

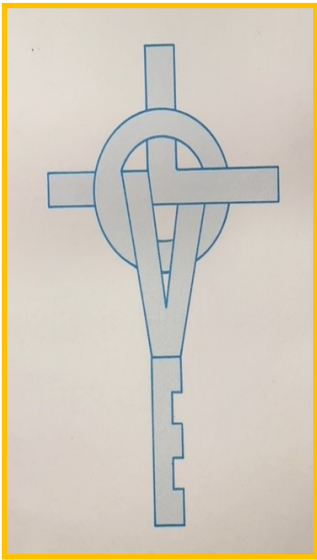


The Spire



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

Celebrating 183 Years!
Volume 50, Issue 111



Easter Means Eternal Life

A perfect God demands a perfect justice;
He cannot let us get away with sin.
We used God's gift of our free will to trespass,
So heaven's gates were closed; we couldn't get in.
Our sin required our blood, a sacrifice,
To atone for all the wrongs that we had done.
"But I love them!" cried our Father, filled with sorrow;
"I'll send my only Son to be the one."
Good Friday marks the slaying of our Jesus,
The unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice.
He took our guilt and blame upon Himself,
So we could be with Him in paradise.
On Easter morning, he came back from death;
He vanished from the tomb, the empty grave.
His resurrection means eternal life
For us, the ones he came to earth to save.
This summarizes all the Easter story
And because of it, we'll be with Him in glory.



A MESSAGE FROM DAVE MALONE



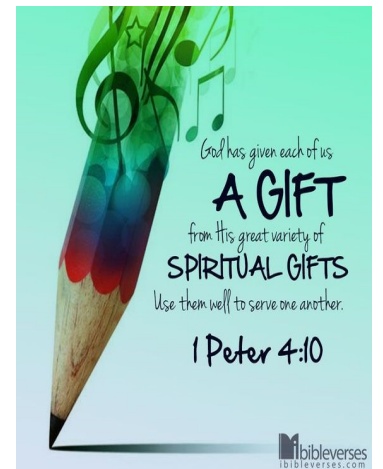
Here's hoping that this will never happen at First Methodist in Lake City. As the story goes, an organist in a well-known church was playing the music of J. S. Bach just prior to the beginning of a funeral. While he was playing, somehow he slipped and fell off the organ bench. The music continued playing and at that point everyone knew his secret. He was miming to the music, not actually playing the organ. Some might think this was supposed to be funny, however if looked at carefully, another more concerning message appears. Many churches continue with services offering "canned" music. Parishioners simply listen to recorded music and consider that participation. Gone might be the days when church-goers actually participate in music during worship. This is a trend that we see mostly in contemporary churches, which appear to be more like rock concerts than worship. The argument is that it doesn't really matter as long as it is all about God. Truth is, though, that it does matter!

Consider this: "As hymnals fade, theology also suffers. The rich repository of religious wisdom contained in hymns will be lost. The old-fashioned language of hymns may strike some as unusual, but their text teaches the Christian faith far better than most of the praise choruses that dominate contemporary services. Old hymns were carefully crafted with theology at the forefront. Traditional hymns present doctrine clearly and beautifully convey the gospel story of saving grace."

"Organs, Organists & Organ builders," Raul Martinez

At First Methodist Lake City, hymnals are regularly used and thus worshipers feel the connection, experience the joy of music and receive the Gospel message. This is all good and hopefully will continue! The only "canned" anything might just be tuna fish.

Blessings, Dave



HALLELUJAH SING

Since our next 5th Sunday is Easter, we're moving Hallelujah sing up to the 4th Sunday- **PALM SUNDAY- March 24.**

Pleasant Grove (4709 SW SR 47) is hosting Sing which will start at 3:30 for 60-90 minutes with a time of refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

Sings continue to grow with 50-75 present. Please join us in worship opportunity with fellow believers.

Hallelujah!

SING

March Birthdays

- 1 Darin Summerlin
- 2 Sandra Buck-Camp
- 3 Barbara Leslie
Melvin Mikell
- 7 Roger Hunziker
- 9 Jarod Case
- 12 Michael Foreman
Cason Johnson
- 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
- 6 Susan C. Woodard
- 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. Checks can be dropped off at our church office or donated on-line at shpbed.org.

Well, 2023 was a great introductory year for our chapter. We met our goal of building 100 beds. Our chapter name is getting out into the community, and we have had a large influx of new applications.

We had a very successful bed build on February 3rd and we built 33 beds with 55 volunteers to support us!!! Thank you! Each Bed Build seems to teach us new improvements and the build teams work great together in getting the beds built. Our latest build we started around 8:45am and we built 33 beds in just over 3 hours. We had folks come from several churches, along with the Rotary, and Shriners Clubs, and a family whom we had delivered some beds to.

We were invited to provide presentations about Sleep in Heavenly Peace to several groups including the Shriners Club and Lady of the Lake Quilt Guild. It was a good time and was well received. The Shriners committed to helping us in Bed Builds and The Lady of the Lake Quilt Guild has donated 37 handmade quilts this past year. Thank you to both!!!!

We continue to make bed deliveries. We have set up into 4 delivery teams to help expedite deliveries and it seems to have improved our delivery rate. We have a sizeable backlog of beds to be delivered. We are averaging 4 to 6 beds per week.

As of 2/18 we have built 135 beds, delivered 81 beds and have deliveries of 71 beds in process. 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!!

Next bed build- Saturday, March 16th- 8:30 am-noon @ Christian Service Ctr.

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





(Pictured right: Sandra Buck-Camp & Steve Stafford)

(Pictured left: Ann & Rick Fortney & David Smith)



.. sleep in heavenly peace

(Pictured below: Sandra Buck-Camp, Bob Santos, & Member of Lake City Nazarene Church)



(Pictured right: Bed build day #9)



BACKPACK MINISTRY

The Backpack Ministry is hard at work feeding children in Columbia County. We have 20 children at Summer's Elementary and 15 at Richardson 6th Grade Academy.



We are receiving help with this mission from the Christian Service Center and a food program called Hunger Fight but we still need funds to purchase additional food items.

If you are looking for an opportunity to help children, this is a wonderful cause. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated so that we can purchase the items most needed.

Please make sure to write 'Backpacks' on your offering envelope or the memo line of your check.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHILDREN'S HOME REPRESENTATIVES

It would be easy to tout just how much in terms of money you all gave last year. The over \$13,000 was substantial for the size of our church membership. However, behind this amount are a bunch of folks with a heart for our children, our upcoming generation who face so many challenges. The abuse and neglect in the homes they came from, but also living in a culture that often emulates life values and choices that are contrary to our Faith. Thank God for the house parents and leaders of the Home that hold fast to biblical values in all facets of living.

One of Elaine's devotional books by Dr. David Jeremiah, a quote from a daily reading says this: *"We give and serve because He has first given to us and served us. As the apostle John later wrote, 'We love Him because He first loved us (1 John:4:19)'. Whatever God has given us in terms of time, talent, or treasure, we owe it all to Him. From the breath of our life to the work of our hands, we give it to glorify the One who first gave to us"*.

Remember all that God has graciously given to you. With a grateful heart for all He has done, search for opportunities to use your gifts for His glory. Thank you all for making one of your opportunities the Children's Home.

On April 14 Rev. Brian Carr, Director of Church Relations at the Home will give the message at our 11 am Service and join us afterwards for the fish fry. His sermon is titled "Ripples of Generosity-Waves of Grace"; Scripture base: Acts 4:32-37.

*****5th Sunday giving for the Children's Home falls on Easter Sunday, March 31.**

Blessings, Steve and Elaine Stafford



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

January 7	68	February 4	81
January 14	74	February 11	87
January 21	68	February 18	75
January 28	63	February 25	83

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Attention all gentlemen!
The first Men's Fellowship meeting will on **Tuesday, March 12th @ 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

Dinner will be served!
The menu is Old Fashioned Homemade Spaghetti, side salad, and garlic bread.

If you would like to attend, please fill out the RSVP form in the Sunday bulletin or call the office and let us know. This is greatly appreciated as it helps us plan the food accordingly.

If you would like more information, please speak with Robert Woodard, (Men's Fellowship Coordinator), Steve Stafford or Don Stevens.

FIRST WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNER

Join us for Food, Fun and Fellowship starting at 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. We will be serving dinner from 5:30-6:00 p.m.. The Cost is \$5 per person, \$3 per child or \$15 per family. Meal includes entrée, sides, dessert and beverage.

MARCH FIRST WEDNESDAY is : March 6th
Taco and Nacho Bar

APRIL FIRST WEDNESDAY is: April 3rd

Watch your Sunday bulletin for menu information.

After dinner you have options: *Children's Program *Adult Bible Study (Genesis)* Adult Fellowship





MARCH



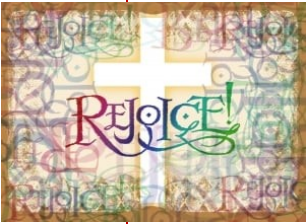








Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 11 am Worship	4 	5 Intercessory Prayer Group 9 am Youth Room	6 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am 1st Wednesday Family Meal 5:30 pm	7 5:30-7:00 pm 	8	9
10 11 am Worship 	11	12 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Men's Fellowship 6 pm Fellowship Hall	13 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 5:30 pm	1 5:30-7:00 pm 	15 	16 SHP Bed Build 8:30 am -noon @ Christian Service Ctr.
17 11 am worship	18	19 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Admin Board Meeting 5:30 pm 	20 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Evening Activities 5:30 pm	21 5:30-7:00 pm 	22 	23
24 Palm Sunday 11 am Worship Hallelujah Sing @ 3:30 pm 31 Easter Service 11 am	25 	26 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Youth Room	27 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Evening Activities 5:30 pm	28 5:30-7:00 pm 	29 Service 6 pm 	30

5th Sunday-Children's Home offering



APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Youth Room	3 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am 1st Wednesday Family Meal 5:30 pm	4 5:30-7:00 pm 	5	6
7 Communion 11 am Worship	8	9 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Youth Room	10 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Evening Activities 5:30 pm	11 5:30-7:00 pm 	12 	13
14 11 am Worship 	15	16 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Trustees 6 pm Finance 7 pm	17 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Evening Activities 5:30 pm	18 5:30-7:00 pm 	19	20
21 11 am Worship	22	23 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Youth Room	24 Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Evening Activities 5:30 pm	25 5:30-7:00 pm 	26	27  (Details page 10)
28 11 am Worship	29	30 Intercessory Prayer 9 am Youth Room 				

THE FLOWER CROSS



Please remember to bring flowers (live or silk) to the 11:00 a.m. **Easter** worship service on **March 31** 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.

Clocks will **“spring forward”** at 2:00 AM on **Sunday, March 10th** when daylight savings time begins.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES FOR KIDS

Shoe boxes for kids are collected in mid November as an outreach by local churches and communities in conjunction with Samaritan’s Purse. It allows Christians to share God’s Love with children around the world and was started by Franklin Graham. Individuals may pack boxes but groups may also find that collecting items throughout the year makes more sense as people find great sales at times making it possible to “purchase” in bulk and stretch dollars!! Items are collected for boys and girls ages 2 to 14 years of age. Items that may not be included are: candy, gum, toothpaste, foods, liquids or lotions, aerosol cans, glass or breakable items, seeds, scary or war related items, medications or pills, and any damaged items.

First Methodist Church of Lake City is collecting items to pack for children through October 2024. If you wish to help with collecting items for these shoe boxes, here is a list of ideas for purchase. We will also have month to month ideas listed in the Sunday bulletin.

“Wow” items –soccer ball with pump, doll, stuffed animal, shoes, jacks, yo-yos

Toys-toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, light up toys with extra batteries.

Personal Care Items-tooth brushes, washcloths, combs, hair brushes, tooth brush holders, soap & soap box

School Supplies-pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks and paper, coloring and picture books, solar calculators, rulers, scotch tape and number flash cards.

Accessories-socks, sunglasses, jewelry and watches, flashlights with extra batteries, hair ties or barrettes.

Any of these items may be purchased at anytime of the year and brought into the church office Monday-Thursday from 10 am– 3 pm or dropped off at the table in the narthex on Sundays. Monetary donations are also appreciated to help with the cost of shipping.

Holy Week Activities



Palm Sunday, March 24

11:00 a.m. Worship Service



Maundy Thursday, March 28

Love Feast @ 6:00 p.m.

(RSVP on Page 12)



Good Friday, March 29

Worship Service @ 6:00 p.m.



HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday, March 30



Easter Sunday, March 31

11 a.m.– Traditional Easter Service





Love Feast
Thursday, March 28

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 24

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, March 31. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 24.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by : _____

Lily- \$16.00 _____ Hydrangea- \$26.00 _____ Amount paid _____

Enjoy Springtime at Ichetucknee

All Ladies of the Church

Are Invited To

A Salad and Dessert Luncheon

Saturday, April 27

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

In May we are looking forward to **Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12** and we will celebrate **Graduation Sunday on May 19**. Our church traditionally recognizes High School Seniors at our 11:00 Worship Service with a luncheon afterwards for them and their family. Please notify the church office of any Seniors graduating @ 386-752-4488.

*****SAVE THE DATE*** Shine Vacation Bible School 2024** will be held the first week of June. It is for children entering Pre-K (4 yrs. old) through 5th grade. Volunteers are needed so please contact Karen Green if interested @ 386-752-4488.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

First Methodist Church extends a warm welcome to our new members who joined on Sunday, February 4, 2024: Harry Bumgardner, Bob Breyer and Delores Reiter.



*Welcome ...
to our church family*

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

LITURGIST

Thanks to Steve Stafford, Axel Johannson & Ann Fortney for serving as liturgists in January and February.

Liturgist for March: Robin Green

Liturgist for April: Blaine Wheeler

**ALL INVITED TO DOROTHY B'S**

We're delighted that several of our church families have shared Easter lunch and afternoon with us all through the years. We look forward to welcoming you once again and anyone else that would like an afternoon of good food, visiting and relaxing with each other on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Bring your favorite dish(es) and beverage. All paper goods are provided. We'll eat around 1:15 pm. Hope to see you. -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 14** 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: Heather Crawford

Sound: Rusty Bailey, David Smith

Grounds Keeper: Austin Reiter

Nursery: Heather Giebeig

Director of Home Communion: Rev. Gary & Rita Monk

