

January 10, 2023

# 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.)

### Pastor Woody's Words



Be Wary of Those Who Tell You What Is True

*“Brothers and sisters, I urge you to watch out for people who create divisions and problems against the teaching that you learned. Keep away from them. People like that aren’t serving the Lord. They are serving their own feelings. They deceive the hearts of innocent people with smooth talk and flattery.” (Romans 16:17-18 CEB)*

Every now and then we hear about someone who has been cheated by a telemarketer or an online scammer. These criminals find ways to convince you that the IRS is after you, or that your computer has been compromised, or you have unpaid tickets on file. They try to get you to send them money—usually gift cards—to make these problems “go away.” These people purposely pray upon others by telling lies or exaggerations to benefit themselves.

There are also many people who tell tales or exaggerate things and do so because they don’t know any better or feel they are doing God’s work. They

aren't trying to hurt you or benefit themselves, but they believe that what they have been told about what God wants from us is true. Many even quote the Bible as proof.

We must always be careful to listen with our heads as well as our hearts, and to judge things based upon what Jesus has taught us, for He will never lead us astray.

Pastor Woody

## Online Services Update

We are live streaming the 11 a.m. service. Those not in person will watch the same prayer, message, and special music as those in person. We hope to live stream the 8:30 service.

Until then, those who worship online will see this week's live-streamed traditional service at 11 a.m. At 8:30 a.m. we will broadcast the previous week's live-streamed traditional service. The 9:45 a.m. contemporary service will include the scripture and message recorded from the previous week along with newly recorded music by our praise band. For those who worship at the same time each week, everything will always be new-- although some timely references may be off a bit.

## Dr. Sam's Sermon Series

### **Sermon Series: The Bible: Book Divine or Misleading Myths**

January 15—Is the Bible the Word of God? *1 Timothy 3:14-17*

January 22—Why These Books and Not Others? *2 Peter 3:15-16*

January 29— Are There Mistakes in the Bible? *2 Samuel 24:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1*

February 5— Were There Dinosaurs on the Ark? *Genesis 6:5-6, 11. Romans 15:4*

February 12—Are Tattoos Taboo? *Leviticus 19:27-28*

February 19—Women Need Not Apply?

## Deadline to Register for GriefShare

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

To ensure you have a workbook, register by Thursday, January 19.

**Contact Pastor Woody**  
**(941-955-0935; [wwoodward@firstsrq.com](mailto:wwoodward@firstsrq.com)).**

## Read the Bible In One Year

Dr. Sam is challenging us to read the Bible in just one year. There is a 5-day reading plan at [www.FiveDayBibleReading.com](http://www.FiveDayBibleReading.com). There are also copies of the plan on the entrance tables. Dr. Sam would love to know that you accepted his challenge! ([swright@firstsrq.com](mailto:swright@firstsrq.com))

### Readings for Week 2

Day 1: Genesis 16-18, *Mark 6*  
Day 2: Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1; *Mark 7*  
Day 3: Genesis 21-23; Psalm 107; *Mark 8*  
Day 4: Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4; *Mark 9*  
Day 5: Genesis 26-27; *Mark 10*

Please try to read these in the order presented. They are listed this way for a reason. With only 5 days of readings per week, you can rest or catch up.

## Help Recognize Our Early Care Center

First United Methodist Church's Early Care Center has been nominated for the 2023 Readers' Choice Awards for Best Preschool and Best Private School. Please vote for us daily in each category January 3rd through January 17th. Click on the link below, then vote for First United Methodist Church Early Care Center in each category. Thank you for your support!

[Sarasota 2023 Readers Choice](#)

## Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning (SILL) Returns to First Church



Lecture Series – Global Issues  
Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, Thursdays (10:30 a.m.)  
January 10 – March 28  
For information  
and tickets – <https://sillsarasota.org/>

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