



The Spire

First Methodist Church of Lake City
Bring to Christ—Grow in Faith—Serve our Neighbors



Celebrating 182 Years !

Volume 49, Issue 106



the Lord
is my
Strength
and my
Shield
Psalm 28:7

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AARON

"The end is near."

Those were the words one of my seminary professors started each semester with.

It was a striking beginning. Those are prophetic and true words, on many levels. Stop and ponder on that a moment.

Certainly, they are true for us, right now.

The end of our UMC affiliation is near; June 1st in fact, is the exact ending date.

Consider how, endings and beginnings are closely aligned.

Where there is one, there is always the other. Right?!?

It is generally true that, perspective is everything. What and how we perceive something, is the chief influence in our reactions.

Our focus-- points us in the direction forward.

Allow me to provide our focus in this ending/beginning:

We are ending our affiliation with the UMC because of the breach of covenant trust. The leadership of the UM church has betrayed the covenant described and outlined in the Discipline; and they have violated the Traditional, Orthodox, Evangelical interpretation and practice of the Christian faith, followed for 2000 years since Christ; 500 years in Protestantism, and 250 years in John Wesley's Methodism. That abandonment was unacceptable to us. So, we disaffiliated.

Our beginning is YET TO BE DETERMINED.

Yes, we are affiliating with the Global Methodist Church, but that, in itself, is of NO CONSEQUENCE.

We need to BEGIN to ENGAGE ANEW as ambassadors for Christ. We need to love others the way Christ loves us. We need to LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS as ourselves. We need to implore people to seek a right relationship with God through Christ.

That must be our focus, because---the end is near.



MAUNDY THURSDAY LOVE FEAST

A HUGE, HUGE thank you to Beth Willis and her team who worked tirelessly in making the Maundy Thursday Love Feast a success. Her team included: Donna Giebeig, Julie Davis, Martha Jane Carter, Martha Maxwell, Caroline Stevens, Milly Beggs, Joyce Ogden, Kathy Smith, Patti Summerlin, Gigi Register, Blade Crawford, Hope and Jeff Crawford, Robert and Emmie Chasteen. Many thanks to Heather Giebeig for manning the nursery.

All of the food for the meal was donated but a special thanks to Emmie and Robert Chasteen for their donation and preparation of the cheese and olives.

A giant thank you to Blaine Wheeler (with the assistance of Martha Rine) for all the time he put into decorating the sanctuary for Easter as well as handling the dispersal of lilies and hydrangeas.

We can't forget Pastor Aaron either. Thanks for leading our congregation through Holy Week. We appreciate you!

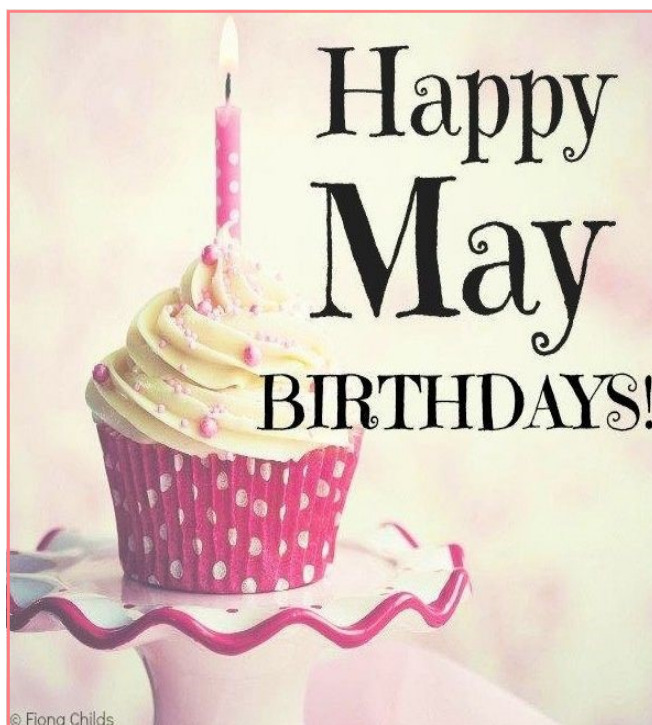
FISH FRY

We had a wonderful time of great food and fellowship with 90 people in attendance for the fish fry that was held on Sunday, April 16. Thanks to Donna Giebeig, Kristin and Matt Yancey, Jule & Terry Reiter, Austin & Lindsey Reiter, Linda Milliken, Delores Reiter, Gary Reiter, Chris Wynn, Wyatt Willis and especially the cooks Don Stevens and Norman McRae.



May Birthdays

- 1 Tom Clark
- 3 Melissa Barber
- 5 Lavon Leszkiewicz
- 6 Terry Reiter
- 7 Morgan Gabey
Chad Stevens
- 8 Carol Stevens
- 9 Kathy Smith
- 10 Steve Stafford, Sr.
- 12 Deonna Willis
Annabelle Barber



- 14 Haley Willis
- 16 Michelle Hunter
- 18 Dillan Ward
- 21 Martha Jane Carter
Jennifer Pitman
- 25 Don Caldwell
- 26 Paul Wengert
- 28 Nicole Lee
- 29 Peggy Ankeny



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Birthdays

- 1 Mary Ann Norris
- 2 Bonnie Taylor
- 3 Connie Bennett
Ivey Carter
- 12 Tara Bailey
- 13 Grant Stafford
- 19 John Willis



- 21 Joyce Ogden
Barney McRae, III
- 22 Willene Giles
- 24 Arlene Lessard
- 27 Darby Ban
Gordon Summers
- 28 Ryan Gabey



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

If you're looking for a cause that helps children, then this is the one for you. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a ministry that gives children a safe and comfortable place to lay their heads at night and is for children living in our community.

The beds are delivered complete with a mattress and bedding. If you would like to donate new twin sheets (twin only not twin XL), twin comforters or thick quilts and shams (matching sets would be great) please drop them off in the narthex on Sundays or drop by the office during the week. The office is open Monday-Thursday 10 a.m – 3:00 p.m.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please make your checks out to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and add FL-Lake City to the check notes to make it specific for our Lake City Chapter.

It has been a busy time since our last Spire update. We moved, in March, into our new Sleep in Heavenly Peace building, donated by the Christian Service Center. The address is 421 NW Washington Street. It is approximately 700 square feet and serves as a great storage and workplace for us. Our name is getting around town too. We gave a presentation on SHP to the Lake City Friendship Club on March the 8th and we are scheduled to present to the Lake City Rotary on May 4th.

We had a successful bed build on April 1st where we assembled 11 beds, bringing our bed inventory to 20 beds. Our goal for 2023 is to build 100 beds!!

We delivered 4 beds to a needy family in Lake City on Friday April 14th. The family of a mom and grandmother included 4 kids, 3 of whom are suffering from Autism. They were sleeping on makeshift and broken beds. Their mom told us they have never had a real bed of their own and this will greatly help in the comfort of her autistic children.

We also made a bed delivery on Saturday April 15th of 3 more beds. The children ages 4, 5 and 8 were very excited as we assembled their beds.

We are learning more about the process as we build and deliver beds. It has been a fun experience for all who have participated. Please come join us as we plan another bed build on May 20th at our SHP site on NW Washington Street.

Please volunteer and join the team, or join us for a future bed building!!!!

*.. sleep in
heavenly peace*



(Pictured left: Christopher Costello, Hugh Giebeig; right: David Smith, Sandra Buck-Camp, Dorothy Bailey, Rick Fortney)



(The new storage space at the Christian Service Center.)



(Below: 2 beds in their new home.)

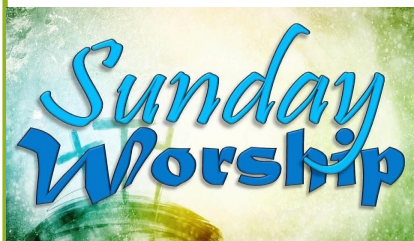


(Pictured left to right: Ann Fortney, Audrey Short, Hugh Giebeig, Bob Santos, Rick Fortney)



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH AND APRIL

March 3	60	April 2	94
March 12	75	April 9	167
March 19	68	April 16	88
March 26	77	April 28	81

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

From time to time members of our congregation have need of assistance. If you are aware of a need, please let the church office or Beth Willis (386-288-8892) know. We have a wonderful, generous team of caregivers who provide meals and transportation. If you would like to join the team, please let us know.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The children had a blast during the Easter Egg Hunt! Their smiles said it all! Congratulations to Aaron Wynn for finding "Jesus in the Egg".

Don't forget about Children's Church on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. It will continue through the summer months.

The **last day** for the **Kid's Bible Club** to meet is **Wednesday, May 10** and will end with an ice cream party!!



Mother's Day

May 14, 2023



As a way of honoring our Mothers, and other special women in our lives, we are compiling a special "Mother's Day" Booklet which would be part of our worship bulletin on Sunday, May 14th. By using this form, each of us can participate. Under the appropriate headings (In Memory of:, In Honor of: list the name (s) of women special to you. She may be your mother, grandmother, teacher, scout leader, or friend. Place the form in a pew envelope along with one dollar (\$1) for each name submitted. Your name, and that of the person (s) you honor will appear in the booklet on Mother's Day. With this project, we can honor and perpetuate the memory of friends and loved ones through our church.

Deadline is Monday, May 8.

Donor's Name _____

Amount paid _____

In Memory :

In Honor :



Mother's Day Blessing

May those with children feel appreciated,
May those grieving empty arms be comforted,
May those mourning and missing the one who gave them life
Be wrapped in goodness and love today.

Tamara Rice





MAY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10:30 am Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	4 Grief Share 5:30 pm 	5	6 
7 11 am worship Communion Baptism	8	9	10 Bible Study 10:30 am Last meeting Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	11 Grief Share 5:30 pm	12	13
14 Youth Sunday 11 am worship 	15	16 Trustees 6 pm Finance 7 pm	17 Bible Study 10:30 am	18 Grief Share 5:30 pm	19 	20 SHP bed build 9 am-12pm
21 11 am worship Graduation Luncheon	22 	23 Church Council 6 pm	24 Aldersgate Day Bible Study 10:30 am	25 Grief Share 5:30 pm	26	27
28 11 am worship	29 	30	31 Bible Study 10:30 am			



JUNE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Grief Share 5:30 pm	2 	3
4 11 am worship Communion	5 	6	7 Bible Study 10:30 am	8 Grief Share 5:30 pm	9	10
11 11 am worship	12	13	14 Bible Study 10:30 am 	15 Grief Share 5:30 pm	16 	17
18 11 am worship 	19	20 	21	22 Grief Share 5:30 pm	23	24
25 11 am worship	26	27	28	29 Grief Share 5:30 pm	30 	



ON A ROLL WITH GOD-FOOD TRUCK

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY JUNE 5-9TH FROM 9 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

DROP OFF 8:30 A.M.

PICK UP 12:00 P.M.

Please mark your calendars to meet DJ Cupcake and learn about Jesus's love for you!! There will be fun activities, snacks and music!

VBS Committee Meeting-Tuesday, May 2 @ 4:00 p.m.



Father's Day

June 18, 2023



As a way of honoring our Fathers, and other special men in our lives, we are compiling a special "Father's Day" Booklet which would be part of our worship bulletin on Sunday, June 19th. By using this form, each of us can participate. Under the appropriate headings (In Memory of:, In Honor of: list the name (s) of men special to you. He may be your father, grandfather, teacher, scout leader, or friend. Place the form in a pew envelope along with one dollar (\$1) for each name submitted. Your name, and that of the person (s) you honor will appear in the booklet on Father's Day. With this project, we can honor and perpetuate the memory of friends and loved ones through our church.

Deadline is Monday, June 12th

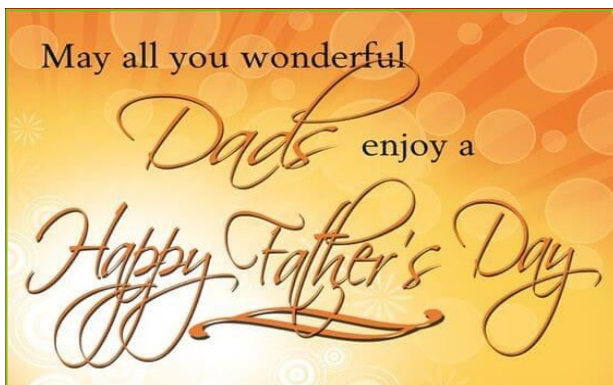
Donor's Name _____

Amount paid _____

In Memory :

In Honor :

DUE IN CHURCH OFFICE BY MONDAY, JUNE 12



A MESSAGE FROM DAVE MALONE

What if any is the difference? Are we talking about music, again? Yes, we are! Difference of “what?” What is the difference between contemporary Christian (church) music and traditional (church) music, or is it all the same? It is not all the same...not at all!

In our hymnal we will find “Pass It On.” I remember that as being the go to for youth services (so contemporary Christian music?) back in the early 70’s. Would “Pass It On” be considered contemporary today? Right away, some would say “yes.” That “some” would be the over 60 crowd, the under 20 crowd would say “no way.” Have you listened to what is considered contemporary “church” music lately? There are a few contemporary churches in the area where you will hear anything but “Pass It On.”

So what is “traditional” music? How about “Amazing Grace?” Does that work for traditional Christian - church music? Of course it does, say some...”way too old.,” say others. Wow, what a mess?

Now from a musician point of view, here’s how to differentiate what is contemporary vs traditional music if one is asking for what is perceived as either for inclusion in worship. It’s not about the tune or lyrics at all. It’s about how the music is played or presented. For example in the “Faith We Sing” several songs are simply notated as single notes. Does that mean only single notes should be played? Yes, that is why there are single notes. So, does the keyboard player — piano or organ play those? No! Those are meant to be sung by an individual or group, with most likely a guitar accompanying. Are we getting close to see where this is going?

When a song is presented for worship, it is the method of delivery that determines the “contemporary” or “traditional” status of the music.

To be sure, most truly contemporary music can not be played by one let alone two keyboard instruments, especially if it is notated on the music as “irregular.”

One exception is possibly Jimmy Hendrix (my generation) playing “Amazing Grace” on his steel pedal guitar back in the 60’s. That was incredible? :)

So, as we plan music for worship, we consider the themes, of course, liturgical year, of course, but also the method of delivery to determine if the music is contemporary or traditional and if as presented, can be played during worship! “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” played on the pipe organ; get it?...now that’s traditional!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN'S HOME REPRESENTATIVES

On a more personal note, the Staffords have so missed being in worship with you these many weeks and seeing the folks who so bless us and lift our spirits! The true fellowship and giving spirit of this body is a ministry that meets needs of its people. The challenges our family recently experienced were burdens you shouldered; prayers, phone calls, notes, meals, and scripture encourage us mightily! Church, you have to know that one of your greatest ministries is "to meet people's needs". A scripture that, among others, fits you is Romans 12:12-13- "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer and serve those in need*". You are serving the Lord mightily. Our faith during these times has deepened by realizing His sovereignty, comfort of scripture and prayers, our own as well as yours. As many of you have realized, in difficult times, human nature -wise, it is easier to overlook our blessings and simply see burdens/hardships. Thank you for "letting your light shine" by being burden bearers alongside us. We are truly humbled!

Children's Home : Individually, you have given over \$5000 since January (2022) to the Home to serve children from abusive/disruptive backgrounds. As we shortly begin ministry as a church in the Global Methodist Conference, we will continue to be partners with the Home. The Children's Home's mission is: "Empower children and families to experience the transforming love of Christ through evidence-based and holistic services". The Home is not exclusively an "apportionment" ministry through the Fla. United Methodist Conference, and giving from local churches does not go through the Conference. Lee has been sending our donations directly to the Home. As members of the Global Methodist Conference we will continue to be joint partners with the Home, with our giving going directly to the Home.

Thank you for being blessers!
Steve and Elaine Stafford



UPCOMING MILESTONES!!



On **Sunday, May 7**, Morgan Gabey will have her son, **Sidney Crum**, baptized during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. May Sidney's baptism be filled with blessings and love and be a glimpse of the exciting journey that lies ahead for him as he grows.

On **Sunday, May 21**, we will celebrate the **high school graduation** of Daniel Hunter. This luncheon is for Daniel and his family. Warmest congratulations to him as he graduates and begins the next chapter in his life!



GRIEF SHARE

If you are grieving for any reason and need support to help you then please join us for this program led by Pastor Aaron Ankeny. It is open to anyone and everyone in the community.

The program will meet on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Please call the office if you would like more information @ 386-752-4488.



We carry them always in our hearts

Thanks to Robin Green and Blaine Wheeler for serving as liturgists in March and April.

Liturgist for May 7, 14 Kathy Smith

May 21 Gigi Register

May 28 Dorothy Bailey

Liturgist for June: Gigi Register

LOOKING FORWARD

The next Hallelujah Sing will be on July 30 at the White Springs Methodist Church. It's located at 16580 Spring Street, White Springs, FL 32096.

The Columbia County teachers return to school Thursday, August 3, 2023 and the first day of the 2023-2024 school year begins on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

There will be an off-campus Fall Festival sometime in September.

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Aaron Ankeny

Administrative Assistant Lee Gober

Organist: David Malone

Pianist: Amelia Tompkins

Custodian: Blade Crawford

Grounds Keeper: Austin Reiter

Nursery: Heather Giebeig

Director of Home Communion: Rev. Gary & Rita Monk

*God has a plan.
Trust it, live it,
enjoy it*

