

Pictured: Senior Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesday nights with Pastor Geoffrey.

THE METHODIST WITNESS



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



A LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

First Church is experiencing a growth spurt! It is so exciting to watch it all happen. Maybe you remember what it was like to have a growth spurt as a child. I remember my legs aching in the middle of the night and my mother saying, “those are growing pains.” She would give me a Tylenol and send me back to bed. I remember wanting to measure my height in the morning to see if I grew overnight.

With pandemic pressures easing, school going back into session, and the excitement that comes with new leadership, all of our ministry areas are seeing new growth. Our average church attendance on Sunday is back over 500 and moving towards 600. Wednesday nights are huge again with attendance close to 200! Church-wide, participation is surging and returning most things to their pre-pandemic strength. It is exciting to watch the Holy Spirit work!

With this “growth spurt” comes the requisite “growing pains.” We are reworking issues of parking, building access, and the constraints of space and time. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we grow together. I can’t wait to measure us in the morning. I think we grew overnight!

Peace of Christ,

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz
Senior Pastor

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CELEBRATING



Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day Brunch

Sunday, September 11

10:00 - 10:45am

The Wright Place

RSVP - Visit Page 4 for more info.

On National Grandparents Day, we honor the grandparents who nurtured us. Grandparents can make a difference when they incorporate at-home moments, on-the-go opportunities, wake-up rituals, and bedtime blessings to pass a spiritual legacy to their grandchildren. Grandparents can influence their grandchildren by speaking blessings into their lives and telling them the story of God's marvelous works. This day is a perfect time to love on your grandparents, love on your grandchildren and thank one another for the special moments that you get to spend together.



"My Grandmother Baughn was my first teacher of the importance of family and community and serving others. She always opened her home, had something on the stove in case someone was hungry and could sit for hours at her dining room table and listen

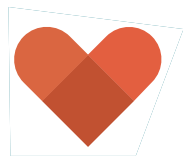
intensely while friends and family members shared their news and ate a bowl of freshly cooked greens and cornbread. She attended two churches - one that was right next door to her house - and she had several Bibles. I remember spending the night and waking up to the smell of bacon and finding her sitting at that same seat at her dining room table reading her Bible. She was one of my first examples of faithfulness and service". - Lisa Bond

"I love tea. I start every morning with a cup of Irish Breakfast tea with cream and sugar. When I think back to when I was introduced to tea, I think of my Big Grandma. Big Grandma was my father's mother. She was called Big Grandma because we thought she was so tall (in reality she might have been 5' 6"). Big Grandma lived a block away from our home so we visited often. When we were at her house, we would snuggle on her couch. She would show me all kinds of things, like how to crochet using a pencil. It was on that couch that she would let me sip from her tea cup. Something about wrapping my hands around a warm mug of tea while sitting on my couch always brings me back to the simpler times I sat with my Big Grandma". - Denise Van Atta



"I grew up moving around the country as a military brat so spending time with my grandparents in the summer was always a special time for our family. My Grandma McClellan was a hard worker, would give you the shirt off her back, loved to cook for her family and loved her bible. She always made sure everyone had a favorite food on the table so nobody went hungry. My Grandpa McClellan was a disabled World War II veteran who loved his family, living out in the country and growing a garden. Grandma and Grandpa did not have a big house, new cars or much in their bank account but they always found a way to give back to their community. Grandma volunteered in the church nursery. Grandpa delivered meals on wheels. They had servant's hearts. I cherish my memories of volunteering with them, learning to drive Grandpa's truck on the country roads, shucking peas, canning vegetables, making homemade ice cream, and snuggling up with them to watch westerns. I thank God for them and for leading me to serve senior adults". - Jennifer Piver





Grandparents Day Brunch

Dear God, thank you for the grandparents who shaped us and taught us so much about navigating life. Help us, as adults, to nurture the children and youth we encounter. Help us, as children, to show we care for our grandparents with kind words, a hug or a pretty picture we drew. We love you and thank you for these special relationships. Amen.

Kids & Students of First Church are invited to come celebrate their Grandparents with a special Grandparents Day Brunch! We will gather in The Wright Place at 10:00am for food, fellowship, and games. If your grandchild/grandchildren attend another church, we invite you to bring them to our special celebration. **RSVP online or to the church office by Wednesday, September 7.**

Sunday, September 11
10:00 - 10:45am
The Wright Place

We ask that First Church Kids (PreK-4th Grade) be escorted by their grandparents to the brunch. They will not attend Sunday School.

Click or Scan the QR
code to register.



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, September 4, from 9:45 - 10:45am, in the Wright Place Dining Hall.** 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.



Email Lacey Adair (LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com) for more information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?

Do you want to learn more about the United Methodist Church and what is happening in it? We have several opportunities this fall to find out more.

Sunday, September 18 | 9:45am | Great Hall

Sunday School Forum - What's Happening in the UMC with Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

Wednesdays | 6:00–7:00pm | Wesley Abbey

October 12: **History of Methodism** with the Rev. Brandon Bures

October 19: **Mission of Methodism** with the Rev. Emily Kincaid

October 26: **Theology of Methodism** with Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

November 2: **A Sung Faith** with Dr. Rick Branch

November 9: **Connectionalism** with the Rev. Emily Kincaid

November 16: **United Methodist Present and Future** with Dr. Geoffrey Lentz



OCTOBER
14-16

CHURCH – WIDE RETREAT

Refresh • Recalibrate • Reunite



FOR ALL AGES!

Register online at FUMCPensacola.com/Retreat

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST KIDS & FAMILIES

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Kids

Contact: Lisa Bond

LBond@FUMCPensacola.com

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday of the Month | 5:30 - 7:30pm
September 2 - December 2

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Children from Infant-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/child. Drop off and pick up is in the gym.

KINDERGARTEN BIBLE SUNDAY

Sunday, September 11

9:30am | Chapel

11:00am | Wesley Abbey

Come celebrate our Kindergartners as they begin their "official" journey in worship. First, parents and kindergartners are invited to come to the Chapel to hear about the "K" Year and learn about ways to encourage their child's faith journey. Then, all are invited to attend the ICON Worship Service where the "K"s will be presented with their Jesus Storybook Bibles.

PARENT & TEACHER KIDZ TRAINING

September 17, 9:00am - 3:00pm

September 18, 1:30pm - 6:30pm

Pinewoods Presbyterian Church | \$20

[Click HERE to Register](#)

KidZ at Heart's Transforming KidZ Ministry training prepares parents and children's leaders to share God's Word effectively and formationally. Come join other parents and leaders as we grow so our children can.

WORSHIPPING W/ CHILDREN CLASS

September 25 | 9:45-10:45am | Chapel

Parents of preschoolers and kindergartners are invited to come explore ways to worship with your kids. We will talk about how children worship, ways to engage them in worship and give parents an opportunity to discuss fun ways to help the family enjoy worship together.

FIRST KIDS & FAMILIES CONT.

CHILD ABUSE SYMPOSIUM

Mondays, September 19 - October 3

6:00 - 7:00pm | Gulf Breeze UMC

[Click HERE to Register Via Zoom](#)

Get empowered with knowledge from area experts on how to prevent, identify, report, and aid in recover of child abuse for children of all ages (infant - 18yo). Intended for adults (caregivers, family members, neighbors, community members, & teachers). Sponsored by area United Methodist Churches, in partnership with Gulf Coast Kid's House & Santa Rosa Kids House. Appetizers provided. Register for Zoom link at gbumc.org.

FIFTY FORWARD

Contact: Jennifer Piver

JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com

GRAND MONDAY NIGHTS

Mondays | 7:00 - 8:00pm | Zoom

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.

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.

LUNCH OUT - MCGUIRE'S IRISH PUB

Thursday, September 8 | 11:30am

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for our monthly lunch outing with friends. We will be gathering at McGuire's Irish Pub. Pensacola's locally owned award-winning restaurant has a turn-of-the-century, New York Irish Saloon theme. The atmosphere is exciting and the food is fantastic! RSVP by September 6.

FIFTY FORWARD CONT.

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Seniors

Contact: Jennifer Piver

JPiver@FUMCPensacola.com

ORGANIZING YOUR LIFE AND LEGACY 12 - WEEK ONLINE WORKSHOP

by Elizabeth Turnage & Kelly Markham

Next workshop begins September 13, 2022. Space is limited. Sign up today. Create a binder or file containing all of the important documents, information, passwords, and core values you need today and your loved ones will need later. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Jennifer Piver at 850-291-5331.

SILVER & GOLD

Thursday, September 22

11:00am - 1:00pm | The Wright Place

\$10 | [Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of fellowship with friends. Ruth's Kitchen will provide a delicious lunch and our entertainment will be The Blue Anchor Belles. They are a group of military wives who love to sing! They create unique three-part harmonies for beloved WWII-era music, bringing top hits from the 40's and 50's to all generations. RSVP to the Church Office by May 22. Doors open at 10:30am.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE WRIGHT PLACE

Friday, September 30 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

The Wright Place | \$15

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join us for a fun filled evening of fellowship, entertainment and a delicious brisket dinner from Ruth's Kitchen. Invite your Sunday School Class, your neighbors and your friends. The Johansens, an exceptional local family band with four vocalists, are bringing a lot of fun and a variety of musical genres to The Wright Place. You may have seen them around Pensacola as they play at several different venues and for weddings. RSVP to the Church Office by September 26. Doors open at 5:30pm.

MUSIC

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Music

Contact: Rick Branch

RBranch@FUMCPensacola.com

ADULT CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT RETREAT

Friday, September 9 | 7:00 - 8:30pm

Sat., September 10 | 9:30am - 2:00pm

Want to sing with us for the December 18 Christmas Concert with Orchestra? We'd love to have you! Let Rick know you're going to join us so we'll have your music ready.

TWEEN CHOIR PRACTICE

Starts Sunday, September 4

5:30 - 6:00pm | Choir Room

All 5th and 6th graders are invited to join us as we kick-off tween choir practice.

HANDBELL DINNER & POLISH PARTY

Monday, September 19 | 4:15-5:15pm

Bring a covered dish and elbow grease! Regular rehearsals begin Monday, October 3.

FIRST STUDENTS

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Students

Contact: Denise Van Atta

DVanatta@FUMCPensacola.com

FIRST FRIDAY FEAR FACTOR EDITION

Friday, September 2 | 5:30-7:30pm

Tweens, come and test your courage as we play some gross and disgusting games (some are not so gross and disgusting for those with a more sensitive sense of smell or stomach). RSVP via email to Denise.

CLUB 56

Starting Sunday, September 4

4:30-6:30 | [Click HERE to Register](#)

Tweens are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings, starting September 4, where they will participate in a variety of exciting activities including choir, games, bible stories and more.

FIRST STUDENTS CONT.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH AND CHOIR

Sundays | 4:30-7:30 pm

7-12th graders are invited to join us for a lesson, games, dinner and choir practice. Andrew Rasnick will lead our lessons in September based on the famous "Man in the Arena" speech.

SAVE THE DATE: YOUTH FIELD DAY

Join us Sunday, October 2 during normal youth time for a fun afternoon at the park. The park and games we will play will be sent in a future email.

MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

6th - 8th: Thursdays | 7:00am

Whataburger (Gregory)

9th - 12th: Mondays | 7:30am

Whataburger (9th)

Mid-High and Senior High students are invited to join us for one of our morning Bible studies!

FIRST STUDENTS: MID-WEEK

Wednesdays, Starting August 17

6:00 - 7:15pm | Youth Building

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Tweens and Mid-High are invited to join us in the Youth Building for fellowship, games, learning, and worship.

LIBRARY

FUMCPensacola.com/Ministries/Library

Contact: Gloria Holcombe

gwholcombe@bellsouth.net

LOCATING A BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

[Click HERE to view Online Catalog](#)

1. Visit FUMCPensacola.com
2. Under Ministries on the homepage menu, click on "Library"
3. Click on "Online Library Catalog"
4. In the provided search bar at the top, enter the name of book or author and click blue magnifying glass to search.
5. Click the book you want listed in blue.
6. Under Location, if "Main" is listed, it can be found in our library.

LIBRARY CONT.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Fiction: *Bloomsbury Girls*, Jenner;

Beneath a Scarlet Sky, Sullivan

Nonfiction: *Reading Backwards*, Hays; *Fear and Trembling, Either/Or*, Kierkegaard; *A Beginner's Guide to the New Testament*, Barclay; *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Calvin; *The collected Works of G.K. Chesterton*, Chesterton; *Life is Messy*, Kelly; *The Essential Kierkegaard*, Hong; *The Weight of Glory*, Lewis; *Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation, A Simple Way to Pray: for Peter, the Master Barber, Reading the Psalms with Luther*, Luther

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

FUMCPensacola.com/WednesdayNights

[Click HERE to Register](#)

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

September 7

Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole, Peas & Carrots, Yeast Rolls, Dessert

September 14 - Team Spirit Night

Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Lima Beans, Yeast Roll, Dessert

September 21

Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Wild Rice, Veggie Medley, Yeast Roll, Dessert

September 28

Pat's Salad, Beef Stroganoff, Egg Noodles, Yeast Roll, Dessert

TEAM SPIRIT NIGHT

Wednesday, September 14

Come representing your favorite sports team and enjoy Wednesday Night activities with your church family!

What's Happening at First Church
continued on page 8...

DISCIPLESHIP

FUMCPensacola.com/Discipleship

Contact: Rev. Emily Kincaid

EKincaid@FUMCPensacola.com

WOMEN AT THE WELL

Resuming Wednesdays, September 7
10:30am | The Wright Place, Room 233

This book and Bible-based discussion group for women of all ages studies a variety of topics throughout the year. *Led by Cindy Smith.*

NEW! WHAT LOSS CAN TEACH US

Starting Sunday, September 11

Wesley Abbey, Room 102

[Click HERE to Register](#)

What Loss Can Teach Us: A Sacred Pathway to Growth & Healing, by Beth Taulman Miller, deals with all types of loss from death & divorce to retirement, or loss of relationships and identity. The facilitators hope that this book study will bring people together to share their losses in all of its forms; and that through this book and shared experiences you will better understand how God can help us heal and grow. *Leaders: Abbi & Chris Shawyer: abbides@gmail.com*

GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP

Starting Sunday, September 11

5:45pm | Wesley Abbey

[Click HERE to Register](#)

The journey of grief is a painful process, and you do not need to walk it alone. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and want to invite you to join a 10-week support group and program called GriefShare. The materials specifically address topics and issues for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. First Church will be hosting GriefShare beginning on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Our support group will meet weekly in Wesley Abbey on Sunday evenings at 5:45pm. *Facilitated by John Griffin and Karen Feliciano.*

DISCIPLESHIP CONT.

NEW! THE BODY KEEPS SCORE

Starting Sunday, September 25

Wright Place, Room 205

[Click HERE to Register](#)

In speaking about Bessel van der Kolk's seminal book *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma* Yehuda, Ph.D. said that this book is "an authoritarian guide to the effects of trauma and pathways to recovery. [It's] a must read for mental health and other health care professionals, trauma survivors, their loved ones and those who seek . . . solutions to the cycle of trauma and violence in our society." If you or someone you know or love are dealing with or suffering from the effects of trauma, please join us as we explore the material in this book and learn spiritual practices that help support healing from trauma. *Facilitators: Donell Seager, Spiritual Director and Jessica Qualls, Clinical Social Work/Therapist*

EQUIP 2022 LEADER TRAINING

Saturday, October 22

10:00am - 3:00pm | FUMC Pensacola

[Click HERE to Register](#)

EQUIP is for anybody who serves in children's, tween, and youth ministry; including laity, leaders, & ministers. Newbies and veterans alike will benefit from a variety of breakout sessions like Casting a Vision with your Senior Minister, Ministry 101, Planning Retreats, Teach So You Can Reach. This training is available to anyone in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

FINDING YOUR TRUE SELF THROUGH THE ENNEAGRAM

September 22 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Gulf Breeze UMC | \$35.00

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Joining Rev. Pam Avery with Center for Sacred Space as she offers a deeper look into the Enneagram.

LIVING IN AN ICON: CONTEMPLATION IN NATURE

Orientation: Friday, October 21

7:00pm - 8:30pm

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Program: Saturday, October 22

9:00am - 4:00pm

Naval Live Oaks Pavilion

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Join Lisa Ihns and Sonja Crawford with Center for Sacred Space as they lead us in the practice of contemplation in nature using Rober Gottfried's book *Living in an Icon: Growing Closer to Creation and to God*. Cost is \$65/\$75.

**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

STOCK THE KITCHEN

RUTH'S KITCHEN FUNDRAISER

Ruth's Kitchen is in need of new pots and pans with lids as well commercial plastic containers with lids. To help purchase these items, we will be taking prepaid orders for cheese straws, pecan pie, and fudge pie through November 4. Pick up is November 18.

Cheese Straws: \$15.00/box

Pecan Pie: \$18.00/pie

Fudge Pie: \$18.00/pie



Click or scan the QR code to purchase your some of your favorite First Church treats for this holiday season!



Bible Display



**Through September 11
Wesley Wachob Library**

In celebration of our Third Grade/ Kindergarten Bible presentation Sundays in August and September, our Church Library has a wonderful collection of Bibles on display. Some are family heirlooms, some are various translations, some unique and interesting. Come by the library and check them out!

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...

The family of Beverly Butler. Beverly died on August 5, 2022.

Mecy Wimberly on the death of her father, **Tommy Lea Pruitt.** Tommy died August 13, 2022

Yvonne and Pete Hurd on the death of their son **Travis Hurd.** Travis died on August 15, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Rev. Emily Kincaid on being named as chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Alabama-West Florida Conference

BAPTISMS

August 14, 2022: Mary Margaret Kercher, daughter of Audrey & Tyler Kercher; Merritt Ann Hawkins, daughter of Kaylynn & Matt Hawkins; Laughlin William Farrington, son of Lea & Casey Farrington

August 28, 2022: Caroline Braden Antonio & Luke Robert Antonio, children of Brady & Scott Antonio; Rose ElizabethAnn Theis, daughter of Maren & Christian Theis

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Scott Antonio
Carol Mann

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

August 7, 2022: In loving memory of Teresa Bradley by Wayne and the Tricia and Ryan Hess family.

August 7, 2022: The flowers in The Wright Place are in celebration of Jane Roberts' 80th birthday today, and Henry and Jane's 60th wedding anniversary on August 4th.

August 14, 2022: In loving memory of Donivan Bradley by Melinda and Keith Leonard, his daughter and son-in-law and Wayne Bradley, his brother.

August 21, 2022: In loving memory of Martin Thompson by his family, and in celebration of Dee and Tim Price-Williams' 50th wedding anniversary on August 19.

August 28, 2022: In celebration of Caroline Antonio's 3rd birthday on August 27 and the baptism of Luke and Caroline Antonio.

THE LIVING TRUST JULY 26TH - AUGUST 20TH, 2022

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 OF

Bill Dannelly

by: Ruth Sneed
William & Karen Bower
Janis & Larry Davison
William & Anne Warren
Bob & Sharon Espersen
Andrea Edgar
Whitney, Amy, Laurel Kate
& Coulson Voeltz

Donivan Bradley

by: Tricia & Ryan Hess
Janet Pilcher
Peggy & Frank Pilcher

Bill Sneed

by: John & Jackie Burggraaff
Deborah Cathey
Will & Jackie Pergande
Mary & Frank Willis
Bob & Sharon Espersen
Ruth Klarner
John & Isabel Fitzgerald
William & Karen Bower
Andrea Edgar

Jim Murphy

by: Bob & Sharon Espersen
Jim & Linda Babbitt

Burda Schallhorn

by: Lou Cree Schallhorn
Ruth Sneed

Dr. Joe Cox

by: Bradley Proctor
Dr. Morris Eaddy

Betty Olliff

by: Deborah Cathey

Bill Cebula

by: William & Karen Bower
Di Anne Williams
by: William & Karen Bower

Ann Weekly

by: William & Karen Bower