

January 31, 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



The Power of Story
"So he told them this parable:"
Luke 15:3

Jesus was a great teacher. One of the reasons that he was so good is that he told stories. These are called parables in the New Testament. They are short stories that make a point. When someone mentions the Good Samaritan, we remember the story and the lesson that we're to love all people and not walk by and ignore those in need. When someone mentions the prodigal son, we remember the story of how the father ran to welcome his wayward son. Jesus makes the point that God loves us far more than we realize. We may focus on our faults, but grace reigns in the heart of God. I am grateful for the stories of Jesus.

Dr. Sam

New Member Sunday



8:30 a.m. service

Valerie and Doug Rawlings



11 a.m. service

Alfredo and Evelyn Santi, Ben and Nell Norbom, Director of Ministries Donna Maynard, Brenda Boelens and Satish Maripuri

First Church welcomed eight new members into its family. After they confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, promised to serve the Lord with His church, and agreed to participate in First Church ministries through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, the congregation agreed to the same and to "welcome them in Christian love." Please say "Hello and Welcome" when you see them!

Family Respite Hub Needed

Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee NEEDS a Family Respite Hub (FP Lost Use of Its Francis House)

Space for 2 to 3 families with overnight rooms, shower, laundry, family room, parking as the demand is growing, especially for mothers with a newborn. If you know of such space in our community [to rent, buy, or renovate], please contact Judy McGrath, First Church's Board Representative judy.mcgrath19@gmail.com.

United Women in Faith Meeting



United
Women
in Faith

**Tuesday, February 7
10am ~ Room 104 and Zoom
Program**

How We Can Support Cornerstone Ministry
and

Planning to Host South West District Saturday, March 18, at First Church
Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com)

Learn with Sunday Group Faith Café

9:40 A.M. - Room 104 and Zoom

5-week Lenten Study Begins February 26

People and the Passion

Learn more about the major persons in Jesus' last week of life. See yourself in each and the human responses to Jesus they represent.

Contact Luis Montes (lmontes@altez.com; 323-640-6769)

Read the Bible In One Year

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

Readings for Week 5

- Day 1: Exodus 1-3, *Galatians 5*
- Day 2: Exodus 4-6; *Galatians 6*
- Day 3: Exodus 7-9; Psalm 105; *Ephesians 1*
- Day 4: Exodus 10-12; *Ephesians 2*
- Day 5: Exodus 13-15; Psalm 114; *Ephesians 3*

Please try to read these in the order presented.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to parents and members
Preston and Christina Whittemore
on the birth of **Noelle** on December 16, 2022



In Memoriam



Greg Hatch

January 16, 2023

Carolyn Ann Holder

January 24, 2023

Dennis Chenault

January 27, 2023

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