


January 3, 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



#### Stay in Your Lane

*"Keep me from stupid sins, from thinking I can take over your work."  
(Psalm 19:13, The Message)*

About a year ago I had to buy another used car because someone ran into the back of my old one and totaled it. Yvonne was driving my car at the time. I am grateful that she was not hurt. My newer car has more safety features including one that beeps if you happen to cross the lane lines. I found Lane Departure Alert so irritating I turned it off. It limits my creativity on the road. I know it is a good safety feature that helps me stay in my lane.

Wouldn't it be helpful if there was a spiritual warning every time we started to get out of our lane? One of the problems I have is thinking I have more control over my life than I do. There is so much we cannot control. We cannot even control how many times our hearts will beat. We get out of our lane when our pride makes us think we are more than we are and can do more than we can do. We are not God.

Sometimes we think we know better than others how they should live their

lives. But they are responsible for how they live. We should stay in our lane.

Maybe I'll turn that lane departure alert back on. I think I need it.

Dr. Sam

## First Church Is Officially Live Streaming!



After a few weeks of online testing, First Church is officially live streaming its 11 a.m. Traditional Service on Sundays. This means that what you see on Facebook or on the church website ([www.firstsrq.com/watch-now](http://www.firstsrq.com/watch-now)) at 11 a.m. each week is coming to you LIVE from the sanctuary! You'll get to hear this week's scripture, the message, and all the beautiful music that those who attend in person have always heard.

While we hope to live stream the 8:30 a.m. service soon, we will begin replaying the 11 a.m. service from the week before for the 8:30 online service. The Contemporary online service will still be shown at 9:45, but will also include the welcome, scripture, and message from the week before.

Therefore, you get to "attend" First Church online each week, at 8:30 (with last week's 11 a.m. service), 9:45 (with new music by our praise band but the previous week's message), or at 11 (with a live feed direct from the First Church sanctuary). Of course, the services will also be available on our website approximately an hour after live streaming.

## Dr. Sam's Bible Study Returns

# PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

***Gospel of Matthew* – Begins Wednesdays, January 11 (12 weeks)  
12:30 and 7 p.m. ~ In Person (Room 104) AND Zoom  
To register: Sally at 941-955-0935 or [office@firstsrq.com](mailto:office@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))

First Week's Readings:

Day 1: Genesis 1-2, Psalm 19; *Mark 1*

Day 2: Genesis 3-5; *Mark 2*

Day 3: Genesis 6-8; Psalm 104; *Mark 3*

Day 4: Genesis 9-11; *Mark 4*

Day 5: Genesis 12-15; Psalm 148; *Mark 5*

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.

## Thank You from the Staff

Each staff person thanks you for your generous Christmas love offering, cards, delicious food, and other expressions of your appreciation. We look forward to serving you all year long.

## Need to Register for GriefShare

**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.

**To register and receive your workbook,**

contact Pastor Woody at 941-955-0935 or  
[wwwoodward@firstsrq.com](mailto:wwwoodward@firstsrq.com)

## 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](#)

## In Memoriam



**Marge Markman**  
December 24, 2022

**Liz Johnson**  
December 25, 2022

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