



The Spire

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



Celebrating 182 Years !

Volume 49, Issue 105

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AARON

We are pilgrims in this world.

As the old Gospel song says, we are “just a passing through.”

By definition, pilgrims are making a journey.

We are on a journey through 2023; and currently through March/April of 2023.

We are on a journey through Lent to Easter, April 9th.

We are on a journey to disaffiliate from the UMC, at the April 22 Conference vote.

We are on a journey to establish a new identity as a church.

We are on a journey to keep any child from sleeping on the floor in our town.

We are on a journey to engage our community with the Love of God.

We are pilgrims together on a journey to heaven.

As fellow pilgrims, we are united in our goals and our pathway.

That unity makes us strong.

Individually we have weaknesses that make a journey difficult.

Together, with Christ as our Head, we accomplish all things.

God is working for unity—we need to join Him!!

Pastor AAron



Easter IS COMING

A MESSAGE FROM DAVE MALONE

Back in the late 1960's a Broadway Play, "Fiddler on the Roof," premiered and became one of the most successful shows on Broadway and around the world of all time. Looking back it's interesting to see what the appeal was and whether or not that appeal survives to this day. It does and in a big way. Teve, the lead character, frustrated by the "newness" of everything sings a lead song, "Tradition" and captures the thoughts, not only of the present, but future. How important is tradition and how does it apply today and moreover how does it apply to music in the church?



In Christianity, we can see two basic forms of musical worship, traditional and "contemporary." Contemporary in quotes because no one has really definitely decided what that means. Thinking of traditional music, let's go to the pipe organ. For centuries now, especially in Europe, the organ has and still is the leading instrument of worship. Even very small churches will have a pipe organ and if not, a very good digital (rare in Europe) instrument. Guitars, drums, big speakers and thumping music is truly more American and thus labeled contemporary, and not heard very much in Europe.

In our church we have a magnificent organ. It is in need of partial restoration - replacement. Now, not the organ, but the controls. Remember the organ is up front, up top, in three chambers. The controls are in the big wooden console down below, unfortunately out of sight. On the control box (the console) are keys, stops, and pistons. The organ came with sixteen pistons, four work, barely, but they try.

Recently the organ underwent a major tuning, cleaning, restructuring of sound and is in remarkably better condition than it has been in quite some time. The console, however, must be updated with modern solid state controls. The keys remain the same, but the switching, which controls which stops play needs to be modernized. The wooden box stays since again is not seen.

When complete the organ will have 128 combinations, instead of sometimes working four. The cost for this type of modernization is not cheap, but not outrageous either. The organ retains its identity and is not presented with amplifiers or speakers, just the pipes.

We have found a reputable organ builder, who if we went in to contract today, would not be able to begin for eight or nine months. We should have a detailed and exact estimate of this upgrade very soon. As Easter preparations are underway, we hope to have instruments join us once again for our celebration. We are blessed to have so many talented young people in our community and with the recent tuning, we will have beautiful music.

Please keep this in mind prayerfully and consider being a part of modernizing our instrument as this church is a traditional Methodist Church, worshiping in a traditional musical manner — for now. Let's keep the contemporary instruments for perhaps a revitalization of our early service, maybe, hopefully (?).

Blessings, Dave



March Birthdays

1 Darin Summerlin
 2 Sandra Buck-Camp
 3 Barbara Leslie
 Melvin Mikell
 7 Roger Hunziker
 9 Jarod Case
 12 Michael Foreman
 13 Willard Kelley
 Cindy Clark



19 Kathy Beggs
 Lorene Douberley
 21 Bruce Armstead
 25 Jeffrey Dukes
 Debbie LeBreck
 26 Dylan Cannon
 28 David Malone
 29 Roger Davis
 Rita Monk

**April Birthdays**

2 Dorothy Pitman
 3 Witt Register
 5 Kyle Stevens
 7 Joan Williams
 11 Bob Shaw
 Patti Summerlin
 12 Christopher Costello
 13 Julie Davis
 14 Joel Barber



18 Jule Reiter
 21 Hillary Bailey
 22 Tim Hembree
 25 Shirley Johr
 Quincy Barber
 26 Nancy Hunter
 Ken McCall



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.

Since our bed delivery in December, we have continued to work in preparing ourselves for building and delivering beds. Finally on February 4th we had a successful bed build in the parking lot in front of Fellowship Hall. We had approximately 20 church volunteers and it was also supported by the SHP Florida Chapter Leader from Orlando, Bill Carelton. It was a fun experience and a good learning time for all. We currently have 9 beds in inventory with cut/sanded pieces for 4-5 more beds. We have received, on the SHP website, requests for 14 beds for our chapter in Lake City. They need to be contacted and interviewed but the word is getting out there!! We plan on another bed build in March, so stay ready and thank you for your support!!!

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



(Pictured: Hugh Giebeig, Pastor Aaron Ankeny, Bill Carelton, Bob Santos & Rick Fortney)



(Pictured Left: Peggy Ankeny, Joyce Ogden & Carol Robertson; Right: Steve Stafford)

SHP



... sleep in
heavenly peace



(Pictured Left: David Smith, Arlene Lessard & Rick Fortney; Right: Christopher Costello)

SHP



BACKPACK MINISTRY

The backpack ministry is going strong with our church providing milk, juice, and food for two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners for 15 students at Summers Elementary School and 15 students at Richardson 6th Grade Academy each week.



Although we do not see the faces of the children who take the food home, the staff tell us the children are happy to know needed food is going home in their backpack each week. Lee does the shopping and Kathy and Rita prepare and deliver. But we couldn't do it without your donations! You can donate food items, but money to buy things that fit well into a backpack and are things that children can easily prepare and like to eat works best. Thank you for your support!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN'S HOME REPRESENTATIVES

Church, you have consistently demonstrated your love for the Children's Home by your giving generously. Thank you!

Jacob is one of the children you have helped by your giving. He is 14 years old and came to the Home a little more than a year ago. As a result of being exposed to domestic violence, he had become verbally aggressive and had frequent emotional outbursts. Through a carefully developed treatment program, Jacob has not only learned to control his outbursts, but has become loving and helpful toward others. In fact, he has shown so much improvement that he has begun pre-adoptive visits with a prospective family.

Now Jacob talks about his future with excitement. He is thrilled at the prospects of a forever home, and hopes to be able to attend college and become an electrical engineer. And while Jacob still has a ways to go, your support helps him move forward in a positive light and become successful.

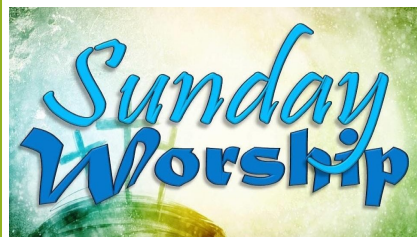
Remember all that God has graciously given to you. With a grateful heart for all He has done, continue to give to the Children's Home for His glory.

His Blessings to you! Steve and Elaine Stafford

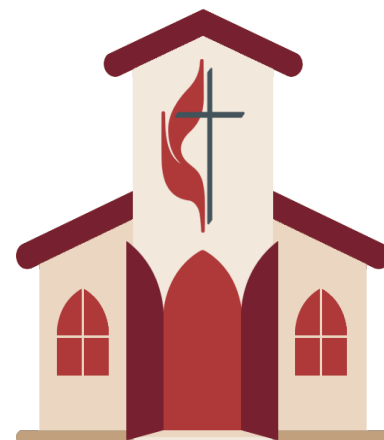


WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

January 1	52	February 5	62
January 8	55	February 12	77
January 15	70	February 19	74
January 22	67	February 26	65
January 29	66		



Weekly attendance numbers will be printed in your Sunday bulletin.

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER VISIT**

A few of us visited the Christian Service Center in February to learn more about its mission and operation. We learned it was established by area churches 41 years ago. Jack King was one of the founding and long-term Board members. It gave area churches an organization they could trust to refer people to who needed help.

The Center does not just give handouts but helps people become self-sufficient. Applicants are screened and assisted with finding employment and educational or training opportunities. They are also encouraged to grow spiritually. Applicants are limited to 12 visits for help in total, with a limit of 6 in the first year. Applicants must provide proof they are residents of Columbia, Union, or Dixie counties. They are helped with gas to get to work, prescriptions, food, clothing, household articles and utilities. Providing these essentials helps applicants find and keep jobs or go to school.

The Center works with other agencies who can assist with housing, childcare, and other needs. They are governed by a 14-person directive Board comprised of ministers and businesspeople. They provide food for those in need which would otherwise be discarded. They are an asset to our community and after our visit I feel confident that donations to them are well spent. The Director and Assistant Director are full-time employees. One part-time employee manages the huge warehouse. All other work is done by volunteers. It is only with God's help and some very dedicated volunteers that they can accomplish so much. In 2021 they managed 2,000 cases. A case represents one person or a family so the number of people served is amazing. They gave away food and other assistance worth about \$300,000.00. They had 40 volunteers before the pandemic, but now are down to 16.



If you would like to volunteer, they can certainly use you. Contact them at (386)755-1770 if you are interested in volunteering.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER
OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, INC.



MARCH

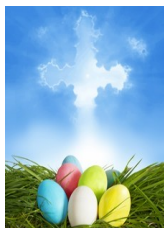

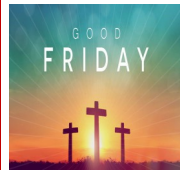



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Engagement Project 10 am & 5:45 pm Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	2 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	3 	4
5 Communion 11 am Worship	6 	7	8 Engagement Project 10 am & 5:45 pm Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	9 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	10	11
12 11 am worship Congregational Vote on Global Methodist Daylight Savings Time Begins	13	14	15 Engagement Project 10 am & 5:45 pm Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	16 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18
19 11 am worship	20 	21 Spring Break March 18-March 26 Columbia County Schools	22 	23 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	24	25 Women's Event 9:30 am-12 pm (Details Page 10)
26 11 am worship	27	28 Church Council 6 pm	29 Easter Egg Hunt 5:45 pm 	30 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	31 	



APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 11 am Worship 	3	4 	5	6 Love Feast 6 pm Reservation form page 12	7 Service @ 6 pm 	8 
9 11 am Worship 	10	11	12 Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	13 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	14	15 
16 11 am Worship Fish Fry after worship	17 	18 Trustees 6 pm Finance 7 pm	19 Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	20 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	21 	22
23 11 am Worship ----- 30 11 am Worship Hallelujah Sing @ 3:30 pm	24	25 Church Council 6 pm	26 Kid's Bible Club 5:45 pm	27 Grief Share 5:30-7:00 pm	28	29 Women's Event 10:30 am (Details Page 10)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF FIRST METHODIST

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Proverb 31:25-26

THE WOMEN OF
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
INVITE ALL WOMEN IN THE
COMMUNITY TO A

*Time of Encouragement
with Guest Speaker
Katie Pellum*

Katie is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Katie is an experienced Bible teacher serving in Jacksonville, Florida for many years as the Teaching Leader for a Bible Study Fellowship class of over 300 women.

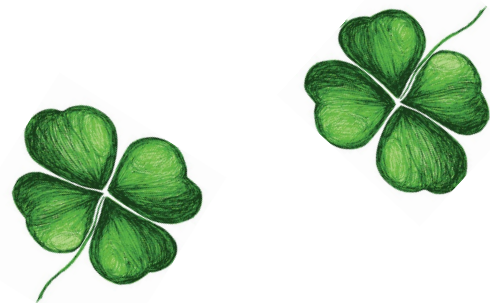
Join us to hear Godly wisdom and learn practical Biblical application to pass on a Godly legacy to the next generation.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

9:30am - 12:00pm

First Methodist Church
973 S Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL

Bring your bible



Enjoy Springtime at Ichetucknee

**All Ladies of the Church
Are Invited To
A Salad and Dessert Luncheon
Saturday, April 29
Ichetucknee River
Home of Billy and Joyce Ogden
Meet: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall Parking Lot
Carpool to Ogden's River Home
You are welcome to bring along a favorite
salad or dessert.**

Holy Week Activities



Palm Sunday, April 2

11:00 a.m. Worship Service



Maundy Thursday, April 6

Worship Service @ 6:00 p.m.



Good Friday, April 7

Worship Service @ 6:00 p.m.



Holy Saturday, April 8



Easter Sunday, April 9

11 a.m.— Traditional Easter Service





Love Feast
Thursday, April 6

6:00 p.m.

We continue this tradition at First Church as we gather quietly in the Fellowship Hall and share a simple meal of bread, cheese, dates, nuts and fruit. Bread and juice of communion will be served to each set of tables as we serve each other.

WHILE THERE IS NO CHARGE, PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY, April 2

NAME: _____

_____ How many will be attending the Love Feast from your family

_____ How many children

_____ Ages of children



This year lilies and hydrangea's will be offered to decorate the Altar for Easter. Place a number next to the flowers you want, along with cost of the flower. Note amount paid. You may provide one or more in *Honor* (person still living) or as a *Memorial*. The flowers may be taken home after the 11:00 am worship service on Easter Sunday, April 9. Deadline to order is Sunday, April 2.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by : _____

Lily- \$15.00 _____ Hydrangea- \$23.00 _____ Amount paid _____

THE FLOWER CROSS



Please remember to bring flowers (live or silk) to the 11:00 a.m. **Easter** worship service on **April 9** to decorate our Easter Flower Cross at the altar. They can be from your yard or store bought. Place on the cross as you enter the Sanctuary.

Flowers are symbols of growth and new life and will help us visually understand the resurrection of Christ and the new life we have in him.



EASTER EGG HUNT

All children of the church, 5th grade and under, are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt on **Wednesday, March 29 @ 5:45 p.m.** Please join us for food, prizes and a whole lot of fun!



NEW CHURCH NAME & GLOBAL METHODIST INFORMATION

We are inviting the congregation to offer any suggestions they may have as we seek a new name for our church. Please drop your suggestions into the green suggestion box in the narthex. We'd love to hear your ideas! Also...if you missed the presentation by Rev. Nako Kellum, you can now go to our church website www.lcfumc.org and click on the tab "Global Methodist Church" for further information. A **congregational vote** on joining the Global Methodist Church will be held on **Sunday, March 12 after worship.**



HALLELUJAH SING

The next gathering will be on **Sunday, April 30 @ 3:30 p.m.** It will be held at **Wellborn Methodist Church** - US 90 west into Suwannee County - turn right at caution light -go north through next caution light - 4 blocks more church is on your left.



LOOKING AHEAD

In May we are looking forward to **Youth Sunday and Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14** and we will celebrate **Graduation Sunday on May 21.**

Preparations are being made for **Vacation Bible School** which will be held **Monday, June 5-Thursday, June 8** from 9 am-11:30 am. It is for children entering Pre-K (4 yrs. old) through 5th grade. Volunteers are needed so please contact Karen Green if interested @ 386-365-2134.

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 Dorothy Bailey and Ann Fortney for serving as liturgists in January and February.

Liturgist for March: Robin Green

Liturgist for April: Blaine Wheeler

**ALL INVITED TO A LUNCHEON**

Dear Friends - for over forty years, many of you, from time to time, have shared a covered dish lunch with my family at my home on Easter Sunday — we were pleased to have you; this is something Russell would want to continue (and myself) for years to come. For those of us that have ‘advanced’ from volleyball and kickball, we’ve got croquet and cornhole. And there’s fun and laughter as we enjoy watching the egg hunt, sitting in the shade and of course, the children’s Resurrection Egg story. Everyone is welcomed. Come casual - we plan to start eating around 1:00-1:15. You may want to bring your own lawn chair for convenience.

-Dorothy Bailey

2016 SW Sisters Welcome Rd.

Lake City, FL 32025

**FISH FRY**

Mark your calendars! We are having a fish fry on **Sunday, April 16** immediately following the worship service in Fellowship Hall.

It will be a great time to enjoy food, fun and fellowship!

**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

