

December 27, 2022

FIRST CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation 

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

FIRST CHURCH Weekly News

(Be sure to scroll all the way down.)

The Wright Stuff



Challenge: Read the Bible in 2023

*"The LORD's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.
The LORD's laws are faithful, making naive people wise." Psalm 19:7*

I just finished reading the **Common English Bible**, *Genesis - Revelation*. I'm issuing a challenge to you to read the entire Bible in 2023. Why? 1. God speaks to us through the words of Scripture. 2. We will understand more about God and God's love for us. 3. We will understand better who Jesus is. 4. By reading and studying the Scriptures we are following the example of Jesus. 5. We will be taught how to live better lives.

Reading the complete Bible in a year is an ambitious goal. Why? Because 1. The Bible (really a collection of books) is long—1189 chapters long (not including the Apocrypha—15 more writings). 2. The Bible is often hard to understand partly because it was written thousands of years ago by men (mostly) who believed that the universe consisted of three stories, that God was pleased with the smell of the burning carcasses of sacrificed animals, and

that they owned their wives. 3. Sometimes it's boring (Genealogies!).

I followed (more or less) a five-day reading plan I found at: www.FiveDayBibleReading.com. You can download a copy of that plan (after 12/26/22). We will place paper copies of this reading plan on the tables in the narthex.

May God bless you as you read and study the Scriptures.

Dr. Sam

Christmas Eve at First Church



Almost 600 people attended the First Church Christmas Eve services this year. Old friends and new friends shared carols, beautiful music by the choir, organ, and strings, scripture, prayer, and heard a moving message by Dr. Sam.

Click the picture above to hear just one part of the service-- the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night" by candlelight.

Longest Night Service



The first Longest Night Service at First Church was an emotional and spiritual opportunity for people to recognize the miracle of Christmas without the usual fanfare and celebration. In a service of scripture, hymns, and prayer, people also lit candles to "bring the light of Jesus to shine through our pain, our worry, our grief, our sadness, and our darkness."

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

January Meeting

Tuesday, January 10 ~ 10 -11:30 a.m. ~ Fellowship Hall

Cathy Stone, Director of Cornerstone Family Ministries of Tampa, joins us to share their mission. Enjoy refreshments and an opportunity to support one of two national missions in Florida

For more information contact Leah Pittard at rockpitt38@gmail.com

New Year's Day

Only ONE service at 10 a.m.
New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1

GriefShare Group Starting January 23

Mondays at 10 a.m. - noon ~ Starting January 23 ~ Room 105

GriefShare is a national program held at churches across the country for people who have experienced the loss of a friend, family member, or loved one. The sessions include a video and discussion about grief-related issues. Your level of participation is always up to you.

For more information contact Pastor Woody at 941-955-0935 or at wwoodward@firstsrq.com

Cameraperson Needed for Live Streaming 11 a.m. Sunday Services

Always wanted to put your photography and videotaping skills to good use? First Church needs a cameraperson to work in the balcony during the 11 a.m. Sunday services to help with our live streaming. Not hard to learn, and we'll show you what to do.

Contact Dave Jackerson, Church Technical Coordinator
techcoord@firstsrq.com

Office Hours

First Church Office Closed
Monday, January 2

Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year!



First United Methodist Church | 104 S. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

[Unsubscribe financial@firstsrq.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by woodward@firstsrq.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!