

# FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA

*Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

## Contemporary Service FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright, Senior Pastor  
Baron Garriott, Director of Praise Music

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRAISE SONGS Praise Band

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

THE LORD'S PRAYER Unison

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

We are grateful for your generosity to the ministries of First Church. You may give online at [www.firstsrq.com](http://www.firstsrq.com); click GIVE. Thank you for your faithful support. You are making a difference in the lives of those in need.

SPECIAL MUSIC Praise Band

SCRIPTURE READING Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-17<sup>1</sup>

THE MESSAGE

***Look Up and Live!***

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

PRAISE SONG

BLESSING

PASSING THE PEACE

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<sup>1</sup>Numbers 21:4-9 (**NRSV**)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:13-17 (**NRSV**)

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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## **FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**

Today as you greet First Church new members in the narthex, pause at the vertical screen to enjoy glorious nature photographs submitted by members Ron Baldrige and Janet Shapiro. Send your magnificent nature photographs to Donna (dmaynard@firstsrq.com).

## **DR. SAM'S FALL BIBLE STUDY LET MY PEOPLE GO - THE BOOK OF EXODUS WEDNESDAYS – 12:30 AND 7 P.M. IN PERSON (ROOM 104) AND ZOOM**

Begins September 21 for 9 Weeks

NO Registration Needed

How many versions of the Ten Commandments are in the Bible? Why do Jews still follow regulations more than 3,000 years old? What is God's fundamental nature? Learn the answer to many questions. Invite others!

## **SOUTH WEST DISTRICT OFFICE NOW AT FUMC FAMILY LIFE CENTER (AT THE END OF THE HALL) OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 9:30 – 10:45 A.M. AND 12 -12:30 P.M.**

First Church family, you are invited to visit with District Superintendent Rev. Debbie Allen and enjoy refreshments.

## **FAMILY PROMISE'S FRANCIS HOUSE**

Francis House of Sarasota is a shelter for single mothers with a newborn and up to two children under 3. To help these mothers when they depart Francis House, you are invited to donate a gift card in any amount you choose. If worshipping in person, place the gift card in an offering basket. Gifts can also be made at [www.firstsrq.com/give/missions](http://www.firstsrq.com/give/missions). Thank you for your love and generosity!

## **ALL WOMEN INVITED – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

*Who Can We Be Together?*

Saturday, September 24 ~ 9-12:30

Coral Gables UMC and Zoom

Contact Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com; 941-586-0185).

## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (PREVIOUSLY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN)**



United Women in Faith **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4 ~10 – 11:30 A.M.  
ROOM 104 AND ZOOM**

Program – *The New Name, The "New" Membership, The New Logo*

Contact Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com; 941-586-0185).