

# THE METHODIST WITNESS



**I'M INTERACTIVE!**



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**OPEN**



Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday, December 4, is the grand finale to our 200th Anniversary celebration. I hope you will join us at one of our services and our free Celebration Lunch at 12:00pm. We will also be revealing our Bicentennial Exhibit of our

church's history. You won't want to miss it; it is truly amazing! It was December 7, 1821, that the Rev. Dr. Alexander Talley was appointed to the frontier town of Pensacola which had just become an American territory. He was sent here to make disciples of Jesus Christ in a place that desperately needed to know of the love of Christ. One of the things that is remarkable about Talley's ministry is how he felt called to also study and practice medicine in order to fulfill his calling.

Like John Wesley, whose most famous book was a medical work, *The Primitive Physick*, Dr. Talley saw the good news of Jesus Christ as something that is holistic – composing of the body, mind, and spirit. This understanding of God's mission in Jesus Christ was evident in Talley's work here in Pensacola and his work in the Choctaw Nation. Accompanying the Choctaw on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma, he offered a Christian witness that will be remembered for the ages.

This vision of holistic ministry for body, mind, and spirit is alive and well in our Methodist sense of mission today. This Sunday let us journey back to that same place of beginning. We find ourselves in a somewhat similar situation as Talley did 200 years ago. Our community desperately needs to know of the saving love of Jesus and needs that same holistic healing that God offers in Christ. Let us in our day, step out in faith like Talley and ask God to do it again as we prepare for the next 200 years of ministry here in Pensacola.

The rest of the month, I invite you to join us for our many Advent activities. You can read all about them in this newsletter. And join us on Christmas Eve at one of our four services – bring your family and friends and celebrate the birth of our Lord!

See you Sunday!

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz  
*Senior Pastor*

### OFFICE CLOSURES

Christmas Day (Observed): Monday, December 26  
New Years Day (Observed): Monday, January 2  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 16

### KITCHEN CLOSED

No Wednesday Night Dinners: December 28 & January 4

## *inside this edition...*

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# BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

*"Forward Through the Ages"*

**Sunday, December 4**, we will have a service at 8:30am & a combined service at 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary. Following 11:00am worship we'll come together for a free BBQ lunch in the gym. We will also open our Bicentennial Room with exhibits highlighting our 200-year history.

## WINDOW CONCERT SERIES

As part of our Bicentennial Celebration, a church member has commissioned four musical works by four FUMC musicians. Each piece is an interpretation of a different stained glass window in our sanctuary.



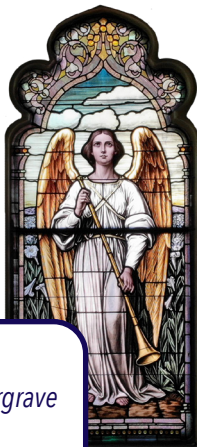
### MARY & MARTHA WINDOW

*Mary & Martha: Heart & Hand*

By: Allen Pote & Tom Long  
premiered October 20, 2019

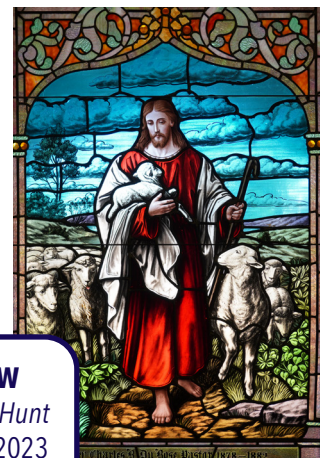
### ANGEL WINDOW

Written & Performed by: Libby Hargrave  
Will premiere on...  
December 11, 2022 | 5:00pm  
December 18, 2022 | 8:30 & 11:00am  
January 5, 2023 | 7:00pm



### GOOD SAMARITAN WINDOW

Written & Performed by: Rick Branch  
Will premiere on... Maundy  
Thursday, February 23, 2023



### GOOD SHEPHERD WINDOW

Written & Performed by: Jeb Hunt  
Will premiere on... April 30, 2023

# ADVENT

HOPE • LOVE • JOY • PEACE



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Wednesdays, December 7 – December 14 | 5:00 – 5:45pm | The Wright Place



*Register each week by Tuesday at Noon. Scan or Click the QR code to register.*

Join us each Wednesday night in Advent for dinner and fellowship with your church family. Please register the Tuesday before at Noon. Cost is \$10 for adults (10 and older) and \$4 for children.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

#### “Love” with Jerry Maygarden

Wednesday, December 7 | 6:00 – 7:00pm | The Wright Place

After dinner, from 6:00 to 6:15pm, all ages will gather for a few minutes of worship and lighting the Advent wreath in the Great Hall. The children, tweens, & mid-high will go to their age-level activities from 6:15 – 7:00pm. Childcare provided. The adults will stay in the Great Hall for a lesson from our speaker, Jerry Maygarden.

#### Just for Kids, Tweens, & Mid-High

December 7 | 6:15 – 7:00pm

Join us for an engaging worship experience as we tell the Christmas story through Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels. We will focus on prayer, believing, praise, and worship.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

#### “Joy” with Lay Speaker

Wednesday, December 14 | 6:00 – 7:00pm | The Wright Place

After dinner, from 6:00 to 6:15pm, all ages will gather for a few minutes of worship and lighting the Advent wreath in the Great Hall. The children, tweens, & mid-high will go to their age-level activities from 6:15 – 7:00pm. Childcare provided. The adults will stay in the Great Hall for a lesson from our lay speaker.

#### Just for Kids, Tweens, & Mid-High

December 14 | 6:15 – 7:00pm

Come hear the stories of some of our more popular Christmas symbols – the Christmas tree, candy cane, and poinsettia. Then enjoy making a craft that connects with the story.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

#### Christmas Caroling: “Peace”

Wednesday, December 21 | 5:30 – 8:00pm (Dinner at 5:00pm) | The Wright Place



*Register by Tuesday, December 20 at noon. Scan or Click the QR code to register*

All ages are welcome to join us for Christmas Caroling! We will go by church buses and personal vehicles and deliver good cheer and love to some of our senior church members. Pizza will be available prior to caroling at 5:00pm for \$5/person. Registration for food is required by Tuesday, December 20.

## GIVING & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### GREAT DAY OF GIVING FOOD DRIVE

The Great Day of Giving Food Drive is a church-wide event to promote giving to families in need and to our ministry partners in the community. Each age group is asked to bring in the listed non-perishable items below by December 4. We will prepare the food boxes at our Great Day of Giving event on December 11. We will have designated drop-off bins in the Church Office and Children's Education Building.

**MCA Preschool:** Canned Ravioli, Canned Beefaroni, Spaghettios, Canned Veggies (3) and Canned Fruit (3)  
**Children:** Mac 'N Cheese, Cheez-Its, Goldfish, Graham Crackers, Nilla Wafers

**Youth:** Peanut Butter, Jelly, Saltine Crackers  
**Adults:** Oatmeal, Pancake Mix (add water), Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Rice, Chili, Soup, Canned Veggies, Canned Fruit

### THE GREAT DAY OF GIVING & MISSION FAIR

Sunday, December 11 | 9:00 -10:45am | Gym

The Great Day of Giving is a church-wide event that promotes giving to ministry partners and families in need in our community. This program offers children, youth and adults an opportunity to prepare and deliver 75 Christmas food boxes. It includes activities such as making gifts and cards for our homebound. We will also have a special visit from Santa! He will give a blessing of the boxes, a word about giving, and will also be available for pictures.

The same morning, there will be a Missions Fair in which our FUMC Missions Partners will come share what they are doing in our community and offer ways to get involved. You will have an opportunity to financially support these agencies directly at this time. These agencies/ministry partners include: Backpack-Weekend Feeding Program, Bright Bridge, Disaster Relief, Embrace Florida Kids, Gulf Coast Kids House, JUST Pensacola, Milk and Honey, Ronald McDonald House, Serve the Hungry, Teaming with Tanzania, and United Ministries.

## ADVENT CONCERTS & SERVICES

### WHITE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11 | 5:00pm | Main Sanctuary

Start the season with some festive Christmas music presented by our Children's, Tween, and Youth Choirs. It will include a children's musical titled "Light of the World", featuring a dance by our ballet class. Libby Hargrave will also be premiering a piece based on the Angel Window; Angel Gabriel's announcement of the annunciation to Mary. This piece was composed by Libby as part of our Window Concert Series in honor of the 200th Anniversary. A special offering will be collected to benefit Embrace Florida Kids. Afterwards, everyone is invited to join us for pizza and cookies in The Wright Place. Nursery provided.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 18 | 7:30pm | Main Sanctuary

This is a traditional evening of classical Christmas favorites presented by the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Rick and Heidi Branch. A full professional orchestra will accompany the choir. A reception will follow the concert in The Wright Place.

### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21 | 6:30pm | Chapel

Christmas can be a painful time for some, especially for those who are grieving or in despair, so each year around the longest night, we hold a service of healing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledges God's presence for those who mourn or struggle. All are welcome.

### TIDINGS OF COMFORT & JOY CONCERT

Friday, December 23 | 6:00 & 8:00pm | Main Sanctuary

\$15 at [uwf.org/tidings](http://uwf.org/tidings)

This annual concert, hosted by WUWF, consists of seasonal music both religious and secular, traditional and contemporary, expertly mixed and chosen by WUWF's Dale Riegle. 2022 Concert performers include Sewell Griffith, soprano; Stephanie Riegle, flute; Aleksandra Pereverzeva, Cello; Katie Ott, Harp; Christina Buran, Piano; The Perdido Brass – Dale Riegle and Jonathan Martin, Trumpet; Stuart Kinney, Horn; Bret Barrow and Don Snowden, Trombone. This is a ticketed event and tickets must be purchased through WUWF online at [uwf.org/tidings](http://uwf.org/tidings).



# Christmas Eve

## at First Church

Join us for one of our four Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24th, 2021.

*Nursery is provided for children under 5 at the 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00pm services.*

### **CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE**

Saturday, December 24 | 4:00pm | Main Sanctuary

A service of candlelight, Christmas carols, children's sermon and communion. Nursery provided for children under 5.

### **AN ICON CHRISTMAS**

Saturday, December 24 | 5:00pm | Wesley Abbey

An intimate and contemplative, multi-sensory candlelight and communion service. Includes children's sermon. Nursery provided for children under 5.

### **CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE**

Saturday, December 24 | 6:00pm | Main Sanctuary

A service of candlelight, Christmas carols, children's sermon and communion. Nursery provided for children under 5.

### **CHOIR, CANDLELIGHT, & COMMUNION SERVICE**

Saturday, December 24 | 8:00pm | Main Sanctuary

A traditional service of candlelight, Christmas carols, communion, and special choral music.

## Looking Ahead...

### **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

Sunday, December 25 | 11:00am | Main Sanctuary

A combined service of lessons and carols with communion.

### **NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE**

Sunday, January 1 | 11:00am | Main Sanctuary

A traditional Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service and communion.

### **EPIPHANY CONCERT**

Thursday, January 5 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary

Join us for a very special last concert of the season, "Journey to the Manger", featuring local musicians from area churches. A love offering will be taken. Proceeds from concert will go towards FUMC Music Ministry

# 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)*

## IN LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE TO...

**José Feliciano** on the death of his father **Pedro Feliciano** on November 8, 2022 in Oklahoma.

**Watson Aldridge** on the death of his cousin, **Gary Day**. Gary died in Cottonton, AL.

**Edith Lewis** on the death of her aunt, **Nancy Martin**. Nancy died November 24, 2022.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Congratulations to **Tim Willis Sr** for being inducted into the 2022 Florida Bandmaster's Association Hall of Fame.

## BIRTHS

**Colombe Madeline Rachelle Bechet** daughter of **Blair & Roamin Bechet** born November 19, 2022 in Paris, France. Proud grandmother is **Martha Taylor**.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Kelly & Tim Heyerdahl**

**Jane Adams**

**Ruth Gordon**

**Sophie and Jack Knott**

**Sharon Levay**

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

**November 6:** In loving memory of Tristan Nicole Penn, great niece of Carol and Keith Tullius

**November 13:** In honor of the wedding anniversaries of our children Mr. & Mrs. Louis A. Maygarden, III and Cmdr. & Mrs. Timothy W. Gleason. Rosebud on the altar was placed in loving memory of our deceased son, Charles Morgan Maygarden by Jerry and Rhonda Maygarden.

**November 20:** In honor of Warren Williams' 27th birthday on November 19th by Shirley and Richard Knight.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

# ASSISTED PARKING

RESERVED TO ASSIST  
THE MOBILITY CHALLENGED

The Assisted Parking Program, that started in 2018, is available on Sunday mornings before and after our 8:30am and 11:00am Worship Services. If you need special assistance, please drive up to the pedestrian crossing, which leads you to the covered walkway entrance to the main office (where an elevator is located). You will be greeted by a volunteer to assist you out of the car. We also have wheelchairs available curbside for your assistance. Contact Jennifer Piver ([JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com)) with any questions

# WHAT'S HAPPENING FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## FIRST KIDS & FAMILIES

[FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Kids](http://FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Kids)

Contact: Lisa Bond

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

### SUNDAY MORNING CELEBRATIONS IN ADVENT

Sundays | 9:45 - 10:45am

Kids, 3 years – 4th grade, are invited to join us on Sunday Mornings in Advent for our celebrations!

**December 4:** *Celebrating our Church History* – We will go on a church campus Scavenger Hunt and enjoy some cake to celebrate the Bicentennial Celebration.

**December 11:** *Celebrating Service – Great Day of Giving/Santa Visit* – Families are invited to help their kids learn and participate in a morning of giving experiences, including assembling food boxes, making crafts for our homebound, and hear Santa talk about the reason for the season.

**December 18:** *Celebrating Jesus* – Come to church in your pjs and watch the Nativity movie while eating popcorn and sipping on marshmallow chocolate.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

Wednesdays | 6:15 - 7:00pm  
After we gather for the lighting of the Advent wreath (6:00 - 6:15), the kids, tweens, & mid-high will go to their age-level activities. See [page 4](#) more info.

### FIRST FRIDAY - KIDS: CHRISTMAS PARTY & PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 2 | 5:30 - 8:00pm  
Gym | REGISTRATION CLOSED

Children, Infant-4th grade, are invited to join us for our Grinch themed Christmas Party. We will play games, crafts, watch a movie, eat dinner, and dessert. Dinner & Dessert is \$5. Drop off and pick up is in the gym.

## FIRST KIDS & FAMILIES CONT.

### BABY RECOGNITION

Sunday, December 18 | 11:00am  
Main Sanctuary

Please join us as we welcome the newest members born into our church family in 2022 and celebrate them as a child of God. A reception for families and friends will be held at 10:15am in the Wright Place. Please contact Lisa Bond ([LBond@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:LBond@FUMCPensacola.com)) if you would like your child recognised if you have not been contacted by December 1.

## FIRST STUDENTS

[FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Students](http://FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Students)

Contact: Denise Van Atta

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

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

Wednesdays | 6:15 - 7:00pm

After we gather for the lighting of the Advent wreath (6:00 - 6:15), the kids, tweens, & mid-high will go to their age-level activities. See [page 4](#) more info.

### TWEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 2 | 5:30-8:30

Youth Building | REGISTRATION CLOSED

All 5th and 6th graders are invited to come celebrate the Christmas season with church friends in the youth building at A Tween Christmas Event - How the Grinch Stole Christmas this Friday, 5:30-8:30! It will be a festive time of holiday food, fellowship and fun games! Make sure to bring \$5.00 and let us know if you plan on attending.

### MID-HIGH SLEEPOVER

December 3 - 4 | 5:30pm-9:15am

Youth Building | Cost-\$15

REGISTRATION CLOSED

Over the course of the night, we will have dinner, games, crafts, and a lesson. We will also be watching the Charlie Brown Christmas movie!

## FIRST STUDENTS CONT.

### SENIOR HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY: TACKY SWEATER EDITION

Friday, December 9 | 6:00 pm | \$6

We travel to three homes and have appetizers, dinner, and dessert. At our final house we will have a white elephant gift exchange. Bring something you already have at home, wrapped with no name on it. Please do not buy anything. Let us know if you are attending by December 2 so we can have plenty of food. Cost: \$6. Pull out your favorite Tacky Christmas Sweater and join us! RSVP to [dvanatta@fumcpensacola.com](mailto:dvanatta@fumcpensacola.com).

## FIFTY FORWARD

[FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Seniors](http://FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Seniors)

Contact: Jennifer Piver

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

### SILVER & GOLD

Thursday, December 1 | 11:00am  
\$10 | REGISTRATION CLOSED

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of fellowship with friends. It will include a delicious lunch provided by Ruth's Kitchen, along with festive Christmas music performed by Rick Branch and Judy Butler, as well as Christmas games and trivia. We will be visited by our First Church Elves and each guest will receive a Christmas gift. Doors open at 10:30am.

### LUNCH OUT: YACHT CLUB

Thursday, December 8 | 11:30am | \$25  
[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for a special Christmas lunch outing with friends. We will gather at the beautiful Pensacola Yacht Club for a delicious buffet lunch. RSVP by December 4th. Please bring \$25/person for lunch, cash or check, made out to FUMC Pensacola.

*Continued on next page.*



## FIFTY FORWARD CONT.

### XYZ OUTING

Monday, December 12 | 11:30am | \$6  
[Click HERE to register](#)

Join us for a special Christmas outing to the Pensacola State College Planetarium. The lights will dim and we will watch the "Let it Snow: A Holiday Musical Journey" show which features a new variety of festive classics from Frank Sinatra, Chuck Berry, Burl Ives, Ella Fitzgerald, Brenda Lee, and more with a stunning grand finale by the Trans Siberian Orchestra. The soundtrack is visually enhanced with thematic animation and full dome scenery. We will meet at the PSC Planetarium at 11:00am. RSVP by December 8th. Please bring \$6/person, cash.

### FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE WRIGHT PLACE

Friday, December 16 | 6:00pm | \$15  
[Click HERE to register](#)

Join us for a fun filled evening of fellowship with friends. It will include a delicious dinner provided by Ruth's Kitchen, along with a festive Christmas music performance by our talented church members, Paul Martin and Mitzi Holt. Please bring an appetizer to share. RSVP by December 11th. Doors open at 5:30pm.

### GRAND MONDAY NIGHTS

Each Monday | 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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

Hear from a variety of speakers and relevant topics each week to help you grow as a Christian grandparent. In these webinars, you'll get practical ideas and information on grandparenting, and learn how to nurture your grandchildren's faith and overcome obstacles.

## FIFTY FORWARD CONT.

### COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays | 9:30am - 10:30am | Library  
Join a small, friendly group for fellowship. We have no agenda other than to get out of the house and enjoy time with friends... new and old. Coffee and pastries are provided.

## MUSIC & WORSHIP

[FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Music](http://FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Music)

Contact: Rick Branch

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

### SPECIAL K-4TH CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesday, December 7

4:30 - 5:30pm

Our children's choirs will be having a special practice in preparation for their White Christmas Program on Sunday, December 11. They will practice from 4:30 - 5:30pm and be able to join their families for dinner at 5:30pm.

## MCA

Contact: Melissa Ward

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

### PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Our preschool currently have full day openings in our two year old room and our VPK program. Please contact Melissa for more information.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 14 | 9:30am | Wesley Abbey

Come celebrate the Christmas season with our three and four year old classes!

### HIRING PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

[Click HERE to Apply!](#)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

[FUMCPensacola.com/WednesdayNights](http://FUMCPensacola.com/WednesdayNights)

5:00pm | The Wright Place

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Adults: \$10, Children (2 - 9 years old): \$4

### December 7

Chick Pot Pie, Salad, Dinner Roll, & Dessert

### December 14

Salisbury Steak with Gravy, Rice, Roasted Asparagus, Roll, Dessert.

### December 21 - Caroling

See [page 4](#) for more info & to register for pizza.

### December 28 & January 4

Kitchen Closed - No Dinner

## JUSTICE MINISTRY

Contact: Peggy Groves

[peggygroves1941@gmail.com](mailto:peggygroves1941@gmail.com)

## JUST PENSACOLA 2022

### RESEARCH KICK-OFF

Thursday, December 1 | 6:00pm

Representatives from eighteen congregations will meet to learn about the JUST Pensacola research process as well as the research done so far in the two critical community issues—Juvenile and Adult Civil Citations and Affordable Rental Housing. There will be two breakout groups so that we can learn about next steps and what research is still needed. All Network Members are invited to attend as are those who have not attended a House Meeting, but have a passion for "Social Holiness." If you would like to learn more about how FUMC is working with other congregations in Pensacola to make our community a better place for all, you are welcome.

## 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](http://fumcpensacola.com)