

THE
METHODIST
WITNESS

MARCH 2023
VOLUME 203 ISSUE 3

prayer



repentance



preparation



self-denial



reflection



SEASON OF
Lent.

I'M INTERACTIVE!



Click on the descriptions of the stories on the next page to go directly to that page. All emails and links are also click-able!

OPEN



Dear Friends,

There is an Episcopal church in South Carolina located on the beach. For the season of Lent, they decided to place three crosses in the front yard and drape them in purple. The local Chamber of Commerce called and said, "Would you

please consider taking down the crosses, we understand what you are trying to do and everything and we don't disagree, but this is Spring Break season, our busiest, we have lots of tourists in town to visit the beach. We think that the crosses are sending the wrong message. The crosses are kind of depressing. We want something a bit more upbeat. More spring oriented. More about life." The Chamber could not have been more wrong. The season of Lent and the cross itself are about life. In fact, the word "lent" is an old Germanic word for spring. Despite the fact that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, as we face our own mortality, and it ends with Good Friday, commemorating the death of Jesus,

it is all about life. We believe that real life comes through death. When we "die to ourselves" we really start to live. Through the death of Jesus, we find new and abundant life.

We will be seeking out this new life in Christ each Wednesday in the season of Lent. We have brought back our special Lenten services at 6:00pm, with speakers from across the Alabama-West Florida Conference. I hope that you will join us for all our special Lenten offerings. Come and find new life in Christ—*Lent* means Spring.

Practice Resurrection,

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Senior Pastor

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME - SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 12

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour!

HOLY LAND 2024 INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, March 20 | 6:00pm | Wesley Abbey

Are you interested in learning more about the 2024 Holy Land trip? The trip, Journey Through the Bible, will take place January 9-10, 2024. Join Dr. Geoffrey Lentz for an Information Session on Monday, March 20 at 6:00pm in Wesley Abbey, ICON space. If you'd like to learn more about the 2024 Holy Land Trip you can also visit the EO Tours website at www.EO.travel/mytrip and use the information below to search for the trip OR click [HERE](#).

Trip = HL24 Date = 010924 Code = L ID = 54130

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NOTICES & LIVING TRUST



Lent is a solemn religious observance in which we are preparing for Easter. The Season of Lent is the 40 days in the Christian Year leading up to Easter (plus six Sundays). And during these forty days, we are invited again into a wilderness experience. With the people of God in ages past, we are on a pilgrimage through a wilderness of renewal and faith to the promised land, and we are on a journey, following Jesus on the way to agony, passion, and death—and then new life. Join us in this time of preparation and observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS IN LENT

Wednesdays, February 22 - March 29 | 5:00 - 6:00pm | The Wright Place | Scan the QR code or [Click HERE to Register](#)
Come and enjoy a meal and fellowship with your church family! Please register by Tuesday of each week. Cost is \$10/Adults, \$4/Children, \$27/Max Per Family.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, March 1 - 29 | 6:00 - 6:45pm | Main Sanctuary

Each of these special Lenten services features a guest speaker from around the Alabama - West Florida Conference as well as music by our Music Ministry.



March 1: **The Rev. Richard Williams**
Pastor of Metropolitan UMC – Montgomery, AL
& *Director of the Beacon Center*



March 22: **The Rev. Elizabeth Hinton**
Pastor of Piney Grove & Rehobeth UMC – Dothan, AL



March 8: **The Rev. Brennan Peacock**
Pastor of Luverne UMC – Luverne, AL



March 29: **The Rev. Ashley Davis**
Assistant to the Bishop



March 15: **The Rev. Dr. Hunter Pugh**
Pastor of Brantley UMC – Brantley, AL

K - 4TH CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesdays, through April 12 (except April 5)
4:45 - 5:30pm (Check-in in Church Office)

Our Children's Choirs will continue practice for Palm Sunday & Easter. After choir, children will be able to eat with their parents from 5:30 - 6:00pm

LENT FOR KIDS & STUDENTS

Wednesdays, March 1 - 29 | 6:00 - 7:00pm

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.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, March 4 | 8:00am - 1:00pm | Click [HERE](#) to register, scan the QR code, or visit FUMCPensacola.com/GreatDayOfService

All ages are invited to participate in our annual day set aside to serve others in our community and organizations who serve others. We work with our 11 Missions partners such as Bright Bridge, Embrace Florida Kids, and Milk and Honey to name a few. Come help clean, paint, organize, do yard work, etc. as we put hands and feet to our call to serve and love one another.



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, April 2 | 8:30, 11:00am, & ICON at 11:00am

FIRST KIDS: PALM SUNDAY PARADE & FAMILY HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

Sunday, April 2 | 9:45 - 10:45am | The Wright Place

LABYRINTH & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesday, April 4 - Thursday, April 6
10:00am - 2:00pm and 4:00 - 7:00pm | Wesley Abbey

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS CONCERT

Tuesday, April 4 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary

PASSOVER & LAST SUPPER REMEMBRANCE MEAL

Thursday, April 6 | 5:30pm | The Wright Place
Click [HERE](#) to register or visit FUMCPensacola.com by March 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 6 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

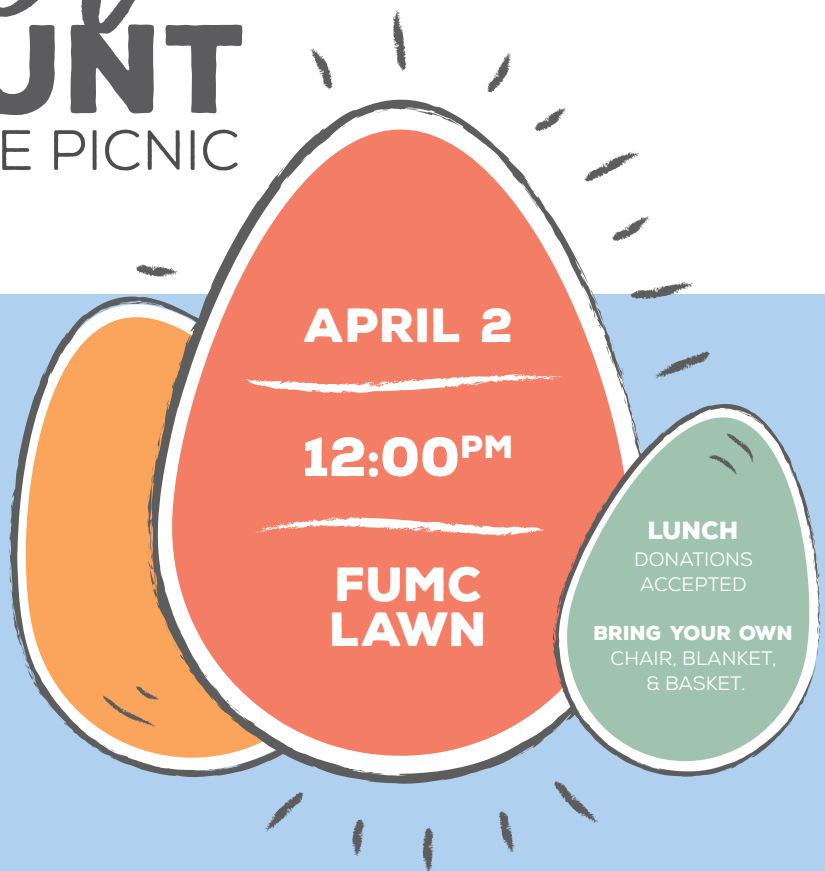
Friday, April 7 | 7:00pm | Main Sanctuary

Easter EGG HUNT & CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

All are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will enjoy a picnic lunch, egg hunt, prize drawing, games, music, & and fellowship on the FUMC lawn.

We are asking our congregation members and all families of children attending to **donate a dozen stuffed eggs** (no chocolate please) **per child**. Please have them dropped off in the designated bins by **Sunday, March 26**.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Easter

DOWNTOWN

SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

6:30am | Front Lawn

Sermon from the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz and music from the ICON praise team.

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE

8:30am | Main Sanctuary & Online

Sermon from Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz with special music from the Tween & Youth Choirs; and the Perdido Brass. Childcare provided.

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE

9:45am | Main Sanctuary & Online

Sermon from Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz and special music from Adult sanctuary Choir; along with the Perdido Brass. Childcare provided.

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE

11:00am | Main Sanctuary & Online

Sermon from Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz and special music from Sanctuary Choir; along with the Perdido Brass. Childcare provided.

ICON EASTER SERVICE

11:00am | Wesley Abbey & Online

Sermon from Rev. Brandon Bures and music from the ICON praise team. Childcare provided.

EASTER BRUNCH

7:30am – 11:00am | Gym

All are invited to join us for our annual Easter Brunch. We will serve First Church Easter favorites with a few new tasty treats! Reservations are not required.

April 9 | FUMC Pensacola

EASTER LILIES

\$13

HONOR, CELEBRATE,
or MEMORIALIZE
individuals or events.

purchase at FUMCPensacola.com/EasterLilies or call 850.432.1434

Please purchase Lilies by April 2 (Palm Sunday).



THE GREAT FIFTY



DAY CHALLENGE

Dear Friends,

After the 40-day season of Lent comes the 50-day season of Easter. It is the most important season of the year. This year, I believe that God is calling our church to participate in "The Great 50 Day Challenge." This is a grassroots initiative that I began in 2016 while serving in Port St. Joe. After a difficult period in the life of the church, I believed that God was calling that congregation to receive 50 new members during the Great Fifty Days of Easter. That number was more than they had received in any previous year. But, on Easter, I announced the challenge and the goal was met by week three. In the end, 98 people joined the church! It was a game changer! Since that experience more than 30 churches have participated in the challenge. Last year, with 29 churches participating, there were 791 new members added!

This year, First Church is answering the call and taking the challenge. We are asking all of our members to invite people to church during Lent and Easter and to help welcome fifty new people into the life of our church. We will have people joining starting on Easter Sunday, April 9, all the way through Pentecost, May 28. Easter is a season to grow in our faith and to grow our church. Let us all take the 50 Day Challenge and find new life in Christ.

Practice Resurrection,
Pastor Geoffrey

INFORMATION FOR THOSE WANTING TO JOIN.

Join us at Coffee with the Pastors on March 26 to learn more about First Church. See [page 7](#) for more information.

Contact [Lacey Adair](#),
Director of Membership,
with any questions.
LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com

Visit the church's
website or the Church
Office to fill out a
membership form.

COFFEE

with the pastors

All visitors that are interested in joining First Church are invited to attend our upcoming **Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, March 26, at 9:45am in the Wright Place.** This small gathering is a great time to get to know each other, ask questions of our clergy, and to be informed about the mission and ministries of First United Methodist Church of Pensacola.



ART SPACE - AT THE - WRIGHT PLACE

Our beautiful "Art Space at The Wright Place" is reopening to local artists to display and sell their work. Each artist will be able to have their work displayed for a month in addition to a reception on the 3rd Sunday of the month during the Sunday School hour (9:45 - 10:45am) in the The Wright Place.

Marion Hawks was our February artist of the month and her work will be on display through March 10.

Our March artist of the month will be The Art Study Club. 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 March 15 - April 10, with a reception on March 19 from 9:45 - 10:45am in The Wright Place.

If you would like more information about this ministry, contact Mici Kuba (MKuba@FUMCPensacola.com).

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST KIDS & FAMILIES

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Kids

Contact: Lisa Bond

LBond@FUMCPensacola.com

FIRST FRIDAY - KIDS

Friday, March 3 | 5:30 - 7:30pm | Gym

Registration - Register by March 1

Children from K-4th grade are invited to join us for a night of faith sharing, games and other activities, along with having a meal together. Pizza & Dessert is \$5. Drop off and pick up is in the gym.

PARENT'S SOCIAL + DATE NIGHT!

Friday, March 3 | 5:30 - 6:00pm
(childcare til 8:15pm)

Registration - Register by March 1

Parents of all ages are invited to join us for a casual social to get to know the other parents at your church! Childcare is available for infant - 4th grade with optional BONUS Parent's Night Out from 6:00 - 8:15pm for those attending the social.

K - 4TH CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesdays, through April 12 (except April 5) | 4:45 - 5:30pm
(Check-in in Church Office)

See [Page 3](#).

LENT FOR KIDS & STUDENTS

Wednesdays, March 1 - 29

6:00 - 6:45pm

See [Page 3](#).

LOOKING AHEAD...

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, April 2 | 8:30, 11:00am
& ICON at 11:00am

Preschool & Elementary Choirs will sing at the 11:00am Main Sanctuary Service.

Palm Sunday Parade & Family Holy Week Program

Sunday, April 2 | 9:45 - 10:45am
The Wright Place

Easter Egg Hunt & Church-Wide Picnic

Sunday, April 2 | Noon | FUMC Lawn

See [Page 4](#) for more info.

FIRST STUDENTS

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Students

Contact: Denise Van Atta

DVanatta@FUMCPensacola.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

Due April 1, 2023

Click HERE to Apply

Scholarship application form is now available for the 2023/2024 school year.

A YOUTH LENTEN CHALLENGE

Can you do without? We will choose a "necessity"- a coat, our voice, media, etc.- to abandon for a day. With each necessity we sacrifice, we will pray for a group of people that are most affected by those things. For example, a day without furniture we would pray for those in poverty throughout our world. Check out our Facebook page on Wednesdays to see what the challenge is each week.

BURGERS & BINGO

@ THE WRIGHT PLACE

Sunday, March 26th | 5:00pm - 6:30pm
The Wright Place

As part of our Sunday evening programming, the youth will be hosting our 50 Forward members for a fun night of burgers and bingo. Please let Denise know if you want to be a bingo caller or server. All are expected to attend.

FIFTY FORWARD

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Seniors

Contact: Jennifer Piver

JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com

THE LEARNING TABLE

JUMP START YOUR LIFE & LEGACY 3-HOUR WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 7 | 9:00am - 12:00pm
Wesley Abbey (ICON) | No Cost

Click HERE to Register

Elizabeth Turnage and Kelly Markham, LCSW will teach us how to gather all of the essential information you and your family need in order for you to leave a gift of practical and spiritual legacies to your loved ones. Elizabeth and Kelly

will provide you guidance, checklists, tools and exercises that will Jump Start Your Life & Legacy. While this is a difficult topic for most of us, it is a beautiful gift you can leave to your loved ones. Join us and learn the importance of comprehensive, practical checklists that include: wills, power of attorney, insurance, advance directives, passwords; and lastly how our stories, values and wisdom are our spiritual legacy. RSVP online or call the church office by March 5th.

LUNCH OUT CACTUS CANTINA

Thursday, March 9 | 11:30am

5121 N 12th Ave

Click HERE to register

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 to choose from and includes their made fresh daily, thin and crispy chips and salsa. RSVP online or call the church office by March 7.

QIGONG/TAI CHI

WITH INSTRUCTOR, JEAN PARKER

Starting Monday, March 13 | \$5/class
Mondays & Wednesdays

10:00am - 11:00am | 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. Some benefits include: increased energy, better balance, improved muscle strength, reduced joint pain, lowered inflammation, decreased stress, anxiety and depression, improved overall well-being and more. 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 at jeanp347@gmail.com or Jennifer Piver. No registration necessary.

FIFTY FORWARD CONT.

SILVER & GOLD - PENSACOLA OPERA'S ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Thursday, March 23
11:00am - 1:00pm | The Wright Place
\$10 | Doors open at 10:30am
[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship with friends and the Pensacola Opera's Artists in Residence program. This program continues to provide training and performance experience for young opera professionals. In addition to numerous performance opportunities, Artists in Residence also receive regular musical coaching from Pensacola Opera's music staff, as well as guest coaches and voice teachers. RSVP online or to the church office by March 19.

BURGERS & BINGO

Sunday, March 26th | 5:00 - 6:30pm
The Wright Place | No Cost
[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for a fun filled evening of fellowship with the First Church Youth as they host Burgers & Bingo! It's going to be fun spending time with the future of First Church as we laugh and win some Bingo prizes. RSVP online or to the church office by March 22.

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays | 9:30 - 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.

GRAND MONDAY NIGHTS

Mondays | 7:00 - 8:00pm
Register at 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, learn how to nurture your grandchildren's faith and overcome obstacles, and find encouragement.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

FUMCPensacola.com/WednesdayNights

5:00 - 6:00pm | The Wright Place
[Click HERE to Register](#)
Adults: \$10, Children (2 - 9 years old): \$4

March 8: Chicken Gumbo w/ Rice, Corn on Cob, Jalapeño Hush puppies, Green Salad, & Dessert

March 15: Shepherd's Pie, Irish Flag Salad, Irish Soda Bread, & Dessert

March 22: Swiss Chicken, Wild Rice, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Yeast Roll, & Dessert

March 29: Teryaki Pork, Fried Rice, Asian Cole Slaw, & Dessert

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Contact: Peggy Groves
peggygroves1941@gmail.com

2023 ANNUAL DAY

Saturday, March 11 | 9:30 - 11:00am
The Wright Place, Great Hall

Pensacola District United Women in Faith will celebrate the 2023 Annual Day. While the gathering is an annual event for United Women of Faith in the Pensacola District, all women of FUMC, as well as neighbors and friends, are welcome. We will have time for snacks, fellowship, recognition of accomplishments, and then will listen to a good and inspiring message. The guest speaker this year will be Catherine Quiring, who is a mental health counselor, pastor's wife, and mother of two. Her husband is The Rev. Robert Thomas Quiring, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, our neighbor.

MCA

NOW HIRING

The Methodist Children's Academy is looking for teachers to join our team! Visit FUMCPensacola.com/Jobs to apply.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Contact: Peggy Groves
peggygroves1941@gmail.com

FUMC JUST PENSACOLA NETWORK MEETING

Sunday, March 19 | 12:00 - 1:30pm
the Wright Place, Great Hall

FUMC JUST Pensacola Network Members and others who want to be part of a "doing" ministry, will gather for food, fellowship, planning and learning. We will get to know each other better as we share a meal. After our meal, we will make plans for inviting members of our congregation to join the NEHEMIAH ACTION planned for April 24 at 6:00pm. We have about 600 people in regular attendance at our church services. Our goal for FUMC attendance at the Nehemiah Action is 250, but our vision is to have 600 members attend. It stands to reason that If our average attendance for worship is 600 every Sunday, then surely, we can "do" justice as a congregation for one day a year.

WESLEY WACHOB LIBRARY

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Library

Contact: Gloria Holcombe
gwholcombe@bellsouth.net

BOOK REVIEW OF THE MONTH

The Other Einstein, written by Marie Benedict, is a fictional story of the life of Mileva Maric Einstein, a student of math and physics in the Polytechnic University in Zurich, Switzerland. She is the only female among five male students, one being Albert Einstein. They fall in love and marry. Mileva, a brilliant scholar, aids Albert's rise to fame as she remains but a shadow in their life together.

NEW BOOKS

The library recently received a donation of multiple copies from Dr. Jim Talley of *The White Choctaw: The Life of Alexander Talley* written by John Ward. Check out a copy of this book about one of our first ministers.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

8:30 & 11:00am in the Main Sanctuary
& ICON AT 11:00am in Wesley Abbey
Sunday School: 9:45 - 10:45am

stay connected   fumcpensacola.com

BREATHE - 2023 WOMEN'S RETREAT

This past weekend, 56 women joined us in Destin, FL for BREATHE - Women's Retreat, February 24 & 25. This twenty-four hour get away was a chance to fellowship with other church friends, focus on our Christian walk, to relax and hear God speak to us, and a chance to breathe. A special thank you to our guest speaker, Hannah Buchanan for bringing us a wonderful message of tracing God's transforming presence through our lives! Make plans to join us next year for BREATHE 2024, February 16 & 17!



PENSACON 2023

First Church had the opportunity to be part of Pensacon 2023, February 24 - 26, and it was such a wonderful experience! We welcomed thousands of people onto our campus and showed them the love of Christ. A BIG thank you to our wonderful staff and volunteers who made it all possible. We will be looking for more volunteers to help next year, February 23 - 25, 2024, so keep an eye out for more information!



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

IN LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE TO...

Betty Campbell on the death of her husband, **Henry "Woody" Campbell**. Woody died on February 3, 2023.

William Brantley on the death of his grandfather, **Thomas Warren Shows**. Thomas died on February 14, 2023 in Luverne, AL.

Carol Carlan on the death of her husband, **Charles Carlan**. Charles died on February 19, 2023.

Robin Rohde on the death of her sister, **June Weaver** in Louisville, KY.

Bob Holmes on the death of his son, **Michael Holmes**. Michael died February 27, 2023.

BIRTHS

Clayton Alexander Hawks born January 26, 2023, son of **Kate and Josh Hawks**. Proud grandmother is **Malinda Hawks** and proud grandmother is **Marion Hawks**.

BAPTISMS

Fletcher Cole Rose, son of **Ransone and Maegan Rose**, was baptised Sunday, February 5, 2023.

NEW MEMBERS

Jill LeDew

Taylor and William Brantley and son Charles (18 months)

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

February 5: In loving memory of **Jack Behr, Sr. & Ann Miller** (Jack's parents) and **Gary & Cleo McElvain** (Kay's parents) by **Jack and Kay Behr**.

February 19: In loving memory of **Henry Woodruff Campbell** by his family for his funeral that took place on February 19.

THE LIVING TRUST JANUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 2023

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 at FUMC Pensacola, contact Liz Noyes, LNoyes@FUMCPensacola.com.**

IN MEMORY

Ben Paramore

By Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Browder
Mary Anne Boutin and Lacey Adair
Laurie Cannon
Marie Percy
Rhonda and Mitch Pippin
Susan Hanson

Dr. Roy Wayne Miller

By Alice Fay Baker
Sarah E. Riggs
Clara Wimberly
Pat Miller
Harriet Duggan
Dr. Ferrell Shuford

IN MEMORY CONT.

Henry Campbell

By Belinda Thompson

IN HONOR

John Waters Adair's First Birthday

By Patrick, Lacey, Margaret Anne and Lilly Kate Adair

Anibel Tyrrell's 90th Birthday

By Kay Tyrrell Richie



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