

January 24, 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.)

The Wright Stuff



Peace of Mind

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. (John 14:27)

When the Early Care Center children come in from the playground, they wash their hands and then sit in a circle. They close their eyes as the teacher leads them in a few moments of guided meditation with the help of an app for preschoolers. The teachers say it helps the kids focus and calm themselves. The teachers admit it is beneficial for them as well.

As soon as I get up and get a cup of coffee, I'm at my computer working—whether it's 3:30 a.m. or 5:30 a.m. as it is right now. My tendency is to be busy, to do, to be task-oriented. I know I should take a few moments to focus on the Lord in silence and breathe, but there is so much to do. I should pray. It's on my to-do list, so I take a few minutes to intercede for people in prayer and check it off. I'm glad our preschoolers are learning a better approach. I need to learn what they are learning. I'm stopping right now, closing my eyes, and listening to an app—"Pray as you go."

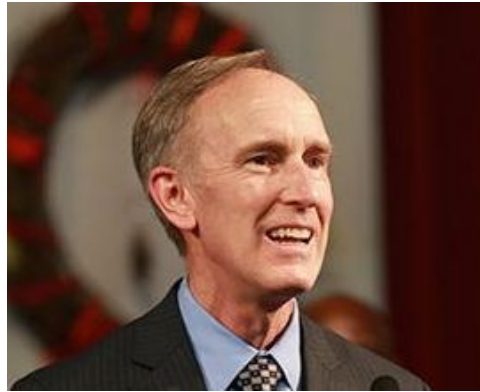
Dr. Sam

Immediate Need for Nursery Attendant

Nursery Attendant Needed

To care for and teach children 6 weeks to 3 years – Sundays 10:30 – 12:30 plus special services with advance notice (\$20 per hour). Contact Alyssa Machado (amachado@firstsrq.com; 954-376-9186).

Installation of New Bishop January 28



You are invited to attend Bishop Tom Berlin's installation service as Bishop of the Florida Episcopal Area at First UMC, Lakeland on January 28 at 2 p.m. A reception will follow in the First UMC Welcome Center and Fountain Courtyard.

[More information on the Bishop's Installation](#)

Read the Bible In One Year

Join the 5-day reading plan at www.FiveDayBibleReading.com.

Readings for Week 4

Day 1: Genesis 41-42, *Mark 16*

Day 2: Genesis 43-44; Psalm 24; *Galatians 1*

Day 3: Genesis 45-46; Psalm 108; *Galatians 2*

Day 4: Genesis 47-48; Psalm 25; *Galatians 3*

Day 5: Genesis 49-50; *Galatians 4*

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.

What Would You Like to Read in the Newsletter?

We would love to know. What would you like to know about the church – history, buildings, ministries, people, and more. What else? Send your ideas to Reporters Donna Maynard (dmaynard@firstsrq.com) and Pastor Woody Woodward (wwoodward@firstsrq.com).



In Memoriam



Gwynne Strader-Ocanna January 6, 2023

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