



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA, FL.

## *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 19, 2023 | 8:30 & 11:00am



An Armenian Illustration of the Man Born Blind, with his parents and the Pharisees

# Welcome to First Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this morning! This Methodist congregation was founded in 1821. We are the oldest Protestant church in the area and the mother church of Methodism in Florida. We've been here for over 200 years, and we're looking forward to 200 more! It's an historic church that preserves the past and embraces the future, and there's a place here for you.

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent, also called Refreshment Sunday or mid-Lent. The season of Lent is the 40 days before Easter (plus six Sundays) and today we are 21 days from Easter Sunday. Refreshment Sunday is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigors; a day of hope with Easter at last within sight. And we'll remember that hope in our scripture lessons in which Jesus brings light into a dark world and we are called to be a people of the light.

The season of Lent is a solemn religious observance; it's a tone shift in the Church, unlike any other time in our year. We're preparing for Easter. And at this mid-Lent mark, it is not too late to start observing the Lenten disciplines. During these remaining days, we are still invited to observe a holy Lent by *self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word*. It's always a good time to practice these Lenten disciplines, because we don't practice them to make us more worthy, rather we practice them to help prepare us to remember Christ's death and celebrate his resurrection. We practice them so that: by our efforts we might make room for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives; in our struggles, remind ourselves of our need for a Savior; and in the journey, prepare our hearts to receive the gift of Easter with gratitude and joy. Let us observe a holy Lent, and let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

## OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday in Lent | 8:30 and 11:00am

*Entrance*

### GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

Dr. Rick Branch, *organ*

"Psalm 20" *Benedetto Marcello*

#### CHIMING OF THE HOUR \*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP \*

8:30, Rev. Brandon Bures

The Lord is my shepherd; I want for nothing.

11:00, Rev. Emily Kincaid

**God restores my life and comforts me.**

God's goodness and mercy follow me always.

**So I will dwell in the Lord's house for ever.** [PSALM 23]

#### OPENING HYMN \*

"When Morning Gilds the Skies" ..... **no. 185**

**COLLECT \***

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN \***

“Open My Eyes, That I May See” ..... **no. 454**

**WELCOME & REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE**

*Please register your attendance on the registration pads. If you are visiting with us, we're glad you're here! Please include your address, phone number, and email so that we may welcome you in a more personal way.*

**11:00, ANTHEM**

“He Leadeth Me” *arr. Brent Olstad* ..... Rick and Heidi Branch

*Proclamation and Response*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Children are invited to come down to the front as we sing.*

**I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me.  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**EPISTLE LESSON**

8:30, Randy Thompson

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

11:00, Hank Thompson

*Disciples are called to be a people of the light, forsaking all the works of darkness.*

**GOSPEL LESSON \***

**John 9:1-41**

*The story of Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus brings light into a dark world.*

**SERMON**

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

**“Until We Can See”**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

*You are invited to spend a moment in silence, reflecting on the word.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Emily Kincaid

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE, & PARDON

no. 891

Almighty and most merciful God,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much  
the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against thy holy laws.  
We have left undone  
those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done  
those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults.  
Restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful God, for his sake,  
that we hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life;  
to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

*All pray in silence.*

If we confess our sins,  
God is faithful and just,  
and will forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## OFFERTORY

8:30, "Good Samaritan Window: Sanctuary Choir; Bruce Schellhase,  
"The Outside of the Pane" Laura Young, Charles Thomas, *solos*  
*Rick Branch*

When cued, please join the choir in singing the anthem printed on the insert.

*This piece was commissioned by Jane Roberts for our 200th Anniversary.  
It is inspired by the Good Samaritan panes of the Saunders Family Window.*

11:00, Congregational Hymn Sing

## DOXOLOGY \*

no. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**  
**Praise him, all creatures here below.**  
**Praise him above, ye heav'nly host.**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

no. 15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*You are invited to come forward to the altar to receive the elements of Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station for those who need them. After you take the elements, feel free to kneel and pray at the rail as long as you like. Any offerings given during communion will go to the pastor's discretionary fund.*

“Jesus, Remember Me” ..... **no. 488**

*Sending Forth*

CLOSING HYMN \*

“Be Thou My Vision” ..... **no. 451**

BENEDICTION & GOING FORTH \*

POSTLUDE

“SLANE” *arr. Karen Keene*

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\* *Stand as you are able*

VISITORS

If you are visiting with us at First Church, we are so glad you're here! We invite you to leave us your information in our registration pads so we can contact you in a more personal way. We hope that you enjoy your visit and we hope that you will consider becoming a member of our church family. You can contact Lacey Adair, our Director of Membership, for more information about how to get involved at First Church. Email [LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com](mailto:LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com).

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Nursery is available this morning for children up to five years old. If you need help locating the nursery, please see an usher or greeter for assistance. Also, children's worship bulletins and crayons are available at the entrances.

# TODAY'S LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**The Old Testament—1 Samuel 16:1-13**—the Lord sends Samuel to anoint David to be the new king over Israel.

**The Psalter—Psalm 23**—The Lord is shepherd and guide. God is present in the time of danger and is generous and merciful.

**The Epistle—Ephesians 5:8-14**—disciples are called to be a people of the light, forsaking all the works of darkness.

**The Gospel—John 9:1-41**—the story of Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus brings light into a dark world.

## DAILY READINGS - 4 LENT

Make a commitment this Lenten season to read scripture each day. It's a good practice. If you don't already have a daily devotion, the scriptures below are designed to expand the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion. You can find them in the bulletin each week. The Daily Readings are taken from "The Daily Office Lectionary" in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Read the Bible each week. It will be a blessing.

	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Old Test.</i>	<i>New Test.</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
MONDAY	89	Jer. 16:10-21	Rom. 7:1-12	John 6:1-15
TUESDAY	97, 99	Jer. 17:19-27	Rom. 7:13-25	John 6:16-27
WEDNESDAY	101, 109:1-4, 20-30	Jer. 18:1-11	Rom. 8:1-11	John 6:27-40
THURSDAY	69:1-23, 31-38	Jer. 22:13-23	Rom. 8:12-27	John 6:41-51
FRIDAY	102	Jer. 23:1-8	Rom. 8:28-39	John 6:52-59
SATURDAY	107:33-43, 108:1-6	Jer. 23:9-15	Rom. 9:1-18	John 6:60-71

## NEXT WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Join us next week here at First Church as we come together to worship God on the Fifth Sunday in Lent. Dr. Lentz will preach in the 8:30 and 11:00am worship services here in the Main Sanctuary. The Rev. Brandon Bures will preach in the ICON worship service at 11:00am in Wesley Abbey. The Sanctuary Choir will sing at 11:00am. Next Sunday's scriptures: *Ezekiel 37:1-14* • *Psalms 130* • *Romans 8:6-11* • *John 11:1-45*.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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



## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

### Wednesday Dinner

March 22 | 5:00–6:00pm | The Wright Place

Join us mid-week for a delicious meal and good fellowship in The Wright Place! Our menu this week will be **Swiss Chicken, Wild Rice, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Yeast Roll, & Dessert**. Bring a friend and make sure to sign up in the registration pads this morning, go online at [fumcpensacola.com](http://fumcpensacola.com), or scan the QR Code above. Please register by noon on Tuesday.



### Wednesday Night Lenten Services

6:00–6:45pm | Main Sanctuary

Following dinner each week, we'll have a special Wednesday Night Lenten Service at 6:00pm in the Main Sanctuary featuring a guest speaker from around the Alabama-West Florida Conference. This week's guest will be the Rev. Elizabeth Hinton, Pastor of Taylor UMC in Daleville, AL & Piney Grove UMC in Rehobeth, AL. *Nursery will be provided for infant - 3 years old.*



March 22: **The Rev. Elizabeth Hinton**

*Pastor of Taylor UMC, Daleville, AL & Piney Grove UMC, Rehobeth, AL*



March 29: **The Rev. Ashley Davis**

*Assistant to the Bishop*

## Lent for Kids & Students

Children and students 3 years old through the 8th grade are invited to join us for special age-level activities throughout Lent. Children (3 yrs – 4th grade) can be dropped off at the chapel and students (5th – 8th grade) will meet at the Youth Building. *Our Children's Choirs (K – 4th) will continue to practice for Palm Sunday and Easter from 4:45 to 5:30pm.*

## Holy Week

In two weeks, we will begin to follow Jesus on his journey through agony, passion, and death during the holiest week in the christian year. Visit [FUMCPensacola.com/Lent](http://FUMCPensacola.com/Lent) for more information about our Holy Week services and events. If you are interested in the Passover and Last Supper Remembrance Meal on Thursday, April 6, please register online or in the Church Office by Wednesday, March 29.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Art Space at The Wright Place & Art Study Club Reception**

This Morning | 9:45–10:45am | The Wright Place

Our beautiful “Art Space at The Wright Place” has reopened for local artists to display and sell their work. This month’s guest artists are the members of **The Art Study Club**. We’re glad to have some of them with us in worship this morning! This local organization has brought artists together since 1959. Currently, over sixty members meet once a month to share skills, learn more about the art world, and develop lasting friendships. Their work will be on display here through April 10. There is a reception for these artists this morning in The Wright Place from 9:45 to 10:45am. Stop by to look at all the wonderful pieces! *If you would like more information about this ministry, contact Mici Kuba (MKuba@FUMCPensacola.com).*

### **Coffee with the Pastors**

Next Sunday, March 26 | 9:45am | The Wright Place

All visitors interested in joining First Church are invited to attend the upcoming Coffee with the Pastors! This small gathering is a great time to get to know each other, ask questions of our clergy, and to find out more about the missions & ministries of First United Methodist Church of Pensacola. Contact Lacey Adair (LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com) for more information.

### **Easter Lilies**

On Easter Sunday, you can honor, celebrate, or memorialize individuals or events by placing an Easter Lily in their name. Easter Lilies can be purchased for \$13 each, and orders must be made by Palm Sunday (April 2). They will be placed on the front lawn, in the Main Sanctuary, and in Wesley Abbey for our Easter worship. Then you are invited to take the lilies following the 11:00am Easter Sunday services. Email Sarah Bullock Head (SHead@FUMCPensacola.com) with any questions. To purchase a lily, scan the QR Code above or visit the church’s website, [fumcpensacola.com](http://fumcpensacola.com).



### **Easter Egg Hunt & Church-Wide Picnic**

#### **STUFFED EGGS NEEDED!**

Sunday, April 2 | Noon | FUMC Lawn

FREE! No Registration required.

All are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will enjoy a picnic lunch, egg hunt, prize drawings, inflatables, music, & and fellowship on the FUMC lawn. We are asking all our congregation members and all families of children attending to donate a dozen stuffed eggs per child (no chocolate please). *Please have them dropped off in the designated bins by Sunday, March 26.* This event is free, however lunch donations are accepted. Make sure to bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and easter baskets!