

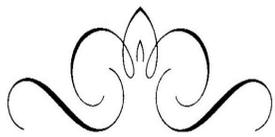


The Spire



First Methodist Church of Lake City
To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Celebrating 186 Years !
Volume 52, Issue 123



Jesus rose to life

If Jesus be dead, in the grip of a tomb,
There'd be nothing for us but fear and doom.
Life would be sad, with no way to cope.
Death would reign all; without any hope.

If Jesus be dead, in the grip of a tomb,
We'd have no future, only dark and gloom.
No life after death, no eternity in sight,
No hope, no joy, no Saviour, no light.

But.... (And aren't we thankful there is a "but")

But thanks be to God, Jesus rose to life.
The debt all paid; though sin was rife.
His body lay in the tomb three days,
Then up from the grave his life was raised.

Yes, thanks be to God, Jesus rose to life.
He conquered death, all sin and strife.
To those who believe, from death set free.
With hope, with joy; their Saviour to see.



Poem by John R. Cross
2013 © GoodSeed International

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

What an exciting time to be here in Lake City. The cold winter weather is long gone and spring will soon be upon us. As it comes, so to does new life come all around us. Trees are blooming, flower gardens are coming to life, the whole world seems to be awakening to live again. This is how I hear people describing First Methodist these days. It seems there is a new energy in people's hearts as we gather. That is certainly the case when you look at the calendar. And if you're not careful, you're going to miss out on some amazing opportunities. Can I share a few of them with you now?

Did you know we have Wednesday night dinner **every Wednesday** now at 5:30? After dinner we have classes for all ages.

On Wednesday, March 11th we will have a special **Ministry Expo** that evening. We'll still eat dinner at 5:30. But we'll also have stations set up where you can discover all the wonderful 15 ministries at work here at First Methodist, how you can support them or be a part, and how effective they've been in sharing the love of Christ. Make sure you come and celebrate all the hard work that's going on here.

On Saturday, March 21st we will start the day with a **wonderful breakfast** provided by our men's group at **8:00 a.m.** All are welcome to attend. After the meal, all who are able are invited to join us in sprucing up the church. While some will be doing some spring cleaning at the church, Chris Costello will be leading other others out into the community to do a few projects to bless some of our members. If you're interested in that aspect, talk to Chris.

Wednesday, March 25 we will have a special **Family Game Night**. Bring your favorite finger food, dip, or whatever you would like for game night. We have several young families in this church that would love to bring their kids to play a variety of board games that evening. And you may think you're too old for games. But would you come and support them? No classes will meet that night. Instead, we will all have fun together in the fellowship hall.

Holy week is coming up quickly. **March 29th is Palm Sunday**. Instead of our normal Wednesday night meal and classes that week, we will meet on **Thursday, April 2nd @ 6:00 p.m.** for our traditional **Maundy Thursday service and meal**. **April 3rd** we will have our **Good Friday service @ 6 p.m.** And certainly, you wouldn't forget **Easter Sunday on April 5th**.

For Easter, we will have a photographer available to help you get beautiful family photos. We will also have our Easter egg hunt with wonderful prizes. And some very special treats during our worship service as well. Have you decided who you're going to invite?

We're not done yet, on **April 11** we'll have a **Parent Day Out**. Check the article in this newsletter for more information on page 16.

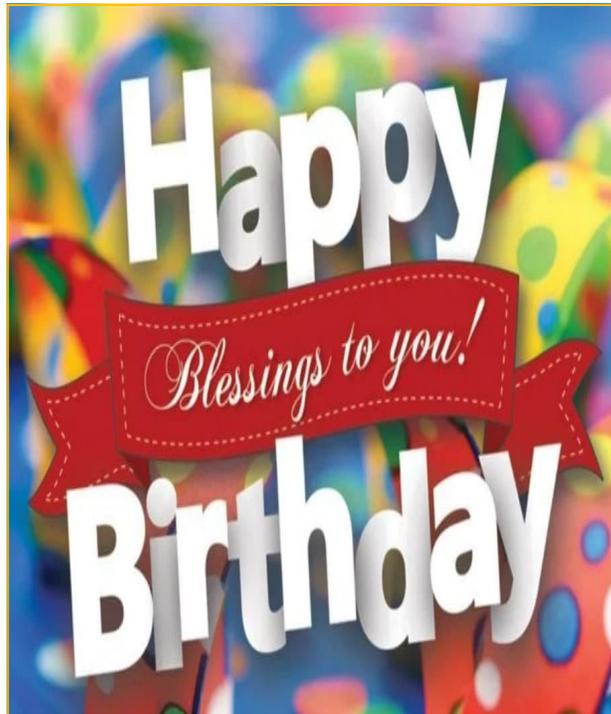
And on **April 19th**, we have our annual **Fish Fry**. I'm getting hungry already just thinking about it!

Isn't it exciting to see so much Holy Spirit activity within our congregation? If you haven't been in a while, it's definitely time to come check out all the wonderful things that are going on here.

Pastor Tim

March Birthdays

- 1 Darin Summerlin
- 2 Sandra Buck-Camp
- 3 Barbara Leslie
- 7 Roger Hunziker
- 9 Jarod Case
- 12 Michael Foreman
Cason Johnson
- 13 Willard Kelley



- 19 Kathy Beggs
- 21 Bruce Armstead
- 25 Jeffrey Dukes
Debbie LeBreck
- 26 Dylan Cannon
- 29 Roger Davis

**April Birthdays**

- 3 Witt Register
- 5 Kyle Stevens
- 6 Susan Woodard
- 7 Joan Williams
- 11 Patti Summerlin
- 12 Christopher Costello
- 13 Julie Davis
- 14 Joel Barber



- 18 Jule Reiter
- 22 Tim Hembree
- 25 Quincy Barber
- 26 Ken McCall



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

If you're looking for a cause that helps children, this is the one for you!!!! Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national non-profit ministry that gives children a safe and comfortable place to lay their heads at night and is for children living in Columbia County.

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

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Please make your checks payable to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and add FL-Lake City in the check notes to make it specific for our Lake City Chapter. The mailing address is:

Sleep In Heavenly Peace
PO Box 2905
Phoenix, AZ 85062

Checks can be dropped off at our church office, or donated on-line at shpbed.org.

We had a bed build on 1/24/26 to support our bed delivery requests and we built 21 beds. We had good weather and a great turn out!! The build started at 9am and we finished with our build and clean up before noon!! Thank you to those at First Methodist Church who took part!!

Bed deliveries continue. We finished 2025 delivering 151 beds. With 13 beds delivered so far in 2026 we have now delivered 395 beds!! We have started two new activities to help SHP grow. We have been speaking with several folks whom have supported our bed builds. They are now talking to SHP about starting a new chapter to support Suwannee County!!! We will be working with them to help get started and I expect support each other once they are up and running.

The second activity we are working on is a program with Columbia High School. The students in the shop class will begin building beds for us. They are still in a training mode, and we have met several times to teach the students, and work out the details of them building beds on their own. We have provided the lumber and tools for them to start building 6 beds!!

We always have a need for more volunteers. We can use help with Media Support, helping to obtain Sponsorship and donations.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to an even greater year of helping our kids!!

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





(Pictured left to right: Kathy Smith and Ann Fortney and Bob Breyer; Bed Build 1/24/26)

... sleep in heavenly peace

(Bed Build 1/24/26)

(Pictured: David Smith, Josh Milton)



STUFFED WITH LOVE MINISTRY

First Church has been busy this fall and winter with a new ministry. This past fall we held a Bear gathering for Kada's Promise and collected over 110 stuffed bears both bought and handmade to donate to this special charity.



It was so popular, we decided to gather another round of stuffed animals during the month of January and fill the pews with them so we could hold them and let them comfort us during the month. We once again prayed over the 100 stuffed animals as we sent them to the local law and fire departments and Another Way to serve as special friends to children in need.

Well, the popularity has continued so we have decided to have three collection activities each year with our new ***Stuffed With Love Ministry***. The third project will be called ***Stuff the Ark***. In May, we will encourage you to bring stuffed animals in and Stuff the Ark. Yes, because of requests, you can pick up an animal each Sunday and hold it during church and place it back in the ark after the services! Thanks to everyone for supporting this new ministry as we give to children in need of some Love in life.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

January 4	74	February 1	50
January 11	89	February 8	83
January 18	60	February 15	73
January 25	88	February 18	55
		February 22	84

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Our dedicated group of prayer warriors meet every **Tuesday morning @ 10 a.m.** in the youth room in Fellowship Hall.

They would love to have you join them!

Please call the office if you would like more information @ 386.752.4488.

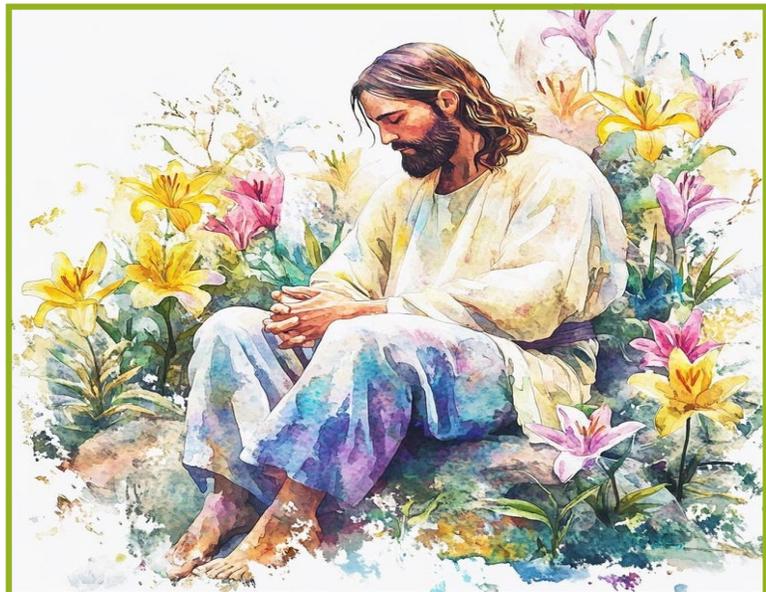
HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

This new ministry is designed to assist our members with some small chores and tasks they are unable to complete themselves at home.

If you are in need of assistance or would like to be one of these offsite volunteers, please call the church office @ 386-752-4488 or speak with Pastor Tim or Chris Costello.

TIME CHANGE

Clocks will “**spring forward**” at 2:00 AM on **Sunday, March 8th** when daylight savings time begins.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

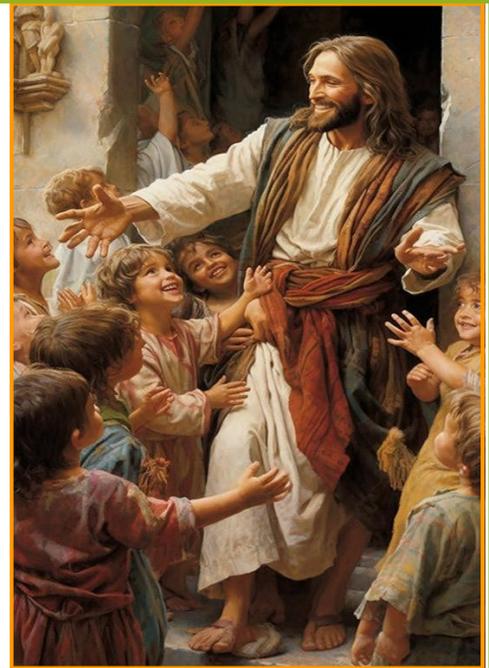
The children's ministry is thriving!!

On **Wednesday, March 25** we will have a special **Family Game Night!** You don't want to miss it! Please bring your favorite finger foods and dips to share with everyone.

On **Sunday, April 5**, we will start the morning with **Easter photos and an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m.** This will be a super fun time so please join us! There will be prizes!!

Saturday, April 11, we'll have a **Parent's Day Out.**

The day will start at 9:00 a.m. and parents return to pick up your children at 2 p.m. We've got a fun filled day planned for the children and giving parent's some time to have a little fun themselves. There isn't any cost but you **must RSVP** if you would like your child to attend. Please speak with Children's Pastor Martha Rine or Pastor Tim.



Check out our children who have become acolytes! You'll get to see them each Sunday as they support us in worship. They are doing a wonderful job!



(Pictured left to right:
Callen, Hazel, & Jeff
Melton; Jillian Melton;
Dekle and Hardin Yancey
with Pastor Tim)



RESIDING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME

Perhaps the best way to tell about Residing Hope (Children's Home) is through the impact it has on young lives who have been through neglect, abuse, etc at home, and now reside at the Home. Here's one of the many heartwarming stories:

Jason is a fourteen year old boy who came to Residing Hope a little more than a year ago. He was exposed to domestic violence in his home and his parents had their parental rights terminated. He became verbally aggressive toward others due to his abuse exposure and resulting trauma. He often had outbursts in school, disrupting class which resulted in detention. Jason's therapist at Residing Hope created a unique treatment program to address his needs and provided coping tools when he was triggered. As a result, Jason has learned to control his outbursts and has become loving and helpful toward others. He has shown so much progress that he has begun pre-adoptive visits with a prospective family. Now Jason talks about his future with excitement. He is thrilled at the prospect of a forever home, and hopes to be able to attend college to become an engineer. And while Jason still has a ways to go, your support helps him move forward in a positive light and become successful (doesn't that make you want to say PRAISE GOD?)

Hope you will consider a monetary gift on our specially designated 5th Sundays; or at anytime you feel led. **March 29 is a 5th Sunday** and there will be envelopes for giving to the Home and we'll show one of the success stories by video.

Our giving for 2025 was somewhat lower than previous years and that is likely because as a Church we give to other church outreach programs. Still for a relatively medium sized church our giving is good . THANK YOU.

At the **Ministry Fair on March 11th** , there will be a table set up for Residing Hope with information.

God Bless,
Steve and Elaine Stafford

“Train up a child in the way that he (she) should go; even when they are old they will not depart from it” – Proverbs 22:6



**5th SUNDAY,
MARCH 29**





MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Worship 11 am</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Dinner @ 5:30 pm</p> <p>Bible Studies All Ages 6 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 11 am</p> 	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>Staff Parish Meeting 5 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Dinner & Ministry Expo 5:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 11 am</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Dinner @ 5:30 pm</p> <p>Bible Studies All Ages 6 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Church Wide Breakfast & Workday 8 am (Details page 2)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 11 am</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Administrative Board 6 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Dinner & Family Fun Night 5:30 pm</p> <p>Bring Finger Foods (Details Page 2)</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 11 am</p>  <p>5th Sunday-Children's Home offering</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> 				



APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Service 6 pm Please RSVP 	3 Service 6 pm 	4
5 Family Photos & Egg Hunt @ 10 am Worship 11 am	6 	7 	8 Dinner @ 5:30 pm Bible Studies All Ages 6 pm	9 	10	11 Parents Day Out 9:30 am-2:00 pm (See page 16 for details)
12 Worship 11 am	13	14 Men's Fellowship 6 pm	15 Dinner @ 5:30 pm Bible Studies All Ages 6 pm	16 	17	18
19 Worship 11 am Fish Fry after worship	20 	21	22 Dinner @ 5:30 pm Bible Studies All Ages 6 pm	23	24	25
26 Worship 11 am	27 	28	29 Dinner @ 5:30 pm Bible Studies All Ages 6 pm	30 		

THE FLOWER CROSS



Please remember to bring flowers (live or silk) to the 11:00 a.m. **Easter** worship service on **April 5th** 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.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Our First Wednesday dinners have grown! We are now doing Wednesday night dinners every Wednesday (since January). We are working on faith and do not require anyone to reserve dinners at this time. We are planning to cook for 40-50 people each Wednesday night so reservations are not required and last-minute attendance is encouraged. You won't find a better Wednesday dining experience than FMC in Lake City. Dinners are \$5 individuals or \$15 a family.

Our planned meals for March and April are below. Hope to see you each Wednesday for dinner and fellowship and then stay for one of our Bible Studies.

March 4th – Fried Chicken

March 11th - Baked Potato Bar (Ministry Fair)

March 18th – Jambalaya

March 25th – Potluck Finger Foods and dips – Family Game Night

Everyone bring your favorite finger foods and dips to share.

April 1st – No Wednesday Night Dinner – Maundy Thursday Dinner April 2nd

April 8th – Taco Bar

April 15th – Breakfast for Dinner

April 22nd – Roasted Chicken

April 29th – Pulled Pork

If you are interested in helping with dinners as prep or clean up team or providing desserts, please let the office or Blaine know so you can be added to the list.



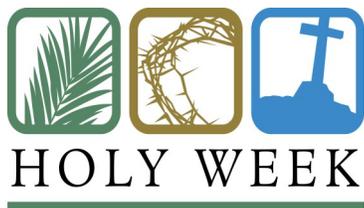
THANK YOU

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to our entire congregation for all of your cards, visits, phone calls, caring thoughts and especially your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. It is wonderful to have such a thoughtful and caring church family. May God richly bless you all.

In Christ's love, Robert Woodard



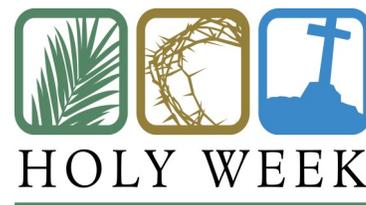
Holy Week Activities



Palm Sunday, March 29
11:00 a.m. Worship Service



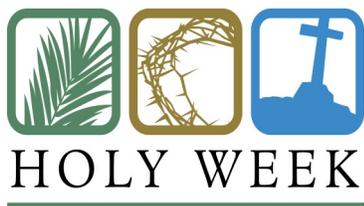
Maundy Thursday, April 2
Love Feast @ 6:00 p.m.
 (RSVP on Page 14)



Good Friday, April 3
Worship Service @ 6:00 p.m.



Holy Saturday, April 4



Easter Sunday, April 5
Family Photos & Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 a.m.
11 a.m.– Traditional Easter Service





Love Feast
Thursday, April 2

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, March 29

NAME: _____

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

_____ How many children

_____ Ages of children



This year lilies and hydrangeas 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 5. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 29.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Lily- \$17 _____ Hydrangea- \$26 _____ Amount paid _____

Prices for hydrangeas will be available soon.

FLORIDA CARE PORTAL

1st Methodist Church is now a member of the Florida Care Portal. This is a national non-profit organization that has churches working with local care organizations to help local families with needs.

By joining Care Portal, First Methodist Church will have the opportunity to give the congregation a powerful way to not only meet urgent needs, but also build new relationships in the community. Each time the church responds whether with food, clothing, or a bed, it opens the door to connect with families who might otherwise never walk through the church's doors. These personal connections can naturally lead to invitations to church services, small groups, and ministries, allowing the church to grow while living out its faith in action.

Care Portal has proven to make churches more aware of the needs around them and makes it easier to respond, all while creating opportunities to share Christ's love in tangible, relational ways. For First Methodist, it's a chance to meet new people, serve them in their moment of need, and invite them into the life of the church.

Our new Outreach mission, Florida Care Portal, started in October 2025, however since our last update we did not assist any families. We continue to look at all new portal requests.

For more information about the Florida Care Portal, please speak with Bob Santos.

BACKPACK PROGRAM AT SUMMERS ELEMENTARY

As the school year draws to a close, there are only a few weeks left for us to make a positive impact by supporting children and families through the backpack program. This initiative provides food for students to take home on weekends, ensuring they have nourishment even when school meals are unavailable.



First Methodist's Role

First Methodist is proud to continue its longstanding tradition of community service by supplying weekend meals to 20 students at Summer's Elementary School. This commitment is part of a collaborative effort, as we are one of four organizations supporting the backpack program at the school.



Program Reach and Impact

Out of a total of 650 students enrolled at Summer's Elementary, 80 children benefit from weekly food donations. The program specifically assists homeless families and those in need, who are identified either by school staff or by parents themselves.



Gratitude and Preferred Food Items

The students and their families are incredibly grateful for the food they receive. They especially appreciate items such as crackers, chips, granola bars, juice boxes, fruit snacks, pudding cups, cookies, and foods that are easy for the students or their older siblings to prepare on their own.

GRIEF SHARE

If you are grieving for any reason and need support to help you then please join us for this program. 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.

**ATTENTION FAMILIES**

We have an exciting opportunity for a fun-filled day for all. On **Saturday, April 11** we will have a time for crafts and games for the kids and a **Parent's Day Out** opportunity.



The day starts as you bring your kids at 9:00 a.m. We have a short presentation and gift for all parents that day and will have you out the door by 10:00 o'clock.

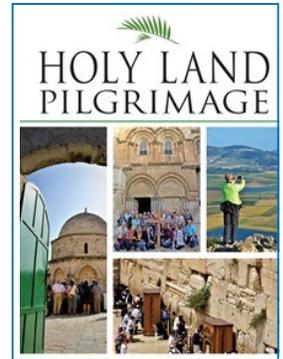
Go and enjoy your day. Have a nice lunch together. Go shopping. Go home and take a nap. It's your day. We will keep the kids highly entertained and fed until you return at 2 p.m.

The event is free and **RSVP only** so we can make adequate plans. So consider it and let the church office know if you want to attend.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Join the Florida Conference on a pilgrimage to the holy land from February 18-27, 2027 and walk where Jesus walked!

Some stops include:



Galilee, Jordan River Baptismal Site, Magdala, Capernaum, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, A worship service on the Sea of Galilee, Masada, Jericho, Emmaus, and much more.

Speak with Pastor Tim ASAP as time is running out to sign up!

Informational meeting on Sunday, March 8th after worship.

FISH FRY

Mark your calendars! We are having a fish fry on **Sunday, April 19th** immediately following the worship service in Fellowship Hall.

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

Join us at the Fish Fry

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Tim Dunavant

Children's Pastor: Martha Rine

Administrative Assistant: Lee Gober

Worship Leader/Pianist: Amelia Tompkins

Choir Director/Organist: Avery Wallace

Sound: Rusty Bailey, David Smith

Custodian: Hope Crawford

Grounds Keeper: Austin Reiter

Nursery: Heather Giebeig

