



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF
DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS**

2466 First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
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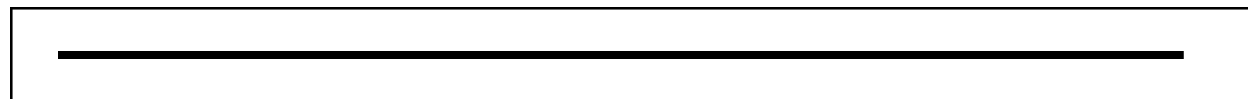
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
GOOD NEWS!**

2466 First Street ~ Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: (239) 332-1152
Email: firstchurch@fumcftmyers.org
Website: www.fumcfm.org



*Invite a friend to church!
All are welcome
with the Love of Christ.*

Return Service Requested



MINISTRY LEADERSHIP	
HOSPITALITYAll Church Members	Oct. Faithfulness of Our Members
Pastor	Worship Attendance
Rev. Lia I. Willetts..... Senior Pastor	Oct. 2 130
Lay Leaders	Oct. 9 116
Peach Sonne	Oct. 16 114
Tim Easton	Oct. 23 146
Staff	Oct. 30 138
Michelle Mohr.....Admin. Assistant	Stewardship (Giving)
Judy WeaverOrganist	Oct. 2 \$6,603.90
Amy McGlynnPreschool Director	Oct. 9 \$3,234.00
Trey Parker.....Youth Director	Oct. 16 \$3,618.88
Hugo Quintana.....Custodian	Oct. 23 \$1,139.25
	Oct. 30 \$2,381.65
	New Members - Evangelism (31)
	Salty Service - Outreach (60)

OUR MISSION:

**Go and make
disciples of
all Nations !**

Matthew 28:18-20

OUR VISION

As followers
of Christ,
we are His ambassadors
to the world.

We will:
Hear God's word,
Grow in
our faith,
Serve God,
Reach out
in love.

Sunday, December 11th ~ Live Nativity

9:00 am - Contemporary Praise Worship
10:30 am - Traditional Worship
Noon - Christmas Dinner RSVP
7:00 pm - Spanish Worship

Sunday, December 18th ~ Christmas Music

10:30 am - ONE SERVICE
Christmas Lessons and Carols

Food Boxes for Families in Need

First Church is feeding families in need this Holiday Season.
Please give \$25 for a box, \$10 for a turkey, or fill a box
with the suggested grocery items.

Bring Toys for Children in Need

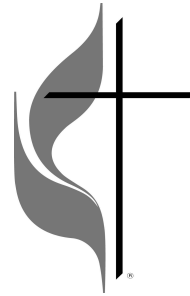
We will be collecting toys all through the month of
December for children in need in our community.

Live Nativity starts December 9th

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Time 7 pm to 8:30 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT FUMC

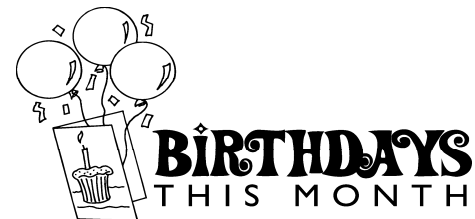
9 am	<u>Contemporary Worship Service</u>
9 am - Noon	<u>Children's Sunday School</u>
9:45 & 11:30 am	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
10:30 am	<u>Traditional Worship Service</u>
10:30 am	<u>Youth Bible Study</u>
7 pm	<u>Spanish Worship Service</u>



Adult Sunday School ~ 9:00 am and 10:15 am

December Happy Birthdays!

Sally Oxendine	1	Bill Collins	21
Candice Kelner	2	Cay Yanosik	22
Jack (Tim) Murphy	2	Jimmy Funk	24
Gayle Corson	3	Betsy Wengert	25
Dolly Buffer	7	Barbara White	25
Ray Burke	10	Gaby Elvir	26
Robin Wilke	10	Anita Hauser	27
Lloyd Hendry	12	Ken Sonne	30
Sharon Quijano	14	Wava Straw	31
Mel Compton	15		
John Shahan	15		
David Whidden	15		
Jeannie White	17		
Stella Bickel	20		
Joyce Flohr	20		



Weekly Youth Opportunities—Get Plugged In!

Sunday Worship 9:00 am and 10:30 am
 Sunday 10:30 am - Youth Sunday School
 Sunday 5 pm - Youth Group Games, Dinner, Program



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Nancy Martin, UM Women President

All women of the church are welcome!

**UMW Unit Meeting ~ Monday, Dec. 12, 2011 at
 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall**



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us for our next dinner & meeting

Monday, Dec. 12, 2011 at 6:30 pm

RSVP to (239) 332-1152



Wonderful Wednesday Dinners

Menus for

November/December 2011

By Ann McGlynn and Louise Whidden

November 30 Barbecue pork

December 7 Tater tot casserole

RSVP - Don't forget to RSVP

Wonderful Wednesday's last dinner for 2010 will be on
December 7, but will resume on
Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Small Groups for Spiritual Growth Available at First Church

Sunday School Classes 9 am and 10:15am

Tuesday Noon - Bag Lunch Women's Small Group with Michelle Mohr

Tuesday 6:30pm - Adult Study with Sharon Quijano and Jeanette Kunkelman

Wednesday 4:30 pm - Leader's Prayer & Spiritual Growth with Pastor Lia

Wednesday 6:30 pm - Bible Study with Larry Massing

Wednesday 6:30 pm - Men's Bible Study with Ron Weaver

Wednesday 6:30 pm - Kid's Club and Youth Group

Wednesday 6:30 pm - Spanish Prayer and Study Cell Group #1

Thursday 6:30 pm - Spanish Prayer and Study Cell Group #2

Women's Prayer Group - 1st Saturday of the Month at 9 am

UM Men's Meeting - 2nd Monday of the Month at 6:30 pm

UM Women's Meeting - 2nd Monday of the Month at 10:30 am

Preschool News

December 2011 Update

Luke 1:14 and you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at His birth.



The Season of Joy is upon us, and on behalf of the entire First United Methodist Preschool staff. We would like to wish a Very Merry Christmas to all of our families. Our teachers and children alike have been eagerly anticipating preparations for the December 14 Christmas program. The program, set to take place in the LEC, will begin at 5:30 pm. Appetizers and cake will be served afterwards. Our program focus will be the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To engage the children, teachers will use a variety of lessons and activities highlighting the true meaning of Christmas. Please plan on joining us for this wonderful program!

Blessings, Amy McGlynn, Preschool Director

January Happy Birthdays!

Paul Yanosik	3	Caitlyn Avoglia	25
Eduardo Quintana	7	Kay Smith	25
Katherine Mertz	12	Jane Henderson	26
Linnie Cary	13	Nancy Yavorsky	27
John Noland	13	Alice Hunt	28
Judy Weaver	13	Norma Peronis	30
Bobbye Manning	17	Hugh Kinsey	30
Betty Hobbs	20	Lee Arthur	31
Archie Ford	20		
Georgeanna McGrew	22		
Ken Korf	24		
Joanne Lamb	24		



Evangelism

Your Evangelism Committee has been busy establishing a new website for First Church. Getting the site launched was one of our goals for 2011, and while there are improvements to be made in the coming weeks and months, we are proud to have it up and running.

On the site, you will find page connections for the Preschool, our Spanish Mission Nueva Iglesia Metodista Unida, FUMC programs and activities, as well as links to the Florida Conference and the Upper Room. Visit www.funccfm.org today and start enjoying the convenience of your website. Stay tuned for the addition of podcasts of our services; you won't have to miss out on a sermon ever again!

The Evangelism Committee is working on putting together a "Guest Bag" of devotions and information about First Church for presentation to first-time visitors. This gesture, in addition to having guests be introduced to the congregation is another purposeful step toward sharing Christian love and fellowship to everyone.

Our prayer is for a strengthening of our focus on becoming effective ambassadors of Christ in the world.

Bruce Wengert, Evangelism Chair

Walk to Emmaus 2012

Each walk has approximately 45 Pilgrims. Although Emmaus is sponsored by the Upper Room, it is not exclusively attended by Methodist members. They prefer that husband/wife applicants be sent in together, because they actually give preference to couples. The 2012 schedule is as follows:

Men's Walk #85	January 26-29 th	Women's Walk #85A	Feb 2-5 th
		Women's Walk #85B	Feb 9-12 th
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Men's Walk #86	May 17-20 th	Women's Walk #86	May 24-27 th
<hr/>			
Men's Walk #87	September 20-23 rd	Women's Walk #87	September 27-30 th

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can help with anything. May God Bless you to be a blessing! Thank you, Pattie Murphy

"Passionate Worship"

Dear Loving Church Family,

This is an especially wonderful time of the year as it marks the start of our winter residents returning! Our church family has already begun growing, and the anticipation of who will arrive next keeps it exciting.

*We've been busy while some of you were gone, ever focused on improving our worship services to glorify and honor our most loving and forgiving **Lord of Lord, and King of Kings!***

We joyfully welcomed six new pilgrims into our Emmaus Community this year: Mabel Akin, Liz Easton, Tim Easton, Cindy Englund, Jaime Goss, and Louise Whidden! If you want to know about their experience...ask them, please! They are still glowing, and serving, with an even deeper conviction. We praise you, most Merciful and Glorious God, for all of your blessings!

In September, we kicked off a variety of new small groups, complimenting those that have been steadfast in their development of Christian principles. It is said that small group ministries are the best way to grow spiritually. For those who have not yet found your group...try one, or try them all...let the passion of the Holy Spirit lead you.

Our youth, and their leaders blessed us with several very special worship services this year—each one better than the last. We are always grateful to join our young people in their contagious enthusiasm for serving our Lord.

This weekend our preschool, their families, staff, and church family concluded the Harvest Celebration with a fabulous and successful community fest! Many supported the rummage sale (there were some great bargains); and everyone worked really, really, hard finding homes for the pumpkins from the pumpkin patch.

Just around the corner, Thanksgiving awaits. We have so much to be thankful for, even when things may seem the most difficult. For, it is in those difficulties that we often stretch to meet new challenges, worthy of new life lessons.

Very soon, we will begin decorating and celebrating Christ's birth and then, hailing in a New Year. May we, each and every one of us, enjoy the gifts of health, happiness, peace, and prosperity. And, may we become the disciples Christ is counting on us to be.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

Pattie Murphy, Worship Team Chairperson



**Invite your Family and Friends to
 First United Methodist Church
 2011 Christmas Celebration
Bring Toys for children in December!**

Live Nativity ~ Sunday, December 11th,

9:00 am - Contemporary Praise Worship

10:30 am - Traditional Worship

Noon - Christmas Dinner-RSVP

7:00 pm - Spanish Worship

Music Sunday, December 18th

10:30 am - ONE SERVICE

Christmas Lessons and Carols

7:00 pm - Spanish Worship

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24th,

5:30 pm - Children and Families Worship

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve *Candlelight* Worship

8:00 pm - Spanish Worship Feliz Navidad

Christmas Day Service, December 25th

10:30 am - ONE SERVICE at

**Merry Christmas!
 Read the Bible : Luke 2:1-20**

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.”
 —Luke 2:11.

Every year I see all around me the onslaught of a commercial Christmas season. Although I try to guard my time and strive to reflect on the spiritual and holy side of Christmas, it is easy to get busy planning for church dinners, music and services, shopping for family, and the bustle of the season.

Do you find that instead of having more time to worship Christ, he is being crowded out of your life? Do you find yourself coming into this holy season tired and drained, both physically and emotionally?

In the rush of our busy days, let's pause at Christ's manger now, and pray and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Let's examine our hearts, our lives, our minds, and ask our Savior to show us how we, at this blessed Christmas time, can give the Christ Child a gift of meaningful worship and open our heart in love and thanksgiving to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Friends, let us come to the manger tonight and bring our gifts to God:
 A loving word, a helping hand, a willing heart, a silent prayer.
 As we give our gifts to God this Christmas,
 May we find the peace Christ promised us
 When we hear Jesus whispering how much He loves us!

Christmas Prayer: Loving Jesus, we thank you for coming into the world to save us. Lord, please help us come to the manger and see you with the same awe and wonder as the first visitors of long ago. Come into our hearts this Christmas as we worship you in Spirit and in Truth. We give you praise and thanksgiving for your loving sacrifice on the cross. We pray for blessings upon our families and friends, our church family, and our country. Most of all, we pray for Peace upon the earth. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Blessed Christmas to all, *Love, Pastor Lia*

PASSING THE TORCH AND PRAYING 24/7!

 We are joining in praying 24 hours a day
 with the SW Pastor and Leaders Association
 to bring the people of Florida to Christ.
 First Church has signed up for 24/7 prayers during the weeks of:
 Dec. 4-10 , Mar. 4-10, Apr. 22-28, and Sept. 30-Oct. 6,
 For more information, please call Pastor Lia at 239-839-4887
 or visit the website <http://swflpastors.com>

Spiritual Formation

The joys of the holiday season will soon be here. We welcome back all our travelers. We are so glad you will be here to share this festive season with us. We are the Body of Christ. When you are absent you are missed. Everyone of us is important. It is wonderful to see the many spiritual gifts that are developing among our members. The church functions so much better when everyone is sharing their gifts to build up the Body of Christ. We all have spiritual gifts. When we use our spiritual gifts, our church begins to be more alive with the power of God, and more people want to be part of what God is doing at First Church. I hope you have all turned in your Spiritual Gift Assessment Forms. We need to know in whom each of the special ministry gifts reside. Just like our bodies need every part to function well to keep us healthy and free from sickness, suffering, and pain, so to our church needs everyone helping with their spiritual gifts and strengths. All the spiritual gifts are needed for the edification of the church. We are called to love one another and work side by side to build up the kingdom of God in Fort Myers. As you begin shopping for gifts for Christmas, think about what loving gifts you will share with your church and with people in need in our community, so that you may be a blessing to many. Ask God what gifts He has given you with which to bless His church. God has something special that only you can do.

Have a blessed holiday season. Barbara White, Director of Spiritual Formation

SPIRITUAL FORMATION ASSIGNMENT

Focus for November/December: Families in need

1. Pray 3 times a day for: Our church family and the needs of our communities.
2. Meditate on God's Word: Read the daily Psalm.
3. Prayer Concern: Our weekly family prayer concern is _____.
4. Prayer partner : Pray for one another with a friend or neighbor, or pray on the phone weekly. Our weekly prayer time is _____.

<i>Week of:</i>	<i>Read Weekly Psalms:</i>	<i>Week of:</i>	<i>Read Weekly Psalms:</i>
December 4	Psalm 85	January 1	Psalm 148
December 11	Psalm 126	January 8	Psalm 29
December. 18	Psalm 150	January 15	Psalm 139
December. 25	Psalm 98	January 22	Psalm 62

Church Council

Members of First Church

It is that time of year when we look forward to the **Holidays**.

It starts with **Thanksgiving** when we spend additional time with family and friends and thank **God** for all the blessings of the past year.

It continues with **Christmas** and the celebration of **Christ's** birth, the beginning of **His** life on earth that leads to the ultimate gift to mankind, our salvation through grace.

It is a season when we can spend time with **God**, to strengthen our relationship with **Him**, to look at **His** calling to us for action. It is a calling to help make this season a special time for those less fortunate, a time to share our bounty with others, a time to share **God's** compassion and love, with friends and neighbors.

Make this your best **Holiday Season** ever, by reaching out to others with your gifts and the compassion **God** has given you to share.

First Church has a number of special programs and services this time of year to help you worship **God**, grow spiritually, and reach out to the less fortunate.

Take the time to investigate how you can get involved. You will never regret the effort or forget the personal benefits of sharing **God's** blessings.

Thank you for all you do to support **First Church** and its effort to grow **God's** outreach here in Fort Myers.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!!!

Ron Weaver, Chairperson Church Council

United Methodist Men

Church Happenings with the United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's meeting for November has a special speaker from the Lee County Sheriff's department, with a special meal by Lee and company.

The United Methodist Men are also planning a January Spaghetti Dinner/Fundraiser, in support of Church Youth and other well-deserving programs.

The Second Annual Yard Sale is planned for March 2012. Now is the time to remember this Men's event as you clean house for the holidays: bring your items to First Church or call Lee at 239-896-5480.