RESPITE VOLUNTEER

Need: 4 Male volunteers to serve on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 9:30am - 2:00pm.

Why It Matters: We are looking to match four of our male friends with new volunteers. Spend the day chatting about shared interests, playing cards, listening to your favorite old tunes and sharing some laughs with our male participants.

Contact: Kirstin Gartner | KGartner@FUMCPensacola.com

THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEER

Need: 2 Volunteers to serve on Wednesdays, 12:00 - 5:00pm; 2-hour shifts.

Why It Matters: Volunteers help meet practical needs in our community and support the church's mission by sorting, organizing, stocking donations, and assisting customers.

Contact: Dani Russell | DRussell@FUMCPensacola.com

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER

Need: Volunteers to serve once or twice a month, 9:30 - 10:45am.

Why It Matters: Help our funny, energetic 3- and 4-year-olds feel welcomed, loved, and at home in their church.

Contact: Lisa Bond | LBond@FUMCPensacola.com

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) 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

MOM'S COFFEE BREAK

Friday, October 9 | 3:30 - 5:00pm
Starbucks on Gregory St.

Drop your kids off at church and come join us for some kid-free mom time. RSVP to Lisa (850-549-8967).

FIRST CHURCH HALLOWEEN BASH

Sunday, October 25 | 5:00 - 6:00pm
Activities Center

Join us for an indoor twist on trunk-or-treat! Children and families will travel from table to table collecting treats and enjoying crafts, games, costume contests, and more. This event, hosted by First Students, is open to all ages. Pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, fruit, chips, and drinks will be available for a donation.

Want to host a table?

All are invited to decorate a table and provide treats to hand out. Each registration includes one 6-foot table. Decorations should be fun and family-friendly, with no blood, gore, or frightening themes. A prize will be awarded for the best-decorated table! Table hosts and youth volunteers should arrive by 4:30pm to set up. Contact Pastor Lauren Cowan (LCowan@FUMCPensacola.com) with any questions.



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. Lauren Cowan
Youth Director
LCowan@FUMCPensacola.com

SUNDAY FUNDAY: MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

Sunday, October 4 | 5:30 - 7:00pm
Youth Building

In honor of the first Sunday Funday of Spooky Season, First Students are having a Murder Mystery Themed game night inspired by the hit television show, *Traitors!* Youth Choir will still meet at 4:30pm and then it'll be time for supper and some treacherous fun in the Youth Building from 5:30pm-7:00pm.

BURGERS & BINGO

Sunday, October 11 | 4:00 - 5:30pm
The Wright Place

First Students will be hosting our annual Burgers & Bingo Night for our Fifty Forward members! We are asking all students to come at 4:00pm to help Denise set up and learn what they are expected to do. There will be good food and fun games and give the kids a great opportunity to connect across generations of our church! Youth Choir will meet from 6:00pm-7:00pm.

CHURCH WIDE FALL RETREAT

Friday, October 16- Sunday, October 18
Blue Lake Camp

Please note that there will still be Sunday School on October 18 led by Denise Van Atta. There will be no youth activities in the afternoon.

FIRST CHURCH HALLOWEEN BASH

Sunday, October 25 | 5:00 - 6:00pm
Activities Center

First Students gets the joy of hosting our church wide Halloween Bash! We will be in the gym with indoor trunk-or-treating, crafts, games, costume contests, and more. Youth need to plan to come 30 minutes prior and stay 30 minutes after for set up and clean up.

Want to host a table?

Scan the QR code to sign up. Decorations



should be fun and family-friendly, with no blood, gore, or frightening themes. Any ideas for games, or activities, that your youth might have, please have them tell me and we will make it happen!

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

OCTOBER 7: Bratwurst Sausage, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, and Dessert

OCTOBER 14: Sloppy Joes, Macaroni & Cheese, Kale Salad, and Dessert

OCTOBER 21: Chicken Pot Pie, Green Salad, and Dessert

OCTOBER 28: Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Green Salad, and Dessert

KID'S TABLE: Kids may choose a PB&J sandwich with fruit and chips as an alternative to the regular dinner menu.

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

NEW YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP

Sundays, Starting October 4

9:45 - 10:45am | Consulate, Room 201

Calling all college students, grad students, singles, young professionals, and married young adults! Grab a coffee and join us on Sunday mornings, starting October 4. Whether you're hitting the books, launching your career, or building a family, this relaxed gathering is the perfect opportunity to caffeinate and catch up with your fellow young adults. Contact Abby Lynn Kuba (850-530-3372) for more info.

JOE HARRELL MEN'S LUNCH

Wednesdays, October 14 & 28 | \$10

12:00 - 1:00pm | The Wright Place

The Joe Harrell Men's Lunch meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month for lunch, fellowship, and conversation. All men are welcome to join us! Please RSVP to Tim Price-Williams at 850-572-6516.

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.

Denise Van Atta

DVanAtta@FUMCPensacola.com

LUNCH OUT

CACTUS CANTINA

Thursday, October 8 | 11:30am

[Click HERE to Register by October 6](#)

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. Feel free to bring your family and friends!



BURGERS & BINGO

Sunday, October 11 | 4:30 - 5:30pm

The Wright Place | No Cost

[Click HERE to Register by October 9](#)

Join us for a fun-filled time of fellowship with the First Church Youth as they host Burgers & Bingo! It's always fun getting to know the future of First Church as we laugh, break bread and win some Bingo prizes.



LUNCH & LEARN WITH LEA FARRINGTON

Tuesday, November 3 | 11:00am -

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

[Click HERE to Register by October 28](#)

Join us for a time of fellowship, learning, and a delicious lunch. We are excited to welcome our guest speaker Lea Far-



rington. Lea is a member at First Church and will be sharing with us about her time working for Samaritans Purse in South Sudan, East Africa. Feel free to bring your family and friends! Doors open at 10:30am.

COFFEE (& MORE) WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 10:30am

Church Library | No Registration

Join us for fellowship on Tuesday mornings in the Library! We have no agenda other than to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends... old and new. Coffee and pastries are provided but feel free to bring water, soda or tea if you are not a coffee drinker. ALL are welcome!

RESPITE MINISTRY

Respite is a weekly program that provides a fun, engaging environment for participants to enjoy social and recreational activities in a joyful, community setting while giving their caregivers much-needed respite.

Kirstin Gartner

Respite Director

KGartner@FUMCPensacola.com

SUPPORT RESPITE'S WISHLIST

If you'd like to support our ministry, use these links to find our Amazon wish list or make a donation.

[Amazon Wish List:](#)



[Donate to Respite:](#)

Designate Respite under purpose



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Mission and Outreach is at the heart of who we are at First Church. By supporting various missions and ministries, we strive to serve our community in love, sharing with them the message of Christ through example.

Lisa Bond
Missions Coordinator
LBond@fumcpensacola.com

NIGHT TO SHINE 2027 VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Night to Shine is an unforgettable worldwide celebration centered on God's love and honors people with special needs as kings and queens. First United Methodist Church of Pensacola is excited to serve as a host church once again on Friday, February 12, 2027. Volunteer registration opens in early October with opportunities to serve as a guest's buddy, join the red-carpet or dance-floor hype crew, serve food, and more. Participant registration will open in December. Visit FUMCPensacola.com/NighttoShine for registration and additional information. You can also contact NTSPensacolaVolunteer@gmail.com with any questions.

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 devote many hours 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

LIBRARIAN OFFICE HOURS

The church library is ALWAYS open to church members and those in our community during normal church hours (Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm and Sundays 8:00am - Noon). To further assist you, our library volunteers will be available 10:30 - 11:00am on Sundays and 9:00 - 1:00am on Wednesdays to help you find the perfect book. Make sure to stop by!

BOOK RECCOMENDATIONS FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SHELVES

- *Happiest Man on Earth*, by Jaku
 - *The Girls in the Wild Fig Tree*, by Lengette
 - *The Women of the Bible*, by Bream
 - *All the Light You Cannot See*, by Doeer
 - *Mantour Canyon*, by Krueger
 - *Carneige's Maid*, by Benedict
- Come browse the shelves and find your next great read!

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. Contact Rick if you would like to be a part.

Dr. Rick Branch
Music Minister
RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

YOUTH CHOIR CHRISTMAS RETREAT AT BLUE LAKE

Friday, November 13 -
Saturday, November 14

[Click HERE to Register by October 30](#)

It's time to sign up for our annual Blue Lake Christmas Retreat! We'll leave from the church on Friday, November 13 at 4:30pm and return to the church on Saturday, November 14 at about 3:15pm. Cost for the weekend is \$75 per youth.



SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

8:30 & 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary,
9:00am at Beulah Chapel,
& ICON AT 11:00am in The Upper Room

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

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Jackie & Paul Betz (Main Sanctuary, September 27)
Melissa Ellis (Beulah Chapel, September 27)
Jeanette Singletary (Beulah Chapel, September 27)

CELEBRATIONS

The birth of **Elizabeth June Camariotes** on, September 30, 2026. Elizabeth is the daughter of Ryan and Sam Camariotes.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

September 13: Given in celebration of Rick and Gerri Cripe's 50th wedding anniversary on September 11.

September 20: Given in loving memory of Sue Thomas by Charles and her family on her heavenly birthday.

September 27: Given in celebration of Hank and Karen Thompson's 46th wedding anniversary on September 27.

VASES NEEDED FOR FLOWER MINISTRY

Help us brighten someone's day! Our Pastoral Care Team repurposes Sunday worship flowers into bouquets for the sick, homebound, and others in need of encouragement. The Flower Ministry needs large vases for these deliveries. No bud vases, please. Vases can be brought to the Church Office.

THE LIVING TRUST **SEPTEMBER 1 - 30, 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. These gifts help meet needs beyond those covered by the church's annual budget. **If you would like to give towards The Living Trust, contact the finance department (accounting@FUMCPensacola.com).**

IN MEMORY OF:

Samuel Pace
By Emily Matheny

Bill Sneed
For the Senior Adult Ministry
By Liann Hale



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

6 E. Wright St. • Pensacola, FL 32501 • 850.432.1434 • fumcpensacola.com
For pastoral emergencies, contact the Church Office or Ginger Raines at 850.259.3177