

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sarasota, Florida

The Order of Worship

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2018

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright, Senior Pastor
Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard
Director of Ministries

HYMN SING (8:30 a.m.)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE¹

8:30 a.m. - Mike and Ann Day
11 a.m. - Jack and Lenora Jost

Leader: The Lord your God is in your midst, rejoicing over you with gladness, renewing you in love. I will bring you home and restore your fortunes, says the Lord.

People: In this new light, we give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: With joy you will draw waters from the wells of salvation.

People: We will rejoice in the Lord always.

Leader: We light a third candle to reveal the pathway to faithfulness.

People: As a covenant people, we will seek to live in the joy of the Lord.

CHORAL RESPONSE

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: Peace be with you...

People: And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hymnal 220

(See Screens)

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Christmas Isn't Christmas
Song Squad

Jimmy & Carol Owens

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND SERVICE

OFFERTORY

(8:30 a.m.) *Mary, Did You Know?*
Dan Hoffman, baritone

(11 a.m.) *O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion* George Frideric Handel
Catherine Stuart, mezzo-soprano; Amanda Nix, violin

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN

What Child Is This

Hymnal 219

GOD'S WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-21

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Mountains and Mole Hills

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

Advent Series: *The Gift of the Nutcracker*

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

ANTHEM (11 a.m.)

Angels Carol

John Rutter

AFFIRMATION² (unison)

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life and death, and life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hymnal 240

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 230

Stanza 4

POSTLUDE

(You are invited to remain to enjoy the postlude.)

¹F. Richard Garland, www.umdiscipleship.org

²A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, The United Methodist Hymnal, 883.

Matthew 1:18-21 (CEB)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."



FIRST CHURCH
*Christmas Gala
and Carol Sing*

TONIGHT ~ 7 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

◆Sanctuary Choir ◆Anna Maria Island Concert Choir and Orchestra
◆Soloists Dan Hoffman and Catherine Stuart

Christmas selections from Handel's *Messiah*,
The Many Moods of Christmas, and your favorite carols

FREE Admission Zenith Garage | Valet Parking



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service & Children's Pageant
7 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service
6:30 p.m. - Pre-service Music

Zenith Garage | Valet Parking | Nursery - Both Services

Upcoming Events & Reminders

AT THE MINISTRY TABLE

Service Opportunity: Poinsettia Delivery

Service Opportunity - Deliver Poinsettias on December 25 or 26

Would you enjoy delivering poinsettias to our homebound church family? Pick up the poinsettias after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service or on Wednesday, December 26, at 10 a.m. in the Office Lobby. You choose which delivery date is better for you – Christmas Day or Wednesday, December 26. **Sign up at the Ministry Table today or call the church office this week.** Special thanks to Marilyn Correa for organizing this annual project of First Church love.

United Methodist Women Bake Sale TODAY | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

The United Methodist Women invite you to have a merrier Merry Christmas by buying some Christmas Cookies and Goodies. Donations will go to the Missions of United Methodist Women and the General Board of Global Ministries.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR CARITAS

Urgent Need: Male, Year-Round Resident to work in the Caritas Center one Monday a month from 9-11 a.m. For additional information, please contact Phil Johnson (philj65@msn.com) immediately.

STAFF APPRECIATION

As so many of you know and experience, the First Church Staff serves with caring professionalism in their myriad of weekday and Sunday responsibilities. **The Staff/Parish Committee invites you to express your appreciation of them with a Christmas love offering. Envelopes are in the pew pockets.** Please note “staff gift” on your check or envelope. Thank you for this gift and your other expressions of kindness to the staff throughout the year. ~ Staff-Parish Relations Committee ~

Virginia Hartnett to Celebrate Her 100th Birthday

Many of you remember and love Virginia Hartnett who was our every Sunday greeter for 11 a.m. worship. She will celebrate her 100th birthday December 26. Let's “shower” her with cards!

Virginia Hartnett, 3000 McCormick Ave. #379, Brookfield, IL 60513

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please use the Prayer Cards in the pew pockets. Prayer Cards can be placed in the offering plate or given to the Pastor. You may also send requests to Joyce Johnson (jjohnson@firstsrq.com) or Dr. Sam (swright@firstsrq.com). Our Intercessory Prayer Group prays daily with prayers of joys, thanksgivings, and concerns.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Braren Library, RM 108

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship, Chapel

9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Nursery, Office Area

9:15 a.m. - Christian Fellowship, RM 103

9:30-10:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

First Church Kids, Youth Hall

9:30 a.m. - Faith Cafe, RM 104

9:30 a.m. - UMW Bake Sale, F.H.

9:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary

11 a.m. - Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

2 p.m. - Word Weavers, RM 103

**7 p.m. - Christmas Gala & Carol Sing,
Sanctuary**

Monday, December 17

7:15 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. - Early Care Center (M-F)

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Church Office (M-F)

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Artisans' World Marketplace (M-F)

10 a.m. - Women's Book Club, RM 104

4 p.m. - ECC Board Meeting, RM 104

6 p.m. - Farmers Market, RM 103

Tuesday, December 18

10 a.m. - Staff Meeting, Y.H.

Wednesday, December 19

4:30 p.m. - Children's Song Squad, Y.H.

5:30 p.m. - Youth Ensemble, Choir RM

5:30 p.m. - Praise Band Practice, Sanctuary

6:30-8 p.m. - Youth Group, Y.H.

Thursday, December 20

12 p.m. - Men's Group, RM 104

2 p.m. - Board of Trustees, RM 104

6:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal, Choir RM

Friday, December 21

Saturday, December 22

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Artisans' World Marketplace

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Braren Library, RM 108

8:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship, Chapel

9:15 a.m. - Christian Fellowship, RM 103

9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Nursery, Office Area

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

First Church Kids, Youth Hall

9:30 a.m. - Faith Cafe, RM 104

9:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary

11 a.m. - Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES (9:30 a.m.)

Christian Fellowship (Room 103) | Faith Cafe (Room 104)

FIRST CHURCH KIDS (Youth Hall)

(Use elevator or stairs in office area.)

Preschool (3 years - Kindergarten) | Elementary (1st - 5th Grades)

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NURSERY (Office Area)

Infants - Toddlers | 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright, Senior Pastor

Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries

Baron Garriott, Contemporary Music Leader

Joyce Johnson, Pastoral Care Assistant/Faith Community Nurse

Paul Anacki, Director of Finance and Administration

Brian Silvas, Technology Coordinator • Bob Neuf, Audiovisual Assistant

Sue Loncaric, Early Care Center Director • Debi Adams, Publications Coordinator

Sara Miller, Church Secretary/Program Assistant

Bob Russell, Facilities Supervisor • Mike Sersen, Facilities Assistant

December 16, 2018

ADVENT

2018

Sermon Series

THE GIFT OF THE
Nutcracker

Mountains and Mole Hills

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

104 S. Pineapple Ave. Sarasota, FL

941.955.0935 | www.firstsrq.com