



At First Church, we believe God has called and equipped every member to serve. Our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world has never moved forward because of programs alone, but because of people — people who noticed needs, stepped into service, and invited others to walk with them.

As we continue in this Founders' Year, we are reminded that this church was built by servants. And it will be sustained and renewed by servants still.

The Apostle Paul reminds us:

"Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

These words remind us that serving is not reserved for a few, but entrusted to us all. Every gift, every talent, every act of care becomes part of how God works through this church for the good of our neighbors and our community.



Visit FUMCPensacola.com/Serve
for a list of immediate needs

Serving at First Church is rarely something people stumble into by accident. More often, it begins with a simple nudge, a conversation, or a personal invitation: "Come serve with me." As you explore the many ways to **Serve Together**, we invite you to do two things. **First**, consider where you are serving—or where you might be called to serve in this season of your life. **Second**, think about who you might invite to serve alongside you. We have learned over time that this is how people discover their place in the life of the church. This is how friendships form, faith deepens, and ministry becomes joyful. This is how we continue the story we have inherited—by serving together. Whether you are brand new to serving or have been faithfully serving for years, there is a next step for you.

THOSE WANTING TO SERVE: NEXT STEPS

1. **Read** through the **immediate needs list** and **ongoing ministry opportunities** to see where help is needed and where you feel called to serve.
2. **Choose** one that fits your availability and interests.
3. **Contact** the ministry leader listed to get started.

THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING: NEXT STEPS

1. **Invite** someone to serve alongside you.
2. **Reach out** to the ministry leader so we can support you and stay connected.

QUESTIONS?

Reach out to **Lacey Adair** at LAdair@fumcpensacola.com.

Ongoing Ministry Opportunities: These opportunities reflect the primary ways service happens across the life of First Church and represents the ongoing ministries that sustain our worship, formation, care, and outreach throughout the year.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Adult Discipleship at First Church centers on spiritual growth through small groups, studies, continued education and shared learning experiences. While the primary volunteer role is leading or facilitating groups, this ministry is also strengthened through hospitality, participation, personal growth, and intentional invitation. Ways to engage include:

- **TEACHERS & GROUP LEADERS**, who teach, lead, or facilitate seasonal Bible studies or discipleship groups using trusted resources (seasonal commitment, schedule varies); and
- **LIBRARY MINISTRY**, cares for all First Church Libraries, including The Wesley Wachob Library, one of the finest and most comprehensive church libraries in the country by maintaining the online catalog, and preserving church archives—helping ensure these resources remain accessible to the congregation and the wider community. They meet on Wednesdays from 9:00am–12:00pm.

Contact: **Emily Kincaid** / EKincaid@fumcpensacola.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care ministries offer compassionate, behind-the-scenes ways to support church members and neighbors through prayer, presence, and practical acts of kindness. These teams help ensure no one walks through illness, grief, or hardship alone. Opportunities to serve include:

- **GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY**, providing caring phone calls and visits to members who are unable to attend church regularly, helping them stay connected to their church family (no formal training required);
- **PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY**, confidentially praying over the church-wide prayer list and individual prayer requests;
- **CARD MINISTRY**, sending notes of encouragement to church and community members to remind them they are prayed for and cared for;
- **FLOWER MINISTRY**, delivering bouquets created from Sunday worship flowers to those who are sick, unable to attend church, or in need of encouragement;

• **CARE DELIVERY MINISTRY**, delivering care packages to individuals who are unable to attend church, recovering, grieving, or facing difficult seasons; and

• **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**, knitting and crocheting prayerfully made gifts that offer comfort and a tangible reminder of God's love.

Contact: **Jennifer Piver** / JPiver@fumcpensacola.com

FIRST KIDS

Kids Ministry volunteers help create safe, welcoming, and faith-filled environments where children, infants–5th Grade can learn, grow, and experience God's love. With opportunities on Sundays, Wednesdays, and during special events, there are flexible ways to serve that fit a variety of schedules and gifts. There are many meaningful ways to get involved, including:

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS**, assisting teachers in Preschool and Elementary Sunday School classes on Sundays from 9:30–10:45am;
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL STORY TELLERS**, presenting the weekly Bible story for Elementary classes once a month or once a quarter on Sundays from 9:45–10:45am;
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS**, welcoming families at the Preschool entrance and helping guests find their way on Sundays from 9:30–9:50am;
- **KIDCONNECT HELPERS**, supporting KidConnect activities for Elementary children on Wednesdays from 3:00–4:30pm during the Fall/Winter and Spring;
- **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**, caring for babies alongside staff during Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and other gatherings as needed (1–2 hours); and
- **CHAPERONES**, helping chaperone and drive for retreats, overnights, and field trips.

Contact: **Lisa Bond** / LBond@fumcpensacola.com

FIRST STUDENTS

Student Ministry volunteers play a vital role in walking alongside students, grades 6–12, building relationships, and helping create consistent, welcoming spaces where young people can grow in their faith before stepping into adulthood. There are many meaningful ways to get involved, including:

- **LEADER ASSISTANTS**, supporting small groups and leaders during Sunday School from 9:45–10:45am, helping facilitate Sunday evening programming and small groups from 5:30–7:00pm, and helping with midweek student programming from 6:00–7:00pm.
- **MEAL TEAM**, assisting with preparing, serving, or cleaning up breakfast and dinner on Sundays to support student gatherings;
- **CHAPERONES**, accompanying students during day events, overnight retreats, and travel opportunities, which may include driving and supervision; and
- **MORNING BIBLE STUDY ASSISTANTS**, offering hospitality and support for early-morning student Bible studies throughout the week.

Contact: *Rev. Heather Nysewander*

HNysewander@fumcpensacola.com

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Our mission ministries offer hands-on ways to serve our neighbors, support vulnerable communities, and live out our faith through compassion and action. Opportunities range from food security and hospitality to community partnerships. Mission opportunities include:

- **SERVING THE HUNGRY**, which prepares and serves 100+ hot meals, along with clothing and toiletries, for those in need in our community;
- **KIDS FEEDING PROGRAM**, where volunteers shop for, pack, and deliver food to local schools to support children experiencing food insecurity;
- **FOOD BOX PROGRAM**, which receives and distributes food to partner ministries and packs food boxes for local families and the homebound; and
- **FUMC MINISTRY PARTNERS**, connecting volunteers with local and global nonprofit partners—including United Ministries, Bright Bridge Ministries, Embrace Florida Kids, and Teaming with Tanzania—to find additional ways to serve beyond our campus.

Contact: *Lisa Bond* / LBond@fumcpensacola.com

RUTH'S KITCHEN

Ruth's Kitchen volunteers help nourish our church and community through hospitality, shared meals, and behind-the-scenes support. Whether you enjoy preparing food, cooking, serving others, or helping with cleanup. Opportunities include:

- **FOOD PREP**, cutting and chopping ingredients for dinners and community events on Wednesday afternoons and during special events;
- **COOKING**, preparing and baking food for fellowship meals and community events on Wednesday afternoons or evenings and during special events;

- **SERVING**, helping serve meals buffet-style or at tables for fellowship meals and community events on Wednesday evenings and during special events; and
- **CLEANING**, washing and sanitizing dishes, pots, and utensils, as well as setting up and taking down tables and chairs for meals and events on Wednesday evenings and during special events.

Contact: *Mici Kuba* / Mkuba@fumcpensacola.com

SENIOR ADULTS

Senior Adult Ministry at First Church is centered on connection, fellowship, and shared life. While many opportunities focus on participation rather than formal volunteer roles, there are meaningful ways to serve by helping create welcoming, well-organized gatherings where relationships can grow and no one feels alone. Volunteers support this ministry primarily through hospitality, assistance, and transportation for off-campus experiences. Ways to serve include:

- **EVENT HOSPITALITY & SERVING**, helping welcome guests, assist with check-in, serve meals, or provide support during events such as Friday Night @ The Wright, Silver & Gold, Burgers & Bingo, Popcorn & A Movie, and special celebrations like Senior Week;
- **DECOR & SET-UP SUPPORT**, assisting with table décor, room setup, and light event preparation to help create warm, inviting spaces for gatherings and luncheons;
- **BUS DRIVERS & TRANSPORTATION HELPERS**, driving or assisting with transportation for off-campus events and XYZ Trips using the First Church buses; and
- **COMMUNITY CONNECTORS**, offering a friendly presence by inviting others, sitting with someone new, and helping foster connection during weekly and monthly activities.

Many older adults also choose to “serve by showing up”—building friendships, sharing wisdom, and creating a welcoming culture through faithful participation in weekly gatherings like Coffee with Friends, educational programs, and group outings. These relationships are at the heart of Senior Adult Ministry and are a vital gift to the life of the church.

Contact: *Jennifer Piver* / JPiver@fumcpensacola.com

WORSHIP & MUSIC

ICON WORSHIP BAND

The ICON Worship Band leads music for ICON worship and supports a creative, collaborative worship environment. This team is made up of singers and instrumentalists who serve periodically and help shape the sound and experience of ICON services.

Ways to participate include:

- **VOCALISTS**, including lead and harmony singers; and
- **INSTRUMENTALISTS**, such as guitar, bass, drums, piano/keys, and other instruments as needed.

Participation requires an in-person audition and scheduling is based on availability.

Contact: *Kyle Hall* / KHall@fumcpensacola.com

WORSHIP & MUSIC CONT.

CHOIRS

Our choir ministries offer meaningful opportunities to grow in faith, build community, and lead the congregation in worship through music. Open to a variety of ages and experience levels, these groups rehearse weekly and sing regularly in worship and special services. Our choirs include:

- **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, open to all adults, which sings at either the 8:30am or 11:00am worship services and rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:00–7:30pm;
- **HANDBELL CHOIR**, open to all adults and senior high youth, which plays our four-octave handbell set at services throughout the year, with no experience required, rehearsing Mondays from 4:15–5:15pm;
- **CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIRS**, which rehearse weekly and sing in special services and concerts, helping young people grow spiritually while leading the congregation—meeting Wednesdays from 4:30–5:15pm for Grades K–5 and Sundays from 4:30–5:20pm for Grades 6–12;
- **CHILDREN'S CHOIR HELPERS**, assisting with Elementary Children's Choir on Wednesdays from 4:30–5:15pm during the school year (no experience required); and
- **YOUTH CHOIR HELPERS**, assisting with Youth Choir on Sundays from 4:30 - 5:30pm during the school year (no experience required).

Contact: **Dr. Rick Branch** / RBranch@fumcpensacola.com

WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

First Church walks alongside individuals and families during meaningful moments of celebration and remembrance. Weddings and funerals are supported with care, clarity, and thoughtful hospitality, helping families navigate logistics while honoring the sacred nature of each service. Volunteers may support this ministry as Service Hosts to provide care and guidance for families during significant moments including:

- **WEDDING HOSTS**, assisting couples with church policies and supporting them during rehearsal and on the wedding day; and
- **FUNERAL HOSTS**, walking alongside families before, during, and after funeral or memorial services, offering hospitality and compassionate presence.

Contact: **Ginger Raines** / GRaines@fumcpensacola.com

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Worship Service Volunteers help create a welcoming, meaningful worship experience each week during our 8:30 & 11:00am Main Sanctuary services, and the 11:00am ICON service. This team includes:

- **USHERS & GREETERS**, who welcome guests, distribute bulletins, assist with seating, and collect the offering;
- **COMMUNION STEWARDS & SERVERS**, who prepare, serve, and clean up communion elements;
- **LAY READERS**, who read scripture and other texts during worship;
- **ACOLYTES**, who assist by lighting candles and supporting moments like the offering and communion; and
- **PRODUCTION TEAM**, who assist with sound, video, and lighting in our three worship services.

Contact: **Lacey Adair** / LAdair@fumcpensacola.com

RESPITE MINISTRY

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. Meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am–2:00pm in the Wesley Hall, participants enjoy fellowship, creative activities, music, games, movement, and a shared lunch in a caring community setting. Respite is a social, volunteer-supported program (no medical training required) designed for individuals who can participate in group activities and move independently. This ministry is part of a broader network supported by the Respite for All Foundation and serves the wider Pensacola community.

Contact: **Kirsten Gartner** / KGartner@fumcpensacola.com

WRIGHT STREET THRIFT STORE

The Wright Street Thrift (located at 31 East Wright Street) is a ministry that exists to share the love of Jesus with others and provide quality items at excellent prices! All of the items available for purchase have been donated and proceeds go to support our local and connectional mission partners. Volunteers can participate by helping sort, organize, and stock donated items, as well as assist and greet customers, Wednesday - Friday (12:00 - 4:00pm) and Saturday (10:00am - 2:00pm).

Contact: **Dani Russell** / DRussell@fumcpensacola.com

